

CHAT ROOM



BETTY MONSON

Shopping may be hazardous to your health

Like an exercise program, shopping demands stamina, gradually built. Most importantly, read ads.

Here's a shopping paper, complete with a picture of John Engler, Michigan Governor. Engler?! Don't tell me he's doing print-ads now! Better read the caption.

No, it isn't Engler. It's a guy named Ralph. He's touting an \$89 "Escape Ladder." Secured in its own handy carrying case, it's one of those sturdy metal chain ladders. In the event of a fire, you throw it out the bedroom window.

No, no Ralph, you take it out of the suitcase first, then throw its hooks over your windowsill. Let the chain dangle down the sheer, 20-foot drop over the driveway. Wait! Aren't you going to awaken your wife first?

Wouldn't hurt to call 911, either. A home improvement store is having a big sale on toilet seats. You can purchase a plain wooden seat for \$29. Comes in a variety of colors.

If you want to get fancier, you may select one with a faux finish for \$49. Or, for only \$99 you might buy a Nau-gahyde one with a built-in heater. Personally, I'd select the cheapest. One usually spends so little time there.

There was one exception though, as I recall. I read of a family who called their new baby-sitter to make sure the kids were okay.

The kitchen phone rang and rang, with no answer. They rushed home, where they heard crying coming from the bathroom.

The baby-sitter, reading a teen magazine for a half an hour, found that her body heat had sealed her to the commode.

Nothing would free her. Finally, the wife called the rescue squad, who came out and unscrewed the seat, placed the young lady on gurney, and took her to the emergency room, where she was released by chemically knowledgeable staff.

True tale

Another true tale. One night in the midst of a bout of the flu, this man I know rushed into the bathroom to throw-up. A neatnick, he quickly flipped up the seat and dropped to his knees.

Not fast enough, though. The seat bounced-off the toilet tank, flipped back, and clipped him in the forehead. The towel was blood-soaked when they reach the hospital. The staff tried not to laugh as they put in 14 stitches.

Here's another danger. For your wandering pet, you can purchase an "Invisible Fence" for only \$149. It's actually a giant length of electrical wire you bury along the perimeter of your yard. You plug one end into the house current, and the collar around your dog's neck will give an unpleasant surprise if the pet ventures near the buried wire.

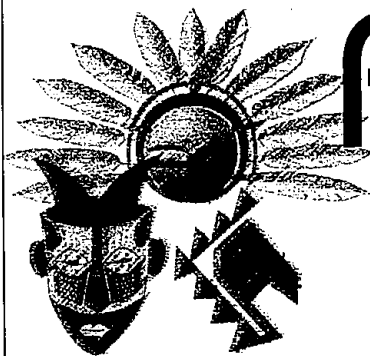
Now this may be well-and-good for keeping your precious Fifi inside your yard, but what about keeping out the scruffy neighborhood dogs who want to become better acquainted with her?

From the local hardware store you can purchase an entry lock for \$29. I suggest you put it on your bedroom door for privacy. This bents greasing the doorknob to keep the kids out.

There's a new supermarket in our neighborhood. Every foodstuff you dreamed of is in that stadium-sized store.

In addition, they have a grand-opening sale of coffee makers (\$15) and color TVs and vacuum cleaners (each \$99).

I wonder about the coffee maker and the color TV, but I know for sure their vacuum cleaners suck.



BY RENÉE SKOGLUND
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No, Tarzan will not be there.

However, Madonna University's 14th Scholarship Dinner Auction on Friday, April 5, at Laurel Manor in Livonia is sure to attract plenty of big game hunters with its "African Adventure" theme. The prize trophy is a torch red 2002 Ford Thunderbird with red leather seating, a V8 engine and a removable top. Raffle tickets are \$200 each, with only 1,000 tickets available.

"The Ford Motor Company team is pleased to support this event by providing the grand prize," said Jim Padilla, group vice president, Ford North America. "The 2002 Ford Thunderbird is one of the hottest cars on the market, and someone will drive home this stunning prize."

The event, which includes a live and silent auction, is the university's biggest fund-raiser of the year. This year, it is dedicated to the memory of Sister Mary Franceline Van de Vyver, recent past president of Madonna University. Auction organizers hope to top past revenues of \$350,000, all of which benefits the Madonna University Scholarship Fund and educational projects.

"Madonna University is a leader in its academic programs, cultural diversity and community services," said co-chair Dr. Luther Rosemond. "It is truly an honor to chair the 14th annual Scholarship Auction."

"As a special tribute to Sister Franceline, we are extremely motivated to making this year's auction the most successful," said co-chair Barbara Rosemond.

The Rosemonds own Rosemond Chiropractic Health Center in Detroit. Barbara Rosemond has served as a Madonna University trustee since 1998.

Festivities run 5:30-11:30 p.m., with Joe Weaver, retired editorial director of WJBK-TV2, acting as Master of Ceremonies. Stacy Essabagers of Redford, Miss Michigan 2001, and Michael Skupin of Walled Lake, the *Survivors* 2 contestant who severely burned his hands during an episode of the popular TV show, will make guest appearances.

Well-known auctioneer Dan Stall Jr. and The Auction Team from Birmingham will conduct the bidding.

Great auction items

Besides the Thunderbird, another car will go home with a lucky attendee.

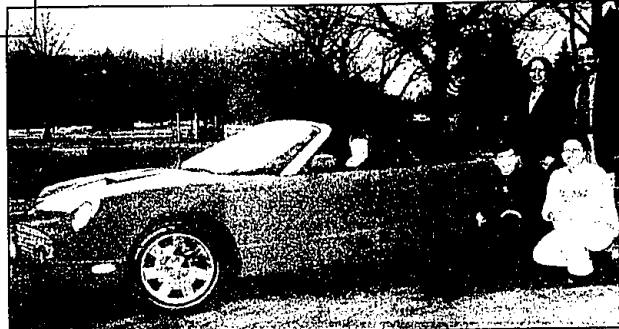
"One of our donors is giving us a 1978 Cadillac Eldorado Baritz in mint condition. It only has 16,000 miles on it. Only 2,000 were manufactured in that year, and it features the 1927 colors of auburn and beige. It's a beautiful, beautiful car," said Rose Kachnowski, director of development and special events for Madonna.

When asked about other enticements of the evening, Kachnowski guaranteed there would be "lots of surprises," including authentic African-theme entertainment and auction items, such as a tribal chief's mace. The "boudoir package" - two matching leopard skin-pattern robes, an exotic rug, dinner for two, a "safari" table setting, and a his-and-her day at the spa - is bound to attract the more romantic bidders.

Great getaway items up for bid include: A day on the set of *Everybody Loves Raymond* in Los Angeles; a Connoisseurs Weekend with fine

AFRICAN ADVENTURE

Madonna University's African Adventure Auction will bag scholarships



Vroom, vroom: Sister Rose Marie Kujawa, president of Madonna University, is ready to hit the road in a 2002 Thunderbird, which will be raffled off at African Adventure Scholarship Dinner Auction. Kneeling are Madonna University scholarship recipients Brian Duffoure of Redford and Crystal Napier, a psychology major who resides on campus. Standing are Barbara Rosemond and Dr. Luther Rosemond, chairmen of this year's event.

wines and gourmet dinners at the famed Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island; a wine-tasting party for 50 persons at the Beaulieu Vineyard in Napa Valley, Calif.; a week at the Coast Guard Captain's House in Charlevoix; a week in a condo on Providenciales Island, British West Indies; four days in Orlando, Fla.; and plenty of golf packages.

A really fun auction item, said Kachnowski, involves champagne.

Two hundred numbered glasses of the bubbly will be sold, each containing a 1 cubic zirconium. Choose the right number and you win a 1 carat diamond valued at \$3,000.

And back by popular demand is the "Your Choice" raffle for a \$1,000 shopping spree to Laurel Park Place, Neiman Marcus, Nordstrom or

Saks Fifth Avenue. Tickets are \$10 each.

The dinner-auction is expected to draw over 500 people. Reservations are still being taken. Gold Circle Reserved Seating is \$125 per person, \$1,250 for a table of 10; Silver Seating is \$85 per person, \$850 for a table of 10.

For ticket information, call Rose Kachnowski, Madonna University Advancement Office, (734) 432-5421. For the 2002 Ford Thunderbird car raffle tickets, contact Sister Lauriana, Advancement Office, (734) 432-5588. Attendance is not necessary to win the Thunderbird or shopping spree raffles.

While black tie is optional, formal dress is encouraged. However, since Tarzan sent his regrets, no loin clothes, please. "That's the only place we'll draw the line," said Kachnowski.



Two, please: Joanne Gorman (left) places her order with Debbie Wasatashi. Gorman said she felt like "Peter Rabbit" after ordering enough chocolate bunnies and chicks for six grandchildren.

It isn't Easter without a bunch of chocolate!

BY RENÉE SKOGLUND
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Call it the "bunny hop."

That last minute trot to the candy store for chocolate bunnies, chicks and eggs brings in hundreds of customers a day to Kemnitz's Fine Candies in downtown Plymouth, the week before Easter. And judging by customer preference, it's a milk chocolate world out there.

"My favorite is the milk, but they have the best dark chocolate-covered cherries," said Lynn Arbustor of Plymouth, who's been buying Easter candy at Kemnitz for 14 years. "My husband is the biggest kid when it comes to dark chocolate."

Carol Kennedy of Plymouth was shopping

for place-setting decorations, something special for each guest at her Easter dinner. She chose several "bunny pulling a chick in a cart" molds in milk chocolate, of course. When asked how long it would take her to devour one of the 8-pound bunnies sitting on the back shelf, Kennedy laughed at the impossibility of such a task.

"One time I was in here and a young man came in and bought one of the large rabbits for his girlfriend. I thought the girl would probably die of sugar shock," she said.

Mega-bunny

Owner Cindy Smith has sold just one of the

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