

## ART BEAT

Art Beat features various happenings in the suburban art world. Send arts news to Art Beat, Attn: Linda Chomin, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia MI 48150, fax them to (734) 591-7279, or e-mail (as a text file) to lchomin@oehowson.com.net.

**CRANBROOK MUSIC GUILD**  
Lend an ear - pianist Scott Holden, who grew up in Bloomfield Hills - is coming home to perform at Christ Church Cranbrook, on the southwest corner of Cranbrook and Lone Pine roads, 8 p.m. Tuesday, March 12. Tickets are \$25 at the door. Student tickets are \$15. For more information, and to reserve tickets, call (248) 844-6352. Sponsored by the Cranbrook Music Guild, the program includes Haydn's *Sonata in C Major and Variations in F minor*; *Sonata no. 10, op. 70* by Alexander Scriabin; *Two Transcendental Etudes* by Franz Liszt; *Transcriptions from Richard Wagner's Tristan and Isolde*; and *Choral Variations* by Dutilleul. You can meet Holden after the concert at a candlelight afterglow.

**Nightnotes**  
Clarinetist Laurence Liberson will perform

a recital as part of the Nightnotes concert series at Hagopian World of Rugs in Novi on March 13, and at the Birmingham Unitarian Church on March 15. Accompanied by pianist Robert Conway, Liberson will present a program of non-cinematic music written by people who primarily composed music for film. Included are *Sonatas for Clarinet* by Arthur Honegger, Miklos Rozsa and Malcolm Arnold; *Sonatas for Clarinet* by Nino Rota and Leonard Bernstein; and *Ricercare for Piano* by Ennio Morricone. Performance times are 8-30 p.m. Wednesday, March 13 at Hagopian World of Rugs, 43223 12 Mile Road, east of Novi Road; and 8 p.m. Friday, March 15 at Birmingham Unitarian Church, 38651 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills, north of Lone Pine Road. Tickets are \$19, students available at the door, or call (248) 559-2095.

**BIRMINGHAM MUSICALS**  
The Birmingham Musicals will present the University of Michigan Men's Glee Club at their annual benefit 8 p.m. Friday, April 5 at St. Regis Catholic Church, 3691 Lincoln at Lasher in Bloomfield Hills. All proceeds benefit the



**Committee:** Linda Clark (left to right) Suzanne Sach, Bonne Brooks, Virginia O'Brien and Marilyn Van Gies-James.

Birmingham Musicals's Scholarship and philanthropic programs. Tickets are \$25 (general), \$35 (patron), or \$50 (benefactor), call (248) 738-9827. This is the

group's only fundraiser of the year. The University of Michigan Glee Club, under the direction of Jerry Blackstone, was founded in 1859. It is the second

oldest collegiate chorus in the U.S. The will perform music in a variety of styles from many different periods including Renaissance motets, Romantic anthems, opera choruses, spirituals, and collee songs. The Flaris, an octet within the Glee Club, will perform several tunes with choreography and humor.

**MEADOW BROOK ART GALLERY**  
*Artisan Painters: American Portraits and Landscapes of the 18th and 19th Centuries*, a show organized by the Detroit Institute of Arts, continues at the Meadow Brook Art Gallery through Wednesday, April 10 on the campus of Oakland University in Rochester. Visit [www.oakland.edu/mbag](http://www.oakland.edu/mbag) for information.

**CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY OF DETROIT**  
Continues its 58th season 8 p.m. Saturday, March 23 with a performance by the Borameo Sving Quartet with clarinetist Richard Stolzman at the Solgman Performing Arts Center (Detroit Country Day School, 13 Mile and Lahser roads in Beverly Hills). The program will include Beethoven's *Quartet in D Major, Op. 18, No. 3, Quartet in A* by Bartok and Mozart's *Clarinet Quintet, K 581*. Tickets are \$18-\$67, students \$15, call (248) 737-9980.

# Estleman's novel takes readers to 'Sinister Heights'

*Sinister Heights* by Loren Estleman. Warner Books, copyright 2002. \$24.95 hardcover

If you're looking for some delicious storytelling centering around the Motor City, Loren Estleman is your storyteller. He can give you words to chew on that are as tasty and satisfying as a repeat of roast beef and potatoes. With this, his fifteenth Amos Walker crime novel, the Ann Arbor native delivers again. In fact, if you're looking for a fun way to acquaint out-of-towners with Detroit and its environs, you couldn't do much better than to suggest they read *Sinister Heights* (or any of the Walker novels, for that matter). And nobody should worry about confusion, if they begin the series with this latest tale. As a work of highly entertaining fiction, it stands completely on its own.

In it, tough-talking detective Amos Walker is hired by the beautiful, rich widow of Detroit industrialist, Leland

Stutch, to find the illegitimate offspring of her husband.

Seems the lovely Ms. Stutch (who isn't above putting some rather personal moves on Walker) wants to give them the sizable inheritance to which they are entitled.

As Walker traverses the area (with side trips to Toledo), searching beneath various metaphorical rocks (and leaving no stone unturned), he discovers an old love, a weepy drunk, a battered mother, a frightened child, a lonely grandmother, some dirty cops, and an aging relic of an auto city.

This last seems straight from hell, as the searing light from its cauldron of molten steel casts an eerie glow across the suburban landscape. The factory, in a godforsaken place called Iroquois Heights, is the centerpiece around which this story flows.

As always, Estleman's highly textured backdrop is a great part of the fun. Here, for instance, is his take on



VICTORIA DIAZ

21st century Detroit: "In addition to GM moving into the Renaissance Center... the City... was preparing to shift... into the old GM headquarters from the City County Building; which had just been rechristened the Coleman A. Young Municipal Center after the mayor who had stolen everything but its doorknobs. The Tigers had vacated their historic stadium for a splashy new park... Casinos had begun fleecing customers in the old IRS building... and the Wonder factory, the birthplace of sliced bread... J.L. Hudson's, the largest department store in the world, was gone, and with it a chunk of the People Mover commuter train, dynamite being notoriously nonspecific about what it blows to electrons."

### Suburban portrait

Also, on these pages, a portrait of some local suburbs, Beverly Hills in particular: "They call them bedroom communities, the... string of schools and housing developments unwinding along the mile roads north of Detroit... They have no business districts... just two-car garages and... lawns and places to sleep and take on nutrition... Beverly Hills... has... no movie stars; it doesn't even have hills. With the trees fully leaved out... it's possible to forget its homes... tucked back as they are on streets with names like Plantation, Embassy, and Buttonwood Court."

Some of the events that occur in *Sinister Heights* may strike readers as rather unlikely (e.g. Walker, at one point, is searching out a battered woman sequestered in a particular shelter, and wouldn't you know it an old flame of his just happens to be

the owner of the correct shelter). Also, Walker seems to be morphing closer and closer to Superman as he ages.

The physical feats he's able to accomplish, even when beaten pulpy and half-crippled, are sometimes downright comical.

But, in the end, these seem like mere quibbles in a highly readable, hard-hitting story led by the coffee-swilling, computer-hating Walker. Here, he's so vivid we can almost smell those Winston cigarettes he's addicted to, just about hear the creaks in his aging bones, just about visualize that treasured (autographed) photo of Joel McCrea hanging on the wall of his tired little office on Grand River.

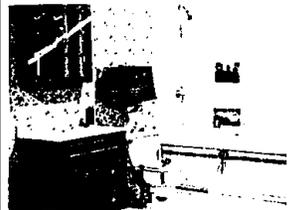
Victoria Diaz lives in Livonia and writes about books, theater and travel for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.



## Ugliest Bathroom Contest

Sponsored By WJR AM 760 Radio, The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, Building Industry Association and Mathison Supply of Livonia, Garden City and Canton.

Win A \$10,000 Dream Bathroom!



- Air Massage Bathtub by Jason
- Bath Cabinetry by Bertch
- Faucets by Harden
- Ultra-Flush Toilet By Gerber
- Tile Tub Surround
- Installation by J&M Home Improvement
- And More!

Take a photo of your ugly bathroom and bring it into any Mathison Supply store or mail it to WJR, Ugliest Bathroom Contest, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Ste. 800, Detroit, MI 48202. The winner's bathroom will be upgraded with new fixtures, tile, medicine cabinet and accessories with a value of up to \$10,000. And, be sure to visit the WJR and Mathison Supply booths at:

**GMC BUILDERS HOME & GARDEN SHOW**  
COBO CENTER  
MARCH 21-24, 2002



All entries become the property of WJR and must be received by April 12, 2002. No cash equivalents. Judges' decision is final. No purchase necessary. Winner will be announced May 18, 2002.

**Mornings, 5am - 10am**

Stacey DuFord      Chuck Gaidica      Lori Bennett      Dave Lockhart

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