

THE WEEKEND

FRIDAY



Turzan "surfs" through the trees and uses it as his free-way system in Walt Disney Pictures' "Turzan," opening today at metro Detroit movie theaters.

SATURDAY



George Benson with special guest Boney James lights up the evening sky, 8 p.m. at Chene Park Riverside Amphitheater, 2600 E. Atwater St., Detroit. Tickets \$45 and \$35, call (248) 645-6666 to charge tickets, or (313) 983-6611 for information.

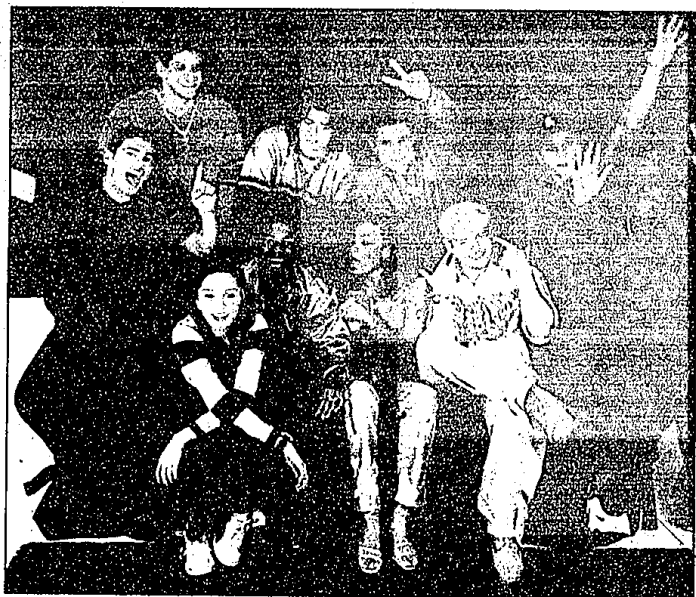
SUNDAY



Swedish pancakes and sausage breakfast, maypole raising, folk dancing and singing by the Scandia (pictured) and Arpi choruses, and children's games are just some of the activities taking place during the Swedish Club's Midsummer Festival. Breakfast 9:30-11 a.m., maypole raising, folk dancing, and choral performances at noon, dinner at 1:30 p.m. at the club, 22398 Ruth St., at Freedom Road, Farmington Hills. Call (248) 646-4073 for more information.



Hot Tix: SRO Productions presents "A Pretty Piece of Business," during the Civil War Re-enactment of Burgh Village Life, Saturday-Sunday, June 19-20, at the City of Southfield's historic center the Burgh, on the northeast corner of Civic Center Drive and Berg Road, one block east of Telegraph. It's just one of the many activities taking place during the weekend. Tickets to the play are \$5 per person, available at the door. Call (248) 827-0701 for more information, or to charge tickets.



Kids' day out: Teen heart-throbs 98 Degrees, R&B singer Monica and the cast of Nickelodeon's "All That" give kids their own Lollapalooza-style day at Pine Knob Music Theatre on Sunday, June 20.

It's a family affair

Nickelodeon, pop groups strive to provide a G-rated afternoon

BY CHRISTINA PUOCO
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Who: 98 Degrees, Monica, Aaron Carter, 3rd Street, No Authority, Billy Crawford, and the cast of Nickelodeon's "All That" television show
WHAT: Appear as part of the Nickelodeon All That Music and More Tour
WHEN: 3 p.m. Sunday, June 20
WHERE: Pine Knob Music Theatre, 1-75 and Sashabaw Road, Independence Township
HOW: Tickets are \$28.50 pavilion, \$20 lawn. Groups of 20 or more get \$3 off pavilion tickets, and \$2 off lawn tickets. For more information, call (248) 377-0100 or visit <http://www.palacetent.com> or <http://www.nick.com>.

Jeff Timmons, one of 98 Degrees' four singers, is frantically running up and down the stairs backstage at Detroit's State Theatre. Dressed in brown pants and a Cleveland Browns' football jersey, Timmons is trying to get a meet-and-greet in order. After all, he doesn't want to let down his fans with backstage passes for the event.

"When are we going to do this meet and greet?" Timmons yells down to the tour manager. "Come on, we gotta get going."

Fans are the No. 1 priority of 98 Degrees. The Ohio-based quartet schedules autograph sessions at record stores, take time to shake the trembling hands of teen-aged girls, and find promotions that help them bond with the more than

two million people who purchased their sophomore album, "98 Degrees and Rising" (Motown/Universal).

In May, a Buffalo, N.Y., radio station held a contest giving area high schools a chance to win a private concert with 98 Degrees. It generated more than 14.4 million votes, you read that correctly) postcards.

So it's no wonder that Timmons is in a tizzy.

Day-long affair

Like their peers 'N Sync and the Backstreet Boys, 98 Degrees' main fanbase is young girls between the ages of 8-18. Headlining their own tour this summer could have alienated younger fans who still have a bedtime. Instead, 98 Degrees opted for the "Nickelodeon All That Music and More Tour," along side the cast of the "All That" television show, and singers Monica, Aaron Carter, brother of

Please see G-RATED, E2

Songwriter tells stories about life

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
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Listen to Will Danforth's songs and before long he'll seem like an old friend. The man behind the music is just as congenial as he talks about his years in the corporate world as a financial analyst and the day he turned his back on the 9 to 5 world to create and play music full time.

That isn't always easy. To eat and survive, the Rochester resident is diversifying his song list by playing children's and traditional music at such venues as Borders and the Canton Liberty Fest on June 19. But deep down, it's gigs like the one during the Royal Oak City Invitational on June 20, that he lives for.

Don't get him wrong. Danforth loves performing "Old Joe Clark," "Froggy Went a Courtin'" and the "Baby Beluga." As for folk and traditional music, Danforth's doing his part to keep it alive.

"My music is roots music so I value traditional American music as source material and it's being lost today," said Danforth. "It's not being taught today. These songs give you real insight on your parents, grandparents and great grandparents. I like the children's music because I like to retain that sense of fun. They help keep you young. I have two kids but they're grown so this keeps me young at heart."

The influences on Danforth's "roots" music are obvious on his second CD, "Skeletons," released last fall. From the award winning song, "Discover What You've Got" to intro and backbeats reminiscent of America's "Horse



Storyteller: Will Danforth brings his special brand of folk, blues and country songs to Farmington, Canton and Royal Oak this weekend.

Please see STORIES, E2

Local appearances

- 11 a.m. Saturday, June 19, at Borders, 30995 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington.
- 3 p.m. Saturday, June 19, at Canton's Liberty Fest in Heritage Park, behind the Canton Administration Building, 1150 Canton Center Road, south of Cherry Hill.
- Noon to 2 p.m. Sunday, June 20 at Gayle's Chocolates as part of the Royal Oak City Invitational. Danforth's "Skeleton" CD is available for \$15.50 (\$11 cassette), includes shipping and handling by writing to Will Danforth at P.O. Box 80422, Rochester, MI 48308.

FESTIVAL

Kevin McCarthy knows how to 'Give 'Em Hell'

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
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"This is Kevin McCarthy calling from Sherman Oaks, California."

The message on the Voice Mail was strong, vigorous and direct.

At 84, McCarthy is a gregarious man with a pleasant, plain spoken style that is appropriate for a role he has made his own - President Harry S. Truman.

McCarthy has been performing "Give 'Em Hell Harry" for 21 years and will bring his one-man presentation to Ann Arbor's Power Center for the Arts 8 p.m. Thursday, June 24, as part of the Ann Arbor Summer Festival.

McCarthy's performance as the 33rd president has won the endorsement of Truman's daughter, Margaret.

"Jimmy Whitmore created the part 25 years ago and didn't stay with it. He never played New York, oddly enough," McCarthy said.

McCarthy's extensive stage experience and that commanding voice won over the play's author/producer Sam Gullu.

"The guy (Truman) once you read it, I was taken by him. When you first adjusted to the idea that this, what, utility man was trying to play president after Roosevelt," McCarthy said. "I always had an affair of the heart with him. He's affected my life."

McCarthy launched into Truman's familiar high, twangy Missouri accent.

"He was plain spoken, just give them the facts."

That plain spoken quality is one of the challenges for McCarthy. Unlike Hal Holbrook's celebrated one-man Mark

Ann Arbor Summer Festival, June 18-July 11

Power Center for the Arts:

- Gregory Peck, 7 p.m. Saturday, June 19
- Royal Crown Revue, 8 p.m. Monday, June 21
- Brandford Marsalis, 8 p.m. Tuesday, June 22
- Youth Arts Showcase, 8 p.m. Wednesday, June 23
- Kevin McCarthy, 8 p.m. Thursday, June 24
- Art Garfunkel, 8 p.m. Friday, June 25
- Luma: Theatre of Light, 8 p.m. Saturday, June 26
- Dobby McFerrin and Astral Project, 8 p.m. Tuesday, June 29
- Bolcom and Morris, 8 p.m. Wednesday, June 30
- Diana Krall, 8 p.m. Thursday, July 1
- Peter Sporting Dance Company, 8 p.m. Friday, July 2
- Gloria Loring, 8 p.m. Saturday, July 3
- Capital Steps, 5 and 8 p.m. Sunday, July 4
- Trilo Voronozhni, 8 p.m. Wednesday, July 7
- The Wilkinsons, 8 p.m. Thursday, July 8
- Paula Poundstone, 8 p.m. Friday, July 9
- Marcel Marceau, 8 p.m. Saturday, July 10

Ticket prices vary according to program. For information, call (734) 764-2538. Tickets are available in person at the Power Center Box Office, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Friday and noon to 9 p.m. Saturday.

Twain show, "Give 'Em Hell Harry" does not draw on the work of a literary master.

The stress comes from having to navigate through plain song," McCarthy said. "Some scenes are less dynamic than others. You have to take a seemingly prosaic or dull moment and turn it into something dynamic. Sometimes you feel you accomplish it and sometimes you're less successful."

McCarthy has cut down his Truman performances from 75



Kevin McCarthy

■ At 84, McCarthy is a gregarious man with a pleasant, plain spoken style that is appropriate for a role he has made his own - President Harry S. Truman.

Please see MCCARTHY, E3