

# Bingo!

## The real excitement of a bingo game...

By DAVID LEE

Thursday night the faithful turned out 110 strong at the B'nai David Synagogue on Southfield Road and the night of the game was bingo.

The crowd was a hardy group of dowdy old ladies one might expect. Housewives, businessmen, pretty girls and senior citizens...all were there.

For some, it was the first time.

For others, it was only one night in a four-game-a-week schedule of area bingo games.

Why people come to play bingo is a question with many answers.

JOSEPH HASSAL of the B'nai David Men's Club, who helped out Thursday night, said he thinks bingo helps people relax.

"Some people come to play bingo, they concentrate on their cards and everything else expires from their mind... everything else ceases to exist," he said.

The players say they come because it's an enjoyable way to spend an evening.

Bingo also seems to be contagious.

Shelly Ross, a pert 23-year-old office worker was interested in the game by her mother.

MISS ROSS then talked Tina Friedman into coming along a few times,

and she got hooked. Then they got Mrs. Barbara Smith to join them.

Now they all go together two or three times a week to play bingo.

The prize money doesn't seem much of a factor.

Mrs. Betty Stanczak said she just couldn't come if she had to rely on her winnings to play.

"If I had to depend on the money, I'd quit playing," she said.

THE REAL excitement in the game is the winning, the chance to yell, "Bingo."

But for most players, winning isn't all that simple. Few are content to rely on mere chance.

Everyone has his own special lucky formula. Some players have "lucky hats" they always wear. Others will only play while sitting in their "winning seats."

Mrs. Stanczak doesn't like taking any chances, so she brings three different good-luck charms.

SPREAD IN a neat semi-circle in front of her were: "Waldo," a rubber octopus, "Oscar," a rubber spider, and "Felix," a well-worn rabbit's foot.

"They go with me every time I play," she said.

Not all the players put stock in lucky rubber octopi. Some think the

real luck lies in the numbers you have on your bingo card.

Mrs. Smith always looks for cards with the numbers 15 and 28. She explained that 15 is lucky because that's her birthday and 28 is a winner because that's the date of her wedding anniversary.

Miss Ross says she goes for the cards with 16, her birthday, and 69 her boyfriend's apartment number.

AFTER WINNING \$75, Suzi Swartz of Springfield said she thinks all 75 numbers are lucky.

But whether you had favorite numbers or you liked all 75, Mrs. Rose Kruger was the lady you saw about exchanging your cards Thursday night.

Mrs. Kruger said she thinks people exchange cards for the same reason people bet on different horses.

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During regular business hours Lampert is an attorney, but on Thursday nights he's the man everyone listens to for the last number that will bring him \$25.

He sits elevated on a small stage behind a microphone.

IN FRONT of him are rows and rows of tables all littered with marking pens, broked crayons, dirty ashtrays, chips and bingo cards. Everywhere there are bingo cards.

For players have only one card, most have four, some have as many as 14 cards to hurriedly scan each time a number is called.

The numbers are all printed on Ping Pong balls whirling inside a machine resembling a popcorn popper.

Each time Lampert picks a numbered ball from the hopper, the players check their cards for that number. If they have it, they cover the square with a chip.

THE FIRST player in a game to cover any five squares in a row or each of the four corners, from the possible 24 squares, goes home a winner.

Lampert's manner is calm and unusual. He jokes with the crowd as he calls out the numbers. He senses the growing anticipation of the players

each time they edge closer to winning.

And those that lose are always anxious to begin the next game.

Workers hustled noisily all night distributing prize money to the previous game's winners.

Heads elevated on a small stage behind a microphone.

"YOU CAN'T slow up the game. The want to play," yelled Lew Kruger as he doled out \$25 more to one of his co-workers.

Midway through the night there is a short break, but it doesn't last long.

"It's just enough time to go to the bathroom, get a soft drink, and visit with a friend to say, 'Oh, I never win,'" Mrs. Kruger said.

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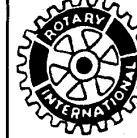
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## Talking books are credited with starting college career

By JACKIE KLEIN

Blind since five, Dr. Robert Russell discovered the wonders of library "talking books" many years ago.

He is now a distinguished author, scholar and English professor at a college in Lancaster, Pa.



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## Summer overseas work offered through OCC

A Peace Corp-type work experience is being offered through Oakdale Community College this summer. It will take place in Africa, South America and the Caribbean for about the cost of transportation to Oakdale County students.

Sponsorship is by Randolph Ston, a counselor at OCC and Volunteer for International Development.

Prof. Ston, regional director for the program said, "Any one 18 years of age or older can apply for the six to ten week program."

"THERE ARE 30 scholarships available on a first-come, first-served basis. Financial need, the applicants history of humanitarian service and his or her character are the important factors in the awards."

Two Farmington men completed eight weeks of basic training at the U.S. Army Training Center, Armon, Ft. Knox, Ky.

They are: Pvt. John T. Hussey, 17, son of Mr. and Mrs. John H. Hussey of 28316 Club House Lane and Pvt. Bernard J. Charboneau

Jr., 19, whose parents live at 32172 Looms.

Both received instruction in drill and ceremonies, weapons, map reading, combat tactics, military courtesy, military justice, first aid and army history and traditions.

### On dean's list

Shawn M. Conway, 25879 Dumas, Farmington, has been named to the dean's list for the winter term at Northwood Institute. He earned all A's.

Helene Goodman, 24297 Ridgewood, Farmington, achieved a 4.0 grade point average (straight A's) during the fall semester at Eastern Michigan University.

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