

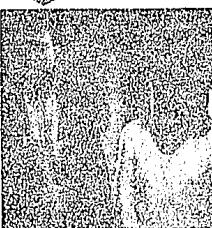
Entertainment

Farmington Observer

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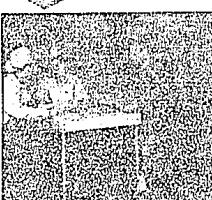
THE WEEKEND

FRIDAY



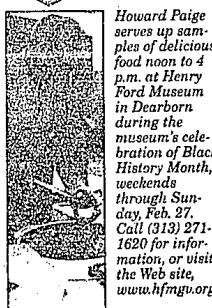
Charlie (Liam Neeson, left) an undercover DEA agent, is suffering from post-traumatic stress syndrome and finds relief with Judy Tipp (Sandra Bullock, right) in "Gumshy," a dark comedy opening today at metro Detroit movie theaters.

SATURDAY



Phil Hadley (left to right), Jim Jernigan, Mike Carraway, Jim Snideman and Missy (the dog) are featured in "Of Mice and Men," presented by the Farmington Players, 32332 W. 12 Mile Road, Farmington Hills. Curtain 8 p.m., tickets \$12, call (248) 553-2955.

SUNDAY



Howard Paige serves up samples of delicious food noon to 4 p.m. at Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn during the museum's celebration of Black History Month, weekends through Sunday, Feb. 27. Call (313) 271-1620 for information, or visit the Web site, www.hfmgu.org.

Never reaching the end:

Rock band continues successful journey

By STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA STAFF WRITER scasola@homecomm.net

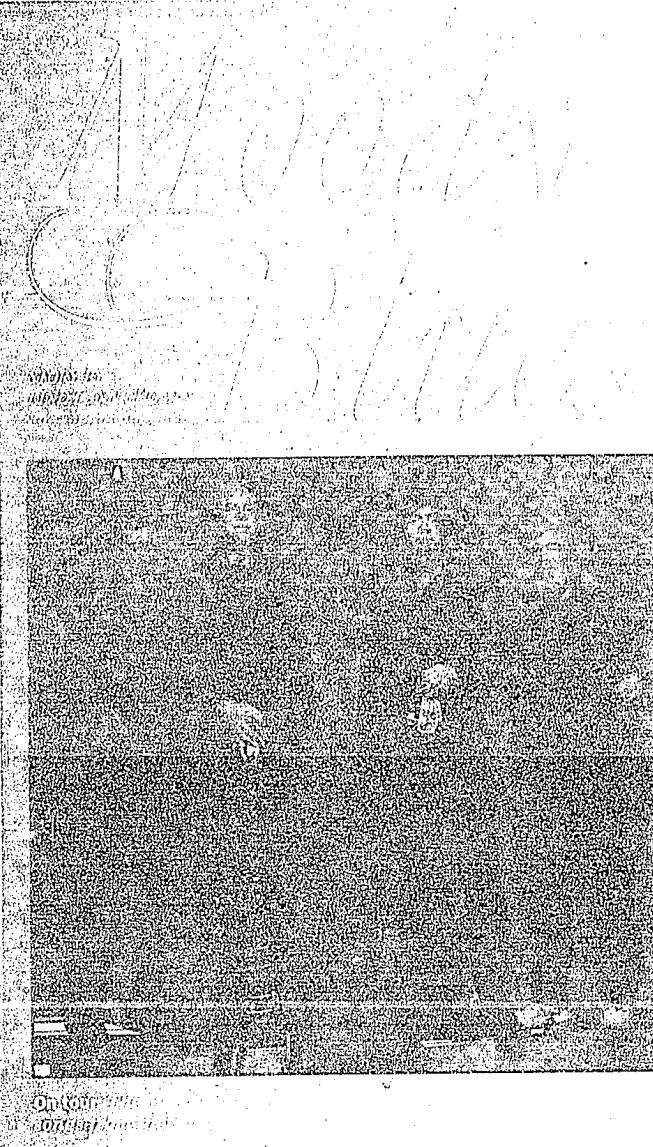
Charlie (Liam Neeson, left) an undercover DEA agent, is suffering from post-traumatic stress syndrome and finds relief with Judy Tipp (Sandra Bullock, right) in "Gumshy," a dark comedy opening today at metro Detroit movie theaters.

"I'm not really sure why we've continued to be popular," said Edge during a phone interview from his Florida home. "We've never been arrested for anything and we've always sung in tune."

With "Strange Times" the Moody Blues will continue as one of the best-selling recording groups of all time. The new CD goes back to the roots of Moody Blues sound blending orchestral, spoken word and rock. It marks several firsts for the group, including the fact that it was recorded at Studio Mulinetti in Genoa, Italy.

On Sunday, concertgoers at Hill Auditorium will be treated to tunes from "Strange Times."

Please see MOODY BLUES, E2



POPULAR MUSIC

Opulus aims arrows at Valentine's Day

By STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA STAFF WRITER scasola@homecomm.net

Beneath the bronze glow of Xhedor Caf's luminescent sign, with left-over holiday icicle lights dangling above their heads, four musicians take the small coffee shop stage before a crowd of fans and friends who've huddled into the cozy space. What brings them all to the Formulae hang-out on this night isn't the cappuccino, it's the music.

Opulus, an alternative folk-pop quartet whose members live in Wayne and Oakland County, knows how to evoke a response from their audience. The

WHO: Opulus, with special guest Payfunk
WHERE: 7 p.m., Friday, Feb. 11
WHAT: \$10
WHEN: 7 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 12
WHERE: 7 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 12
WHAT: \$10
TICKETS: \$10
Call the Cupid's Night Out Hotline at (248) 848-0300 for more information.

Tim Berlinghof in high school. By 1996, bassist PJ Jacobs had joined in and the newly-named Opulus wrote and recorded their first CD "Passing Shipes."

Almost four years later, there's one thing to expect from an Opulus show — unpredictability. That might have something to do with Jacobs' experience with improvisational comedy on the Second City stage in Detroit. The Farmington Hills native's sense of humor translates into randomly cracking jokes and imitating Muppet voices in song. But he keeps the audience entertained: "I've been told that we really seem to know how to relate to the audience as a whole. We are up there to play our music, but we try and make sure that everyone enjoys themselves. I think a lot of bands have solid music, but they get into trouble expressing it live."

"Plus we write pop songs, which is helpful."

bandmates are pure performers. Picture this — a Seth Green ("Buffy the Vampire Slayer") look-a-like with a voice that could flawlessly fill in at any Barenaked Ladies show; there you have lead vocalist Chris Davidson. He met drummer Jake Miller and guitarist/singer Tim Berlinghof in high school. By 1996, bassist PJ Jacobs had joined in and the newly-named Opulus wrote and recorded their first CD "Passing Shipes."

Those gems will convert into a virtual shower of musical valentines during the second annual Cupid's Night Out, a festival featuring Opulus and guests Payfunk, Friday, Feb. 11. All it took was one song, "My Favorite Valentine," to spur the idea. "We wrote the Valentine's song and we decided we wanted to do a huge show on Valentine's Day for the song," said Davidson, a Redford resident and Bloomfield Township native.

Miller, also a Redford resident, added: "Every other holiday had songs to go with it. We wanted to do something to go with ours." And so they have succeeded. It's a night out for cupid and anti-cupid's alike, set to a soundtrack of freewheeling love songs,

Baritone makes music come alive

By LINDA ANN CLOUGH STAFF WRITER lcloogh@homecomm.net

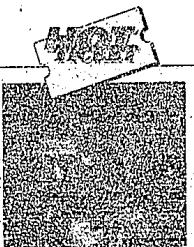
Erik Chalfant chugs nonstop about his recital on Sunday at Nardin Park United Methodist Church in Farmington Hills as if it were the most important one of his career.

The New York baritone likes to fuse a variety of musical styles into his programs to expose audiences to as many cultures and life experiences as possible.

During his recital on Sunday, Feb. 6, the audience will hear everything from Brahms' "Lower Rhine Folk Song" in German to

Please see BARITONE, E2

WHO: Cupid's Night Out
WHAT: Erik Chalfant sings works by composers ranging from Tchaikovsky to John Coltrane.
When: 8 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 6. A light reception precedes the concert at 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.
WHERE: Nardin Park United Methodist Church, 29881 W. 11 Mile Road, west of Mid-Continent, Bloomington Hills. Call (248) 470-0650 for information.
Erik Chalfant



Most ticket items: *Saneca Black*, and other members of the jazz at Lincoln Center Sextet, will perform music ranging from Ellington to Monk and Jelly Roll Morton. 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 4, and 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 5 at the Michigan Theater, 605 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. \$18-\$33 for the Feb. 4 concert; \$20 adults, \$10 children for the family performance on Feb. 5. Call (734) 761-2530 or visit the Web site at www.michtheater.org.

Opulus

Please see OPULOS, E2