Thursday, December 26, 2002

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Look inside for your

Classifieds

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CORRECTION

A story in last week's Northville Record incorrectly stated Hayes Lemmerz filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy earlier this month. In fact, the Chapter 11 filing took place on Dec. 5, 2001. The most recent action by the Northville Township-based company involves the filing of of plan of reorganization, which, according to Hayes Lemmerz spokesperson Marika Diamond, is "a roadmap for getting out of Chapter 11."

INSIDE



One cop shopping

Northville Township police and Northville Township's Meijer location teamed up to give area youth a chance to spend a day perusing the store aisles with a police officer. Find out about the holiday activity and what the kids and officers had to say about the experience. - Page 3A

MARKETPLACE



SuperModel

Jim Faydenko (left) and Gary Hess go over house plans at their Remodeling Remedies office at 6760 Pontiac Trail in Salem Township. — Page 20A

ENTERTAINMENT

This could be magic of the Rings: The Two

Towers" is playing to packed theaters and

winning fans the world over, and we know the reason why. – Page 18A

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SONS BY BINDERY

Northville, Michigan

Kidnapping suspect arraigned

Argument between Livonia couple grows violent, ends alongside Detroit River

By Arlynn Hill SPECIAL WRITER

A 23-year-old Livonia man was arraigned in 35th District Court Dec.14 on a kidnapping charge, stemming from an argument with his wife.

According to the township

police department, the suspect's estranged wife reported that Shaun Skelton forced her into the passenger seat of her vehicle at Five Mile and Haggerty roads.

They began driving around the area, and that is when he began to threaten her life," said Northville Township lieutenant Ray Garbarino.

Garbarino said while driving, Skelton told his wife that he would kill her and dump her body in the Detroit River. Skelton drove himself and his wife to an Ecorse parking lot next to the Detroit River, at which point the victim ran to a

nearby Sunoco gas station, where police were called. The Ecorse police arrived and arrested Skelton. There, he was turned over to the Northville Township police.

The victim suffered from bruises, a black eye, and was hospitalized, Garbarino said

Skelton was ordered on \$100,000 cash bond. Skelton's is scheduled to appear in court next on Dec. 30.

Arlynn Hill is a special writer for the Northville Record. She can be reached at (248) 349-

Student recovers, reflects on accident

By Jennifer Norris

Jenny Speyer isn't a person that likes to receive a lot of attention.

But an incident that took place over two months ago has brought the personal well-being of 17-yearold Speyer into the spotlight.

A senior at Northville High School, Speyer was involved in a serious car accident Oct. 22 on Six Mile Road in front of Northville High School. Speyer, who was a passenger in the vehicle, said she suffered a broken collarbone and a punctured lung among other

That collision captured the attention of community leaders and residents and resulted in a flood of compassion and concern for the two stu-

"I'm completely recovered," said Speyer. "I'm 100 percent better."

As a result of the accident, Speyer was hospitalized in Ypsilanti for four days.

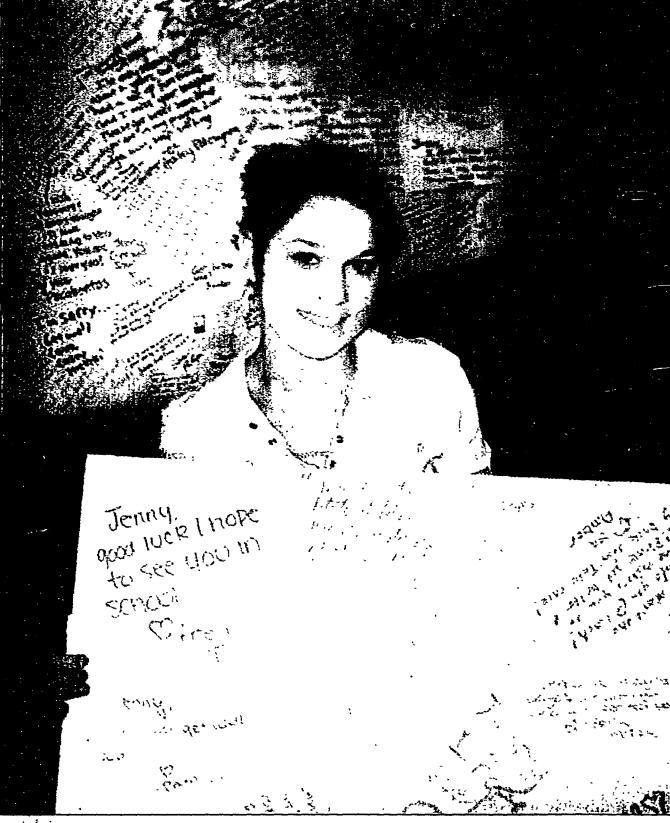
The swarm of well-wishers extended throughout the high school with students demonstrating their concern by constructing enormous banners, posters, signs and even bracelets.

"I was weirded out by all the attention I got [but] it was nice to see all the kids being so vocal," said Speyer. "It made me realize how much people care and how lucky I was. I can't believe we came out of there in one piece."

In the aftermath of the accident, Speyer directed her focus to her health and completing missed schoolwork.

"It was really rough at first," she said. "It was so much. I was so busy trying to get caught up. But gradually it got to be less and less."

Speyer said she is currently assisting her friend who was driving the vehicle complete her required



Northville High School senior Jenny Speyer sits in front of a room-size banner made by her fellow schoolmates after Continued on 8 she was injured in a car accident Oct. 22. The multiple banners depict students' wishes for a speedy recovery.

Whereya headed? Bus gives freedom

By Arlynn Hill SPECIAL WRITER

The Northville Senior Center Transportation Services are helping seniors, handicap in its community get to where they need to

be.
"They're like the pizza guy they're always on time," said Marion Miller, a Northville Township senior. "I haven't been using the transportation system long, but I don't know how I

would make it without their help." Miller had a slip-and-fall accident four weeks ago that requires her to attend therapy secessions a few times a week at Providence

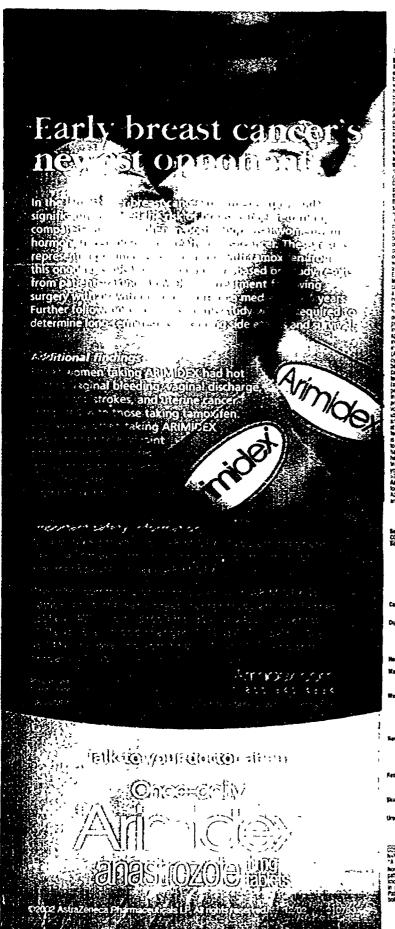
hospital. "My kids aren't able to take me

Continued on 11



Photo by JOHN HEIDER Northville resident Ruth Atchison gets on the cities' Senior Transportation bus last Thursday afternoon for a trip to the beauty parlor.

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FOR TOO LONG OUR CULTURE HAS SAID, "IF IT FEELS GOOD, DO IT." NOW, WE WANT TO BE A NATION THAT SERVES GOALS LARGER THAN SELF. WE'VE BEEN OFFERED A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY, AND WE MUST NOT LET THIS MOMENT PASS. MY CALL IS FOR EVERY AMERICAN TO COMMIT TO THE SERVICE OF YOUR NEIGHBORS AND YOUR NATION. BY DOING THIS, WE SUSTAIN AND EXTEND THE BEST THAT HAS EMERGED IN AMERICA."

* * EVERYONE CAN DO SOMETHING. * *

Answer the President's Call to Service. When you volunteer to help your neighbors, you help your nation. Everyone can do something. To learn more, visit USAFREEDOMCORPS.GOV or call 1-877-USACORPS.





Badges bring smiles to kids at the holidays

submitted photo Northville Township police Sgt. Mike Panaglotides and Mike Fox spend some time perusing the aisles at Meljer as part of the "Shop With A Cop" program.



Township police, Meijer team up to provide gifts to area children

By Jennifer Norris STAFF WRITER

More than 20 underprivileged area youths teamed with Northville Township Police officials last week to shop for holiday presents for their families at Meijer.

Samantha Bowlin, community haison officer for the Northville Township Police Department, said 25 police officers, reserve officers and dispatchers volunteered to par-ticipate in the "Shop With a Cop"

program. Bowlin said the children received gift certificates to buy gifts for their families and selected their items with a police official.

"Each officer went with each child individually," Bowlin said, adding that the program is slated to become an annual event between the Northville Township Police Department and Meijer.

"It went really well," she said.
"I'm really proud of the outcome. It was so neat to see the kids' faces just light up."

Police officials said the township police union along with the Meijer union donated funds in order for the children to buy holiday presents for their families.

Bowlin said community businesses also stepped forward and assisted at the event. Providence Hospital and Medical Centers donated their time by wrapping the children's

gifts. Livonia's Buca di Beppo restaurant on Six Mile Road catered

the event. Bowlin said the event began at about 5 p.m. and lasted approxi-

mately two hours. She said most of the children purchased clothing to give as gifts to family members. Other items including towels, a vacuum cleaner and a

clock radio were also purchased. "The [children] really did enjoy themselves," said Bowlin. "They were very excited to shopping and get to know the officers."

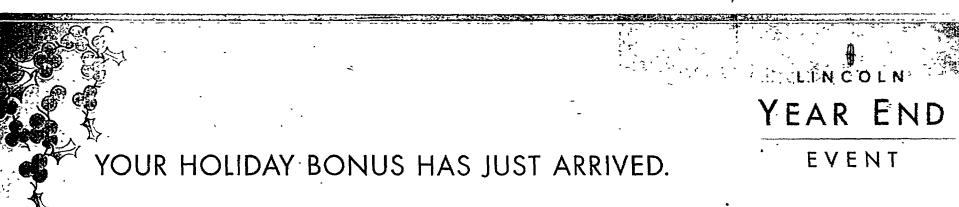
The youths ranged in age from, three to thirteen and were recom-; mended to participate in the program. through Northville Civic Concern, said Bowlin.

Northville Township chief of police John Werth said, "It was a nice opportunity for the officers and myself to give back to the kids in the community. It was a great time and all the officers enjoyed themselves."

Wenth also said the children loved spending time with the officers.
"It's always nice to make some-

body's boliday season nice," he said. "It was an outstanding showing by, the department Everybody really; enjoyed it."

Jennifer Norris is a staff writer, for the Northville Record. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700 ext. jnorris@ht homecomm net.





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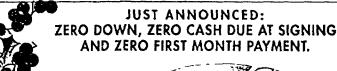
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Why weight? Forever Slim aims to shed pounds

By Jennifer Norris STAFF WRITER

After battling a personal weight problem for years, Suzzi Lang, has found the secret to getting slim. And she's ready to share that with

Having just opening this month in Northville, Forever Slim offers area residents the latest in health information and weight loss strate-

"I've literally helped hundreds of people lose thousands of pounds," said Lang, a co-owner of Forever Slim. "The difference is we look at all the reasons why people are overweight. We work with the person and encourage them in areas where they could do a little more.

Lang said clients will be shown

special tips con-"Out of suming the right comthe 50 bination of nutrients. "We're going to show them

states, Michigan how to eat is one of real food." she said. the heavi-"We look at a lot of est." different things. We do a lot of cleansing and detoxing of the

Eating the right kinds of foods and exercising is an important part of reaching weight loss goals.
"The reason why we eat, is to get

Suzzi Lang

Forever Stim

nutrients," said Lang, adding that the body won't perform efficiently without proper food and care.

Co-owner, Betty Maliska, can vouch for the program's ability to peel off the pounds. "I started and I really didn't

think I was going to lose weight as quickly as I did," she said.

Maliska said she lost 11 pounds .in ten days.

Together, the two women have a common interest in helping others achieve their goals in weight loss and body transformation.

"We're here because we really care about people," said Lang. "Ihave a strong passion for this. They need a coach. We're coaches. My mission is to make America slim, which is a huge undertaking, I

"Out of the 50 states, [Michigan] is one of the heaviest."

According to Lang, hundreds of thousands of people die every year from problems related to obesity.

Maliska shares a similar ambition in helping others overcome



Photo by John Heider Suzzi Lang, right, and Betty Maliska run their "Forever Slim" health and weightloss consultation business out of their Northville Road office.

obstacles in losing weight.

"I want to help educate all these people so that they can get healthy, look in the mirror and feel good about themselves," she said.

The owners said a custom plan is developed for each client. Just like fingerprints, they explained, each person and their needs are differ-

Lang and Maliska said they are able to work with clients over the phone, one-on-one or even in group sessions.

We guarantee you will be happy with your results," said

Lang. "Come and check us out. We want to help people. We really care. We're here to answer ques-

The Forever Slim health and weight loss clinic is located at 18600 Northville Road, Suite 170.

For more information, call (248)

Jennifer Norris is a staff writer for the Northville Record. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700 ext. e-mail 107 or by jnorris@ht.homecomm.net.

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Plymouth • Canton • Northville

photo by JESSICA VOOGD

At the final buzzer, neither the students nor the faculty could claim supremacy over the other, as the Meads Mill matchup ended in a 48-all tie.



Members of the Meads Mill student body work the ball inside against the arch-rival teachers in the student-faculty basketball game last Friday.



images from Meads Mill Middle School's Faculty v. Students basketball game



photo by JESSICA VOOGD

Kevin Ruzylo (left) and Michael Garbarz — who make no attempt at concealing which team they're pulling for — call . the action of the student-faculty basketball game from courtside.

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Voices ring high at Meads for holiday concert

By Jennifer Norris STAFF WRITER

The Meads Mill Middle School Eighth Grade Select Choir prepared to ring in the season in song as they performed their holiday concert last week.

Choir director, Patricia McLaughlin, said the concert included songs representing Hanukkah. Kwanzaa Christmas. The performance also included an original dance by Alyssa Bitell and Rachel Halboth to the poem "Fog" by Carl Sandburg.

"It was really a good experience students," McLaughlin. "It worked out very

"I thought that the performance was well attended. The students did an excellent job performing not only Christmas music but music of Kwanzaa and Hanukkah."

McLaughlin said she was able to incorporate information gained via conferences into the evening pro-

"I attended an African music conference and worked on several songs and rhythm patterns that I was able to teach one of my choirs," she said. "We were able to perform that in recognition of Kwanzaa."

Authentic drums were also used for the performance.

Other highlights of the evening included a modern dance performance by two students.

"It was a very festive evening," said McLaughlin.

Over 100 students, including the members of the Eighth Grade Select Choir, joined forces to present the holiday concert...

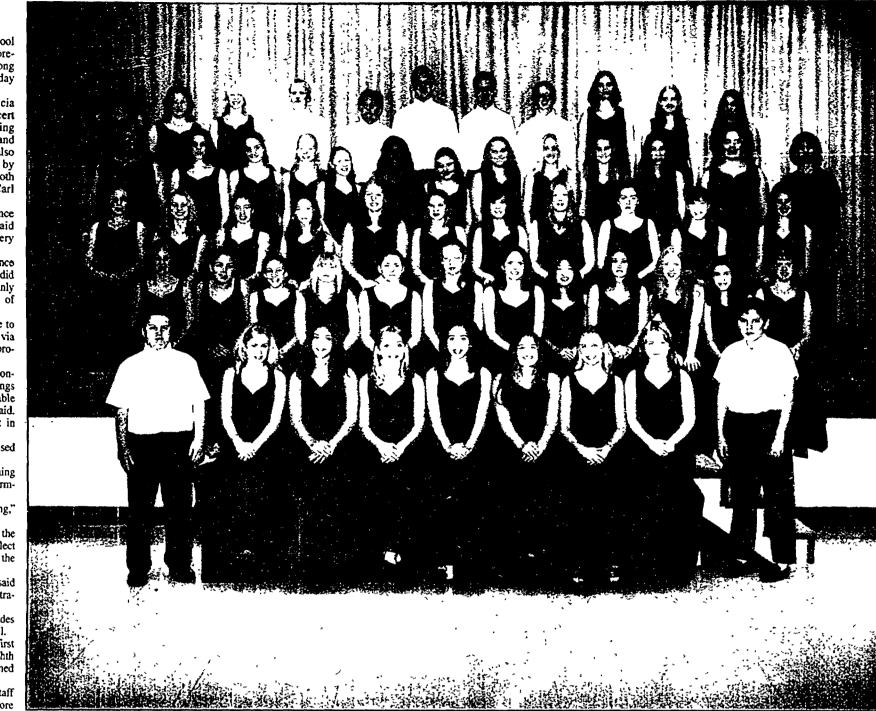
"They did work very hard," said McLaughlin. "They did several traditional carols at the beginning."

She also said students in grades six and seven participated as well.

McLaughlin said this was the first year that the seventh and eighth grade boys' select choir performed together during the production.

And plenty of student and staff preparation took place long before

"We start working on pieces in October," said McLaughlin. "The concert comes very quickly in tions of December. December."



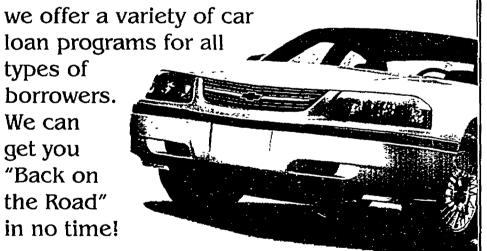
Members of Meads Mill Middle School's eighth grade select choir tune up before their holiday peformance, which recognized the many celebra-

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City adopts new charitable group policy

By Arlynn Hill SPECIAL WRITER

Charitable organizations working within the city of Northville have a new policy for solicitation that will protect their safety.

The city council members accepted the proposal for the solicitation policy at Monday's council meeting.

reasonable policy," said city man-ager Gary Word. "It should promote the safety of the people active in those organizations."

Word said that the council members asked for the new policy

At its regular meeting earlier this month, city council reviewed a draft of the proposal. After

"I think that it is a fair and a reviewing council members suggested three revisions to the proposed policy.

The revisions create guidelines

· Soliciting event dates, which defines the soliciting date to be between the hours of 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. or from dawn to dusk,

whichever is shorter, and; · Requiring approval to solicit

on public streets with the condition that minimum safety measures are maintained during the entire event, including wearing visible clothing and placing traffic cones in areas where soliciting is

The policy will become effective on Jan. 1 Requests to solicit on public streets within the city that are under county jurisdiction

may also require county approval. A written copy of the approval, if required, must be submitted to the city manager at least three business days prior to the start of the soliciting event.

The following streets are under county jurisdiction:

OAKLAND COUNTY: Eight Mile Road and Novi be reached at (248) 349-1700.

WAYNE COUNTY: Eight Mile Road, Edward Hines Drive, Griswold Street Seven Mile Road, and South Main/East Main (Northville Road.)

Arlynn Hill is a special writer for the Northville Record. She can

Merry Christmas — now get ready for tax season

FROM THE IRS

Earlier is better when it comes to working on your taxes. The IRS encourages everyone to get a head start on tax preparation. Not only do you avoid the last-minute rush, early filers also get a faster refund.

There are seven easy ways to get a good jump on your taxes long before the April 15 deadline rolls around:

- Gather your records in advance. Make sure you have all the records you need, including W-2s and 1099s. Don't forget to save a copy for your files.
- · Get the right forms. They're available around the clock on the IRS Web site, www.irs.gov, under Forms and Publications.
- Take your time. Don't forget to leave room for a coffee break when filling out your tax return. Rushing can mean making a mistake - and that can be expensive!
- Double-check your math and Social Security number. These are among the most common errors on tax returns. Taking care on these reduces your chances of hearing from the IRS.
- · Get the fastest refund. When you file early, you get your refund faster. Using e-filing with direct deposit might get you a refund in as little as 10 to 15 days.
- E-filing is easy. E-filing catches math problems, provides confirmation your return has been received and gives you a faster
- problem or a question, remember the IRS is there to help around the clock. Try our Web site at www.irs.gov . Or call our toll-free customer service number at (800)

829-1040.

WHAT IS YOUR FILING STATUS?

Your filing status on your federal tax return is a category that identifies you based on your marital and family situation, according to the IRS. It is an important factor in determining whether you must file a return, the amount of your standard deduction and your correct amount of tax. If more than one filing status applies to you, you may choose the one that gives you the lowest tax obliga-

There are five possible filing statuses: Single, Married Filing Jointly, Married Filing Separately, Household of and Qualifying Widow(er) with Dependent Child. Your marital status on the last day of the year determines your status for the entire year.

Generally, if you are unmarried, divorced or legally separated according to your state law, your filing status is Single.

If you are married, you and your spouse may file either a joint return (Married Filing Jointly) or separate returns (Married Filing Separately). If your spouse died during the year and you have not remarried, you may still file a joint return with that spouse for the year of death.

Generally, to qualify for Head of Household status, you must be unmarried and have provided more than half the cost of keeping up a home that was the main home for yourself and a qualifying relative for more than half the year. You may also qualify if you are • Don't panic. If your bave a married but did not live with your spouse at any time during the last six months of the tax year and you provided more than half the cost of keeping up a home for you and your dependent child for more

than half the year.

If your spouse died during 2000 or 2001, you may be able to file as a Qualifying Widow or Widower. To do this you must meet all four

of the following tests: You were entitled to file a joint return with your spouse in the year of death,

You did not remarry before the end of 2002.

You have a child, stepchild. adopted child or foster child who qualifies as your dependent for the year, and

You paid more than half the cost of keeping up your home, which was the main home of that child, for the whole year.

You can find more detailed information on each filing status in Publication 501, "Exemptions, Standard Deduction, and Filing Information" the IRS Web site at www.irs.gov . You may download forms and publications from this site or order them by calling toll free 1-800-TAX-FORM (1-800-829-3676).

SHOULD I ITEMIZE?

Whether to itemize deductions on your tax return depends on how much you spent on certain expenses last year. According to the IRS, money paid for medical care, mortgage interest, taxes, contributions, casualty losses, and miscellaneous deductions can reduce your taxes. If the total amount spent on those categories is more than the standard deduction, you can usually benefit by itemizing.

standard deduction amounts are based on your filing status and are subject to inflation adjustments each year. For 2002, they are:

\$4,700 . Single Married Filing Jointly \$7,850 Household Married Filing Separately your taxes.

The standard deduction amount is more for taxpayers age 65 or older and for those who are blind.

Your itemized deductions may be limited if your adjusted gross income is more than \$137,300, or \$68,650 for those Married Filing Separately. This limit applies to all itemized deductions except medical and dental expenses, casualty and theft losses, gambling losses, and investment interest.

When a married couple files separate returns and one spouse itemizes deductions, the other spouse must also itemize and can-

not claim the standard deduction. There are some taxpayers who are not eligible for the standard deduction. They include nonresident aliens, dual-status aliens, and individuals who file returns for periods of less than 12 months. For additional information, see Publication 501, "Exemptions, Standard Deduction, and Filing Information."

For more details on itemized deductions, see the instructions for Schedule A, Form 1040, or Publication 17, "Your Federal Income Tax." You may download publications and forms from the IRS Web site at www.irs.gov or you may order them by calling toll free 1-800-TAX-FORM (1-800-829-3676).

RECORD KEEPING

You can avoid headaches at tax time by keeping track of your receipts and other records throughout the year, the IRS advises. Good record keeping will help your remember the various? transactions you made during the year, which may help you out on

Records help you document the deductions you've claimed on your return. You'll need this documentation should the IRS select your return for examination. Normally, tax records should be kept for three years, but some documents - records relating to a home purchase or sale, stock transactions, IRA and business or rental property - should be kept longer.

In most cases, the IRS does not require you to keep records in any special manner. Generally speaking, however, you should keep any and all documents that may have an impact on your federal tax return. Such items would include bills, receipts, invoices, mileage logs, canceled checks, or any other proof of payment, and any other records to support any deductions or credits you claim on your

Good record keeping throughout the year saves you time and effort at tax time when organizing and completing your return. If you hiré a paid professional to complete your return, the records you have kept will assist the preparer in quickly and accurately completing your return.

For more information on what kinds of records to keep, see Publication 552.

Recordkeeping Individuals," and Publication 17,
"Your Federal Income Tax For Individuals." Both are available on the IRS Web site (www.irs.gov), at any local IRS office, or by calling toll-free 1-800-TAX-FORM (1-800-829-3676).

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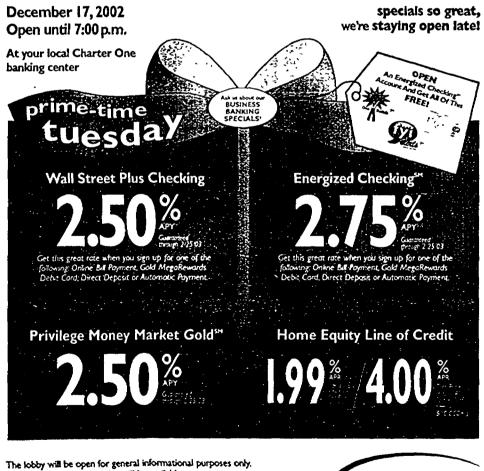
Need a tax form? Have a question about changes to tax law? Want to find the nearest IRS taxpayer assistance center? Now anyone with a personal computer and Internet access can point and click their way to trouble-free tax filing at www.irs.gov .

The award-winning IRS Web site at www.irs.gov offers a wealth of resources for making tax time, well, a little less taxing. A userfriendly format allows even novice Web surfers to quickly find the information they need. With the help of the site's interactive features, you can calculate proper withholding amounts, learn if the interest you pay is fully deductible or determine whether you're eligible to claim the child and dependent care credit.

The site also provides instructions for obtaining copies of prioryear tax returns and has a handy tax event calendar. You can even get help with a particular tax ques-

Millions of taxpayers visited the IRS site in 2002, downloading nearly 300 million forms, publications and a variety of topic-oriented tax information. With the click of a mouse you can access:

- tax forms, instructions, and publications
- · the latest tax information and tax law changes tax tables and rate schedules
- Publication 17, "Your Federal
- Income Tax" all TeleTax topics · answers to the most frequently
- asked tax questions a library of tax regulations
- the weekly Internal Revenue Bulletin, which contains all the latest revenue rulings, revenue procedines, hotices, autobacements, proposed regulations and final regulations



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NHS senior appreciates help from class

Continued from 1

"We're in pretty much the same classes," she said.

Along with concentrating on her class work and her senior year in high school, Speyer is also anticipating the next rung in her academic career.

"I've gotten accepted to all the colleges I want to go to," she said. "I just have to decide."

Speyer said she is contemplating attending Albion College or the University of Michigan.

Studying pre-law at the college level has sparked her interest.

The Oct. 22 collision has resulted in the Northville Public School district hiring traffic experts from Reid, Cool and Michalski, Inc. to conduct a traffic study and suggest solutions to improve the traffic flow around Northville High School.

Speyer said improvements are

"[There's] a lot of kids in the school. With all the kids in one compact area...they're real inexperienced. It's not a good combination," she said. "They're all in a hurry to get home. They don't drive as safely as they usually would."

Despite the high volumes of cars attempting to leave the high school, Speyer said she has noticed one improvement.

"People don't cut you off as much now," she said.

The notion of installing a traffic light at Northville High School has been explored, however traffic experts have stated that a signal is not warranted at this time.

The firm's research said standards needed to permit traffic signal control are currently not met, but as traffic volumes increase on Six Mile Road, a signal may become warranted. The company suggested if a signal is ever installed, it should be traffic actuated so it only stops Six Mile Road traffic when school traffic is present.

""It made me realize how much people care and how lucky I was. I can't believe we came out of there in one piece."

Jenny Speyer Northville High School senior

Speyer said she would favor the

installation of a signal,
"They should put up a light," she
said. "Turning left is the scariest
thing. It's hard. In the morning, it's
just the same. It's so hectic."

No matter what transpires for area commuters in terms of future signals or signs, the Oct. 22 collision has caused area residents much concern. Concern over safety and in the well-being of those affected by the accident.

"I don't want all the attention," said Speyer. "It feels like I did something important when I didn't. Me and Kim laugh about all the attention we get. It's a little awkward."

But despite the cumbrous levels of attention, Speyer said she was grateful for the support she has received.

"I'm thankful I have my friends and family and that they're so amazingly supportive," she said. "Everyone was so helpful. It was an unfortunate thing, but I learned people supported me and I got through

Jennifer Norris is a staff writer for the Northville Record. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700 ext. 107 or by e-mail at jnorris@ht.homecomm.net.



Northville High School senior Jenny Speyer surveys a banner made by her fellow schoolmates after she was injured in a car accident Oct. 22. The large banner posted in her bedroom depicts students' wishes for her speedy recovery.

Library Lines

LIBRARY HOURS:

The Northville District Library is open Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 10 am. to 5 p.m., and open Sundays from 1 to 5 p m. The library will be closed for the holidays on Dec. 31 and Jan. 1. The library is located at 212 W. Cady Street. near Northville city hall, with parking off Cady Street. For detailed information about programs or services, or to request or renew library materials, call (248) 349-

WINTER SCHOOL BREAK FUN

Looking for something fun to do during the school vacation? Children of all ages are invited to get creative with wacky crafts in the library's meeting room at 2 p.m. on Dec. 26. Children ages 4 and younger should attend with a caregiver. No pre-registration is required for this hour long program.

WINTER TOT STORYTIMES

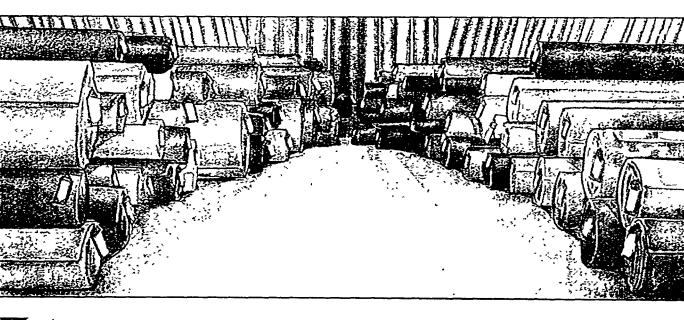
Specially designed for two and three-year olds with a parent or caregiver, this six-week series of half-hours sessions are structured to help this age group gain the most from the experience. For this reason, please bring only age appropriate children who are registered for the weekly programs. There are four sessions to choose from, as follows: Mondays at 11 a.m., Jan. 20 through Feb. 24; Wednesdays at 10:15 or 11:30 a.m., Jan. 22 through Feb. 26; and Thursdays at 11 a.m., Jan. 23 through Feb. 27.



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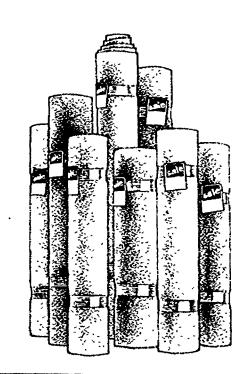


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Local dancer in 'Radio City'

By Jennifer Norris STAFF WRITER

Twelve-year-old Kristen Haugen has accomplished a feat few adults have been able to.

Haugen, a Novi resident, was selected from a group of approxi-mately 200 children to appear in the Radio City Christmas Spectacular production at the Fox Theater in Detroit. She appeared in an afternoon performance Dec. 12.

A seventh grade student attending Detroit Country Day School, Haugen was one of three individuals selected as a "walk-on," said her mother, Cathy Haugen.

According to Cathy, her daughter was involved in the pre-show and was allowed to help demonstrate the costumes. During the performance, Kristen was cast as a shepherd and helped bring out a live camel.

"It was so awesome for her to be picked to do this," said Cathy Haugen, who explained her daughter auditioned in front of the Rockettes prior to being selected.

"They picked her out to appear in one show out of 200 [people]," she

, said, "It was a really cool experience."

Kristen, who has been dancing since age three, practices at the Piazza Dance Company in Northville.

Of the hundreds of hopefuls that auditioned for the production, Kristen beat the odds when the final decisions were made.

Her younger siblings, Michael, Daniel and Maria were among the audition participants.

Cathy Haugen said the opportunity for her daughter to appear in such a production was a special opportu-

"I thought it was just awesome to be picked out of 200 people," she said. "Her brothers and sisters tried out too. They only picked three people. Just the thought that she was good enough to be chosen, it was such an honor for her. They were really nice to her there."

Jennifer Norris is a staff writer for the Northville Record. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700 ext. 107 or by e-mail jnorris@ht.homecomm.net.



submitted photo

Kristen Haugen, a Novi resident who studies at Plazza Dance Company in Northville, is one of the participants in the ongoing performance of the Radio **City Christmas** Spectacular.







THANKS FOR HELPING HELP OTHERS SMCE 1871



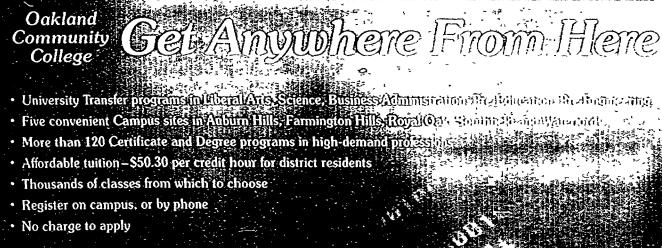
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Northville Nite 2003 DATE: Dec. 31 **LOCATION:** Northville Recreation Center at Hillside (700 W. Baseline Road) TIME: 5 p.m. - 9 p.m.

DETAILS: Tickets to the family-style New Year's Eve event are \$14 for adults and \$9 for children ages 10 and younger. Food, entertainment, a carnival, a magic show and swimming will be part of the evening.

PHONE: (248) 349-0203, ext.

Gubernatorial inauguration of Jennifer Granholm DATE: Jan. 1 LOCATION: State Capitol,

Lansing TIME: 11 am. **DETAILS:** Granholm, a Northville

Township resident, will be swom into office, as will her running mate, John Cherry, Several additional inaugural events are planned for around the state in the days to come.

PHONE: (517) 241-1844

COMING UP

Northville Woman's Club meeting (Guest Day) DATE: Jan. 3

LOCATION: First Presbyterian Church of Northville (200 E. Main Street)

TIME: 1:30 p.m. DETAILS: Bob Zaetta will be speaking on "Women of the Civil

War." The event's chairperson is Shirley Hartley. PHONE: (248) 349-3064

Single Place divorce recovery workshop

DATE: Thursdays, from Jan. 9 -

LOCATION: Forum Room, First

Presbyterian Church of Northville (200 É. Main Street) TIME: 7 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

DETAILS: The many and varied elements of divorce recovery, ranging from legal matters to emotional ramifications, will be discussed. A \$35 fee will cover the cost of the book, "Growing Through Divorce." Guest speakers representing a variety of backgrounds will be on hand to offer their expertise on divorce and what it means.

PHONE: (248) 349-0911

Northville Arts Commission Winter Concert Series -Plymouth Symphony

DATE: Jan. 12 LOCATION: Northwille High School (45700 Six Mile Road) TIME: 3 p.m.

DETAILS: The ensemble, under the direction of Nan Washburn,

will perform baroque music, including the Brandenburg Concerto No. 1 by Bach. Tickets are \$10 and \$7 for students. Seasonal tickets to all concerts (Jan. 26, Feb. 9, Feb. 23) are available for \$30.

PHONE: (248) 449-9950

Northville Arts Commission Michael Farrell Lecture Series DATE: Jan. 15

LOCATION: Hillside Middle

School (775 N. Center Street) TIME: 7:30 p.m. - 9 p.m. **DETAILS:** The works of Frederic Remington, Charles Russell, Albert Bierstadt and others associated with the westward expansion of the U.S. will be discussed.

Farrell is an associate professor at the University of Windsor. Tickets are \$5 and \$10 for students. Seasonal tickets for all lectures (Feb. 19, March 12, April 16) are

\$45 and \$25 for students.

PHONE: (248) 449-9950 Northville Woman's Club

Meeting DATE: Jan. 17

LOCATION: First Presbyterian Church of Northville (200 E. Main

Street) TIME: 1:30 p.m.

DETAILS: A representative from AAA-Michigan will be speaking on "The Older, Wiser Driver." The event's chairperson is Rigmor Cuolohan.

PHONE: (248) 349-3064

Wedding Planning 101 DATE: Jan. 18

LOCATION: Old Church Square Banquet Facility (145 N. Center Street)

TIME: 12:30 p.m. **DETAILS:** Representatives from several wedding-related businesses will be on hand to answer

questions about wedding planning

and organization. Admission is ' \$10 per person. Advance registration is required. PHONE: (248) 668-9273

38th annual Northville-In-Florida Reunion

DATE: Feb. 21 (reservations due by Jan. 30)

LOCATION: Hotel Jacaranda (19 E. Main Street, Avon Park,

TIME: Call for info

DETAILS: The annual reunion of persons with ties to Northville will take place in a private dining area at Hotel Jacaranda. Tax and gratuity for lunch is \$12.50 per person. Accommodations can be arranged with the assistance of the reunion organizers. (Avon Park is located about 75 miles

south of Orlando, Fla.) PHONE: (863) 453-4696 / (863) 385-7181 / (863) 471-6107

Northville School Briefs

FREEDOM CELEBRATION JAN.

On Jan. 10, Doug Scheer is slated to present the fundamental beliefs that unite Americans at Silver Springs Elementary School. This celebration of American freedom includes the Bill of Rights, the Constitution and our core

democratic values. This activity is funded in part by the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs and the Michigan Humanities Council.

The performance is to be given to students in grades 3, 4 and 5.

JANUARY: SCHOOL BOARD tion is "They're Counting on You:

RECOGNITION MONTH

The month of January marks the annual observance of School Board Recognition Month and provides a time to honor the work of school board members and their commitment to public education. The theme of this year's celebra-

Leadership for Learning."

School Board Recognition Month is celebrated by 560 local and 57 School Districts in Intermediate Michigan, as 4,200 elected school board members are honored by their schools and communities for untiring dedication to school governance.

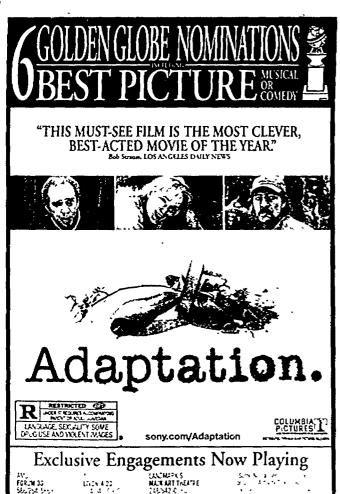
In the Northville Public School District, school board members must develop policies and make tough decisions on complex education and social issues, which impact the entire community. The bear responsibility for an operating budget of \$50 million, 5,805 students, over 900 employees and 12 buildings.

PDFOEDSOSSOSS

On Campus

The following Northville residents received Schoolcrast College scholarships from their respective departments: Iuila Berry, Vanessa Franulic, Jacqueline Gonyea and Jennifer Wood.

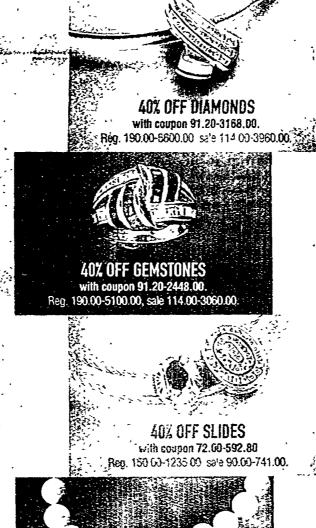
The following Northville residents were named to University of Michigan for the fall 2002 semester: Jason D'Haene, Abdul Elsaadi, Laura Elsesser, Meredith Hasse, Jingqui Mei, Daniel Mihalik, Mahshid Pirzadeh, Nikhil Siraman, Stephen Traicoff, Maureen Vermeulen, Grant Weber and Jonathan Woodsum.





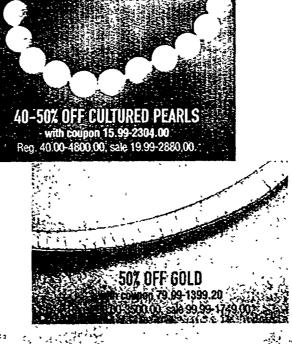
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Need a ride? Senior buses offer a chance

Continued from 1

back and fourth because they have jobs," she said.

Senior transportation system coordinator Kathy Hietala said the program offers curb-to-curb service.

Reservations for service must be made at least to working days in advance, Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. through 11:30 a.m. Requests are not accepted at any time other time. Their service hours are Mon. through Fri. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Hietala said that on the weekend and in the evening they have special group outings for its riders.

"Providing our service so the seniors in Northville, Northville Township, and the handicapped is something we enjoy doing," Heitala said.

The service has been serving the community since January of 2001. There is a two-\$2 charge each way, and \$4 round-trip. Each rider must complete a rider information form before riding the bus. Eligible passengers must be a Northville or Northville Township resident,

"Providing our service so the seniors in Northville, Northville Township, and the handicapped is something we enjoy doing."

Kathy Hietala Transportation coordinator

50 years of age or older, or handicapped (certified by an physician.) The service area is a five-mile radius from the Senior Center, which is approximately bound by Thirteen Mile Road, Joy Road, Farmington Road, and Currie Road. For further information, (248) 349-4140.

Arlynn Hill is a special writer for the Northville Record. She can be reached at (248) 349-

Mill Race Matters

Mill Race Village is an 11-acre collection of 19th century buildings along the Mill Pond operated by the Northville Historical Society. The Village is open dawn to dusk seven days a week and is located on the west side of Griswold north of Main Street in downtown Northville. The office, located at the Cady Inn, is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. or by appointment. The first Sunday in June through the 3rd Sunday in October the buildings are open from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. with docents (hosts/hostesses) in each to share the history of that building. For detailed information about special programs or renting the facilities call the office at (248) 348-1845.

Dec. 26	9am-1pm 5pm-6pm	Office Closed Rehearsal	Cady inn Church
Dec.27	9am-1pm 5:30pm-7:30pm	Office Closed Wedding Church	Cady Inn
Dec.28	3pm-8pm	Kelly Christmas Party	Cady Inn
Dec.29	10am-12pm	Mill Creek Community Church	Church
Dec.30	9am-1pm	Office Closed	Cady inn
Dec.31	9am-1pm 9am-12pm	Office Closed Stone Gang	Cady Inn Village & Cady Inn
Jan.1	9am-1pm 7pm-9pm	Office Closed Mill Creek Community Church Prayer Service	Cady Inn Church
Jan.2	9am-1pm	Archives Open to the Public	Cady Inn

We would like to wish everyone happy and safe holidays. May your fondest wishes come true. The office will be closed for Christmas and New Year's from December 21 until Jan. 1. Enjoy the holidays.

Mill Race Basket Guild Basketmakers-Are you interested in joining a Basket Guild? The Guild meets the first Wednesday of the month (September-June) from 9:30 to noon at the Cady Inn. We demonstrate at Mill Race Activities and are members of the Northville Historical Society. The guild does not give lessons but we do learn from each other. If you are interested in more information please contact Georgia Fandinitus at (734) 459-7146 or e-mail Diane Carter at dianecart@earthink.net.

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Western Township Utilities Authority Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting Synopsis 3:00 p.m. Monday, December 17, 2002

Regular meeting was called to order at 3:15 p.m.

Present: Thomas Yack, Steve Mann, Richard Henningsen

Agenda - adopted as amended, changing the order of items under old business.

Minutes of regular meeting of November 18, 2002 - approved. Schedule of operating expenses totaling \$888,616 68 - approved. Operations & Maintenance Report for November 2003 - received and filed.

Director's Report for December 2003 - received and filed. Variable Frequency Drive (VFD) Repairs - approved. Lower Rouge Storage Building; Certificate of Substantial Completion - approved.

YCUA Plant Expansion Update - received and filed. Accountant Position Recruitment Update - approval to post the job advertisement for the permanent position.

The regular meeting was adjourned at 4 03 p m.

Chairman, THOMAS J. YACK

This is a synopsis. A complete copy of the minutes may be reviewed at the WTUA offices located at 40905 Joy Road, Canton, MI 48187.

Publish. December 26, 2002

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Northuille Record

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Our fundamental purposes are to enhance the lives of our readers, nurture the home towns we serve and contribute to the business success of our customers.

Gov. Granholm: our best wishes

We wish Ms.

Granholm all the

best as she begins

Unfortunately, our holiday printing schedule isn't going to allow us time to bring readers coverage of Northville Township resident Jenniser Granholm's gubernatorial inauguration in the Jan. 2 edition of the Northville Record. Oh, we'll be there in Lansing next Wednesday, and we'll certainly cover this

huge event the way it should be done.

But beating calendar...darn! Not this year.

Just the this latest chapter same, we recthe in her life next ognize significance Ms. Granholm's

Michigan's the standpoint of what it means on the local scene, but also what it means across the state. The election of Ms. Granholm gives · Michiganians a chance at a fresh start - even if that fresh start comes at a time when a major budget deficit is sure to throw up tripwires

week.

Despite the financial problems facing Michigan, Ms. Granholm has plenty working for her, too.

aplenty for the new guv.

• From all indications during her tenure as attorney general, Ms. Granholm has demonstrated an ability to be mindful of the people's best interest, taking on large corporations and fighting for the proverbial Little Guy.

• Ms. Granholm has shown how to conduct business in adverse conditions, and still make things happen. Working under a Republican governor for four years, Ms. Granholm didn't always

agree with Governor John Engler, but she still did her job. Few would dispute she did the job effectively, either. No, her tenure in the AG's office wasn't perfect, but given the political boxing ring she was in, she seemed to carry herself efficiently and effectively.

 Ms. Granholm will have a Democratic

ally in Detroit mayor Kwame Kilpatrick. As Detroit - the largest municipality in the state and Lansing have clashed often in the last 12 years, Ms. Granholm

can breathe highest office...not only from just a little bit easier knowing the big town in her state is a member of her own

> We wish Ms. Granholm, all the best as she begins this latest chapter in her life next week. If you live in Northville or Northville Township, this is a great moment in our community's history, and one we won't soon forget. Whether you're a Democrat, Republican, Green Party or Independent, if you live in 48167, we hope you join us in standing up and applauding, if for only a moment.

There's work to be done in Michigan, yes...but let's just savor the moment.

FOOTNOTE: (A sure sign of Northville Northville Township's hardcore Republican backbone rests in the fact that Ms. Granholm didn't win either community in the November elections. Ouch! Tough

Why not impose taxes on those who do wrong?

I have been following [Phil Power's] columns about balancing Michigan's budget and thought of an idea that may interest you. In the resource economist circle we often discuss Green Tax Reform. It is the idea of taxing "bads" and not "goods." For instance, a government would increase taxes on an industry that pollutes, forcing them to pay an amount that represents the full cost to society. The tax would equal the value of the externalities, or the negative impact that pollution creates for the general public.

Essentially, the new tax would work to internalize the externalities. The company could then make an informed choice about whether to abate their pollution or to pay the tax. Either decision would benefit society.

"Goods" does not mean products in the traditional sense of the word. Instead, "goods"

are things that benefit society (i.e. people's work). So instead of increasing income taxes to balance a budget, the government would tax facilities that pollute a valuable public good (air, land, or water). More stringent environmental regulations are long overdue in this state and Green Tax Reform is a strategy that could have wide-ranging social, economic and environmental benefits.

Megan Cauzillo

Volunteers appreciated at Northville Library

The Friends of the Northville District Library would like to thank the following volunteers for their help in 2002, with fall and/or Sunday used book sales: Helen Anderson, Jean Bemish, Grace Colter, Marty Dreiman, Bev Dudley, Brett Eathorne, Valerie Fishbeck, Barb Freeland, Nika Frimenko, Dorothy Gay, Lindita Gega, Betty Griffin, Carol Holland, Phyllis Hollinger, Barb Hudgins, Mary Jane Kearns, Marge Koslowski, Loretta Lang, Jim Linn, Sally LaPla-Perry, Ryan Lionas, Barb Lucas, Fran Mattison, Don McColloch, Marvis McLean, Nanci Olgren, Lynn Parkllan, Judy Poole, Richard Potchynok, Marion Rowlette, Bob Russell, Ramona Saurer, Helen Schneider, Barb Shobe, Amy Storm, Carol Ventura, Amy Wild, Mary Kay Wimsatt, Lois Winters, and Zack Wollack. Almost \$4,000 was raised for the library, and about 2,000 books were sold.

> Carol Poenisch Friends of the Northville District Library Used Book Sale Committee

Share your opinions

We welcome your letters to the editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask that your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content. Mail: Letters to the Editor, Chris C. Davis, Northville Record, 104 W. Main, Northville, MI 48167 E-mail: cdavis@ht.homecomm.net Fax:(248) 349-9832



Christmas, as seen from I-80

The way I figure, there's at least a 50-50 chance you're reading this column while standing in line, waiting to return some God-awful gift you received yesterday. (Which reminds me - if you were the recipient of either a) a Chia-something, b) a pair of talking slippers, or c) a membership in the

Bread the Month Club,

Chris C. Davis

sympathize.) other hand, spent the better part of yester-day trolling along Interstate

80, enjoying all the sights and sounds of northern

Illinois and Iowa. Yessirree, the calendar was not my friend this year, and my wife and I were forced to knock out the 600-mile trek from Novi to Des Moines lat around 11 a.m. Moments after I wolfed down my breakfast casserole and downed a much-needed third cup of coffee, Emily, Sammy the Wonder Beagle and Yours Truly piled in the Jeep...

...and away we went.

There weren't many, unless you count the promos for Ronald Reagan's birthplace, and the WORLD'S BIGGEST TRUCKSTOP! Traffic reports we caught from time to time weren't really all that important, since there was hardly

another living soul out traversing your own. America with us.

I did, however, pick up on a few life lessons in the process of embarking on this holiday expedition. As a service to readers everywhere, allow me to share a few travel tips, should you find yourself on The Road on a day when the rest of the free world is done.

• Invest in a solar-powered car. You probably have heard what they say about the word "assume." That's even more true on Christmas Day, when you assume gas stations will be open to assist travelers in their commute. You may also assume insurance companies will be available to deliver emergency fuel to your car, when the gas station you assumed would be open, isn't. (Of course, if you assume the sun will be shining enough on the day of your travel to get you where you need to be, I assume you're in the market to invest in some Florida swampland.)

• Playing Auto Bingo is a drag. With the roads as sparsely populated as they are on Dec. 25, it's entirely possible that you may cross time zones between when someone spots a car with one burnt-out headlight and when someone spots a Kentucky license plate.

· Bring your own music for the trip. If you rely on radio stations to get you through the hours on the road, you're playing with fire. You'll pass through stretches of land where the radio stations' Christmas playlist refuses to go past "Feliz Navidad" and the umpteenth version of "Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas." Unless you like being tortured by hearing the same tunes over and over again, I'd suggest packing a few CDs of

 Know where you're going in advance of going there. Much like gas stations are tough to come by on Christmas, so too are travel information cen-

Yessirree, the

my friend this

calendar was not

year, and my white

wife and I were

forced to knock

out the 600-mile

trek from Novi to

Des Moines at

around 11 a.m.

ters, much anything else you'll need find your way. should you become lost on the highways and byways America. If you find yourself saying "It's got to

be coming up in the next couple of miles," you're probably dead

 If you bring a car, make sure he / she doesn't have access to the ultra-fragile presents. I think you can do the math.

Hey...wake upl You're next in line, behind the guy returning the glow-inthe-dark Star Trek radio.

Chris C. Davis is the editor of the Northville Record. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 114, or at cdavis@ht.homecomm.net.

GOVERNMENT

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· Oakland County portion of Northville † Wayne County portion of Northville

Some vacation...homework awaits!

What exactly is it like being a student over Christmas break? A two-week break from long days of lectures, busy work, and homework is what every stu-



Lauren Brackei

catch up on hours of sleep, to get together with friends. spend time

dent needs

point in the

school year.

to

Time

with family, and have time to ourselves is what every student

desires during this time in the school

Sure, break is always great when it comes to getting free time, but what happens to everything we've recently learned? Does it all stay in the back of our minds? Or does it wander off to somewhere it's hard to retrieve?

The week before Christmas Break is

often tough to get through. Everyone is anxious to get it over with. Somehow, the week before break always seems to drag. During the week we are given multiple tests or projects that are to be finished or turned in by Friday. The reason teachers probably do this is because they don't want to give us tests when we return from break. Students seem to forget most of what we've learned over the period of two weeks.

But what happens when we take our finals? Are we really going to remember everything from the beginning of the semester, after we have been out of school for two weeks?

Every student has the two weeks to study hard for finals. The question is, do they bother studying at all? Studying is probably the last thing students want to do while on vacation. Whether they are in an exotic place lying on a sandy beach, or sitting at home by the fire. They will be against the idea of picking up a textbook and reviewing.

So what is the solution to the problem? In a way, it would be nice to have finals before Christmas break. Every student would be able to enjoy their vacation with one less thing to worry about. However, students already have so many other

tests and projects to complete during this last week. So if this were to happen, the students would be

much more stressed than they already All in all, students:

remember

to study. but don't study too hard, enjoy yourselves for two weeks, then get serious again

when you

In a way, it would be nice to have finals before Christmas break. Every student would be able to enjoy their vacation with one less thing to worry about.

Lauren Brackel is a special writer for the Northville Record. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700.



Milford bites the dust

By Tyler Carter SPECIAL WRITER

After marching over South Lyon and Hartford in their opening games, the Northville Mustangs faced their first real test on Friday (Dec.20). The Mustangs hosted the Milford Mavericks in a packed house. The Northville crowd, led by the Militant Mustangs cheering section, was behind the team every minute of the game.

In the opening minutes, it appeared as if the Mustangs would have their hands full with the Mavericks. In the first half both teams got in to some foul trouble and free throws became a serious factor in the game. The Mustangs capitalized on these opportunities shooting 6 of 8 in the game from the free throw line. After leading 9-8 in at the end of the first quarter, the Mavericks found themselves trailing 23-17 at the half. In the fourth quarter, senior Chris Jacobs helped the Mustangs increase their lead and

gain momentum, hitting a huge three pointer followed by a steal on the next possession. Northville controlled the ball well in the fourth quarter and took smart shots. With less than five minutes remaining, the Mustangs took advantage of the absence of a shot clock and controlled the ball for a minute and half before junior Mark Sorensen made a quick pass inside to senior Jeff Varley for an easy lay up. The Mustangs maintained their lead for the remainder of the game, coming away with a 51-39 victory.

Adam Konst stepped into a role he hasn't found himself in this year, leading the team in rebounds [6]. Coach Darrel Schumacher stated after the game, "Adam really sacrificed his body tonight and that's really what we needed..." It seemed as if every minute, Konst was on the floor diving after a loose ball or getting physical under the basket. The Mavericks guarded Konst man to man all game, holding him shotless on the night. His only points came on free throws.

Roger Garfield was the leading scorer [17 points], shooting 7 of 11 from the floor. Roger also led the team in assists [4] as he has done every game this season. Senior Scott McNeish had 14 points, adding serious strength to the inside game.

Schumacher was happy with the Mustang's win: "Tonight was a solid team effort. Guys coming off the bench turned up the tempo and actually spread our lead." The Mustangs head, coach is also content with Northville's defense at this point in the season: "Defense is an ongoing battle and you always have to do new things as the opponents pick up on them. Right now our defense is doing a good job, but it's going to have to keep getting better if we are going to get where we want to be."

The Mustangs will play in a holiday tournament on Dec. 27 and 28, followed by Canton on January 3. The Canton game will be Northville's first division contest and looks to be a great match up.

By Kita Mason and Sam Eggleston

HOMETOWN NEWSPAPERS

Yes! Yes, yes, yes! Victory is the sweetest thing, you agree? The wouldn't Northville Mustangs wrestling team sure would, as they finally tasted the sugar-coated flavor that victory brings with it. You know what? They are only wanting more.

The Mustangs were able to pound the Plymouth Canton Chiefs into submission 60-15 as points seemed to climb through the roof with one pin after anoth-

Steve Minier (171-pound weight class), Ben Mason (189) and Adam Blunk (103) snatched pins on the nights in the first period of their grappling efforts while teammates Marc Mueller (heavyweight), Peter Kelley (152) and captain Rick Riegner (160)

earned their marks with pins in the second period. Steve Cain, showing the tenacity that has made Mustang wrestling a pro-gram to contend with, wore out his Canton opponent and earned the pin in the third.

The Mustangs weren't going to earn every point with pins though, and showed that there is more than one way to skin a cat. Joel Schanne (112) earned six points when the Canton grappler forfeited the match with an injury, while Mike Carter collected another six for the Mustangs when his opponent was marked as a void. Josh D'Anna, a captain with the Northville squad, managed to fight his way through the flu and won a 9-2 decision for an addi-

tional three points in the victory. Brad Ashby snatched victory right out from under his opponent in his match in the 135 pound class. He found himself down 0-2 heading into the third period of the match before choosing the ever-risky up position to start in the third. The move proved to be a good one, as he earned a onepoint escape. Soon after, Ashby took control of the match with time ticking off the clock. With only 20 seconds remaining in the match, Ashby pulled off a threepoint move, throwing his opponent onto his stomach and pulling him into a cradle for a near-fall at the buzzer.

At the junior varsity level, Mitch Gayner (112) and Justin Swanson (140) showed the future of Northville wrestling to be a bright one as they both earned pins against their Plymouth Canton opponents.

Yes, victory is very, very sweet. How about a victory against an opponent in the Western Lakes Activities Association? That's just like adding sprinkles on top.

Santa Claus is always watching — and is very, very real

Dear Editor-

I am 8 years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says, "If you see it in The Sun, it's so.' Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?

Virginia O'Hanlon (A letter to editor Francis P. Church of The New York Sun, published in 1897.)

Many of you know the answer that Francis P. Church gave this little girl over 100 years ago, but for those who don'l, I'll remind you: Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus.

When'I was in second grade, one of my best friends, Alan Haynes, was of the Jehovah's Witness religion. He was never allowed to participate in our holiday celebrationen no one ur knew his birthday and he pretty much just watched as the rest of us snacked on cookies and exchanged little gifts or cards. One day, close to Christmas

break, I asked Alan why he didn't join us — why didn't he celebrate Christmas like everyone else and how come he never told us about the gifts

that Santa Claus brought him. "There's no such thing as Santa Claus," he said.

I remember that moment ohso-very clear even to this day. I guess you could call it a turning point in my life. Yeah, you always heard the rumblings from the older kids as they talked about catching their parents putting their gifts under the tree and such, but when I asked my mom and dad about those comments, they simply said that Santa couldn't do everything for everyone, so sometimes he just dropped off the gifts and let the parents put them away. Simple enough

But, this was different. Here sat a child of my own age my best friend then and for years to follow - telling me that his parents sat him down

wasn't nor ever was a Santa

Claus. How could I ignore such blatant facts given to me by one of my most trusted companions? I don't think I ever viewed the holiday the same after that and I just resigned myself to the fact that there was indeed no Saint Nick and no flying reindeer.

ents pick up the phone and call me to complain about this, and for those children who are, for some reason or another,

Before any par-

reading this column, let me say something first — I was wrong, 'Alan' was wrong, Alan's parents were wrong and everyone who has ever said there is no such thing as Santa Claus is wrong. It took me too many years to realize it, but now that little more on my wife,

and explained to him that there I do, I'd like to help you realize it too.

> Though I've never seen Santa stuffing gifts under my tree on Christmas Eve, and I've never had the opportunity to see reindeer take to the skies, I have to say that I am an honest-togoodness believer in the jolly elf. I guess you can call it a hunch, or a feeling. Does he know when I've been bad or good?

You bet, and that's why I try my hardest to be good for goodness sake.

Now, for those of you who are firm believers in the idea that Christmas is just a holiday for the stores - I feel sorry for you. Yeah, I spent a pretty penny on gifts this year for my loved ones. I especially spent a

Christie, and my daughter, Shaylyn. While out and about in the hustle in bustle of the Christmas shopping, it always hits me. Santa Claus is alive and well. All you have to do is see the face of a child opening a gift to realize that. Heck, even if you see the look on my

wife's face, or my grandma's face when they open a gift it's an undeniable fact. Maybe Santa doesn't make himself seen for those of us

who reach a certain age, but if

you sit back and take a deep

breath - inhaling all the

Christmas cheer around you as it flows from your house and your neighbors house and everyone else's' place - and then hold it in, you'll feel him standing over your shoulder watching you. It starts as a tingle in your lower back usually, and moves slowly like a chill up your spine. From there, the hairs on the back of your neck might take a moment to stand

slightly before this warm

embrace fills your chest and

the warmth of love is all around you. Yup, that's Santa Claus.

He's all the love and all the Christmas joy of the world wrapped into that great feeling when you hand someone a gift. He's a magical being that lives for such magical moments.

For many of the readers out there, these words are being scanned over the day after Christmas and for some it may even be a few days past that. But remember, even if you think you don't believe in St. Nick, there is a child inside you that still does. And, a new year of being good or bad has already started, so make them all count.

Santa's watching, you know.

Sam Eggleston is the sports writer for the Northville Record and the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or at

seggleston@ht.homecomm.ne



Sam Eggleston



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Tankers have rough start, but smooth out

Hosting WLAA relays a new experience for 'Stangs, as well as a good one

"We were more

prepared on the

things. We came

ready to swim."

mental side of

By Sam Eggleston

Overall, it's not a bad start to the season for the Northville Mustangs swim team.

Sure, they took some lumps with their third-place finish in a double dual for the first meet of the season, but they redeemed themselves with their performance as a competitor and host of the Western Lakes Activities Association relay meet.

"We had a much better performance," Northville tanker coach Rich Bennetts said of the WLAA meet over the double dual. "From top to bottom we swam and raced a lot better. I was much more impressed with

Salem still managed to crack open the safe and escape with the winnings with 238 points, and Canton notched secondplace honors with 223. And then, in a moment that showed this team's true talent, the Mustangs took third with 215. Behind them, in fourth, was Stevenson at 208.

"It wound up being pretty close and pretty tight all the way around," Bennetts said. "I was really impressed."

In the relay meet, the top three teams in each even took home medals - and the Mustangs weren't excluded

from that grouping.
In the 400 medley, Brad
Farris, Jason Albosta, Joe Lunn and Brad McIntosh notched a

4:10.24.

Albosta? Yeah, he's a swimmer this year too.
"He's just

at home in the pool," Bennetts look to him to lead in a lot of differ-

ent ways." The 400 free relay found the

Hogan, Nick Folas, Tyler Carter and Billy McIntosh finishing in 3:47.39. In the 200 free, the and Brad McIntosh notched a Mustangs followed Mike third-place finish with a time of Handley, Mark Stuber, Harry Moroz Aaron Flohr notched a second with a 1:44.41. Stellar sen-

took second in

the relay meet

with a point

Rich Bennetts Swimming and Diving Coach

ior divers Albosta and John Campbell

total

356.45. The single victory of the Mustangs in third with Joe day came from Farris, Hunter Schwartz, Brad McIntosh and Lunn as they secured a win with

a time of 1:53.49 in the 200

backstroke. "We were more prepared on the mental side of things," Bennetts said. "We came ready to swim."

Against the South Lyon and Chelsea swim teams in the double dual meet, the Mustangs came up on the wrong end of

"We were short with both teams," Bennetts said.
Chelsea topped Northville

94-76, while South Lyon beat them 89-81.

Taking first place victories for the Mustangs was only one swimmer in the form of freshman Farris. He snatched victory away in the 100 backstroke with a time of 1:03.41.

Freshman Schwartz also had a nice showing, putting up a time of 2:35.83 in the 200 medley while Weston Labbs finished the 100 back stroke in 1:18.10.

'Overall, it was a rough start to the season," Bennetts said. We weren't really prepared to get in there and swim, so I'll take the heat for this one."

The Mustangs also lost points due to South Lyon's pool not having diving capabilities at the time of the meet.

But, the only way left for the Mustangs is up, as they dive into a very competitive and promising new year.

Sam Eggleston is the sports writer for the Northville Record and the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700. ext. 104 or at seggleston@ht.homecomm.net.

Even old jocks learn new appreciation

Let's play word association for a minute. The word is cheerleading - what are your thoughts?

Odds are, if you are like me, your visions of this "competitive sport" belongsmore in a museum than in a sports article.

Granted I carry baggage. I am a guy, a former jock, and one who went to high school decades ago. However, after spending time on the web doing research, talking to Novi's HS cheerleading coach, and watching first-hand competition with a boatload of teams at an invitational I found out that I am that dinosaur when it comes to competitive cheer.

Let me begin by stating something that will make it tough to go into the guys locker rooms after uttering. Guys, the girls are on varsity cheer are athletes. They are more flexible in their muscle coordination than you are. The girls routines are as precise as a diver on the guys swim team. They have to remember sets/words/actions as much as your high school quarterback. And, cheerleaders have to take the pounding of teammates standing on them multiple times which is as bad as the center of your boys basketball team going for a rebound.

Face it guys (I had to) that few guys (if they could get through the embarrassment of being lead by girls) could master the difficulty of competitive cheerleading.

Let me explain something about competitive cheerleading. Sure, there still is the element "gimme an N, gimme and O...." still in it from the old

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days which started in 1884 at Princeton. The chants and the slogans haven't gone away plus the words will never be considered to be Shakespearean in eloquence. Understand that even fellow guys Dwight D. Eisenhower and Jimmy Stewart were cheerleaders in those days of old? And, sure, the girls were and are pretty with the likes of actress Cheryl Ladd and Miss America's Phyllis George. All this hasn't changed.

What has changed is that old style cheerleading is dead. It changed sometime in the late 1970s that supported boys sports by enthusiastically cheering for them win or lose. Now, its the cheerleaders competing along side the boys as fellow athletes.

What is the change? As one person put it, "cheerleading is where athletics meets dance.' Nowadays cheerleader routines involve gymnastics, tumbling, aerobics, and precision maneuvers that have to be completely in unison with several teammates. Yes, there are cartwheels, doing the splits, and other familiar positions. However, there is more to it now. Girls today get tossed twirling into the air in spirals and sometimes back-flipping down to the mat in a summer-

More intriguing is that they do all of this while chanting -

These girls are in great physical condition. They have to be to compete multiple times in the same day. Stamina is a must and strength (both upper and lower body) is not an option. Flexibility is essential as their is almost no time without moving multiple body parts into difficult positions.

Cheerleaders have to be exceptional dancers, too, with great timing, sharp defined movements, and snappy coordination with your teammates. Dancers, I might add, that can lift someone nearly your own weight and hold them there for tens of seconds. Try being at the bottom of a standing pyramid to find out what strong shoulders mean.

One other point is the crossover between gymnastics and cheerleading. Gymnastics involve routines of handsprings, hurdling, and double summersaults by yourself. Try doing the same thing with five, 10, or more people in unison. And chanting. Its easy, right?

Well, this article wasn't written to say that the guys sports aren't tough. They are. However, let's give girl sports. and cheerleading is one of them, some of their long overdue credit. Girls, you have come a long way!

Now guys (and the community), one last item. Find out when the cheerleaders perform at your high school. They supported you in the rain, in smelly gyms and night or day. Its your turn to yell for them. Give them all your encouragement and energy as they compete for the right to win, also, for your school. I will and I didn't think I would ever do that many years

Michael Zerkich is an intern for the Northville Record and the Novi News. Comments can he directed to the sports department at (248) 349-1700, ext.

Sports Shorts

AAU Basketball tryouts

The Western Wayne Wildcats 2003 Northville AAU Girls Basketball team will be holding tryouts for the upcoming season. The dates and ages are as follows:

11-year-olds: January 14, 4:30-6 p.m. at Hillside Middle School; Jan. 17, 6:30-8 p.m. at Northville Community Center. 12-13 year olds: Jan. 13, 6-7:30 p.m. at Hillside Middle School; Jan.

15, 6-7:30 p.m. at Hillside Middle School. 14-16 year olds: Jan. 7, 7-8:30

p.m. at Northville High SChool; Jan. 8, 7-8:30 p.m. at Hillside Middle School.

If you have any questions regard-ing the Western Wayne Wildcats AAU Basketball teams, call Kim Fiscus at (248) 380-9496 between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Holiday Baseball/Softball camp

Put One in The Copper Deck, Northville's indoor baseball/softball training facility, will be conducting its sixth-annual holiday camp December 26-28. Baseball camp will be held from 9 a.m.-noon with a noon-1 p.m. time for free batting

cages to the campers. Softball camp will be held from 1-4 p.m. with a 4-5 p.m. time for free batting cages for campers. Instruction at both camps will include fundamentals, throwing mechanics, pitching, fielding, baserunning and conditioning. Upper Deck is located in downtown Northville at 235 E. Main Street, Suite 108. For more information or to register, please call (248) 349-

Rec Basketball Registrations

The Northville Parks and Recreation department is accepting final registrations for its Winter Youth Basketball Season. Several openings remain in the 6th-8th grade girls, 8th-9th grade boys and 10th-12th grade boys leagues. A waiting list has been initiated for the 9th-12th grade girls league. If enough girls register for the league waiting list, an additional team will be formed.

All leagues will play a-10 game schedule, primarily on Saturdays beginning January 18 and ending March 22, 2003. Teams will practice one or two times per week beginning Jan. 6 through March 17.

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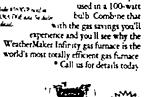


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The Screen Beat

By Brian Renner The Movie Insider

Coming to theaters within this week is the crime-ridden thriller 'Catch Me If You Can' starring Leonardo DiCaprio as Frank Abagnale, Jr., who works as a doctor, a lawyer and as a co-pilot for a major airline, all before his 18th birthday. A master of deception, he was also a brilliant forger, whose skill gave him his first real claim to fame: At the age of 17, he became the most successful bank robber in the history of the United States. FBI Agent Carl Hanratty (Tom Hanks) made it his prime mission to capture Frank and bring him to justice, but Frank is always one step ahead of him, baiting him to continue the chase. "Catch Me If You Can" is a DreamWorks Pictures release and rated PG-13 for some sexual content and brief language.

Engrossing family drama, "Evelyn," based on true events, fol-lows Desmond Doyle (Pierce Brosnan) and his struggle to raise his kids alone in Ireland in 1953. Doyle is devastated when the power of the Church and the Irish courts take his children away and put them in orphanages. Vowing to reunite his family, he enlists the help of his friends and together they attempt to do what has never been done. "Evelyn" is a MGM/UA release and rated PG for thematic material and language.

Family fairytale "Pinocchio" stars Roberto Benigni as Pinocchio, who follows up his Oscar-winning "Life Is Beautiful" with a live-action adaptation of the Carlo Collodi fable. The film is the story of the wooden puppet and his curious spirit that leads him into one wild adventure after another, despite guidance from the Blue Fairy, and the love of his father, Gepetto. "Pinocchio" is a Miramax Films







release and rated G for nothing objectionable.

Epic drama "Rabbit-Proof Fence" travels back in time to a dark chapter in early 20th-century Australian history; the forced separation of Aborginal children from their parents. The story follows three such girls who escape and travel 1,500 miles across the desert

to get back home. "Rabbit-Proof Fence" is a Miramax Films release and rated PG for emotional thematic material.

Denzel Washington's directorial debut "Antwone Fisher" follows Antwone Fisher (newcomer Derek Luke), a young sailor, who is ordered to see a Navy psychiatrist to control his anger after fighting with

shipmates. After therapy, Antwone sets out to find the family that abandoned him as a child, and the mystery of his identity is revealed. "Antwone Fisher" is a Fox Searchlight release and rated PG-13 for violence, language and mature thematic material involving child abuse.

Literary drama "The Hours,"

based on the 1998 Pulitzer Prizewinning novel by Michael Cunningham. The film profiles the parallels between the lives of three women - a Manhattan book editor (Meryl Streep); a California housewife (Julianne Moore); and famed author Virginia Woolf (Nicole Kidman) - living in different places and eras "The Hours" is a

Paramount Pictures release and rated PG-13 for mature thematic elements, some disturbing images and brief language.

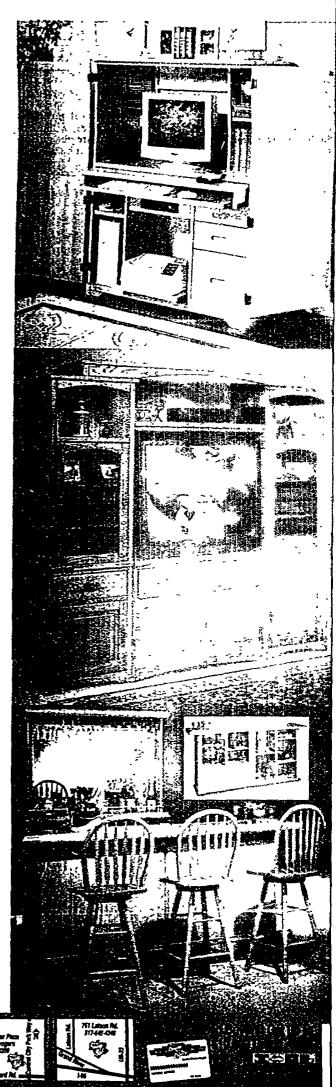
Happy Holidays from The Movie Insider on the web at www.themovieinsider com. Please direct any questions, comments, and/or feedback to brian@themovieinsider.com.



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Thursday, December 26, 2002

Don't wait two weeks to catch this new flick

By Victoria Sadlocha STAFF WRITER

Looking for a romantic treat during the holidays?

Warner Bros. Pictures' "Two Weeks Notice" is delivering just that. The romantic-comedy starring Sandra Bullock and Hugh Grant works - which is a pleasant surprise in the over-fluffed genre.

Whether it be the chemistry between the two familiar actors or a good production team, the unmistakable feeling of what happens when a man and woman meet before falling in love, transcends from the screen.

In the beginning of the movie, we meet Lucy Kelson portrayed by Bullock. Kelson is an environmentally-conscious, moral attorney known for laying under a wrecking ball if it means she can save a socially important building from the man.

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STAR GRATIOT

"The man" or in this movie, millionaire George Wade, is the man 90 percent of the time doing the wrecking. Not only does Grant's character spend much of his time demolishing the sacred to build his cash cows, but he also has a hankering for the ladies.

His hobby of hiring gorgeous women from law schools like St. Bart's Law School of luscious, puts him in a bind. The brain behind his beauty, his stodgy brother portrayed by David Haig, tells Grant if he does nothire an lvy-leauge attorney as his new chief counsel, he is cut out of the family business.

After some not-so-successful interviews, Grant literally bumps into Bullock on the street, learns she is a Harvard grad and bang! I think you can figure out what happens next.

But why would someone who despises everything Grant stands for become his right-hand woman? Grant promises Bullock if she take the job, the Coney Island Recreation Center she champions for, will not be torn down as part of Wade Corporation's next multi-million dollar development.

At this point in the film, the normally dreaded fast-forward type of look at how they are growing as a couple, even though they are not a couple, happens. I normally hate this type of two weeks later, two months later, four months later all in one minute type of fast forwarding, but this time even that seemed to work.

Writer and director Marc Lawrence takes a giant leap into a decent comedy since his last movie "Miss Congeniality" also starring Bullock. In fact, it was when

Lawrence was directing "Miss Congeniality" that he wrote "Two Weeks Notice."

Anyway, during the fast-forward montage, Bullock becomes more of a personal shopper/wife than a lawyer which frustrates her.

After Grant pulls Bullock out of her best friend's wedding to pick out a suit to wear as he judges the Miss New York pageant, she breaks and submits her two week notice. During the last two weeks of employment, we see Bullock and Grant become closer. We also see her beautiful new replacement begin to take her place a little to well. Despite her growing feelings, Bullock leaves. And you know what they say about absence? This case is not any different. The more the two spend apart, the more

they realize what the other meant to them.

Now I'm not going to give away the ending, but you would have to be clueless or never seen a romanticcomedy before to figure out how this movie concludes.

Where the worthiness of this film is earned though is in the romantic part' of 'romantic-comedy. This movie is romantic and believable. The pairing of Bullock and Grant works very well.

If you are looking for an Oscarnominated film, something mind bending or a surprising experience, Two Weeks Notice" is not for you.

But, if you are looking for an enjoyable way to spend an afternoon than this PG-13 rated film is for you.



Hugh Grant and Sandra **Bullock** attempt to part ways in "Two Weeks Notice."

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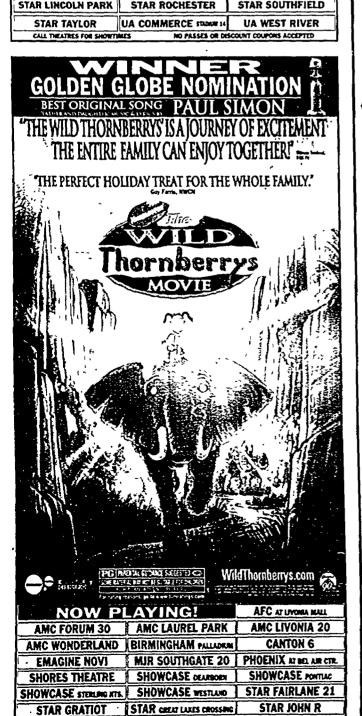
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REMODELING REMEDIES

Remodeling Remedies specializes in additions, kitchen, bath and basement remodels. Owner Gary Hess and marketing director and estimator Jim Faydenko are licensed builders with over 30 years combined experience in the field. For additional information contact Remodeling Remedies at (248) 486-7494 or toll free (866) 226-9080.

Gary Hess, licensed builder and owner of Remodeling Remedies, says that short of buying a new house, remodeling is the only option for those who wish to add additional living space, an extra bathroom or update a kitchen in their current home. An added advantage to remodeling is the family doesn't have to relocate.

People often opt for remodeling because they like their neighborhood and they don't want to move," Hess said. "They like their neighbors and the friends they've made in the

For the most part, they're going to get a good return on the project as well. According to "Remodeling Magazine," based on Realtor information, a 16- by 20-foot family room addition with a job cost of \$53,000 could recoup as much as \$40,000 at the time of sale.

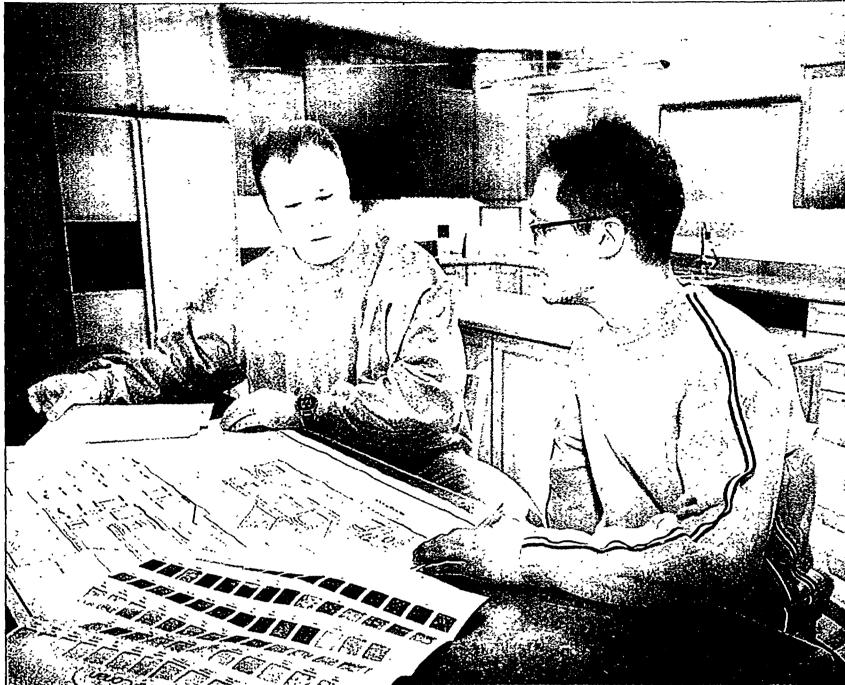
But, those figures can only ring true if the remodel was done right. That's where Hess says his business comes in to play. Remodeling Remedies is a source of pride for Hess. He's built his business solely on reputation. Reputation for getting the job done right, on time and within budget.

Hess started Remodeling Remedies 13 years ago. He's been in the construction business for about 15 years and believes in providing customers with good quality workman-

"We don't take any short-cuts," he said. "I worked a long time with no advertising. I've built my business through wordof-mouth. I don't think I've ever lest a job site where the client wasn't fully pleased with the

Jim Faydenko, marketing director and estimator for Remodeling Remedies, says the company's focus is to provide clients with quality service at a reasonable price.

"I believe in the quality and service, the way we manage the job site. It's worth value and we



(L-R) Jim Faydenko (left) and Gary Hess go over house plans at their Remodelng Remedies office at 6760 Pontiac Trail in Salem Twp.

that," he said. "We know we're not going to be the lowest bid. I will never be the lowest bid. I don't want to be the lowest bid. Typically we're right in the

From the time Remodeling Remedies takes that first call for a job estimate to seeing it through to completion, clients can feel secure in knowing that they are receiving a high standard of professional service.

Once the initial call is received, Faydenko makes contact with the client to arrange a convenient time for a walk through of the proposed project. From there he begins to gather

to build a written estimate

'Clients are given a very detailed written estimate broken down in categories such as demolition, plumbing, electrical and so on. Once our crew begins work they turn in detailed time sheets so we know our costs and we know that we're hitting our marks that we need to hit. If not, we adjust them.

"A perfect example is drywall. These guys are great at drywall," he said. "Drywall is an art. It's not easy to do it right and to make it last - but they're very good at it - and over time our prices in the drywall categoit. So we adjust our prices accordingly to be competitive."

Faydenko also handles the design aspects of the project presenting clients with a 3-D computer graphic printout of the proposed results. Remodeling Remedies passes results. its builder discount on to its clients as well - "so they're going to receive better value." Faydenko said. "Plus we carry a one-year warranty on all materi-

als and work that we provide." Hess and Faydenko work solely with dependable, qualified subcontractors that have established a proven record of getting the job done right when

we're licensed builders," Faydenko said. "But, that doesmean we're licensed plumbers or electricians. We let the experts do what they're best

What Remodeling Remedies is best at is additions, kitchen, bath and basement remodels.

"We enjoy the finish work,"
Faydenko said. "There's a variety there for us. We're real particular on the finish details."

Remodeling Remedies prides itself on a job well done. The company employs professionals who are polite, conscientious and respectful. Care is taken to do a good job at that and want information from the potential ry have actually decreased it comes to handling such items protect areas of the home from to make sure people understand client; information that is used because we're more efficient at as electrical, heating or plumb- dust and dirt during remodeling

and at the end of the day con-struction is swept up and tools are put to the side. Crews arrive on time daily and put in a full day's work and questions are answered promptly. Hess and Faydenko are responsive to their clients concerns.

"The quality, the service that means something to us," Faydenko said. "People appreciate good service and good quality; people who say we're going to do the job and who actually do it - and finish on time and on budget. We think that is important. And if that means something to a homeowner then we're the company

Your money matters

Avoid the after-Christmas blues: Ask about the return policy BEFORE you buy the gift

Congratulations! Christmas is still days away and already, your shopping is done, the gifts are wrapped, the tree has been expertly decorated, the packages have been mailed, the cookies are baked,

the Christmas cards have been sent, and you-who swore the holidays wouldn't get the best of you this year-are feeling very, very smug. After all, you researched the best deals, bagged some nice gifts, and, most importantly, resisted the temptation to blow your holiday budget.

You have Christmas wrapped around your little finger.

Not so fast, super shopper. Have you thought about those refunds and returns? Stores are

not bound by Michigan law to refund or exchange retail purchases, unless the product is defective or was misrepresented to you, the customer.

"November December is a fun time filled with holiday shopping and cheerful

attitudes," said Better Business Bureau of Eastern Michigan President Fred Hoffecker. "Then January comes around and the Better Business Bureau (BBB) is flooded with angry calls from consumers with frustrated attitudes about why they can't return or exchange their holiday gifts and purchases. Consumers need to ask at the time of purchase what a store's refund and exchange policies is

to avoid hassles and headaches down the road."

The BBB recommends asking the following questions before you make a purchase at a store or online.

• Does this merchant have a return policy? If so, what is it? • Is this a "final sale" item?

• If I can return the item, is there a restocking fee? · May I exchange the item for

another like it? . May I return the item and buy something else with a store

Will the store give me my money back if I make a return? · If the purchase is made under a written contract, how

are the normal return privileges affected? • What is the physical location I need to know to return

merchandise purchased online? For additional information on

refunds and exchange policies, call the BBB at (248) 644-9100 and ask for a free copy of the consumer guide, Shopping Topics: Refunds & Exchanges. Or visit online at www.eastern-

michiganbbb.org. If you shopped at a Target or Mashall Field's store here in Michigan this season, it's likely you were charged the correct price for your items. These stores fared the best in the Michigan Attorney General's Ninth Annual Holiday Scanner Survey, scoring a perfect 100 percent pricing accuracy rate. (The Sears store in the 12 Oaks Mall in Novi fared the worst with an 85.71 percent accuracy

The yearly survey was con-

ducted in November. Investigators from the Attorney General's Office went undercover to shop 12 stores in Ingham, Eaton, Kent and Wayne counties. The stores, representing the J.C Penny, Mervyns, Sears, Target and Marshall Field's national retail chains, showed an error rate of just 3.2 percent for the second consecutive year. In past years, error rates have been as high as 17

In all, the errors resulted in \$13.33 in overcharges and \$.26 in undercharges.

Mary Davis manages public affairs for the Michigan Credit Union League (MCUL), a statewide trade association representing Michigan credit unions. Send your financial questions to "Your Money Matters" c/o the Michigan Credit Union League, P.O. Box 8054, Plymouth, MI 48170-8054, or stop by our Web site (www.mcul.org) to learn more about smart money manage-





ENTERTAINMENT-18

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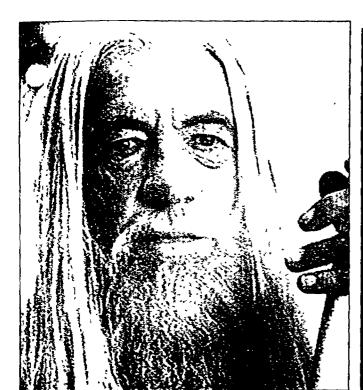
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No longer so grey, Gandolf is back in this new installent of the Lord of the Rings.

By Sam Eggleston

How can you compare a movie that is, in all rhyme or reason, a

continuation of the last? Unlike the "Star Wars" trilogy, the Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers takes place immediately following the Fellowship of the Ring, thus making it nearly impossible to say this movie was better than the other one and vice versa. You see, when all are said and done, you can essentially sit down and play them back to back for nine hours of Middle Earth battling and the quest to destroy the ring of

No, you just can't compare. What I can say is that this movie flawlessly brings us right where we left off. Just to keep things fresh in my mind, I sat down and watched my DVD of the Fellowship and then caught the showing of the Two Towers. I must say, it was an absolute stunner - just like the first. You know what else? The battle scenes were great, the action intense, the story flowing and the characters deep—just like the first one. Better than the first? Nope. Worse than the first? Nope. It's like picking up the books and reading the first one and then the second one - was the first better? Was the

second? Hard to say, because they were all written at the same time and these films were all filmed at

the same time. Frodo hasn't changed a bit and neither has Sam. A few new additions in characters doesn't mean things are different, it just means the story is continuing to unfold. As with the first movie, the ring of power is set on finding back in the pos-

session of Sauron in Modor, and one little hobbit has been charged with the task of taking it deep into the darkest part of the world and throwing it into the Mountain of Doom — the only place it can be destroyed. Sound familiar? It should, it's the same premise as the first film.

Now, the breathtaking scenes and the top-notch acting are tested by none in this day and age, and the creative mind of director Peter Jackson has helped bring a slew of characters and beasties to life for our visual enjoyment. There are ores and dragons and the occasional tree-people that just spring to life in this movie and do so without a hitch. And, I must say, the character of Golemn (My Precious!) is simply marvelous. There are times in the movie that if you didn't remind yourself he was a CGI creation, you'd be ready to help toss in money to fund his trip to a shrink.

This movie is great. It's simply marvelous. The three hours it takes to tell this portion of the epic tale goes by like it's only a half an hour and that is all aided by intense visual direction and marvelous special effects. In scenes like the assault on Isangard, keep your eye on a single creature scurrying from certain doom - you can see their move-

ments throughout the entire scene. Go ahead, watch any of them and you'll see the immense amount of work that went into this film.

Though I've given up on the rating system, I can safely tell you that I'd have given this movie a perfect 10. The plot is golden, the acting is superb, the visuals are enormous and the directing is that which makes people like Peter Jackson very, very sought after. Not only that, but the effects are realistic, the physics are true and the battle of good over evil is unmatched in this day and age.

At one point, the question of what mankind can do over such hatred is asked. The answer is one that won't be told until the third and final installment. My question is, what can be done next to top such a grand film and when will it come? The answer to my question may very well be: Quite possibly nothing, and probably not in my life-

This movie, as well as the entire series, is simply untouchable.

Sam Eggleston is the sports writer for the Northville Record and the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, exa. seggleston@ht homecomm.net.



"Frodo" (Elijah Wood) prepares to strike itself with his sword, Sting, in the epic-adventure he pos- "The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers."



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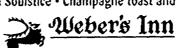
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Save sunshine and scenery

There are plenty products on the market to help furnishings

By Rose Bennett Gilbert COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

O. We moved the dining table into the corner of our country house living room to take full advantage of the view. It's really spectacular in the winter when the leaves are off and we can see all the way to the lake. But last weekend we had a doctor friend up who really scared us. She said the sunlight will fade our furniture and rugs, but worse, it could be harmful to us, even indoors, even in winter. Before I panic, can you suggest some window treatments that will handle the problem without blocking our view?

A. Depending on the orientation of your room, the lower angle of the sun in wintertime can indeed produce more troublesome glare than during the summer months, when the trees help filter direct rays.

But don't panic; there are many solutions available, some as close as your local hardware store. Look for pleated shades that can be mounted bottom-up to filter the view (and the glare) through a veil of fabric. Check out old standbys, such as Venetian blinds and vertical blinds, that control light at the twist of a

Consider a whole new category of window coverings (called "shadings" by the manufacturer, Hunter Douglas), that combine the softness of fabric with all the convenience of a shade. You might also consider the window treatment in the

room we show here. Can't see it? That's the whole idea: you're looking at a minor miracle of modern technology, a window film (Vista UVShield Window Film) that's applied directly to the panes to block bothersome glare without dimming the view or darkening the room.

Application requires a pro; find one in your neck of the woods at www.vistafilms.com, or call (800) 345-6088.

Q. What should I do about the radiators under the windows all through our "new" old house? We have always lived with hot-air heat, and I'm not sure whether to paint or cover them or what.

A. Cherish them would be my advice. Like the footed bathtubs people once upon a time couldn't wait to toss out. bare-ribbed radiators have come back, in a big way, on the tide of nostalgia that's currently influencing interior design.

Paint them -- brilliant aluminum is traditional, but you can match the wall color, if you rather.

Or cover them in style: Find a cabinetmaker that specializes in radiator covers. Usually made of durable hardwoods, such as oak or cherry, there are comboslatted covers and bookcases, covers with closed storage cabinets above, covers that can be topped with cushions to make a cozy -- and truly warm -- window seat.

Q. What's the latest word from prognosticator Faith Popcorn, who first told us 20 years before 9/ll that we'd all



Photo by CNS PHOTO/coruey news service

These high, wide and handsome windows are glareproof and fadeproof with an almost invisible film to help protect furnishings.

be into "cocooning" at home today? A. The word on the seer's lips is "cottage," as in "cozy, casual, safe and warm," Popcorn told a reporter at the

She certainly rolled all those adjectives into her description of her new office col-

International Furniture Market in North

lection for Hooker Furniture. "Cottage decor is a reaction to a hightech world" in which women are multitasking "like never before," Popcorn told a reporter. "A house is more than a house -- it's a center for physical and spiritual

Increasingly, it's also a high-security

retreat in a gated community with thicker doors, shatterproof windows and a new generation of home air purifiers and personal gas masks that, says Popcorn, can protect a family from "whatever bad that might be blowing their way."

Home is also becoming a schoolhouse - "75 percent of a recent survey thinks home-schooling is a good idea because it keeps young ones close to the nest."

And, of course, home is already the workplace of some 42 million Americans. Popcom's statistics predict that soon 1-in-7 people will be working at home, many of them women balancing office work with home work.

It's this prediction that inspired Popcom's ulterior motive in designing furniture, wallpaper and other homeoffice furnishings, she said: "We're trying to create an environment where a woman can make some money!

Rose Bennett Gilbert is the co-author of "Hampton Style" and associate editor of Country Decorating Ideas. Please send your questions to her at Copley News Service, P.O. Box 120190, San Diego, CA 92112-0190, or online at copleysd@copleynews.com.

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Fully landscaped. Other J. R.

NORTHVILLE

Novi Colonial with Quick Occupancy! Popular floor plan, multi-hered deck, side entry garage, premium sized lot, new roof (98), ceramic tile in foyer & 1/2 bath & more! (BGN83FAL)



\$377,000 NOV Elegant 2 br Condo in Golf Novi Cape Cod Backing to Community! Custom kitchen Woods! Artistic decor, walk-out basement, custom bar/kitchen, w/granite cherry cabinets, hardwood & more custom lighting hardwood floors, vaulted ceitings, & mirrors, sound system, jet tub, large deck & much more! multi-tiered deck, 2 story fover, and much more! (BGN48LAN) (BGN01LYO) 888-220-3751 888-220-3751



Well-Maintained Novi Coloniai! Tree lined backyard, custom drapes, Oak floors, sprinklers. sidewalks in sub, vaulted ceiling in



NOVI Carefree Living! Spacious 3 br, 2.5 bath detached condo with finished lower level walkout on private setting, living/dining room, two story family room with (BGN61TAN) 888-220-3751



Tree Lover's Paradise! Large 2 tier deck overlooking nature's best, Walkout basement, fireplace in living room, 2 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, 2 car attached garage. Appliances stay, Immed occup. (BGN84COL) 888-220-3751



SOUTH LYON Canal Frontage. wooded with lake privileges. Ranch has 3 bedrooms and 2 baths. Walkout basement. Many (BGN80ENG) (BGSLY25FAI) 888-224-1387



Stunning 1999 Blt 4 br, 3.5 Colonial! w/fabulous finished walkout overlooking the water. Loaded w/quality upgrades & features. Beautiful island kitchen, large mstr ste & more! (BGN09DEE) 888-220-3751



For more properties visit our website at:



www.cbschweitzer.com

Phone In, Move In...

(A same-day mortgage decision or we'll pay you \$250° (To meet your requested closing date or we'll reduce your interest rate by 1/8th of one percent for the life of the loan

. To beat any lender's price, GUARANTEED, or pay you \$250°

1-888-317-2530

South Lyon Office 248-437-4500 • Northville Office 248-347-3050

Ann Arbor • Birmingham • Clarkston • Bloomfield Hills • Farm, Hills/W. Blmfd. • Grosse Pointe Hill • Grosse Pointe Woods Lakes • Livonia • The Macomb Center • Northville • Plymouth • South Lyon • Troy

All ads placed FREE on the internet!

(up to \$87.00 value)

CREATIVE LIVING

HOMETOWN

To place an ad call one of our local offices

(734)913-6032 (517)548-2570 (248)437-4133

(810)227-4436 (248)348-3022 (248)685-8705

Sale/Lease

Space Sale/Lease

Industry Vacant

3950 Office Business

3960 Commercial/

Property

Property

4000 Apartments/

4010 Apartments/

4020 Condos/

4030 Duplexes

4040 Flats

4050 Homes

4060 Lakefront/

REALESTATE

FOR RENT

Unfurnished

Furnished

Townhouses

Waterfront

4070 Mobile Homes

4080 Mobile Home Site

4090 Southern Rentals

4110 Vacation Resort

Rentals

Share

4200 Halfs/Buildings

Exchange

Industrial

4300 Garages/Mani

Storage

4400 Wanted To Rent

4410 Wanted To Rent-

4560 Rental Agency

4570 Property

Resort Property 4500 Furniture Rental

Management

4580 Lease/Option To

Buy

4590 House Sitting

Service

4600 Convalescent

Nursing Homes

4210 Residence To

4220 Office Space

4230 Commercial/

4240 Land

4140 Rooms

4100 Time Share Rentals

4120 Living Quarters To

3970 Investment

3980 Land

24 Hour Fax (248)437-9460 1-866-886-7653 Toll Free

Visit our Web site at www.hometownlife.com

3540 Dakland County

3570 Wayne County

3590 Other Suburban

Homes

3610 Country Homes

Services

3710 Apartments For

3600 Out of State

3640 Real Estate

3720 Condos

3730 Duplexes &

3740 Manufactured

Homes

3750 Mobile Homes

3760 Homes Under

3580 Lakefront/

3550 Shiawassee County

3560 Washtenaw County

Waterfront Homes

Homes/Property

3630 Farms/Horse Farms

3700 New Home Builders

Townhouses

Construction

3770 Lakefront Property

3780 Lake/River Resort

3790 Northern Property

Property

3800 Resort/Vacation

Property

Property

Acreage/Vacant

3810 Out of State

3830 Time Share

3840 Lease/Option To

3850 Mortgage/Land

3860 Money To

Contracts

Loan/Borrow

3870 Real Estate Wanted

COMMERCIAL

INDUSTRIAL

SALE OR LEASE

opportunities

3880 Cemetery Lots

3820 Lots &

FOR SALE 3510 Ingham County 3000 Homes 3520 Livingston County 3530 Macomb County

3030 Open Houses 3040 Ann Arbor 3050 Birmingham 3060 Brighton

3070 Byron 3080 Capton 3090 Clarkston 3100 Cohoctah 3110 Dearborn/

Dearborn Heights 3120 Detroit 3130 Dexter/Chelsea 3140 Farmington/

Farmington Hills 3150 Fenton 3160 Fowlerville 3170 GardenCity

3180 Grosse Pointe 3190 Hamburg 3200 Hartland 3210 Highland

3220 Holly 3230 Howelf 3240 Linden 3250 Livonia 3260 Milford

3270 New Hudson 3280 Northville 3290 Novi 3300 Oak Grove 3310 Onon Township/ Lake Orion/Oxford

3320 Perry 3330 Pinckney 3340 Plymouth 3350 Redford 3360 Rochester/Aubum

3370 Royal Oal/ Oak Park/ Huntington Woods 3380 Salem/Salem

Township 3390 . Southfield/ Lathrup South Lyon Stockbridge/ Unadilla/Gregory

3420 Waterford/Union Lake/White Lake 3430 Webberville 3440 West Bloomfield/

Orchard Lake 3450 Westland/Wayne 3460 Whitmore take

3470 Williamston 3480 Wixom/Walled

3500 Genesee County

Lake/Commerce 3490 Ypsilanti/Belleville 3910 Business & **Professional** Buildings

3900 Business

3920 Commercial/Retail Sale/Lease

3930 Income Property

3940 Industrial/

Warehouse

4610 Foster Care 4620 Home HealthCare 463 Homes For The

Aged 464 Misc. For Rent

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Classified add may be placed according to the deadlines. Advertisers are responsible for reading their add the first time it appears and reporting any errors immediately. Home town Newspapers will not issue credit for errors in add after first incorrect intertion.

Equal Housing Opportunity Statement: We are pledged to the letter and spirit of U.S. policy for the achievement of equal housing opportunity Europehout the ration. We encourage and support an affirmative advertising and marketing program in re are no barners to obtain housing because of race, color religion or national origin. Equal Housing Opportunity slo gan. "Equal Housing Opportunity" Table III - Bustration of Publisher's Notice



Homes





Homes

TOAST THE NEW YEAR! In this lovely 4 bed

rom, 3 bath Victorian Farm house on wooded 27 acre setting. Home leatures an elegant fiv-ing room, tamily room will fireplace, tormal dis-ing 2nd family room with fireplace in finished walkout lower level, deck & inground pool Haritand Schools, \$349,900





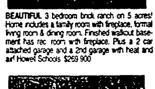
VINTER WONDERLAND! Beautiful home on park like setting with Long Lake privileges. This home has a kitchen with maple cabnets, breakfast room & doorwall to deck. 2 story Great room with fireplace, 1st floor master suite basement. 3 car garage & more! Hartland Schools. \$439,500



TRIKING ranch on beautifully landscaped 2.54 acre setting Home leatures a kitchen with white cabinets and wood flooring, drining area with fireplace. Great room with gas log fireplace. Basement is partially finished. Deck. 2 place. Basement is partially finished. Deck, 2 car garage, shed and paved road! Hariland Schools. \$334,900



PUT ANOTHER LOG ON THE FIRE! Beautiki 3 bedroom, 3 bath ranch w/open floor plan on 1.38 acre park like setting like kitchen with hardwood floors. Living room w/gas fireplace Large master sufle, partially finished basement, formal dinng, large deck w/gazebo and 2 car garagel Haritand Schools. \$245,000.



JUST LISTED! Fantastic end unit condo or out-de-sac. Features include 2 bedroom, 2.5 baths, fiving room whautted ceiting and gas freplace 1st floor laundry and latchen have hardwood floors. Master bedroom with private bath & walk in closet. Plus finished basement and 2 garage! Hartland Schools. \$2318,000.

YACANT LAND

HARTLAND SCHOOLS, Brophy Road, N of M-59 & W. Musson, Very pretty building site on nice country road. Survey on file. \$79,900. HOWELL SCHOOLS. Madley Lane, E. off Dutcher, South of Coon Lake Rd. Wooded, rolling 4+ acre building site. Perked and surveyed. \$95,000.

www.hometownlife.com

CONDOMINIUMS IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY * Located in the City of Brighton, close to shopping, restaurants, golf courses and Hartland

2 & 3 Bedroom units available Open and creative floor plans with views of mature woods & serene pond

Oak cabinets, hardwood flooring, tiled flooring in bathrooms Gas fire place in great room. cathedral ceilings & 1st floor Walkout sites

* Starting at \$214,990 **RE/MEX**:

Dan Mulvihill All Stars 810.229.8900

Model Hours: 12:00-5:00 pm Closed Tues & Wed 810-229-9607

Ext 147

US-23

Cassady Place Plymouth



30 Luxury Condominiums conveniently located in the city of Plymouth. Cassady Place is situated on the site of the historic Cassady House, and is just moments from downtown Plymouth. Stop by and see our model, beautifully decorated by Gabriala's Park View Gallery. Brokers Protected

For information call 734-416-9118

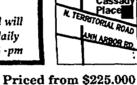
Features: · Two bedrooms Two full bathrooms

Open floor plan

Garage

 Basement Our model will

be open daily from 12-6 -pm



Orchards of Lyon A Premier Development In Lyon Township

NEW MODELS NOW OPEN!!

From The \$220's

Braeburn 1 of 3 Models

· Acrylic garden tub · Fiberglass shower surround in master and main baths · Viryl floor in all baths, or



hardwood in 1/2 baths Congoleum no-wax viryl floor in kitchen, nook and laundry room . G.E. built-in appliances including microwave, stove, and dishwashe Cardell cabinets - Wilsonart brand countertops - Stainless steel sink



DECEMBER SPECIALS



Cortland

1 of 3 Models



Energy Features Two-step Nelson Energy Seal process used to decrease air infiltra 50-gallon quick recovery hot water heater + continuous ridge and soffit vent to provide maximum air flow into the aftic • R-13 fiberglas batt insulation on all extenor walls • R-30 fiberglass in all heated 80% das forced air furnace • Power humidifier







Tolman



Nailed and screwed 3.4' tongue and proove plywood floor decking.

 Steel I-beam for structural support 2 x 10 douglas for floor joists 16" on certical • 16' on center framing on all load bearing walls

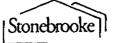
Square foot homes starting at 1500 ft.

• 9 ceilings on first floor • Somerset 3/4" hardwood foyer, powder room • Plush wall-to-wall carpeting with 1/2" • 6 pound rebond pad • Full basement with 7" 10" poured walls • So; four panel colonial doors • Elegant classic door handles • First or

second floor laundry with faundry tub (per plan) = Telephone prewire in littchen, family room, den and all bed-rooms = Cable prewire in littchen, family room, den and master suits = Crestine maintenance-tree virys windows with full screens . Spacious walk-in closet in master suite. Dustom interior lighting fixtures. Stained oak handrail to second floor in foyer . Smoke detectors on each floor and in all bedrooms . Prewire

for ceiling light-fan combo in master bedroom and family room/great room Decora light switches = marble surround fireplace with custom wood martel = Structured wring (2 lo Exterior Features

· Four-sided brick per elevation · Attached two-car front or three-car entry garage · Prewire and outlet for garage do openers · Steel noting carage door with rubber sweep · insulated steel entry door with full weather-stropping and dead bot 25-year asphalt roof shingles in a wide vanety of colors • Curved concrete walkings from concrete driveway to front porch Two ground fault interrupter electrical outlets. Fully drywalled garage . Stone and/or cadar siding per elevation



We Co-Op With Realtors

30106 Orchards Lane • Lyon Township, MI 48165 30106 Orch : Hours: 12 - 5

9472 SHERWOOD RD. - FOWLERVILLE \$349,900



FEATURING: 30 acres, new Cape Cod, 2,674 sq ft. finished plus 2 big bonus rooms and walkout basement for expansion 4 bedrooms, 2 full baths and 2+all baths. Big deck with spacious view of 1 acre pond and good usable land.

Dan Davenport Re/Max All Stars (810) 229-8900



Hartland



IN BEAUTIFUL HARTLAND MICHIGAN

One Unit Left • Close Out Sale Lowest interest rates in 40 years in a buyers market, adds up to significant savings together with a



Condomiums overlook dense wooded areas complete turn key packages, and a maintenance free lifestyle is imperative. Affordable maintenance fees that will stay that way!

Immediate occupancy. We accept contingent offers. Open Daily from 10am to 5pm. Call Robert Hall

810-577-3132

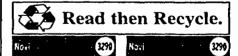
cordmerr Banker 🖸

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See What Our Full Time Successful Staff Can Do For You Today!

Coldwell Banker Callan, Realtors (248)685-1588 cbcallan@mich.com



86 KELLER WILLIAMS.

Welcomes



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Leta & Brandon Kekich The Kekich Team Has Moved!!



To better serve their clients and customers, Leta and Brandon Kekich, the area's most successful 'mom and son' real estate team, have joined Keller Williams Realty, the nation's fastest growing real estate firm. For continued excellence with all of your real estate needs, call Leta or Brandon at their new office today!

Leta & Brandon Kekich

Top 1% Of All Agents Regionally -Top 1% Of All Agents Nationwide!

Keller Williams Realty 22260 Haggerty Road, Suite 250 Northville, MI 48167 (248) 875-4800 - (248) 735-9156 www.The KekichTeam.com

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Dpen Houses

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEARS EARLY DEADLINES

tssues of Sunday, Dec. 22 & 29th + South Lyon Shopper will be Friday, Dec. 20th & 27 at 12

Issue of Thursday, Dec., 26th & Jan. 2nd will be Monday, Dec., 23rd & 30th at 4pm for South Lyon Herald, Novi News, Northylle Record & Northyslie Record Malford Time Livingston County Real Estate

Issues of Dec. 25-26 & Jan 1-2 for the Livingston County Daily Press-Argus (all but Real Estate) will be Tuesday Dec. 24th & 31st at 12 Noon.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS The GreenSheet Staff

2060 ORE CREEK 2000 sq ft.,

1000 sq ft finished lower level, large lot, cul-de sac, \$267,500 Call (810)220-0651 BRIGHTON - Immediate occu-pancy! Start the New Year in the updated home on corner double lot. In addition, a lake access lot on Crooked Lake for all your outside fun! #22094265. Michigan Group, Marcia Gerse (810) 844-2246

BRIGHTON - Thinlong of building? Here's a beautiful wathout site in Brighton Schools. Over 2 1/4 acres in nice area & easy commute. Call Marcia. Gerse, (810) 844-2245 @ The Michigan Group #22087159 FOUR HOMES Priced Under \$279,000 All have 2 1/2 baths & garages Call builder (810)229-6155

FREE ADVERTISING?
FREE TIEMS!
Check out the Absolutely Free column in the Green Sheet 3290









Fall Back To

Affordable:

Rent **

307 Holly Drive • Howell

pinehill@fourmidable.co

4900

S Ask about

Lighted Walk

• Fitness Center

Tennis Court

Pool

Private

Entrances

NEW Special S

Luxurious

Ridge Apartment

Homes

Experience the Good Life!

Immediate Occupancy!

1 & 2 bedrooms

(517) 552-7868

West off Latson, North of Grand River

Mon.-Fn. 10 a.m.-6:00 p.m. • Sat. 10-3 p.m. • San. by appt. only

CALL

OUR

FREE RENT

Apartments

1 & 2 Bedroom Apartment Homes

• Pool • Clubhouse

Heat, water & hot water included Convenient to I-96 & M-59

No Pets 325 S. Highlander Way

Howell

(517) 546-7773

HOURS:

MON - FRI 9-5

Great Location

Swimming Pool

Central Au

Conditioning

Pets Welcome

Spacous Apartments

Window Treatments

Carried States of the Control of the

_{FROM}\$480

1 MONTH

FREE RENT

12-MONTH LEASE

REDUCED

SECURITY

DEPOSIT

WITH GOOD CREDIT

Mon.-Fri. 9-6

OR NEW MOVE-INS ON

starting at \$535 per month

ABOUT <

Grand Plaza 👌

Let us pay

your heating bills

this winter...

Free heat and bot water

• December Rent Free

Washer and dryer connections

• Huge walk in closets

Private bakony or walk out patio

Time's Running Out!

· Small pets welcome

Prentis Estates '

(517) 546-8200

1103 S. Latson Drive

(locased off Grand River)

Monday-Friday 9-6, Saturday 10-3

Professionally Managed by MRD

tens

Whirlpool

2 Full Baths

Full Service

Club House

Ceiling Fans

Vaulted Ceilings

Carports Available

DANGER SON YOU

• Washer & Gas Dryer

Apartments 3

3340

So Much Space!
4 bedrooms, 4 full & 2 half baths, large kitchen, bonus room w/separate entrnace, finished walkout, fots of storage & a wonderful lot \$314,900 #224063 Marjorie Bolgos 734-747-7777, eyes 734-998-1138



South Lyon

RANCH IN DOWNTOWN, 3 fenced yard Nice neighbor-hood \$169 900 RE/MAX Executives Call Sara, (517)543-1700, ext 109

White Lake

3450 SPARKLING CLEAN new carpet & paint 3 bedroom, 1 bath. 4760 Lake Born Off Ormand, Schools \$129 800 (248)685-1406

Manufactured Homes 3740

\$199 SITE RENT SPECIAL! Brand new community. Be the first to choose your homesite. Cider Mill Crossings (810) 714-2731. www.libertycommunities.com

\$0 down Lot rent discounts Save \$1000 s on over 500 newer bank repos Discount Homes 866-251-1670

FREE OVERTISING: FREE ITEMS! Check out the Absolutely Fred Column in the Green Sheet

Northville

DEVELOPMENT OF THE YEAR 2002 Stonewater Community

35119

Northville Schools Immediate Occupancy This custom home a 4300 sqft overlooks a spring fed creek & spacious park. Elegant limestone & brick front elevation, 4 bedrooms, 3 full & two 1/2 baths interior boasts a full granife kitchen, island & desk area. Marble powder tesk area marite power room vanity Jenn-A.r apphances (2) 90 + furnaces, (2) a/c, custom calc tile & carpet Extra deep basement Complete landscaping included \$849 900

Convenient to 275 & 696 S off of 7 Mile W of Beck Rd

17944 Ridgeview Dr SUPERB HOMES, INC CUSTOM BUILDERS , , Call ERIK (248) 924-2331

Manufactured Homes 3740



CONSECO FINANCE DECLARES BANKRUPTCY!! We have access to ALL their repos - Priced to sell quick. Crest (517)548-0001

HOWELL quick move in on nice double to Chateau Estate & priced to sell. #586 Crest (517)548-0001.

MUST SACRIFICE! immediate occupancy, choice lot, immaculate 1993, 3 bed-

room, 16x70, manufactured home. Knolls of Sylvan Glen. \$19,900 734-216-1956

SOUTH LYON. Country Estate, 1970 Catalina, 14X70, 2 bed-room, \$3,600 (248)446-2637 WANT TO MOVE that big dou-ble to private property?? Need help finding a suitable lot?? Crest Homes is also a real estate broker & member of Liv. Association of Realtors We can help you Call (517)548-0001

WEBBERVILLE - FOUR bedroom 16 wide, immediate move in. #568 Crest (517)548-0001.

WHITMORE LAXE nice 14x70, move in condition & low price #552. Crest (517)548-0001 WOULDN'T YOU rather have your home located on private property?? We specialize. Crest Housing (517)548-0001.

Lakefront Properties 3770

LAKEFRONT CABINI
Bring your tools and fishing
pole! Enjoy beautiful panoramic views from a pure
sand beach! \$99,000

SECLUDED LAKEFRONT! 127 ft. of solid frontage on a picturesque fishing and boating take pines offer complete privacy \$56,900 8-8 Daily, Loon Lake Realty, TOLL FREE: 888-885-5320 www loonlakerealty com

Northern Properties 3790

MANCELONA AREA 95 acres. Older trailer, w/ newer garage \$34 000 (517)545-1337

HOWELL - Rolling & open 10 acre parcel. Perked, surveyed & ready to go! \$99,900 (22087303) Call Randy Meek.

vacant, wooded, private \$60,000 (586)436-1958

LOBDELL LAKEFRONT

2.5 acres, city sewers, \$235,000 Call (586)436-1958 THREE NEW developments Near South Lyon & Hamburg with South Lyon, Brighton & Dexter schools 1/2-4 acre wooded walkouts, parks, lakefront/lake access, paved streets Compare my prices Owner (734) 663-4886







www.firstloans_net

email: jstaschke@firstloans.nel

Read then Recycle.



Area Resident

* Specialized Lender

• Purchases and Refinances

Jim Staschke (248) 347-7440

Manufactured Homes 3740

Manufactured Homes 3740 Manufactured Homes 3748

Quality

IN NEW HUDSON

SAVINGS

From \$19,900 2 & 3 Bedrooms

 GE Appliances Skylights & More Site Rent Incentives

\$500 SEARS GIFT CERTIFICATE With Purchase Of New Home (Exp. 12-31-02)

South Lyon Schools **QUALITY HOMES** at

Kensington Place

1-96 exit 153 Across from Kensington Metro Park Ca'l Erin (248) 437-2039 **Thomes** IN NOVI NEW MODEL

Own this home for only \$52,800 1170sf, 3BR, 2BA appliances, washer/dryer, parate utility room, SKYLINE

1088sf, 2BR, 2BA, whirtpool tub, all deluxe appliances, washer/dryer, separate utility room, wa'k in closets Priced to sell. \$25 200

SKYLINE 1440 sf, 3 BR, 2 BA, Whirlpool tub, oak kitchen, all appliances, washer/dryer separate utility room, 8x10 deck and more. Immediate

occupancy \$44,200 Novi Schools HIGHLAND HILLS **ESTATES**

on Seeley Rd. N. of Grand River adov/crook & Haggerty Rd: Call Joanne or Sue (248) 474-0320 or (248) 474-0333

OWN A NEW **HOME FOR** \$202 / MONTH \$2114 DOWN

IN WHITE LAKE

3 Bedrooms

 GE Appliances Skylights & More \$99/Month Site Rent

1 Year on selected models, based on 10% down, 9.75% APR, 180 payments interest rate subject to change.

\$500 SEARS **GIFT CERTIFICATE** With Purchase Of New name (Exp 12 31-C2)

Huron Valley Schools **QUALITY HOMES**

at Cedarbrook **Estates**

On M-59 West of Bogie Lake Rd Call Joyce Hed (248) 887-1980

HOLIDAY SAYINGS! **NEW MODEL BLOWOUT!**

Compare! Lowest Prices on New Skyline Homes! FREE Site Rent for 2 Years \$249/mo. 3rd Year!" All new homes have 3 bedroom/2 bath and include G.E. appliance packages, skylights and more, all ready for immediate occupancy

South Lyon Schools, quiet country setting, heated pool, beautiful clubhouse,

baseball diamond, basketball court Call John at (248) 344-1988

NEW HUNE PRIC	F?	
929 sq. ft	Only	\$28,800
929 sq. ft	Only	\$29,800
929 sq. ft	Only	\$29,800
1023 sq ft	Only	\$35,800
1023 sq. ft	_Only	\$35,800
1054 sq. ft. with island kitchen	Only	\$33,800
1369 sq. ft	Only	\$44,800
1474 sq. ft.	Only	\$47,800

S500 Sears Gift Certificate
With purchase of a new home 19th eights (2.3192).





HOLIDAY SAVINGS IN WIXOM! NEW MODEL BLOWOUT! Compare! Lowest Prices on New Skyline Homes!

FREE Site Rent for 2 Years \$249/mo. 3rd Year!* All new homes are 3 bedroom/2 bath and include G.E. appliance packages,

skylights and more, all ready for immediate occupancy

Commerce Meadows

On Wixom Rd. 4 miles north of 1-96 Huron Valley Schools, sparkling pool, luxurious dubhouse, baskethall & volleyball courts, pionic area.

Stratford Villa

On Wixom Rd. 3 75 miles north of 1-96 Huron Valley Schools, heated pool, fun playgrounds, basketball court, fishing lake, minutes from Proud Lake

Call Kathy at (248) 684-6796	OPEN 7	DAYS! Call Krista at (248) 685-906	8
NEW HOME PRICES		NEW HOME PRICES	
929 sq ft	Only \$27,800!	929 sq. ftOnly \$27,800)!
1023 sq ft	Only \$34,800!	929 sq. ft	
1054 sq. ft	.Only \$34,800!	929 sq. ftOnly_\$28,800	
1054 sq. ft.	Only \$35,860!	1023 sq ftOnly \$35,800	
1170 sq. ft	Only \$37,800!	1054 sq. ftOnly \$35,800	
1178 sq. ft.	Only \$34,800!	1127 sq. ft. with island kitchenOnly \$45,800	
1178 sq. ft	Only \$34,800!	1369 sq. ft	
1369 sq. ft	Only \$49,800!	1455 sq. ft. with ent. ctr., 36" TV w/surround soundOaly \$48,800	
1474 sq. ft. with island lotchen	Only \$49,800!	1455 sq. ftOnly \$49,800	
1580 sq. fr. with den	.008,022 yla0.	1474 sq. ft. with morning room, c/aOnly \$49,800	
1580 sq fr. with fireplace	Only \$54,800!	All New Homes Include a 15 Month Warranty!	

\$500 Sears Gift Certificate With purchase of a new home







In business for 50 years! You new home

(1000) NORTHVILLE FAIRBROOK
APARTMENTS

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Also 1 bedroom \$550. (810)632-6020 BEAUTIFUL Whitmore Lake,

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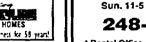
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issue of Thursday, Dec, 26th & Jan 2nd will be Monday, Dec. 23rd & 30th at 4pm for South Lyon Herald, Novi News, Northylle Record & Milford Time & Milford Livingston County Real Estate

Issues of Dec 25-26 & Jan 1-2 for the Livingston County Daily Press-Argus (all but Real Estate) will be Tuesday Dec 24th & 31st at 12 Noon

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NORTHVILLE TOWNHOUSE for rent. 2 bedroom, 1 full & 2 half baths, walkout basement. \$1200 a month. (248)982-5335

SOUTH LYON . 2 bedroom condo for rent. \$725/mo. (248)437-8189.

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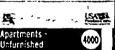
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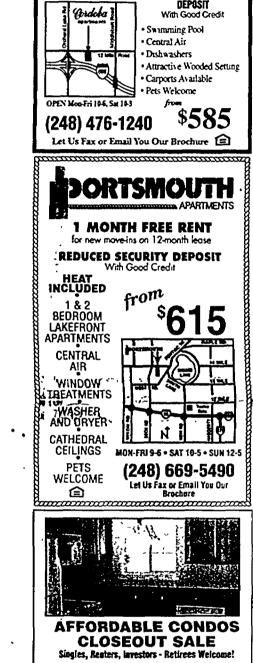
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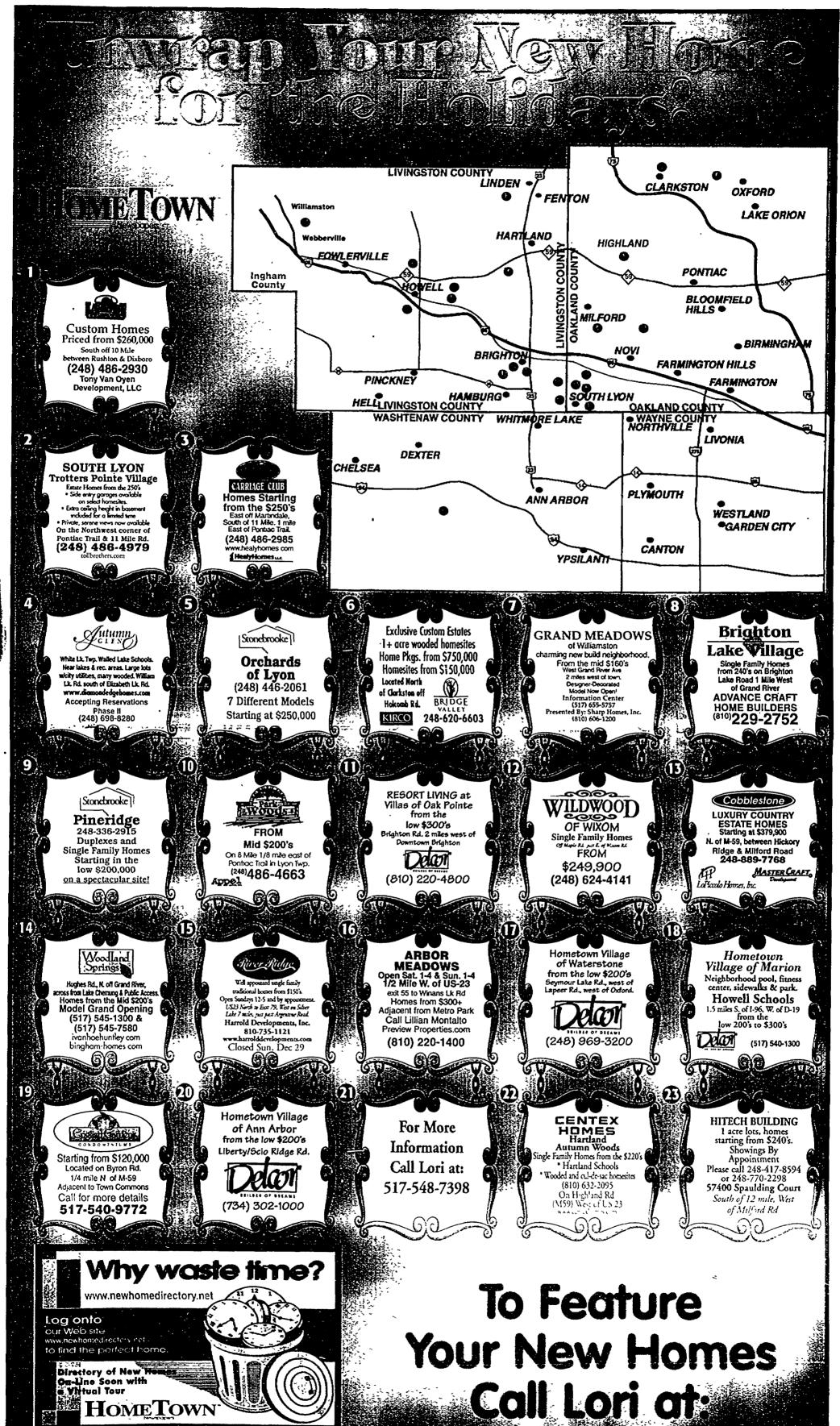
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Better Homes & Cardens describes this 1996 home Court location. Four bed-

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with oak cabinets + L-shaped island

Luxury master with Jacuzzi tub, family

room with fireplace Plymoutl/Canton \$330,000 (538EN) 734-455-5600

Country living in city! Three

bedroom, 1% bath with lowering trees.

Sprawling 1978 square foot Ranch on over

1.6 acres in Livonial Two fireplaces, family

room, formal dining room and eat-in



PLYMOUTH - Charming Bungalow Large 3 bedroom, 11/2 bath Bungalow with full dormer, updated kitchen with nook addition, spacious fryng room & dining room with hardwood floors, updated furnace, main bath, windows siding copper plumb-



Two bedroom Ranch. Great starter home is ready to move right into! Roof, furnace, central air, windows, siding, kitchen and bath all updated within last 2 years. Kitchen and bath ceramic \$104,900 (22JOH) 734-455-5600



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SOUTH LYON - Prestigious golf community. Four bedroom, 3% bath master piece home is still in the process of being custom designed. There is still time for your design input. \$699,900 (13STA) 248-349-5600



WESTLAND - Beautifully decorated. Move right into this 3 bedroom, 21/2 bath 2 Condo with Livonia schools. Oak cabinets in kitchen & first floor laundry. Two car garage, 2 door walls, dining room, ceramic tile in entry & bath. Alarm system. \$184,900 (47CHA) 248-349-5600



REDFORD - Why wait? Move in now! Maintenance-free home with 3 bedrooms, 2's car garage with opener, vinyl windows, newer roof, furnace with heater, updated kitchen with oak cabinets, ceramic in bath, glass block in basement. Too many updates to list. \$124,900 (03WOO) 248-349-5600



SOUTH LYON - Exceptional custom 4 bedroom Colonial with extensive upgrades throughout. Formal dining room, private fibrary & hobby room. Great room with stone fireplace. Dry walled walk-out basement. Park-like setting Three car garage \$479,900 (64WIN) 248-349-5600



NOVI - Stop looking, this is it. This pictureperfect Condo shows like a model. Spacious living room, 2 bedrooms, 1% baths, finished basement with a lot of storage. Attached garage with direct entry Nice front yard with woodsy view. Close to shops, schools & freeways. \$134,900 (61NEP) 248-349-5600



MADISON HEIGHTS - Not one to miss. Three bedroom Ranch on a double lot with newer windows, roof & furnace. Large fiv-ing areas. Clean & freshly painted. Great front sun room. 21/2 car garage & ceramic ble bath Floored attic for storage \$159 900 (400EL) 248-349-5600



DEARBORN - Beautiful 3 bedroom home in Oakwood Hospital & Ford Engr center area. 1% baths, totally updated including windows, rool, furnace & AC, kitchen, hot water tank, carpet, exterior doors, rec room with dry bar & decorative fireplace + 2 car garage & all appliances. Great terms. \$149,900 (28DET) 734-455-5600

A. .

PLYMOUTH - Wonderful location. Three

bedrooms, 21/2 bath Condo in Plymouth.

Spacious lutchen with eating area, formal

dining room, great room with fireplace &

Deck off master suite, open staircase to

basement, attached garage and a lot of

doonwall leading to private court yard



DEARBORN - Great income property

Brick 2 family home with 2 bedrooms on

each floor, separate furnaces and utilities,

newer roof and siding, dining room, full

basement, 2 car garage and fenced yard.

Great investment. \$145,900 (05KEN)

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country kitchen, cozy family room with fire-place, refinished hardwood floors in bedrooms, rec room with lavalory, 2 car

attached garage & fenced yard. Walk to public & private schools. Great terms. \$145,000 (08LIN) 734-455-5600



VAN BUREN - Like new 3 bedroom Cape Cod sitting on a court. First floor master with bath & walk-in closet. Living room with fireplace, full basement, 2 car attached garage, central air, first floor laundry, sponkler system & more. \$230 000 (46MAU) 734-455-5600



PLYMOUTH 705 South Main St.

734-455-5600

NOVI - Seldom seen! Two bedroom, 1/2 bath Split level end unit Condo with basement. Open floor plan with studio ceiting, spacious rooms, newer kitchen floor. Appliances, ceramic bath, newer carpet & garage \$139,700 (02STO) 734-455-5600



NORTHVILLE

175 CadyCentre 248-349-5600

CANTON - Townhouse. Two bedroom, 11/2 bath with many updates. All redone in '01. Kitchen & baths, carpet, lighting sinks, counters & cabinets. Appliances: stove, refingerator, microwave, dishwasher & hot water heater all new in '01. Private entry with newer extenor door - full view in 2001



CANTON - Very attractive 3 bedroom, 2

bath Ranch with neutral colors. Newer Andersen windows throughout. Large bay

windows in master bedroom & dining room.

Doorwall in dining room opens to nice size

deck with built-in seating. Nicely land-scaped. \$230,000 (75SUT) 248-349-5600

SOUTH LYON - Peaceful setting. Nice home on just over one half acre features newer vinyl windows & sidling, updated bath, deck, newer hot water heater, 2 car attached garage, basement & South Lyon schools. \$184,900 (37RUS) 248-349-5600



LIVONIA - 1990-built Ranch Condo

This 2 bedroom, 1½ bath light and bright unit faces a beautiful park-like setting.

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estate and build your equity \$114,900 (06CLA) 248-349-5600

SOUTH LYON - Welcome home. This 3 bedroom, 21/2 bath shows like a model with everything updated. Located on a large wooded lot that backs to commons. Recessed lighting & oak trim. All newer appliances. Incredible deck with pool & gazebo Private pato Clean & neutral \$269 900 (12DAL) 248-349-5600



CANTON - Updated 2 bedroom Condo Great location facing serene court yard Open flowing floor plan, new oak kilichen. and bath, spacious living room with new carpet and door to balcorry Master bedroom with walk-in closet \$114,900 (35FRA) 734-455-5600



- Adult complex Ranch Condo with 1% baths, spacious master, finished basement with second bedroom, can port, updated windows, furnace, AC, hot water heater, humid, complete kitchen, custom blinds, association includes heat, HTO, ext. maint., pool, club house. Pet welcome \$124,900 (68NEW) 734-455-5600

REDFORD - Beautifully maintained 3 bed

Ranch, hardwood floors, vinyl windows

plaster walls & coved ceilings, updates

include roof, furnace & central air, electric



DEARBORN - Spectacular home at TPC Luxurious gated community All the finest amenities. Gourmet kitchen, beautiful master suite with marble bathroom, 3 bedrooms, 3 full baths, 2 half baths. Professionally finished rec room & two decks. \$603,000 (36TUR) 734-455-5600



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Custom 2 story home on walk-out lower level on a 1+ acre cut-de-sac wooded lot. Four bedroom, 312 bath with granite & maple, dual freplace, stylish master suite with large Jacuzzi tub Many upgrades. \$529 950 (83RAV) 248-349 5600



bath Colonial is situated on a private corner lot with mature trees for privacy. Many updated amenities including kitchen, cabi nets, counter tops, flooring, carpet and many more Partially finished basement. Home shows beautifully. \$214,900 (63T\YY) 248-349-5600



DEARSORN - Charm & value! Three bedroom Bungalow with all the major updates! Newer roofs on garage & home! Newer furnace, central air & landscaping. Circuit breakers Pella windows Finished base ment. Family room off kitchen \$149 900 (35GRI) 734-455-5600

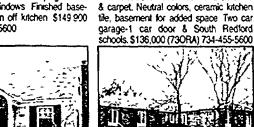
PLYMOUTH - Charming downtown home

The charm of downtown Plymouth. Great

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Meticulously maintained with neutral decor throughout. Move-in condition. Two large bedrooms with spacious closets. Ceramic tile kitchen & open floor plan. Three doorwalls to deck. Private club house. \$138 000 (62UNI) 734-455-5600

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room, 1 bath brick Ranch offers 11/2 car

garage with many updates. A must see! \$144,900 (55WES) 734-455-5600



TAYLOR - Brick front Ranch, Nicely land-

scaped 3 bedroom home with virial siding.

Updated windows, newer furnace with air

conditioner, newer roof, updated kitchen

with a lot of cabinets, ceramic tile, tub enclosure breakers & copper plumbing

BRIGHTON - Three + acres, Beautiful 4 bedroom, 2% bath Colonial on over 3 acres. New windows in 2002. Formal dining room, fireplace, attached 2 car garage, partially finished basement & first floor laundry Hartland schools. One year home warranty \$299,500 (46GRA) 248-349-5600



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Help Wanted General 5000

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> CHRISTMAS & NEW DEADLINES

Issues of Sunday, Dec 22 & 29th + South Lyon Shopper will be Finday, Dec. 20th & 27 at 12

Issue of Thursday, Dec. 26th & Jan. 2nd will be Monday, Dec. 23rd & 30th at 4pm for South Lyon Herald, Novi News, Northella forthville Record & Aliford Time & Milford Livingston County Real Estate

Issues of Dec 25-26 8 Jan 1-2 for the Livingston County Daily Press Argus (all but Real Estate) will be Tuesday Dec 24th & 31st at 12 Noon

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5700 Attorneys/Legal

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5300 Entertainment

5000 Help Wanted

Office

Fitness

Sales

5080 Help Wanted

5340 Jobs Wanted -

Female/Male

5680 Resumes/Typing 5420 Nursing Care/Homes

5660 Secretanal Service

5760 Sewing/ Alterations 5320 Students

5500 Summer Camps

Announcements

6300 Cards of Thanks

6020 Happy Ads 6420 Health/Nutrition, Weight

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6000-6460

6280 Car Pools

Loss

6440 Insurance

Sales

6320 in Memonam

6460 Bings

5640 Financial Senuce

5020 Help Wanted-Clencal

5260 Help Wanted Couples 5040 Help Wanted-Dental

5240 Help Wanted Domestic 5100 Help Wanted Health &

5060 Help Wanted-Medical

5280 Help Wanted Movers/

Light Hauling 5200 Help Wanted Part-Time

5220 HelpWanted Part-Time

5110 Help Wanted Professionals

Restaurant/Hotel/ Lounge 5120 Help Wanted Sales

5380 Childcare Needed

5360 Childcare Services

5370 Childcare/ Babysitting

5600 Education/ Instruction

5400 Eiderly Care & Assistance

57408usiness Opportunities

5620 Business & Professional

SHEET OF WEST OAKLAND COUNTY sational Transf Herald (1) The

WE ACCEPT: Visa and MasterCard

6220 Legal Notices/ Accepting

6200 Announcements/ Meetings

6360 Lost & Found

6380 Tickets

6240 Meetings/ Seminars

6400 Transportation/ Travel

7020 Antiques/ Collectibles

6260 Political Notices

6480 Wedding Chapel 7000-7540

7000 Absolutely Free

Merchandise

7180 Appliances

7040 Arts ACratis

7060 Auction Sales

7200 Bargain Buys

Equipment 7140 Clothing

7320 Computers

7100 Estata Sales

Plants 7440 Firewood

7380 FarmEquipment

7220 Building Materials

7280 Cameras and Supplies 7420 Christmas Trees

7300 Commercial/ Industrial/ Restaurant Equipment

7340 Electronics/ Audio/Video

7400 Farm Produce Flowers-

7130 Garage Sales/ Moving

7450 Hobbies-Coins-Stamps

7490 Lawn & Garden Materials

7460 Hospital Equipment

7160 Household Goods

7240 Business & Office

7800-7930

7820 Birds/Fish

7830 Cats

7840 Dogs

Animals/Date

7800 Animal Services

7810 Breeder Directory

7870 Horse Boarding

7930 Lost and Found

7900 Pet Services

7910 Pet Supplies

7920 Pets Wanted

Transportation

8180 Auto Financing

8760 Autos Over \$2,000

8000-8780

8000 Arrolanes

Cars

A150 Auto Misc.

7860 Horses & Equipment

7880 Household Pets-Other

7890 Pet Grooming/ Boarding

8320 Antique/Classic Collector

7850 Farm Animals/ Livestock

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Help Wanted General 5009

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For water & sewer contractor Must have 2 yrs exp. & CDL (517) 545-4887

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Wanted immediately Forkift trucks. Seeking skilled forklift mechanics Minimum 2 yrs exp Offering up to \$24 per hour. Includes medical, den-tal, optical, 401k, retirement & disability insurance apply to 248-348-7373 Ask for Janet.

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MODELS for tashion, glamour, figure, print, editorial, swimwear No exp necessary Not an agency 248-437-1077. MT. BRIGHTON

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and insertion. Not respon sible for omissions Publisher's Notice All real

estate advertising in this

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tised in this newspaper are available in an equal hous-ing opportunity basis (FR Doc 724983 Filed 3-31-72, 8 45am) Classified ads may be

placed according to the deadlines. Advertisers are responsible for reading their ads the first time it

appears and reporting any errors immediately. HomeTown Newspapers will not issue credit for errors in ads after first incorrect insertion.

5020

Office Clerical

່ງ ວ້າ apply at: 📆 Newspapers reserves the Country right not to accept an advertiser's order HomeTown Newspapers Market 600 N Lalayette sales cens have no author-

South Lyon, MI 48178 (248) 486-1770

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Exp in heating & cooking Full benefits 40+ hrs/wir

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Administrative Assistant needed for small Brighton office Legal experience helpful. We need a dependable. multi-tasking person with good computer, communica-tion, organizational and peo-ple skills. Fax cover letter and resume to 810-229-5789

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CPA firm is looking for a CPA or Accountant with experience to prepare financial statements, trial balances, journal entries, corporate & personal income tax returns. 30+ hrs. during tax season & 20+ hrs. per week for remainder of year Hourly rate based on experience Mail resume to R.J. Miller, PC, 148 E. Livingston, Highland MI 48357

> Enroll in tree one-week class. Focus on providing quality service to income tax service to income tax customers. Day & evening classes. Seasonal job opportunities. Call 248-465-1829 or 248-756-2246 **EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT**

Major International Co. seeks professional with five years of exp as senior level assistant. Degree required, top benefits!

Diversified Recruiters 248-344-5780; Fax: 248-344-5784 Errersitted@jeksfrs.com GROWING COMPANY seeks

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Order Processing Assistant for Non industrial firm. Approx 25 hours/week. Knowledge of Ouickbooks needed. Contact us at: info@tunkers.com

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Exp , part time for progressive

DENTAL ASSISTANT Self motivated learn player to join our friendly team Full time with benefits. Ann Arbor 734-662-9958 ity to bind this newspaper and only publication of an advertisement shall constitute final acceptance of the advertiser's order When more than one insertion of the same advertisement is

5868 Medical.

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nights Join a pro-734-464-0600

MEDICAL ASSISTANT with experience preferred and knowledge of x-ray, full time for Northville family practice Fax resume, Attention Kelly, 249 249 317 248-348-1170

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MARKETING

A too Major Co. seeks some

RECEPTIONIST

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5848 Dental.

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fessional team with wonderful staff We promote quality care & team work in a faith based beautiful & clean home environment Good staffing ratios, competitive salary & good benefits. Apply at: Marywood NCC, 36975 5 Mile Road, Livonia

Index (Partial) Medical 0010-0299 Service Guide

this section.

3000-4840

Real Estate

3060 Brighton 3160 Fowlerville

3190 Hamburg

3220 Holly

3230 Howell 3260 Mulford

3270 New Hudson

3400 South Lyon

Gregory 3420 Waterford/Union

3460 Whitmore Lake

3520 Linngston County 3540 Oakland County

Homes

3750 Wobile Homes

3720 Condos

3980 Land

4050 Homes

Sales

Homes

4070 Mobile Homes

3380 Salem/Salem Township

3410 Stockbridge/ Unadilla/

Lake/White Lake

3570 Wayne County 3580 Lakefront/ Waterfront

3710 Apartments for Sale

3820 Lots & Acreage/Vacant 3870 Real Estate Wanted

Commercial/Industrial

Sale or Lease

Real Estate For Real

4000 Apartments/ Unfurnished 4010 Apartments/ Furnished

4020 Condos/ Townhouses

4060 Lakefront/ Waterfront

4230 Commercial/ Industrial 4640 Visc. For Rent

3910 Business & Professional

Buildings For Sale

3280 Northville

3330 Pinckney

3290 Nove

3030 Open Houses

3000 Homes

Legal, Home & Domestic, Legal, Business, Medical Services,

appear under this heading in

PART TIME DAY SHIFT NURSE & a Contingent Nurse Apply at West Hickory Haven, 3310 W. Commerce Rd, Millord 9:30am-3:30pm, 248-685-1400

Food/Beverage/ Restaurant BAR STAFF some exp.days, nights, weekends Apply in person: This is it Tavern, 8475 Main, Whitmore Lake.

KOSCH FOOD SERVICE. Full time position. Cafeteria/food service worker in Novi. Recible hours. Call Jason, between 8am-10am, (248)567-4754 THE BAUERY RESTAURANT

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must have

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+ A desire to provide extraordinary sales staff earned an service. A love of people and average of \$75,316. new attractions.

+ Ambricon and
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If you have these qualizes you
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started in a cureer held of
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We need enthusiastic, A Rand Historia Bon... ambitious self starters who want the Call Kathy Solan chance of a lifetime. (248) 684-1065 For a confidential

Stephen Scholes Loan Officers, Brighton Location Previous sales experience a plus Must enjoy people and money Must be teachable, Must be 6 today TCPTC CT ⁴⁷⁰227-4600 able to handle the word NO Must desire to succeed ext. 329 Must recognize opportunity and seize it. Training pro-vided Commission, plus bonuses, plus benefits. Fax

resume to 810-229-7167 and CALL 800-362-3321 for appointment. Rewarded for Hard Work and Persistence Art Van Furniture is currently searching for

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7260 Office Supplies 7190 Pools/Spa/Hot Tub 7080 Rummage Sale/Flea **Markets** 7520 Scorting Goods 7410U-Picks 7360 Video Games, Tapes,

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Service 8090 OffRoad Vehicles 8110 Snowmobiles

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Child Care & Babysitting Services 5370

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8080 Motorcycles - Parts &

8300 Sports & Imported 8220 Trucks For Sale

5120

ALL ADS APPEARING LINDER THIS

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by Jim Klansmeyer

5600

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5740

ALL ADS APPEARING UNDER THIS CLASSIFICATION MUST BE PREPAID

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REAUERS: SINCE many ads are from outside the local area, please know what you are buying before sending money. FREE ADVERTISING? FREE ITEMS!

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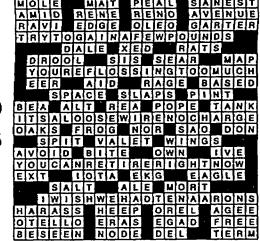
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ining at the next level

More young athletes turning to strength, speed conditioning

By Julie Marshall SCRIPPS HOWARD NEWS SERVICE

Colin Gallagher lifted a 95pound bar off the ground and with a quick turn of the wrist, raised it to shoulder-level. At that same moment, his right leg stepped back-

ward into a lunge.
His trainer, Brian Blackwell, counted his reps of this quick maneuver, called a split power clean. The motion, which taxes the glutes, upper legs, back and stomach to boot, is all about explosive power his trainer said.

power, his trainer said.
"That's good," Blackwell told his client after six reps on one side.
Gallagher, varsity high school

basketball player, is one of dozens of teenage athletes who Blackwell, a former University of Colorado athletic trainer, has trained in recent

Blackwell, a certified strength and conditioning specialist, was the university's head trainer for men's basketball, as well as assistant trainer forfootball from 1985 to 1990. Today, he has taken his experience to help mold the best young athletes with his speed, agility and strength training business called BigTime Athletic Development in Boulder, Colo.

Gallagher, 16, started training his freshman year to get bigger, he says, and step up to varsity level. He has since put on 25 pounds of lean muscle and quickened his step.

Blackwell's clients include teens who want to make the jump from junior high to high school athletics. Some want to make the varsity, others have their sights on a college scholarship.

Blackwell's routines are geared for basketball, football, volleyball, soccer, tennis, you name it. They're all games of speed, he said, whether an athlete wants to explode away from a defender on the basketball court or leave them in the dust to eatch a touchdown pass.

"I try to provide what kids need to take it to the next level, over and above what they are getting in their high schools," Blackwell said. 'There is not one parent, coach or player who has not come up to me to say the same thing - they want

more speed." Blackwell's workouts are a blend of plyometrics — jumps to enhance fast, explosive power weight training for strength, and field relay exercises for speed and

Parents and coaches say it's important to find an edge in today's climate of competitive sports. They aren't worried about early burnout, they say, because they trust Blackwell's experience.

Observing teens coming into the University of Colorado's athletic program is what motivated Blackwell to start his business four years ago.

"I saw kids coming in as freshmen, girls and guys, who were so far behind upper classes," he said. "I knew these kids needed help to get to the next level."

Any player can have skill, Blackwell said. "But if you don't have the athletic ability to match up against an opponent, you won't be able to show your skill."



KWONDOORDON'T?

Weighing martial arts' dangers and benefits for children

By Debra Melani SCRIPPS HOWARD NEWS SERVICE

arla Blum didn't see it coming. Another martial-arts student was delivering a powerful kick and the petite 11-

year-old stepped right in the way. Her arm was so swollen and blue that her father was sure it was broken. He took his youngest daughter to Denver's Children's Hospital, where it was diagnosed as just a deep bruise.

Some critics say incidents like these prove that martial arts aren't child's play. Kids shouldn't take part in a sport that poses such dangers to themselves and others

around them, they say. But martial-arts proponents counter that their sport is perfect for children, teaching discipline, respect, confidence, fitness, coordination and self-protection in a soci-

ety rife with crime. "All it did was make my daughter more determined to pay attention," says Robbie Blum, mother of Marla and Rachel Blum, 14. "It didn't change her desire to be doing tae kwon do or my husband's desire for

them to be doing it." The Thornton, Colo., family began taking tae kwon do almost three years ago so that the girls could protect themselves. The parents were concerned about child abductors and rapists, who often prey on young girls.

While Rachel says she likes the sport mostly because it's both a sport and an art — "It offers so many different things" — she says she likes feeling safer, too.

"The things about child abductions are prefit sages." The says "It colors are prefit sages." The says "It colors are prefit sages." The sages "It colors are prefit sages."

tions are pretty scary," she says. "I think, knowing what I know now, I would have a better chance if anyone ever tried to attack me." The first thing her instructor tells students to do, if possible, is run, she

Martial arts-related injuries are he sees, says Dr. Keith Battan, a Children's Hospital emergency physician. Anything that requires a helmet is more dangerous, and other popular youth sports _ football, soccer, hockey _ produce more emergency-room patients than martial arts do, he says.

Nearly 6 million Americans, most 17 or younger, practice a martial art, according to the Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association.

The Consumer Federation of America Foundation, a non-profit research and education organization focused on child health and safety, does not condone the discipline for children because it's scored based on hits and can lead to eye and head injuries. The American Academy of Pediatrics has discouraged boxing

for children for the same reasons. . But if parents want to enroll kids in a program, they should look for forms of martial arts more focused on health and character-building

Melanie Badesch of Englewood, Colo., chose J.W. Kim's Tae Kwon Do for her girls. She has since joined her daughters in training and says the instructors have always been clear: Students are never to use tae kwon do outside class unless they're being seriously threatened.

That emphasis must be carried few relative to other sports injuries home, Badesch says. "We tell our daughters, 'You practice, but not on your sister,' "she says.

While some martial-arts classes start kids as young as age 3, instructors should wait until students are 12 or 13 to focus on true selfdefense skills, says Bradley Ross, a kempo karate instructor Colorado Athletic Clubs.

Sometimes parents come to him with kids who have slight behavior or aggression problems, and the structured discipline and emphasis on not hurting people turn them around. Ross says, Increased confidence also makes martial-arts students more likely to walk away from fights or not become targets of bullies or criminals, instructors say.

Both Blum and Badesch say the self-defense skills aren't the least of the benefits.

"I have two little girls in this society," Badesch says. "I'm glad they are learning to defend themselves.

Vision for success

Many children have some visual problem that may thwart their academic work

By Mike Schwartz THE (RIVERSIDE, CALIF) PRESS-ENTERPRISE

Two years ago Brian Lozano was failing second grade. The Moreno Valley, Calif., youngster had trouble reading and com-plained that his eyes stung a lot. Brian's mother, Lidia, took

him to a primary-care optometrist. A traditional wallchart eye test determined Brian had normal distance vision. Still, he had to strain to see clearly

Brian was prescribed glasses to "relax" his eyes. Yet his academic struggles continued despite developmental tests showing he was reading at a third-grade level.

"It was just hard to concen-trate," recalls Brian, now 11. "Having bad grades was so frustrating.

Brian's predicament illustrates an all-too-common plight: More than 12.1 million American kids one in four students and one in 20 pre-schoolers - have some. form of vision problem that may thwart their academic success, according to Prevent Blindness America, a leading eye health and safety organization.

Common children's vision problems include strabismus (crossed or "wandering" eyes) and amblyopia ("lazy eye"), a brain dysfunction that causes blurry vision in one eye.

Early detection and correction

is critical, because 80 percent of all learning is achieved visually during a child's first 12 years, according to the American Optometric Association.

What's more, vision problems can worsen if not detected and treated.

As many as six in 10 children diagnosed with learning disabilities have undetected vision problems causing much - if not all of their academic angst.

Good visual skills are imperative for classroom success," says Leslie Huscher, director of the Big Springs Educational Therapy Center and School in Riverside, Calif.

Children can have 20/20 eyesight, meaning normal distance vision, and still have vision problems, says Huscher, a specialeducation teacher for 18 years.

There are tons of different visual skills affecting how you read and how you work," Huscher says. All must be in place to develop reading skills. If they aren't, learning will be a struggle. But that's only one sign of an undetected vision problem, she savs.

The American Optometric Association encourages comprehensive eye exams at 6 months, 3 years, before entering kindergarten, then every two years through age 18. Yet a survey by the Vision Council of America found that only 6 percent of parents realize vision problems can lead to problems in school. Consequently, almost 80 percent of pre-school-age children have not had an eye exam.

Finding balance: Judo training teaches grappling, respect for others

By Kevin Williams SCRIPPS HOWARD NEWS SERVICE

Legs locked around his training partner's head, back half on the mat, Michael

looks somewhat strained. But not as strained as Mark Stuemky, owner of said head, who looks downright uncomfortable.

DeMarrias' contorted form

The two are sharpening their skills at the Boulder (Colo.) Judo Training Center, a non-profit organization that provides judo instruction on a sliding fee scale.

The center was started a little over a year ago by 29year-old Brian Olson, a twoime Olympian in the sport who's currently ranked third says of judo. "The discipline aspect, the confidence aspect, (it's) all there."

Not to mention the physical and mental conditioning that's part of the training. Michael, 14, who won jun-

ior judo's Triple Crown in 2001, made the transition from his club to the center so he could learn from the best.

"He's very fortunate to have all this private instruction from an Olympian," says Michael's grandmother, Donna Davis, one of many family members who live and breathe the sport.

Tougher opponents will come, says Olson. "(He's) driven," Olson says, "very intense ... you can see it in his family.

During a training session,

"It's a martial art," Olson Davis and Michael's mom, Dani, sit on the sidelines watching. At one point in the evening, Michael and his brother, Casey, 12, take turns throwing each other to the floor. Their sister, Nikole, 9, gets involved in the action on

the mat. The family commutes to Boulder from their home in Northglenn, Colo., three times a week. The three DeMarrias siblings are part of a group of roughly 15 kids with whom Olson works.

"Some people have the misconception that it's a mean, brutal sport," Davis says. "I had sons who played football (and) I don't think it's near as bad as that."

You have to be thinking the whole time," Michael says. "It's like chess, you've

got to think your next move and his (the opponent's) next move, too."

But Olson emphasizes that judo is about more than just competition. It's about building character and achieving goals, and he hopes it carries over into other aspects of

"I want them to do well in school," Olson explains. "I'd rather them sit there and do their homework and get good grades than be on the mat."

And if he does make someone sit out during a training session to finish homework, he expects his decision to be accepted without complaint.

This sport not only teaches respect, it teaches courtesy to others," Olson says. "We're very big on that.".



Marty Caivano/Scripps Howard News Service

Michael DeMarrias, right, 14, grappies with Mark Stuemky at the Boulder Judo Training Center on a recent evening. DeMarrias is one of the top junior judo athletes in the nation.



Hiding sexual orientation at work often more difficult

By Melanie Payne

Trying to build a clientele, gays and lesbians can often find themselves facing the most stress when the conversation turns to personal topics. They must decide whether to develop a relationship of mutual trust by divulging their sexual orientation at the risk of losing a client.

Although laws in a number of states have curbed discrimination against homosexuals at work, those statutes aren't nearly as effective when clients and customers hire, fire or shun someone because of sexual orientation.

Twelve states ban this type of discrimination, but such cases are difficult to prove, said San Francisco employment law attorney Pat Gillette.

"What happens in these situations ... is it's not spoken out loud," she said. "They don't articulate that they don't want the person."

And, if the person is not "out," or openly gay, Gillette said, the customer can always use the defense: "I didn't even know Joe was

It's unrealistic to believe that sexual orientation doesn't come up in business relationships, said Dennis Gaudet, a Boston-based personal life coach. Conversations at social events, on business trips or at meetings offer glimpses into private lives and clues about sexual orientation, he said.

Most gays can't afford to limit their clients or customers to other gays, so they have to

address whether to come out, he said. Even in gay-friendly San Francisco, gays and lesbians find it's not always an easy

Hiding one's sexual orientation takes work, said Dan Woog, an author of numerous books on gays in the workplace and

For his book "Gay Men, Straight Jobs," Woog interviewed men who are out and some who aren't. Some in the latter category

"My feeling is that people who felt it did-n't make any difference whatsoever were deluding themselves," Woog said.

"Not coming out can take a terrible toll on a person's self-esteem and their personal happiness," said Brian McNaught, a workplace diversity consultant in Naples, Fla.

McNaught said people need to balance the financial consequences of coming out with the psychological consequences of not com-

Although American workplace tolerance is increasing toward gays and lesbians, they still meet some outright hostility.

A survey commissioned by Out & Equal Workplace Advocates, a San Francisco-based advocacy group, found that 77 percent of respondents thought that sexual orientation should not be a factor when evaluating job performance.

Yet, the same study found that two of every five gay and lesbian adults have faced some form of hostility or harassment on the

When clients ask whether McNaught is married, he said, he explains that he has a longtime partner.

If he didn't, McNaught said, "I'd have to ask myself: 'Why did I deny a relationship of 20 years, just for the sake of not losing an account or making a person like me? If so, do I really like myself?"

Still, he acknowledged, gays and lesbians may lose some clients and potentially their livelihoods by disclosing orientation.



Bustration by Melissa Lewis

the great•

The often difficult choice between renting and buying depends on one's needs

By Jake Grove

SCRIPPS HOWARD NEWS SERVICE

The decision of buying or renting a home is something that every person should look at very carefully so as to determine the path that is right for them at that particular moment.

Contrary to popular belief, it's not something that should be taken light-

Especially now, the idea of owning a home is most appealing. Interest rates are low, homes are flooding the market and more people than ever are willing to "invest" in buying a home to sell at a profit later on down the

And there are a lot of upsides to buying your own home. Ilyce Glink, author of the bestseller "100 Questions Every First Time Home Buyer Should Ask," said that, at first, the pros to owning a home are fantas-

"Everybody knows you would want to buy as a great way to build wealth and get a greater sense of commit-ment," she said. "You keep up with the property better, participate in the community more and the tax benefits are definitely a help. Not to mention the great interest rates available right

In fact, if you were to ask 10 people on the street if they would rent or buy, probably nine of them would say, "buy." Glink said the two biggest advantages right now are the tax incentives and the low interest rates. These factors are drawing homebuyers into the market even if they aren't auite ready.

And the pride of owning a home is of purchasing.

Pride, however, doesn't make the down payments, closing costs, mortgage payments or property taxes disappear. And those are the pitfalls to buying a house.

First you have to get together thousands of dollars just for a down payment. Second, the closing costs and other fees can really start to add up. Third, upkeep on the home is up to vou. and with most new homes, there are a few things right out of the gates that need repaired, looked at and set

But finally, you lose a certain amount of freedom. Relocating for a new job, to go back to school or just to get away from a certain place is a lot harder with a home hanging around your neck. If you do move, but can't get the house sold beforehand, there is now two mortgage payments or a rent and mortgage payment to deal with every month.

But renting is just giving your money to someone else

On the other side of this trick coin are the renters. Renting, at first, seems like the best idea. The landlord, not you, has to keep up with regular repairs and maintenance. Landlords have to pay the taxes on the home. And, landlords are the ones who need to fix it up between tenants.

Plus, renting gives prospective homeowners a chance to gauge a town, neighborhood or even home before committing to the added hassle

If you don't know where you want to live renting can test a neighbor-hood." Glink said. "It gives you a chance to get to know an area, find the best school district and settle down in

Don't get your hopes up too high, though. Renting still has its own pit-

It's true that renters are giving money that could go into a home to a third party for a place to live. Sometimes rent is the same amount, if not more, than a mortgage payment, and that can really irk some people.

Also, renting is not as flexible as it seems. Yes, you only have to sign a year lease with most landlords, but what if you meet someone or need to get out sooner? While landlords are willing to strike deals to get you into a place, they aren't so lenient if you want out. Fees, penalties and deposits get a lot higher when trying to break a lease right now, barely making it worth the effort.

As with anything, there are pros and cons to buying and renting. The whole idea is making sure the decision made is right for you.

"The biggest mistake made is just jumping right in without looking," Glink said. "Just because you hear it's the time to buy or the time to rent doesn't mean it's right for you. Rates will go up, rent will go up and you have to figure how this decision will affect you a few years from now."

Employees gain more ownership in business

By Amy Nolan SCRIPPS HOWARD NEWS SERVICE

About 10 years ago, C.B. "Boots" Duke started thinking about his familyowned Holston Glass Co.'s future with-

"I'd watched a lot of people in my industry and associated industries, and it seemed like when the principal retired or passed away their companies just folded up," recalled Duke, 67.

The founder's son, Duke had led the Knoxville, Tenn., company since 1960. None, of his three daughters worked there, but many of the 65 workers had been employed for decades.

Today, Holston Glass' employees are its owners.

Duke created a leveraged employee stock ownership plan. The ESOP bought the company by buying Duke's stock, borrowing the money from a bank with the company's guarantee, stock and other assets as collateral.

As the company repays the loan, the lender releases stock into the ESOP, which is allocated to eligible participants in the plan.

At a time when confidence in the market is eroding, experts say employees are increasingly taking stock in companies in which they have confidence: their own.

Duke came close to selling the company, which installs glass for commercial projects, "until I realized when they bought it they would have very little commitment to the employees who were

"I just got concerned that if something happened to me, a disability or death, or if I wanted to retire, then these people would be out of a job," Duke said.

Nationally, according to the Employee Stock Ownership Plan Association, 11,500 companies with nearly 9 million employees have taken the employeeownership route. About 1,500 of those are totally owned by employees.

With half of family-owned businesses expected to make a transition among their CEOs this decade, according to an Arthur Andersen/Mass Mutual American Family Business Survey, ESOPs are touted as one way to keep the company

"If you do it right, it's a dynamite way to transfer ownership from a family to a new management team," said Steve Arnett, senior vice president of The Trust Co. of Knoxville.

"We've seen ESOPs from \$1 million to \$80 million for the value of the company. It's not limited by the size of the compa-

The Trust Co., a state-chartered bank with powers limited to trusts, manages about 15 ESOPs, valued at more than

Amett trumpets the tax advantages of selling stock to an ESOP over selling

outright to a private investor and selling stock to the public. In an ESOP, the company's sellers are able to defer or eliminate capital-gains taxes on their profits, and the company is

allowed to deduct its principal and inter-

est payments on the loan used to fund the ESOP. The pain of employees who lost their life savings when their companies' stock price plummeted has been headline news, Arnett said many successful ESOPs are created in a way to avoid such

tragedies. For one thing, shares in private companies aren't subject to the "whims of Wall Street" but instead are appraised and audited annually by independent firms. Only 9 percent of employee-owned com-

Secondly, employee-owned companies often have retirement savings plans independent of the ESOP. "If your motive is to grab the money

panies' stock is publicly traded.

and run, it's the wrong choice," Arnett said. "But if the motive is to perpetuate the company and to reward the people who have helped the company and to reward yourself, then you've got the makings for an ESOP."

MODELS OF SUCCESS

enpanies that have successful yee-stock ownership plans typically have these characteristics:

in hesiness for at least five years Minimum of 25 employees Ameri cash flow of at least \$400,000 Annual sales of at least \$5 million History of profitability, growth in sales and profits
Dopin in management leam
Little scot and no legal or environmental

sployee ternover rates for its

Source: The Employee Slock Ownership Plan Association and The National Center for Employee Ownership

Making an estate plan can keep a family together

SCRIPPS HOWARD NEWS SERVICE

ly ill from liver failure, she couldn't face telling her daughter and husband how bad it was.

"I knew I was slipping away. I was so sick. I just knew I couldn't live much longer," Kinnard said. She was 56. Kinnard, a professional organizer in Denver, realized that the best thing she could do for her family would be to use her remaining strength and time to get her affairs in order. She'd seen many personal and professional examples of the turmoil and rancor that frequently follow

a death that no one has prepared for. After witnessing a shocking number of such temper tantrums, brouhahas and downright brawls among heirs, Les Kotzer, an estate-planning lawyer in Toronto, was inspired to write "The Family Fight: Planning to Avoid It" (Continental Atlantic Publications, \$19.95).

"When siblings get into fights over their parents" estates, they think they win if they get the property they want," Kotzer said. "But that's not winning. Winning is when they all still love each other."

Only 30 percent of adults have wills, says Kotzer. Even fewer have wills that are up to date and have been professionally drafted, he says, and fewer still have durable powers of attorney that allow someone to handle healthcare and property issues in case of disability.

Kinnard had signed a will only six months before her illness was diagnosed, but she knew there still were many details to be considered. She told her daughters, then 24 and 21, to go through her jewelry, choosing pieces by turn. She told her best friend which sister was to have her car. She wrote a letter saying she wanted her daughters how she wanted her ashes disposed of, and she gave

TO-DO LIST

When Melly Kinnard's doctor told her she was grave- 'To-do list for parents of adult children:

 Explain to your children what you hope to accomplish with your estate plan, preferably when all are present. Ask which items each would like to have so you can anticipate problems. Discuss special arrangements for a child who does caretaker duty or who has special needs. Maintain a list of things your children will need to know

about, including stocks, mutual funds, certificates of deposit, deeds, insurance policies, pensions, 401(k)s, military discharge papers, computer passwords, screen names and people to notify if you fall ill. Include account numbers and the names, addresses and phone numbers of the institutions that hold or administer accounts. Also list lawyers, accountants, brokers and physicians. Tell someone where the list is kept and give a copy to your lawyer. Talk to your physician about your end-of-life wishes and fill out a living will. Create a medical durable power of attor-

Rather than opening a joint bank account with one of your children, create a financial durable power of attorney and pat the person you choose on a checking account. If you become incapacitated, the person will be able to pay bills but will not automatically receive the money in the

De-clutter your house. Organize and weed through your belongings and, when it seems appropriate, start giving special items to the children you want to have them. nanista Balan - Balan Barata Barata

copies of it to her lawyer and her daughters' godmothers. Then she recovered — and set out on a mission. Kinnard took a fresh look at an organizing workbook

she'd devised in 1996. It has 28 dividers tabbed with such labels as "Investments," "Insurance" and "Military Papers." She added a "Who Gets the Jewelry" section.

"It's the parents' responsibility to get their heads out of the sand," Kinnard said. "It's unkind of them to be unprepared and unrealistic about death, and it's unfair for them to leave their kids in a position to fight over their things." Potential fights are everywhere, Kotzer warns.

"One word can destroy an entire family," he said. "A word like 'antique,' for example. One mother said, 'All the antiques go to my daughter.' But what's an antique? The son said anything from after 1960 is not an antique, and they fought about it all the way into the courts." Kotzer said parents who wish to avoid such disputes

should have lawyers draft their wills, openly discuss the issues with all heirs present and never assume that siblings will treat one another fairly. Money isn't the biggest problem, however, said

Richard Vincent, a Denver lawyer who specializes in elder law. "The biggest fights we ever see are over personal property," he said. "Not cash, not real estate, but pictures and silverware. Vincent advises parents to allocate as many such items

as possible in a personal-property memorandum, a formal appendix to a will. Since it's impossible for most people to list everything they own, he suggests having the heirs draw straws for first pick and choose the remaining items by turn. If parents suspect there's going to be a fight, the final option is to instruct the executor to sell all personal property and divide the proceeds among the

"If the parents don't arrange things, the children have to tread very carefully," he said. "No one wants to look like a vulture."



Making photo editing programs look good

By Kenny Cartner **RALEIGH NEWS & OBSERVER**

The box makes it sound so easy.

Pick up about any photo-editing software package and you will see such phrases as "restore photos," "remove scratches," "fix tears" or any number of similar promises. Keep reading and before long, you'll get the feeling you're holding a miracle worker.

Buy it, however, and you will discover that the box neglects to mention that achieving professional-looking results requires hard work and practice.

Try to remove scratches, folds or tears in old family photos with these programs, and you might be asking yourself: "What happened to easy and quick?

Alien Skin Software, a company that makes some of the industry's best filters for photoediting software, has the answer. Alien Skin recently released



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It's made up of four plug-ins or filters: Smart Scratch Fill. Remover, Spot Lifter and JPEG Repair. Each is powerful and

Image Doctor, a

out of restora-

program takes much of the

work

photo

quick.

tion.

Want to fix those scratches and tears quick-Image Doctor's Scratch Remover does the trick with ease. Want to remove the mole from Grandma's face? The pro-

gram's Spot Lifter has it covered. And that's just the beginning. The filter Smart Fill is just short of magic. It quickly and seamlessly removes unwanted objects from photos. For simple objects such as a bird in the sky, just trace around the object with a mouse and one of the photo-editing program's selection tools. Then choose Smart Fill.

The bird is gone, replaced by sky. More complicated objects take a bit more work, but not much. You simply need to pay attention to the area around the object.

For example, I wanted to remove a utility pole in a photo of a tunnel at Big Bend National Park in southwest Texas. The photo was a nice landscape, and the pole looked out of place.

Removing the entire pole at once didn't look quite right. The base of the pole had green brush around it, and the rest of the pole was against a rocky mountain background. In order to get good results, I had to use Smart Fill twice. I selected the portion of the pole surrounded by brush and replaced that. Then I did the same thing to the rest of the pole. Within a couple of minutes, the pole was gone.

Smart Fill, like Scratch Remover and Spot Lifter, can also fix large tears in photos, as well as remove scratches and wrinkles. The JPEG Repair feature allows users to repair badly compressed digital images, such as photos sent by e-mail.

Image Doctor is not a stand-alone program. It's a plug-in and must be used with one of the following photo-editing programs: Adobe Photoshop 5.5 or later, Adobe Photoshop Elements 2.0, Macromedia Fireworks 4.0 or later, or Jasc Paint Shop Pro 6.0 or later.

The price of speed and ease doesn't come cheap, however. At \$129, Image Doctor costs more than some of the photo-editing programs it augments. But it's nice to see a program that lives up to the box.



SOPRANOLAI

Internet lets fans call up in-depth connection with one of TV's most popular shows

By Mark Wolf

SCRIPPS HOWARD NEWS SERVICE

The Sopranos get a lot more hits on the Internet than they deliver on the

Tony, Carmela, Uncle Junior and the rest of the intriguing mobsters in the HBO show are part of a burgeoning trend that sends devoted fans of it and other shows surfing from their TV screen to their computer to visit Web sites devoted to their favorite programs.

Every program has an "official" site maintained by its network. Most provide the basics: episode guides, bios and pictures of the stars, production credits, sometimes a video clip or an interactive aspect such as a quiz or a poll. You can find them through the network's main

Often, however, the most compelling sites have been put up by fans. These sites often have the same basics as the network sites, as well as discussion forums where fans can post positive and negative reaction, gossip, up-to-date news, places where cast members are making personal appearances, as well as "spoilers," allegedly inside information about what's going to occur on an upcoming episode.

Among the network sites, HBO gets it like nobody else. The official site for "The Sopranos" is where every other network ought to go to Web site school.

The site (www.hbo.com/sopranos) has the basics, plus a chance to get a \$10,000 loan from Big Pussy and play one of five different poker games with his friends, an every-other-week recipe from the "Sopranos Family Cookbook," trivia contest, discussion boards and a contest to win a walk-on role on the

HBO's site also contains an entertaining conceit, The Wernick Files, which offers FBI files and other inside stuff about the Soprano family, compiled by Jeffrey Wernick, one of America's most celebated authorities on organized

At least he would be if he existed. Wernick was a briefly-seen character in the series' first season. Incorporating him in the Web site, complete with a biography, is the kind of nudge-and-

'Sopranos' online

Here are some selected unofficial Web sites for 'Sopranos' fans;

www.sopranosuesightings.com Specializes in snapshots of cast members on location

www.the-sopranos.com

Well-designed, newsy site with many , features

www.nj.com/sopranos

Jersey-oriented site with map showing where various scenes were filmed; news, photo gallery including "Meet the Bada Bing girls," links to New Jersey newspaper stories about the

cast, show. www.geocities.com/mozzywozzy2000

Fun site with some dever original content

wink knowingness that connects with

Web sites have become increasingly important to networks as Internet usage has grown. A study conducted in 2000 by NFO Interactive and Burke Research showed the heaviest TV viewers (16 or more hours a week) were also the heaviest Internet users (14.7 hours a week). 'Going forward, we're going to see

tighter and tighter integrations between content on the TV show and content online. It's going to be more and more interactive as more households get highspeed Internet," he said. "Simultaneous viewing (of TV and the Internet) is more prevalent today because you have greater co-location of the TV and the computer in the same room."

Carey Nedel, the vice president of Burke Information who created the study, predicts more advertising tie-ins between the TV show and the Web site.

Fan sites, however, are strictly for fun, not profit.

Ivy Hover, a graphic designer who runs Poizen Ideas in Las Vegas, got hooked on "The Sopranos" halfway through the first season and launched her Sopranoland.com site three years ago.

"It's the love of the show. You want to share little things with people," said Hover, who spends about an hour a week updating the large, well-designed site that brims with news, fan shots of cast members, seven-question interviews with several of the actors, character profiles (including a Sleeps With the Fishes section for those characters who have been killed), and merchandising such as a Sopranoland T-shirt and Sopranos Mafia Party Kit.

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NHL 2K3 **Genre: Sports**

Platform: PlayStation 2, XBox, Gamecube Publisher: Sega Sports **ESRB Rating: Everyone**



EA Sports' NHL series has long been the king of the rink, but you wouldn't call it a realistic hockey experience. That's OK for your causal hockey player, but it's left a void for a high-quality hockey simulation to come along and compete.

That sim would be Sega's NHL 2K3, the first hockey game to come close to approximating the pace and feel of the real game. As opposed to most offensively-minded hockey games, 2K3 is well-balanced on both sides of the ice -- as such, it helps to know hockey strategy to succeed.

What's most amazing is how much mileage 2K3 manages to get from the controis, particularly on defense where one or two buttons can perform several defensive moves depending on the proximity of your defender to the opposing player. It's a lot to keep track of at first, but once you get used to the scheme, the amount of control you have over your players is unparalleled.

The smart play extends to the computer opposition as well, which defends incredibly well. Like the real game, there won't be many scoring fests, but it's action packed regardless.

Not to mention that the presentation is the best yet in a hockey game. Players and arenas look eerily similar to their real-life counterparts. There's no hockey game that is as deep in options and in front-office play as this one. If you aren't a huge hockey fan, you might

want to stick with EA's more arcade-like series. But fans who've been craving an excellent hockey sim will find their game in NHL 2K3.



The House of the Dead III Genre: Shooter Platform: Microsoft XBox Publisher: Sega

ESRB Rating: Mature



You couldn't possibly create a more mindless game than this game that has you shooting hordes upon hordes of zombies. Correction: You don't just shoot these zombies, you basically blow them up with a shotgun - and they blow up real good.

Even though there's kinda, sorta an attempt at a story, the point of the game is killing ghouls in the most gory way possible.

And it's especially good that House of the Dead's graphics are areade-quality and that the bothersome story line is easily bypassed by jamming on the start button - although listening to the dialogue is good for a laugh or two when you feel like taking a breather.

You will probably want to invest in a light gun for this game, not only to get the full zombie-shooting experience, but also because it's easier than using the regular controls, which don't stand up well in the most zombie-filled rooms.

For film buffs, there's even a behind-thescenes look at the upcoming movie version of the game that's sure-to-be an Oscar contender. Again, if you want a good laugh . . .

Shinobi **Genre: Action**

Platform: PlayStation 2 Publisher: Sega **ESRB Rating: Mature**



With all the hype that has accompanied the new Shinobi, the latest in Sega's marquee ninja franchise, it's disappointing.

What's above-average are the graphics and storyline. Each of the game's pre-rendered scenes are exquisite, and the quality doesn't drop much once the action begins. With long red scarf trailing behind him, our ninja hero boasts some beautiful moves, including one that lets him

zip Flash-style past his enemies allowing him to slash at his foes' backs and render them instantly into sushi. Unfortunately the game offers little else.

Each level plays more or less like the last, each featuring similar maze-like levels with the same gory death animations replaying over and over.

Plus the game gets incredibly difficult, which wouldnt be so bad if there were better rewards for success than merely more villians to kill. Without any save checkpoints, the frustration mounts quickly in the more challenging level.

Shinobi's flaws in level design and overall lack of variety doorn it to the run-of-mill bin. It gets points for style-but rent before you buy.

Slot machines take on pop culture's images



From Spider-Man and Spam to Monty Python and 'That Girl," gaming companies have found a new niche to attract customers. Pop culture.

It began in 1993, when International Game Technology (IGT) introduced a slot machine based on the game show "Wheel of Fortune."

The machine shared more than "Wheel of Fortune's" title. It also featured many of the sounds from the popular game show, including background music and audience applause, as well as a chance to spin the

As the game became more and more popular among gamblers, slot-machine makers took notice.

"Today, probably a third of the games developed have some sort of licensing, whether that involves images, sounds or music," said Ed Rogich, IGT's vice president

of marketing. The reason is simple: attraction. Place a "Saturday Night Live"-themed machine, such as "The Church Lady," next to a Fabulous Sevens, for example, and the colorful and quirky machine featuring Dana to raise money for scholarships," Henry said. like or they won't come back."

Carvey's popular character naturally stands

"You've got to think about it," Rogich said. 'The casino is a sea of 2,000-plus machines and every machine is vying for the player's attention.

At last summer's Global Gaming Expo in Las Vegas, there were machines on display based on such diverse themes as "The Hollywood Squares," Pac-Man, "The Lone Ranger," "The Incredible Hulk," "The Honeymooners" and Budweiser.

Even the nation's foremost beauty contest, the Miss America pageant, jumped on the slots trend with a machine, courtesy of game maker AC Coin & Slot Service Co.

Naturally, there are naysayers who argue the decision, although a portion of the proceeds from the Miss America licensing fee was used to fund Miss America Organization-sponsored college scholar-

On hand at the event to promote the beauty queen-themed machine, Heather French Henry, Miss America 2000, said she was proud of the non-profit and for-profit alliance.

machine," Prater said. "Once they get to the "Everyone has their own opinions on how

ative solution. They did a fabulous job and I'm very proud of it. Other celebrities are equally enthused to be associated with the gaming industry in the

"I thought (the slot machine) was a very cre-

form of a slot machine. Comedians Harvey Korman and Tim Conway's slot game is called The Last Resort.

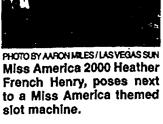
While the title is not based on a pop-culture reference - it refers to a fictional end-of-theline vacation destination the two own and operate - the game is clearly all about Korman and Conway. Both comedians ham it up in animated cartoon sequences, which Conway scripted and the two recorded.

Marcus Prater, vice president of marketing for Bally Gaming and System, is enthusiastic about The Last Resort, along with some of the other licensed machines its gamemaker has introduced - a series based on "SNL," Playboy magazine and even a slot game based on the "For Dummies" book series.

The success of the machine will always be determined by the game's "fun factor." Those types of brands get people to the

machine, you've got to have something they

- PAREACHANA MAHTANAS -



siot machine.

HomeTown

Not just a building block, concrete becomes part of the decor

By Betsy Lehndorff SCRIPPS HOWARD NEWS SERVICE

Plain old concrete - the same material that goes into foundations and sidewalks --is showing up in home decor. Gray concrete can be tinted, textured, coated or glazed in hundreds of new ways to create unique floors, counter-tops, tables, fireplaces and

Color choices are almost endless, including watery blues, mottled earth tones, milky greens, china reds and porcelain white. Stone, metal, chunks of glass, even computer chips can also be worked into the surface, then ground down to a high shine.

"It's not that highly pol-ished look, like granite, where a crumb will call atten-tion to itself," says architect Kathy Jones. Instead, concrete used in homes is more natural, with occasional color variations, pocks and imperfections adding character and depth to its surface.

At her new home in Sedalia, Colo., Jones has put in black concrete floors that conceal hot-water pipes for radiant heating. Embedded in parts of the floor are seethrough glass blocks that allow light to filter down to rooms below, she says.

In the kitchen, beige concrete countertops complement the maple cabinets. In the basement, a bar is topped with a white concrete slab embedded with bits of stained glass.

"It's durable," Jones says.
"Wine comes right up, and it handles hot and cold pans without problems."

At Concrete Revolution in Denver, Allen Miller demonstrates how countertops and other fixtures are made. First, his carpenters build a mold in a fully equipped wood shop. Then the concrete is mixed with special tints, colored sand or custom aggregates and poured into the wood mold. Once cured and dried, the concrete piece is removed and finished by hand. Later it's sealed to create a shiny or matte surface.

"Concrete is softer in an ronic way," he says. 'Sometimes it's more natuironic he says. ral-looking than highly polished stone because it has natural variations."



Concrete considerations

Here are a few things you need to know if you're thinking about using concrete in your home:

■ Concrete floors can be hard to install in existing homes. Consider them at the design stage if you're building a new home or an addition. An average floor requires up to 25 tons of concrete and takes 28 days to dry.

Concrete floors and finishes work better in rooms that are casual rather than traditional. The durable material is perfect for a modernist kitchen or a teen-ager's game room.

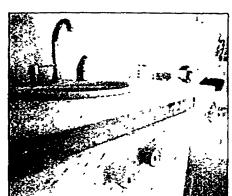
■ Although the material is inexpensive, installation is not. A kitchen countertop runs about \$1,500, depending on the size; a fireplace surround, \$1,200; bathroom vanity around \$2,000. A textured, tinted and finished concrete floor is about \$16 a square-foot

■ Highly polished concrete floors can be slippery in bathrooms or patios when wet. Instead, consider textured floors or seal the surface with a coating to which grit has been added for grip.

-SCRIPPS HOWARD NEWS SERVICE

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Waste not want not



The master bath, where the vanity is made with plastic, recycled from curbside waste, and the handles are lids from detergent bottles.



Architect Julee Herdt and Jeffrey Brown stand in the kitchen of their Boulder, Colo., home that was predominately built from recycled materials.

A Colorado couple built their dream home from recycled parts

By Betsy Lehndorff SCRIPPS HOWARD NEWS SERVICE

In most households, worn jeans, empty soda cans, egg cartons and old newspapers are toted out of the house to the trash can at the curb.

But Julee Herdt and Jeffrey Brown have brought these kinds of materials home, albeit in altered form, to create a \$900,000 residence for themselves in Boulder, Colo.

They have insulated walls with a new product made of ground-up denim. They've covered walls and ceilings with a fiberboard made from old newspapers. They've sawed jumbo-size wooden cable spools into staircase railings and have plastered bathrooms with bits of plastic

They also heat and cool their house for less than \$60 a month, using a system buried 150 feet

me," Herdt says.

It's all because Herdt, an architect and

companion, Brown, is an expert on heat-

ing systems that are independent of fossil

on a lot of large-scale projects in

Birmingham, Ala., ... the way materials

were being used really started to bother

used - a lot of extravagant materials that

were damaging the rain forest and dam-

aging the Earth. It was just too easy to

throw things out and start over when

Southern California Institute of

Architecture to earn a master's degree

and do some research. Some of her field

work took place in Los Angeles alleys,

"I kept finding molded stereo packag-

ing made out of cellulose," she says. "It was lightweight, and it was beautiful."

She pauses, having had plenty of prac-

"Imagine egg cartons," she says. "If

you don't think they are beautiful, spend

a little more time looking at them. You

have this really simple structural system

from very cheap materials — newspapers

where she found plenty of trash.

tice talking to skeptics.

So she went back to school at the

vomeone made a mistake."

"Fifteen years ago, when I was working

"I saw mahogany and marble being

deep in the ground. Recycling assistant professor at the University of is a lifestyle Colorado at Denver, hates waste. Her

To use more recycled materials in your own home, start slowly, architect Julee Herdt says:

Reconsider the notion that things in your home must match. Contrast creates interest -new with old, plain with outlandish -and will let you discover the variety, character and uniqueness that make your home an expression of who you are.

Clean house by recycling things you don't use. Donate items to charitable organizations. For large items, many will make a separate pickup if you call ahead.

■ Be a demanding consumer. Use your buying power to let your local merchants know that you want environ-

mental options. ■ Buy recycled mate-Eventually Herdt put together a group and mentored the development of new rials to support markets

■ Support stores that specialize in eco-home products.

building materials made from recycled or for curbside waste.

renewable sources. Her idea about egg cartons became a product called Gridcore, a lightweight panel that looks like a waffle and can be attached to walls instead of drywall.

and cardboard.

The Boulder project began in 2001 after Herdt bought a tiny home on a 1/3-acre lot. Once the original home was taken apart and hauled away to be recycled, her contractor built the new foundation, walls and roof using beams from a 100-year-old boathouse to hold everything up. Then Herdt and Brown picked up their tools to help finish the interior.

These days, their home is filled with natural wood



In this living area, the tabletop is made with newspaper and soy glue.

tones, quirky touches of plastic and splashes of color

from leftover paint collected at a recycling plant. Against a backdrop of white walls covered with nontoxic paint, the linoleum and cork floors glow with honey tones. Red accents come from old doors on which the two have scrubbed leftover paint and other colors. Red cushions, chairs and throw rugs also add a punch.

Elsewhere, Herdt plays with textures, covering an interior window with an old chain-link gate or stuffing glass marbles into the knotholes of exposed wood beams. She's even woven the sheared-off spines of old telephone books into the back of a bedroom rocking chair.

The couple's home also demonstrates alternative heating systems. A loop of pipe carries water 150 feet into the ground, where it's heated to 50 degrees by subterranean

Then a sun-powered heat pump brings the temperature to 70 degrees before the water is circulated through floor pipes, Brown says.

'We don't even have a gas line coming into the house," Herdt says.

"If you have to build one of these big homes that you'll be spending time in, at least show some environmental responsibility and use the mechanical systems that aren't fossil-fuel-dependent," Brown says. "At \$60 a month, crank up the thermostat. Who cares?"



Christmas decorating 101 Home & Garden Television

Decorating for the holidays is a wonderful way to express the joys of the season. Here are a few tips.

Nothing says Christmas like the color red. Fill a clear glass with cranberries and top it off with a few white roses or lilies. Float cranberries and a few candies in a silver bowl or fill some small, stylish bowls with cranberries and place them throughout the house.

■ All the ingredients for a festive centerpiece are waiting at the grocery store. Pick up some pears, pomegranates and apples. Arrange them in a bowl with a few pine cones and evergreen cuttings. Add a few ornaments for a bit more of a holiday touch.

Family photos make wonderful personalized ornaments for the tree. Just take a favorite photo and buy a simple, lightweight frame or make one out of a postcard or corrugated cardboard. Slip in the photo and attach it to the tree with a rib-

■ Family photos can make great wrapping paper, too. Gather a collection of photos, arrange them on a piece of paper and make color or blackand-white photocopies of the collage. Be sure to make enough copies to wrap all the presents.

■ A grapevine wreath makes perfect year-round welcome. For Christmas, dress it with ornaments and red ribbon. For New Year's Eve, add a touch of sliver and gold.

■ A bowl of ornaments makes a simple and stunning centerpiece or holiday accent for a tabletop or mantel. It's also a great way to use broken omaments. Choose two or three colors of balls and arrange them in a decorative glass bowl or a weathered wooden bowl.

■ To personalize a plain, inexpensive evergreen wreath, tuck in small snips of dried flowers or wire on some favorite trinkets or keepsakes such as pieces of costume jewelry or small antique toys.

■ To hang a wreath without exposing unattractive wire or putting a hole in the middle of a door, tie a length of pretty ribbon around the wreath and then tack the ribbon to the top of the

■ Use old socks to protect fragile ornaments and figurines when packing up the holiday decorations. Slip an item inside an old sock and roll it up.

Weeding out a good read

By Connie Nelson MINNEAPOLIS-ST PAUL STAR TRIBUNE

"Is this a weed?" The question is invariably accompanied by a small, wilted, unidentifiable section of a plant. Without hesitation, I launch into my "What Is A Weed?" speech, a monologue about the Purpose of Plants, which is guaranteed to bore even the interested. Thank goodness somebody came up with an alternative.

Reader's Digest's new "Weeds, Friend or Foe," (Reader's Digest Books, \$24.95) takes a surprisingly fun approach to answering that perennial question. It covers all the bases - the life cycle of weeds, where they come from. even the pros and cons of weeds. And, yes, there are pros. The book includes the weeds that are edible, those that look lovely in a vase and those that are used in herbal remedies.

Much of the book is an extensive weed directory, which is alphabetized by botanical names, but also includes the common names. The directory has excellent photos and detailed descriptions of each weed, its uses and, of course, several ways to rout it out.

This hardcover book is welldesigned, well-written and considerably more interesting than my speech.

How can you help protect the desert and the dolphin?

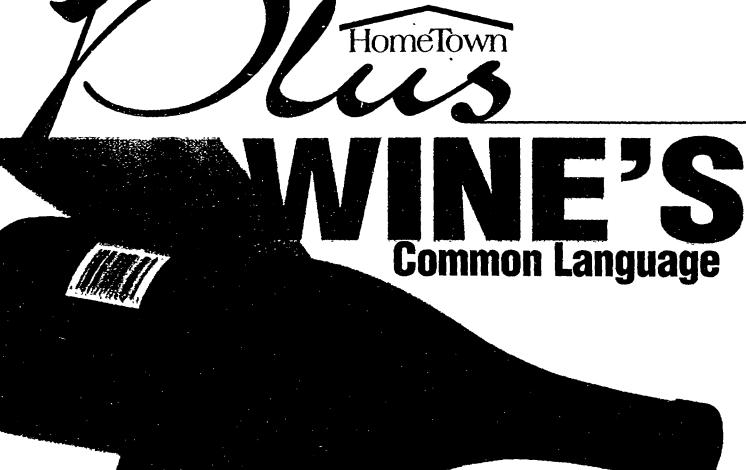
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One environment. One simple way to care for it.





By Carol Ness SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

ver snicker at the people who sniff a glass of wine and go on about its toasty nose" or "grassy notes" and n secretly wonder what they can ell that you can't?

You can. And no one's done more to make that possible than Ann Noble, retiring professor of wine at the University of California at Davis. Bright, funny and exacting, she's a sensory scientist who for 28 years has trained the noses of future California winemakers.

Noble's as far as you can get from a pinky-raised wine snob. She gets a kick out of telling you, "If you have a boring white wine at a party, add a piece of green pepper from the hors d'oeuvres. You'll have a more interesting wine, one like a Sauvignon Blanc.

She means it. Then she adds, delightedly: "Of course, people who are wine snobs think that's horrific."

What Noble has done is taught people a common language for describing



Photo by John O'Hara / San Francisco Chronicle Ann Noble, in her testing and instruction lab. Students sit in this room with only the computer monitor and red light. Ann fowards them wines. In the dark they can not see the color and have to rely on their senses to smell and identifiy.

If she didn't actually invent the language, she systematized terms people were using and created the Wine Aroma Wheel as a handy guide.

Noble believes in the consumer as expert. The Wine Aroma Wheel and the sensory trainings she puts her students through aim to give people the tools - and the words - they need to decide for themselves what makes a good wine.

The wine aroma wheel is her bestknown accomplishment, and the easiest way to get into what she's all about. It's a flat plastic disc, with pie slices in different colors. At the center are general terms - vegetative, fruity. floral, chemical. They're broken down into 87 specific smells at the edge, from blackberry to bell pepper to wet

The point is to get people thinking about what they're tasting in a wine, about what they like - or hate.

"Don't say 'oak,' say 'toasty,' " Noble snaps during a smell-and-taste

She doesn't suffer fools gladly.

"Oak is too generic. It's like saying 'soy' at a soy sauce tasting. It doesn't say anything. You've got to rip it apart," she explains.

The demo is something she's done a zillion times over 28 years. She calls it Kindergarten of the Nose.

Anyone can do it. She takes a bland jug wine, pours a bit into a dozen glasses and adds a flavor to each: a piece of bell pepper, a clove, squeeze of orange, vanilla extract, even canned asparagus. In her "toy chest," Noble collects things that can produce the aromas of wines, for better or worse - peach extract and oak chips, hunks of dog fur and leather.

Once she's created the separate aromas, she pours a glass of a varietal say, a typical fruity, oaky California Chardonnay — and has you compare it to the samples. Bingo.

What you think of as oaky identifies itself as vanilla. Taste a Sauvignon Blanc and you'll tease out citrus and something green.

All of a sudden, you can describe your wine - as if you'd learned a foreign language. A typical class would use some 60 smells to evaluate red and white wines.

Noble loves those "Aha!" moments. "It's giving people the words, the keys to the kingdom, because most of them haven't been used to describing the aroma. They say, 'I don't know

"It's giving people the words, the heys to the kingdom, because most of them haven't been used to describing the aroma. They say, I don't know what I am smelling."

- Ann Noble, on teaching students to describe wine.

what I'm smelling," Noble says. Kindergarten of the Nose is "like teaching kids what a blue crayon is: You don't describe it. You show them

Just don't taste a wine and tell her "that's good" or "I like it." That's judgment, not description, and it makes her bark.

Descriptive analysis is part of sensory science, which was initiated at UC Davis by legendary enologist Maynard Amerine.

Noble, who replaced him in 1974, took the concept and ran with it. Sensory had been used by the beer and food industries before, but not

When she arrived at Davis, the school used a numerical scale to rate wine, the kind used by some influential wine critics but which Noble derides as the "Bo Derek 10 system."

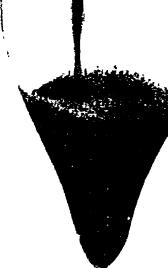
"It doesn't tell you anything about the wine," she says. "You might like it: I might not."

She made her students use descriptive analysis instead - a revolution at the time

The Wine Aroma Wheel was an offshoot, and Noble didn't do anything with it until consumers started clamoring for copies of it. In the last two years alone, she's sent out an estimated 30,000 of the \$6 wheels and it's been translated into 30 languages.

"My goal is to make it obsolete," she says. "You don't need it because you can do it on your own."





The trouble with cork

Tainted wines, decreased supplies turn winemakers against tradition

By Janet Fletcher SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

It seals prized bottles of single-malt Scotch and acclaimed Tuscan extra virgin olive oils. But in the wine industry, a screw cap has long evoked Skid Row and the kind of product that delivers more alcohol than

Now, in a move that may presage a wave, several prestigious wine producers have adopted the screw-cap closure, citing quality concerns with traditional cork. The plug of

more than 200 years is under attack, blamed for causing cork taint — a musty, moldy smell — in as many as one in 10 wines.

bark that has sealed fine wine bottles for

Earlier this summer, Randall Grahm of Bonny Doon Vineyard in Santa Cruz, Calif., announced that he would bottle his 80,000-case production of Ca' del Solo — popular red and white wines that retail for about \$10 - with screw caps.

'Corks are just not the best closure available now, and I want to do the best thing I can for the wine," says Grahm, who joins at least three dozen top Australian and New Zealand producers and a handful of domestic wineries in testing consumer acceptance for premium screwcap wines.

If consumers don't flinch, many more winemakers say they'll follow suit.

The cork taint problem is not new, but winemakers have grown increasingly frustrated with cork producers' inability to solve

Others trace the trouble to increased demand for cork, prompted in part by large producers such as Gallo moving away from screw caps. The heavy demand has pressured

suppliers into offering inferior cork, they say. Whatever the cause, no one disputes that natural cork - stamped from the stripped bark of the cork oak tree — is ruining an unacceptable amount of good wine.

Estimates range widely, but Debbie Zacharias, wine buyer at the San Francisco restaurant Bacar and a judge at the San Francisco International Wine Competition, estimates that 5 to 10 percent of the competition entries were cork-tainted this year.

The musty aroma of a "corked" wine comes from trichloroanisole (TCA), a naturally occurring compound that some noses can detect at three parts per trillion. At high levels, TCA can make a wine smell like wet newspaper; in more modest amounts, it

robs the wine of fruit aromas and flavors, leaving it tasting uncharacteristically dull.

Although no one knows for sure how corks become contaminated with TCA, researchers have pinpointed some cork-processing techniques — stacking the stripped cork bark in the forest to cure, which encourages mold, and using chlorine bleach as a cork cleaner - as contributing to taint.

Winemakers considering a move to screw caps have two chief questions: How will consumers respond, and how will such wines age?

A comparative study of wine-bottle closures published in the Australian Journal of Grape and Wine Research lent support to what winemakers have long suspected that screw caps are an excellent choice for wines typicalty drunk young, such as most

But what will happen to a Cabernet Sauvignon after 20 years in an airtight, screw-capped bottle? One thing is sure: it won't have cork taint. What's more, experts say, there's no reason to think

the wine won't age. Screw caps just need time, advo-

cates say - time for consumers to grow accustomed to seeing them on fine wine, time for collectors to develop trust in their functionality. If and when that happens, cork may be relegated to bulletin boards.

Company unleashes corkscrew for a new generation of wine drinkers

By Angelica Pence SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

It's safe to say that most wine-lovers think it a noble and necessary cause: "to create the best corkscrew ever made.'

Indeed. Lucky for us the task was taken on in the late 1990s by Charles Harari, product developer for Trudeau, a 113-year-old importer of "fancy goods" turned kitchenware supplier.

Harari hired industrial designer Claude Maufett, analyzed more than 300 corkscrews and interviewed hundreds of sommeliers, waiters and wine connoisseurs. Three years and dozens of drafts and models later, the team introduced the Trulever

EBOBHEI BEXIEW

Corkscrew, touted by its makers as the latest and greatest tool of the trade in the world of wine.

"It's no secret that so many corkscrews on the market today are simply reproductions and slight variations of the automatic-lever technology that was first introduced 20 years ago," Harari said.

The Trulever "solves many design challenges that other products on the marketplace have yet to even address - like comfort, simplicity and design aesthetic," Harari said of his product, which was awarded the gold medal at the Geneva International Invention Show.

To be sure, the Trulever design makes opening wine quite simple, and it can be used one-handed.

Maufett designed the Trulever to be poised on the mouth of a bottle, its lever raised. The opener's polished chrome arm is then lowered and raised in one smooth motion, thanks to the Trulever's spiral shaft, which is coated in Tesson. Lowering and raising the arm again removes the cork from the opener entirely.

The Trulever retails for about \$80.



Bourbon works at the dinner table

By Mike Dunne SACRAMENTO BEE

Peggy Stevens spends her days sipping bourbon,

but she's no barfly.

Stevens is the first female to be certified a "master bourbon taster" in Kentucky, where she works at the Labrot and Graham Distillery, tasting batches of its high-end specialty brand, Woodford Reserve, to determine if they're ready to be bottled and released. She also travels the country promoting Woodford

Q: Bourbon with food --- really?

A: Absolutely. Just look at bourbon as you look at your favorite wine. Every bourbon has its own flavor profile, which starts with the grain bill or mash bill, which is your percentages of grains used in making your bourbon. If it's heavy with rye, it will be a spicier bourbon. If it has a higher corn content, it will be a sweeter bourbon ...

Q: If you're going to have bourbon at the dinner

table, should it be diluted?

A: It depends. Taste the bourbon in its pure form. If you decide you'd like it lighter, add a splash of water. That tends to bring out a lot of the fruitiness

Q: What is bourbon, anyway?

truly, says expert

A: You have to use at least 51 percent corn as your grain. The rest can be rye, malted barley and so forth. You only can use a barrel one time, and it must be a new charred white oak barrel. And you cannot

distill it higher than 160 proof. Q: What do you look for in a first-rate bourbon? A: Complexity. Any time a bourbon can walk you around the flavor wheel — so you pick up nuances of spice, toast, fruit and sweetness - you have a premium bourbon. You don't want it one-sided. If it's all spice, it's not so much a great bourbon. You want a

very harmonious balance, not too light or too heavy. Q: Winemakers make a big deal about using French oak barrels to age their wines. Do the folks in

Kentucky use French, Yugoslavian, American or some other kind of oak for their barrels?

A: We source our white oak barrels from Tennessee and Kentucky. So much of the color and flavor in bourbon comes from the barrel. We toast and char the oak to caramelize the wood sugars, which give bourbon its beauty, a rich reddish-amber. The toasting also brings out the vanillin in the wood, giving the bourbon a vanilla nose and a bit of smok-

Q: Elijah Craig, a Baptist preacher, is credited with turning out the first true bourbon in 1789. Why would a Baptist preacher do a thing like that?

A: Very carefully. There are so many folklore stories about who really was the first person to create bourbon. The real answer is that nobody really

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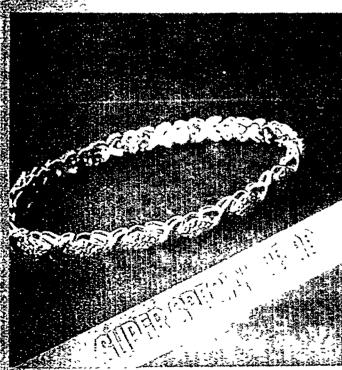
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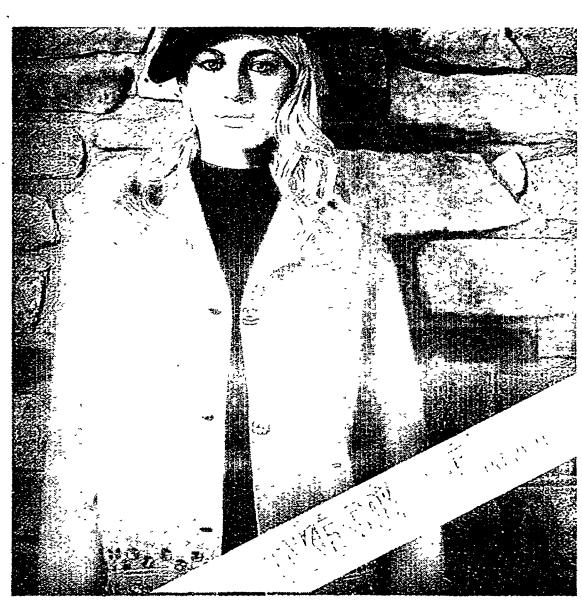
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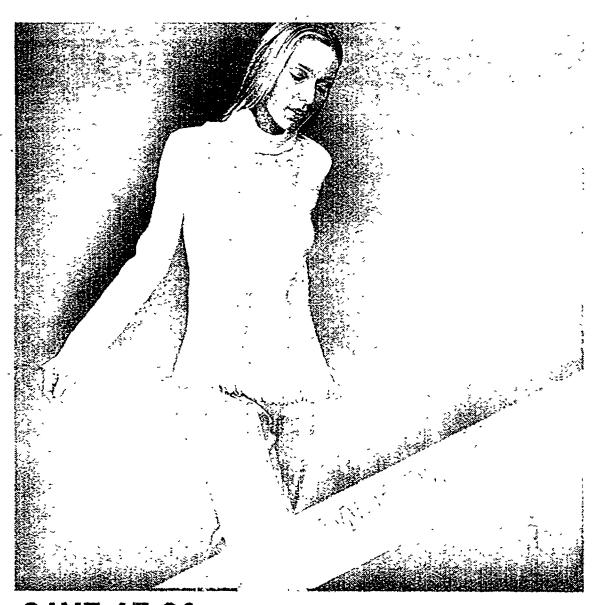


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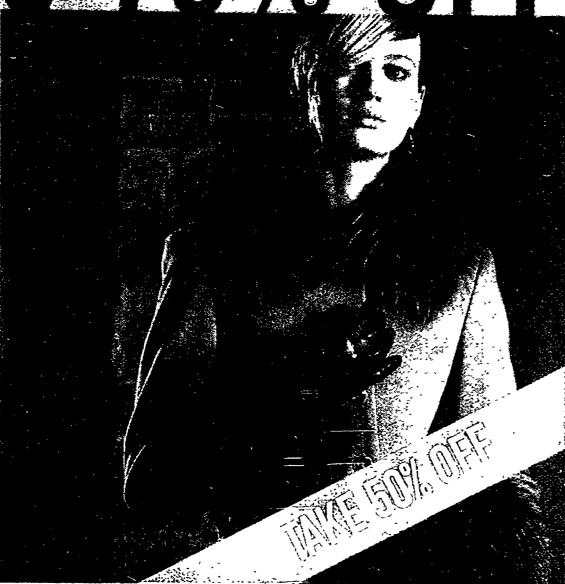


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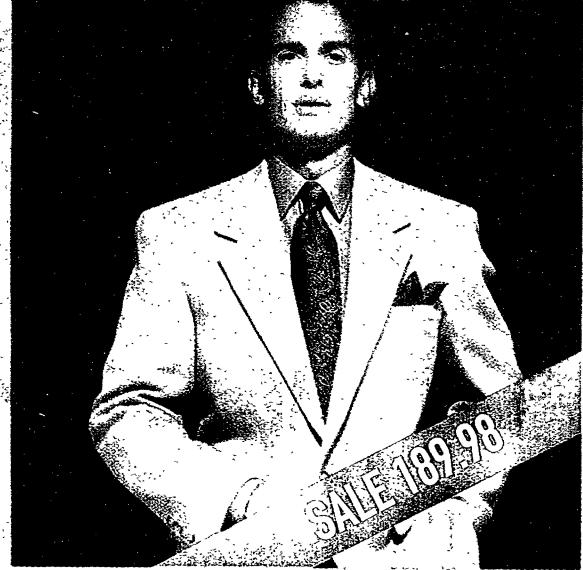


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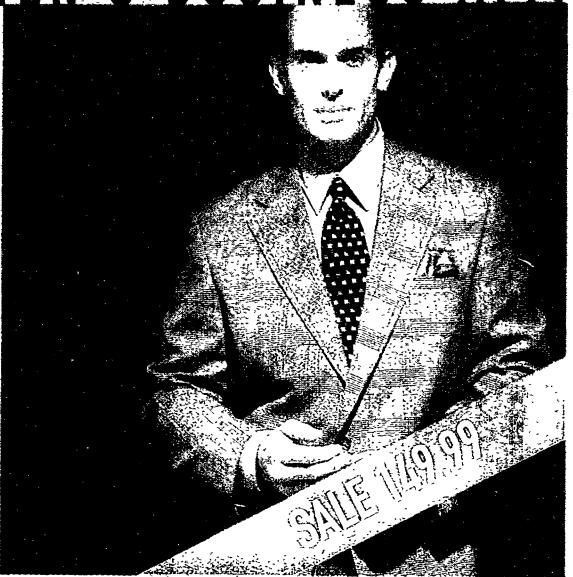


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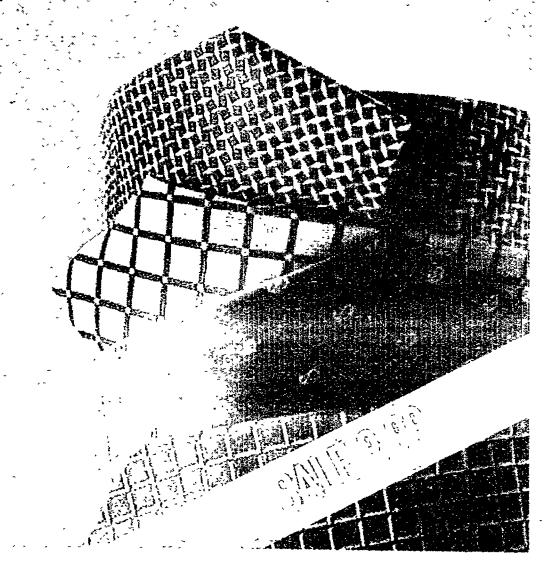


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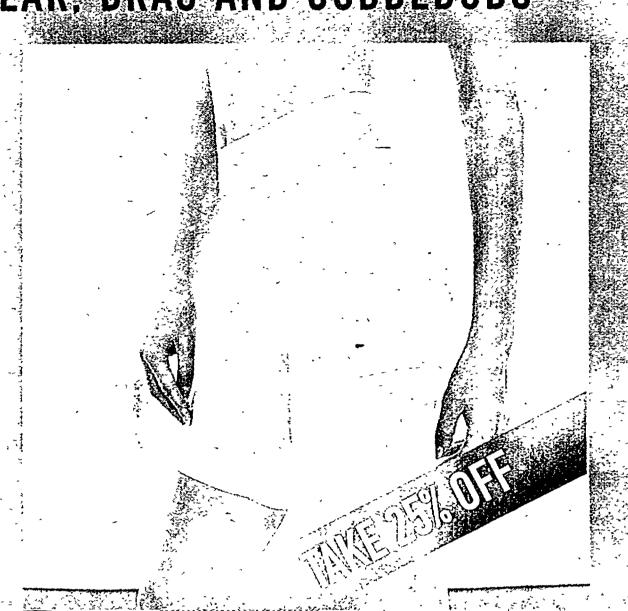


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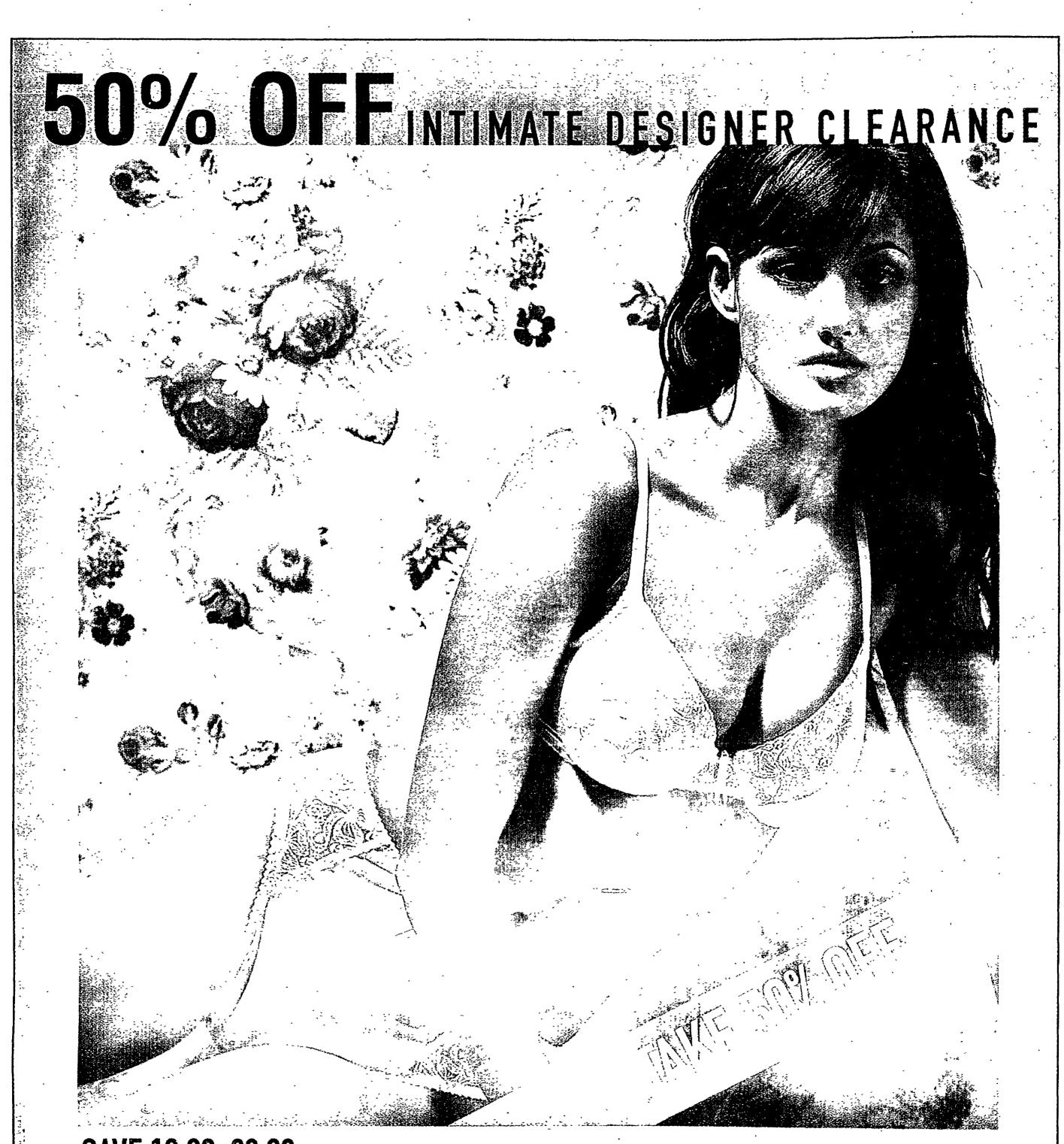
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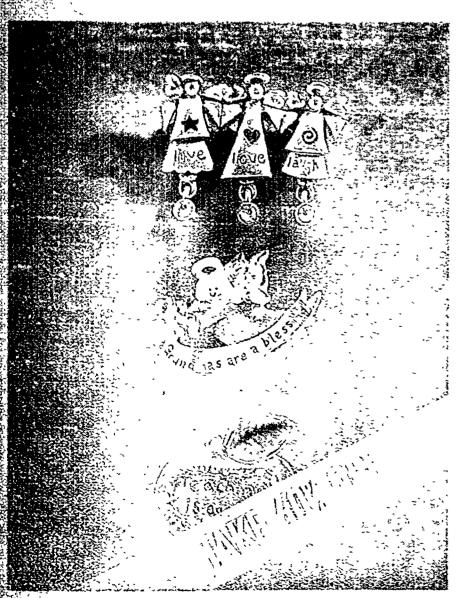


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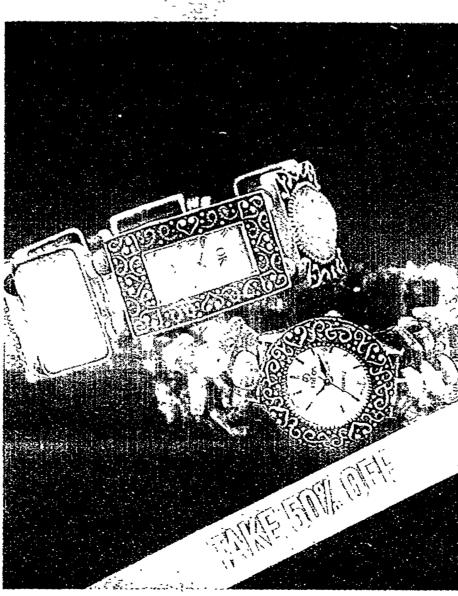
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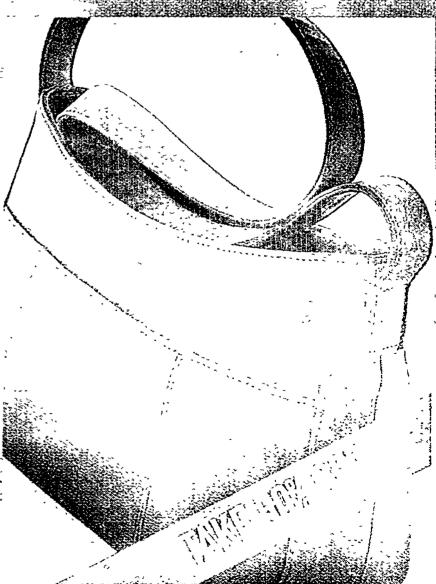
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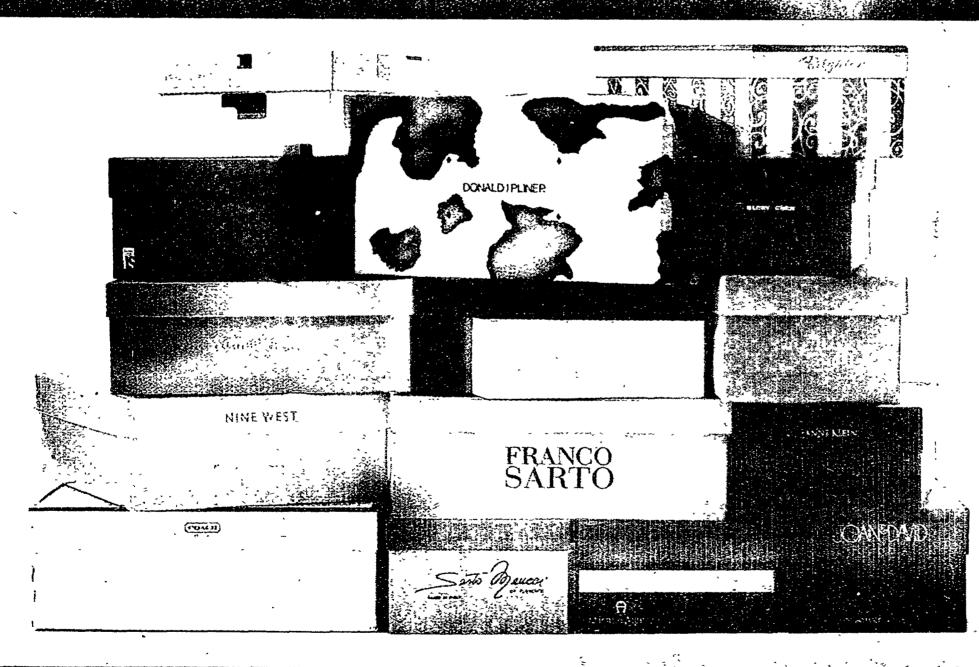
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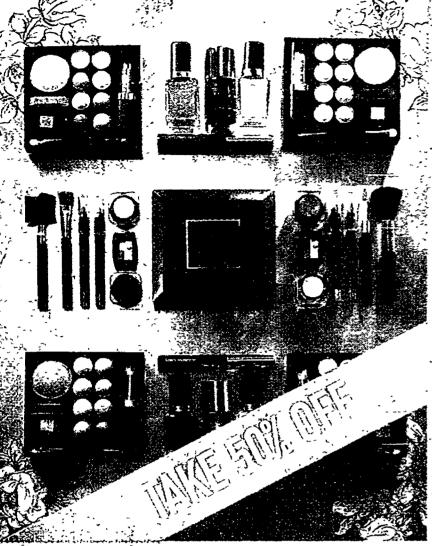
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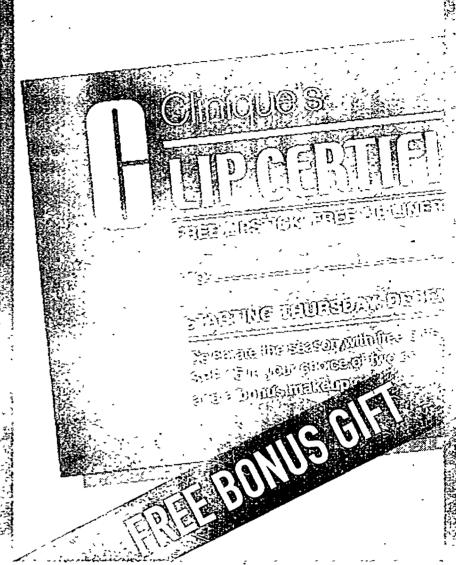
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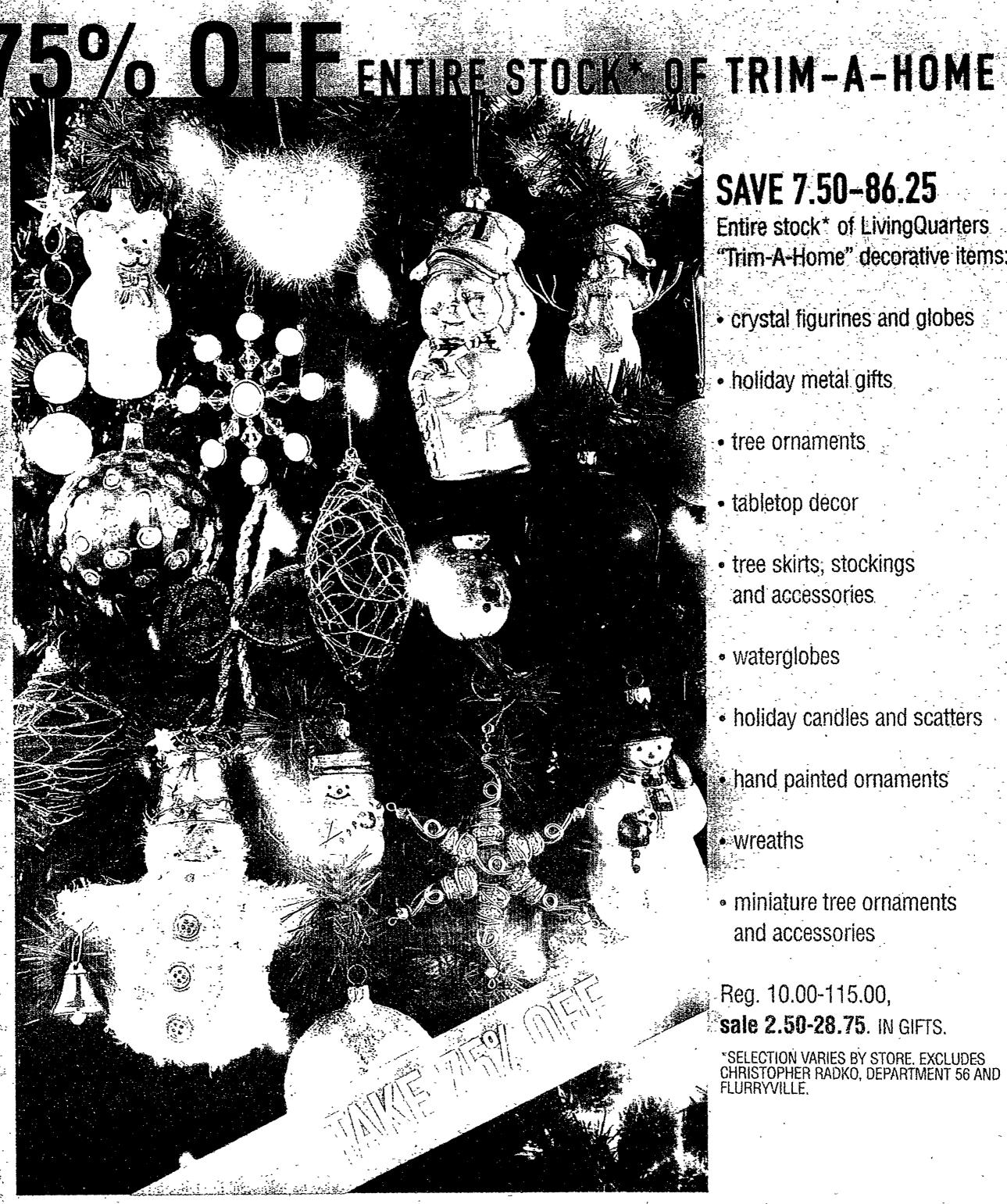
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- miniature tree ornaments and accessories

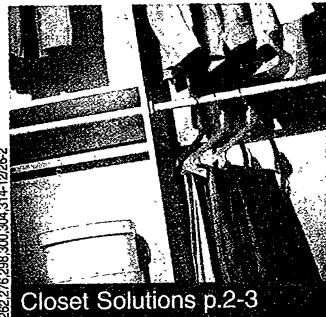
Reg. 10.00-115.00, sale 2.50-28.75. IN GIFTS.

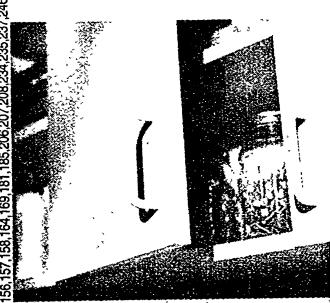
*SELECTION VARIES BY STORE, EXCLUDES CHRISTOPHER RADKO, DEPARTMENT 56 AND FLURRYVILLE.

No payments for 6 months on appliances:

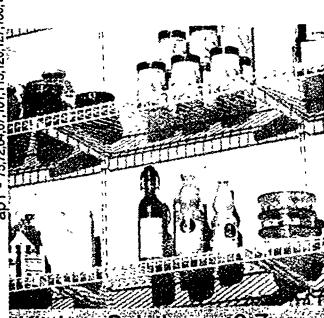


Driving Down the Cost of Home Improvement

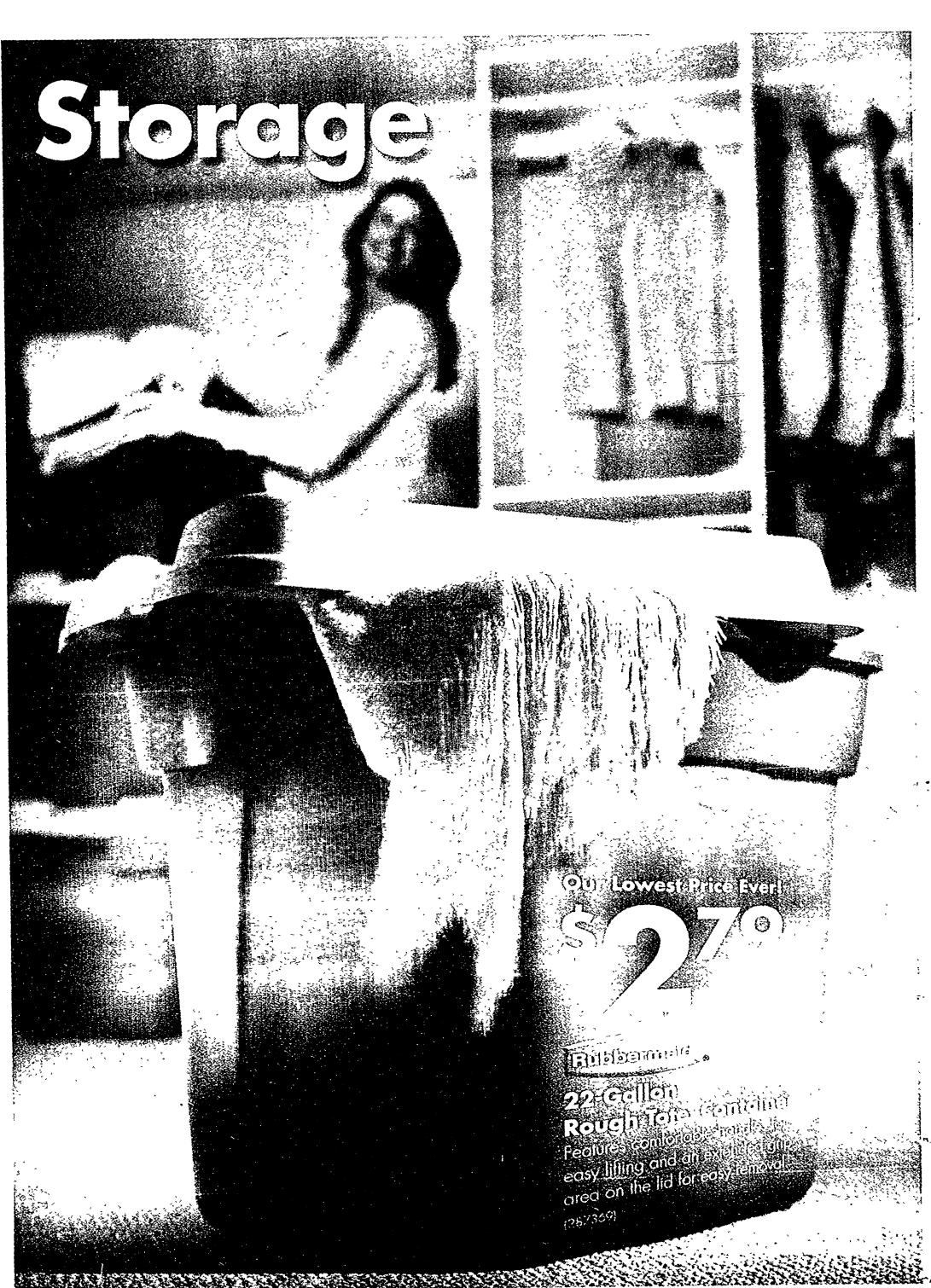




Garage Solutions p.4-5



Kitchen Solutions p.6-7



The second second



www.millspride.com

A. 10' Closet Starter

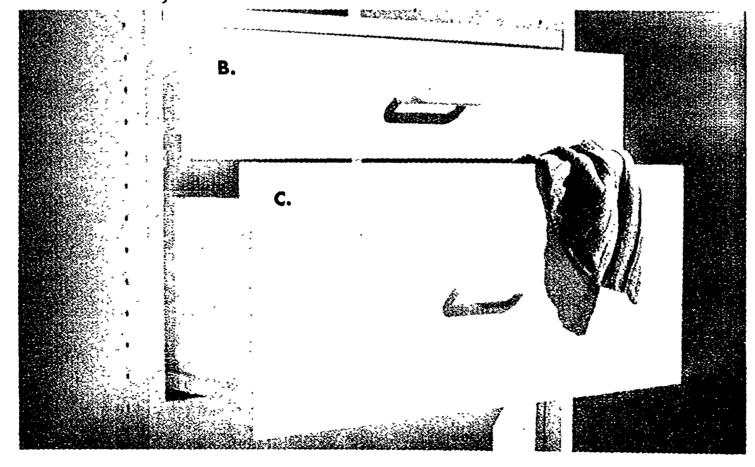
B. 5" Deep Bianco Drawer

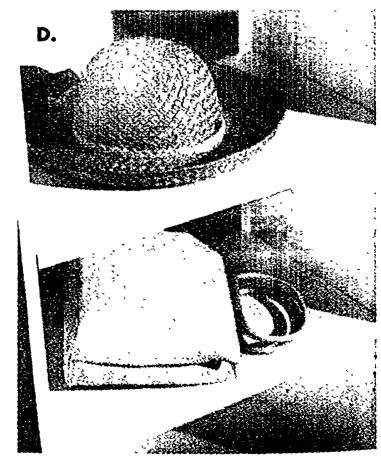
C. 10" Deep Bianco Drawer

D. 24" Shelf Pack



Customize your closet starter with these accessories...



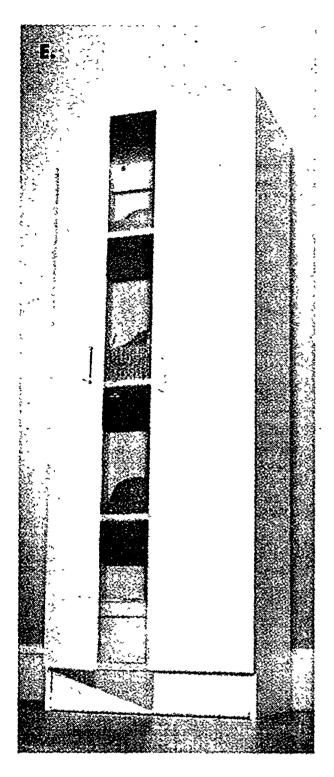


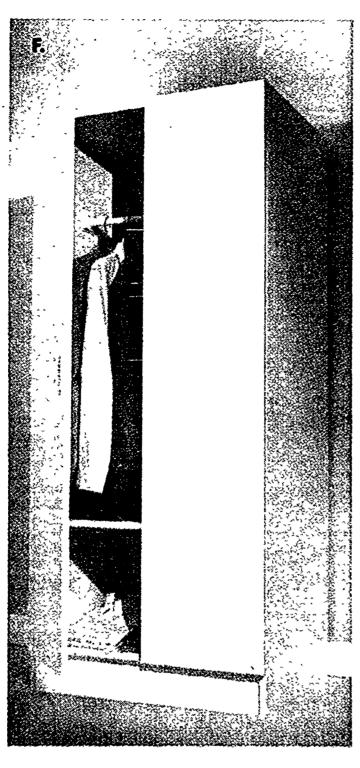


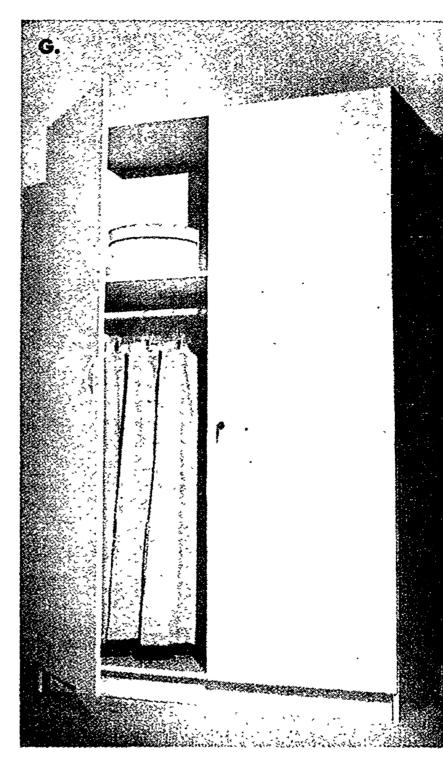
No Payments
No Interest for
6 Months

With any single purchase of \$299 or more on your Home Depot Consumer Credit Card.

closet









www.millspride.com

E. 24" Wide **Multipurpose Cabinet**

Instant, attractive storage; put your clutter behind doors. 24"W x 69-3/4"H x 15-5/8"D. 3/4" durable construction. Includes 2 adjustable and 2 fixed-height shelves. Lifetime warranty. C1 (972702)\$85.00

F. 30" Wardrobe Cabinet

30"W × 69-3/4"H × 24-1/2"D. Features 2 doors, 1 shelf, 1 hang rod and back panel.

G. 48" Wide Locking **Wardrobe Cabinet**

48"W x 72"H x 20"D. Three adjustable and 2 fixed shelves, 1 hang rod. Full back panel. Lifetime warranty.

H. Tall Stacker

12"W x 29-3/4"H x 11-5/8"D. Includes 1 adjustable and 2 fixed-height shelves.

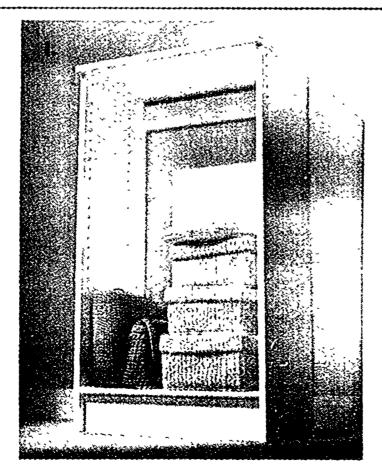
I. Closet Base

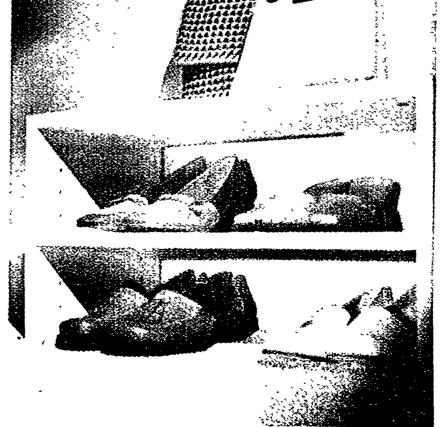
24"W x 45-3/4"H x 14-5/8"D. Easy to assemble and accessorize. Lifetime warranty.

J. Shoe Stacker

24"W x 12-1/8"H x 11-5/8"D. 2 shelves for up to 12 shoes.







customize closets with drawers, or

Mill's Pride has everything you need to increase hanging or shelf space,

add extra shelves or hanging rods.

Mill's Pride makes the products that increase your space and get you organized.

• All of our closet components are made from 3/4" thick melamine-

finished boards for durability and easy cleaning.All Mill's Pride components.

are predrilled for quick and casy assembly.



ap2 - 72,67,101,120,127,143,157,206,235,237,262,298,300,314-12/26-2

A. 30" Pantry Cabinet

30"W x 59"H x 15-1/4"D. Two pantry doors, 3 shelves.

B. 60" Bench Top

59-1/2"W × 1"H × 16"D.

C. 15" Drawer Base

(Two shown) 15"W x 34-1/2"H x 15-1/4"D. One door, 1 drawer, 1 shelf

D. 30" Wall Unit

30"W $\times 24$ "H $\times 15$ -1/4"D. Two doors, 1 adjustable shelf.

E. 30" Base Unit

30"W $\times 34$ -1/2"H $\times 15$ -1/4"D. Two full-height doors, 1 shelf.



www.millspride.com

F. 24" Wide Wall Cabinet

24"W x 29-3/4"H x 15-3/8"D. One door, 2 shelves.

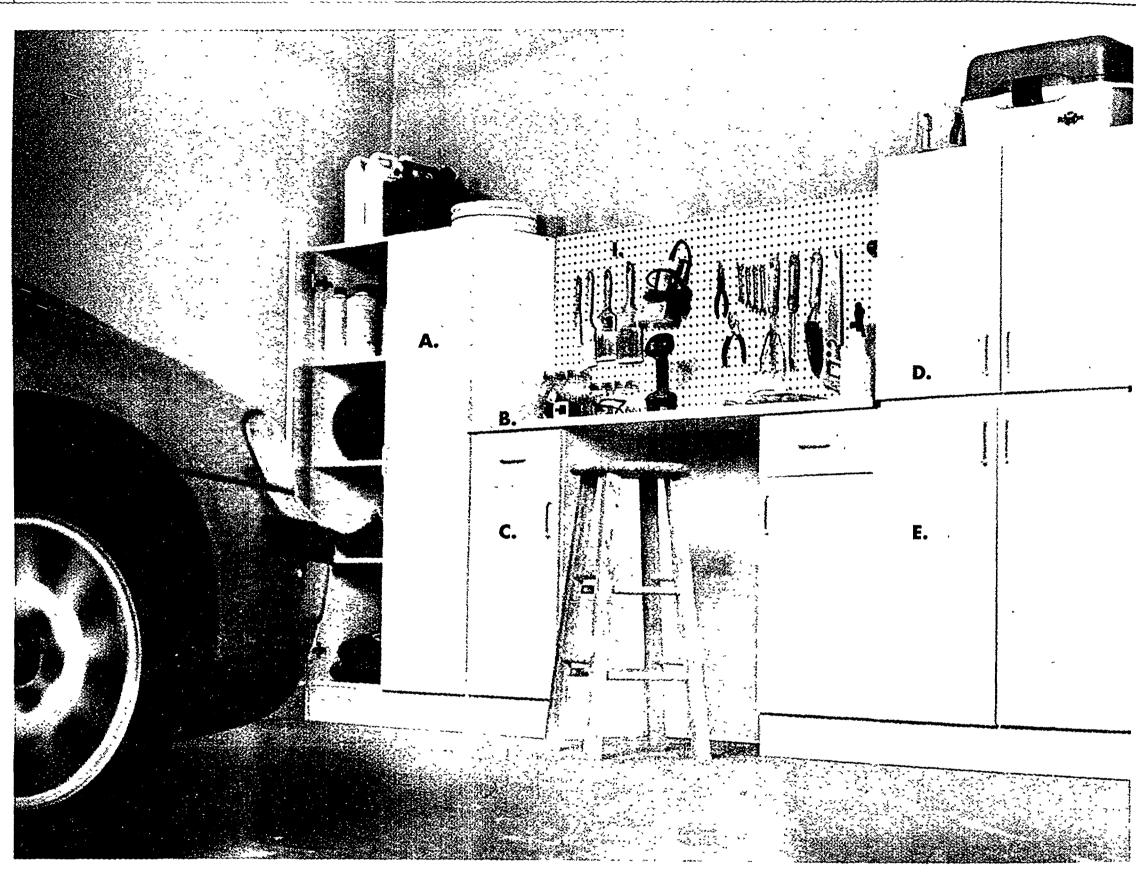
G. 54" Wall Cabinet

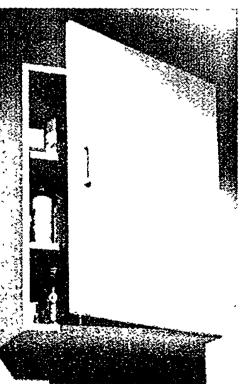
54"W x 24"H x 12-1/2"D. Two shelves, 3 doors, 1 divider.

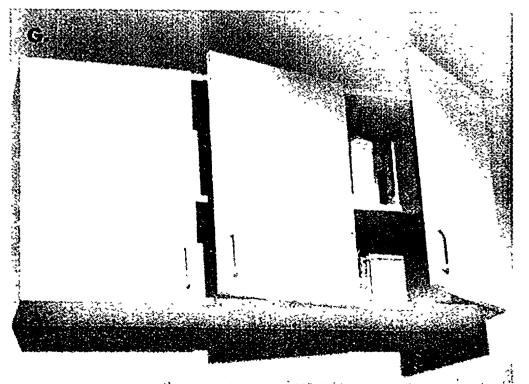
H. 24" Base Cabinet

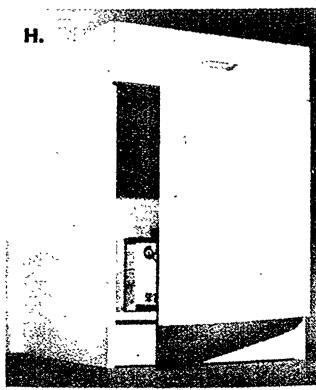
24"W x 34-1/4"H x 24-1/2"D One door, 1 drawer. Countertop sold separately.

I. 2'x4' Perforated White **Garage Liner Pegboard**











Mill's Pride Utility Store Cabinets offer durability

and uncompromising performance at a great price. Featuring a durable
5/8" construction and white Melamine

finish inside and out, U-Store cabinets are tough enough for use in the garage or laundry room, but practical enough for use in any other room in your house. Other features you'll find within the U-Store

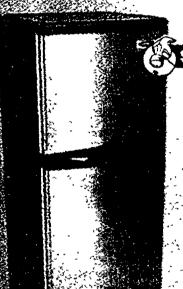
product line include:

- Heavy-duty metal, adjustable hinges
- Smooth-gliding, all-metal drawer runners
 Decorative pulls and assembly
 hardware included

No semination of the conception des



Driving Down the Cost of Home Improvement



SPECIALBUY

4.0 Cu. Ft. Stainless Style Compact' Refrigerator

- · Separate Zero Degree freezer
- Auto defrost refrigerator
 Adjustable shelving
- FCD400VW (696012)



5.0 Cu. Ft. Stainless Style Mini Refrigerator

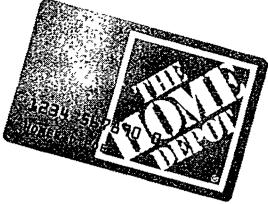
- · Black with stainless sivle reversible door
- · Wire shelving
- Crisper with glass cover
- Built-in can storage in door FC501WV, (286825)



Magic Chef

I.Z Cu. Fr.





No Payments No Interest For / **O**Months'

On all purchases of \$299 or more on your Home Depot **Consumer Credit Card**

ONLY **\$22** per month*

24.9 Cu. Ft. Refrigerator

• Water and ice dispenser

• 3 adjustable fresh food

- glass shelves
- 4 fresh food door shelves, 2 with adjustable gallon storage
- 5 wire freezer compartment shelves, 3 are adjustable 1840212, Depot Direct 821148)

Includes Icemaker



20.2 Cu. Ft. Refrigerator

• 3 adjustable glass fresh

food cabinet shelves (2 split, 1 full width) • Upfront temperature controls in fresh food section

2 clear fruit/vegetable crispers
3 (2 adjustable, 1 fixed) full-width fresh

food gallon door bins

• I adjustable full width wire freezer: compariment shelf [292282]



17.6 Cu. Ft. Refrigerator

• 3-adjustable fresh food cabinet shelves

2-fixed fresh food gallon door shelves

Never clean condenser

• Deluxe quiet design GTS18FBMVVVV (823856, Depot.Direct 821040)

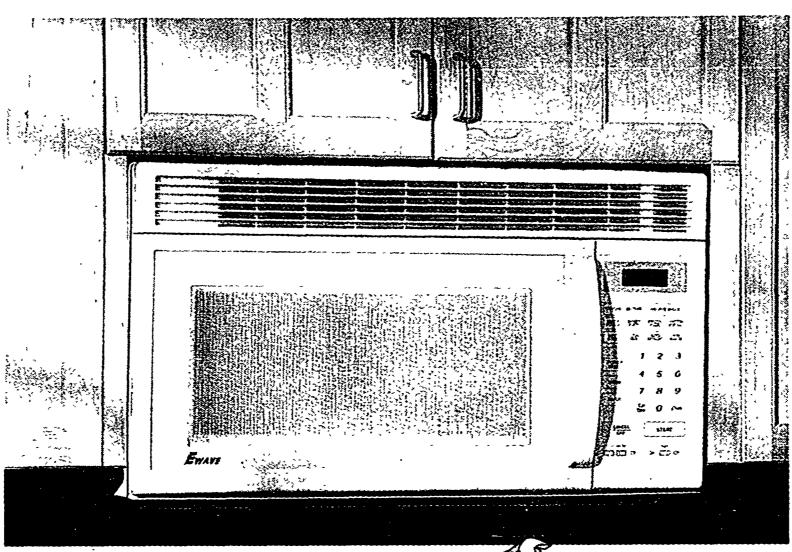


12.2 Cu. Ft. Refrigerator

Frost freeAdjustable temperature controlWire shelf

- Durable door storage EWR121W [558040]





GHAVE

1.5 Cu. Ft. **Over-the-Range Microwave**

- Choose from white or black
- 1,000 watts
- 6 pre-programmed cooking optionsWeight and time defrost
- Turntable on/off
- · Child safety lock
- While quantities last KOT152UW (640408) (638721)



^{\$}19 per month

HOTPOINT

30" Self-Cleaning Gas Range • Extra-large, self-cleaning oven

Shop On-line @ homedepot.com

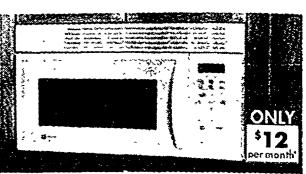
- Sealed cooktop burners
- Simmer 600 burner Heavy steel grates
- Black glass door with extra-large window RGB746HEDWH (396990, Depot Direct 656201)

30" Self-Cleaning Radiant Range • Super large 5.0 cu. It. oven capacity • Self-clean oven with self-clean latch • Two 6' and two 8' ribbon heating elements

SPECIALBUY

- Digital temperature display2 oven racks
- One-piece upswept patterned glass ceramic cooktop (459439, Depot Direct 745721)

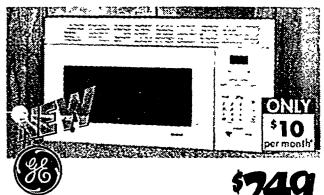
†Mnfr. mail-in rebate up to \$20 with purchase of select Sharp brand microwave ovens between October 4, 2002 and January 5, 2003. See store for details.



MAYTAG

1.5 Cu. Ft.

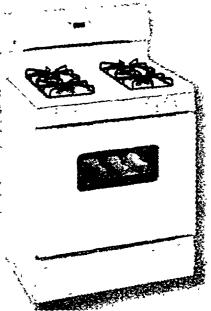
- Over-the-Range Microwave • 1000 watts, 10 power levels
- Auto defrost
- · Sensor-controlled cooking that
- monitors humidity. · One-touch convenience pads for popcorn, pizza, and other foods
- Also available in black or bisque for an additional cost.
- MMV5156AAW (302162, Depot Direct 273991)



1.4 Cu. Ft.

Over-the-Range Microwave

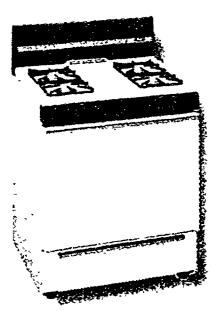
- Choose from white or black 950 watts
- 12 1/2' glass turntable10 power levels
- Instant-on express cook pads
- 3 level cooktop light and vent fan JVM1430WD (286041,283537)



\$16_.

30" Gas Range

- Sealed burners
- Electronic ignition
- 2 oven racks
- Slide-out broiler drawer (565386)



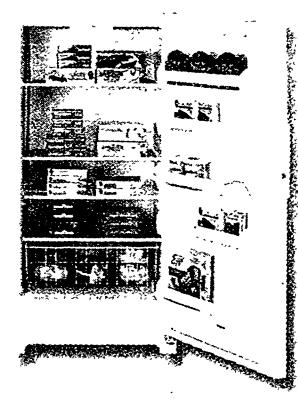
ONLY

75,72,67,101,127,139,143,157,164,169,185,208,234,235,262,300,304-12/26-2

30" Gas Range

- White
- List-up cooktop with easy-clean scrubtop
- Electronic pilotless ignition system
- Extra-large standard clean oven
- Slide-out broiler drawer (230806)





ONLY ^{\$}12

14.1 Cu. Ft. **Upright Freezer**

Manual defrost

Adjustable temperature control
4 cabinet (1 adjustable) and
5 door shelves

Defrost water drain

14.8 Cu. Ft. **Chest Freezer**

Manual defrost

Interior light

lock

Defrost water drain

Depot Direct 279143)

FCM15HDMWH (836221,

2 lift-out and sliding bulk

storage baskets

• Adjustable temperature control

9 Cu. Ft. Chest Freezer

FCM9DMWH (111409) . 239.00

 Slide-out bulk storage basket FUM14DMRWH [836250, Depot Direct 3251091

13.7 Cu. Ft. Frost Free **Upright Freezer**

FUF14DMR [403797, Depot Direct 328231]...*379.00 20 Cu. Ft. Frost Free

Upright Freezer
FUF20DMRWH (836248)... 459.00





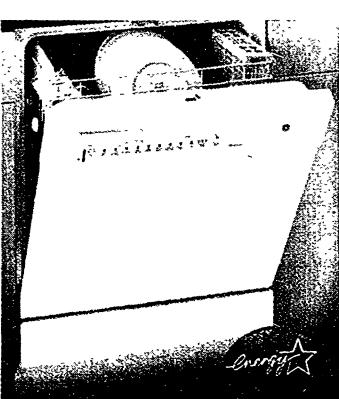
MCWC52M (155388)

16 Bottle Thermoelectric **Wine Cooler**

Maintains "ready to drink" wine temperature

• Compact size that is ideal for countertops Curved front door

Chrome wire shelves with stops Digital thermometer FCW16T (343597)



THE RESERVE THE PROPERTY OF TH

MAYTAG Jetclean® 3-Level Dishwasher

ONLY

• Choose from white or black

3-wash cycles/5-optionsQuietPower motor

7.0 Cu. Ft.

• 245 lbs. of

Chest Freezer

food storage

1 basket and drain

easy cleaning Wraparound coils

temperature levels

CO7HDA (508556)

for consistent

Rounded corners for

• Lower wash arm

Deluxe lower rack

MDBD820AVVV/B (659634, 660140)

Dishwasher

White

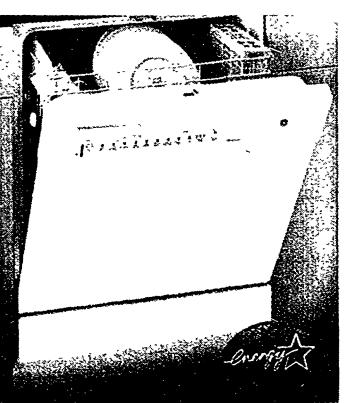
 Two level wash system; lower wash arm, center tower

• Three wash cycles/five options

• Standard upper rack

• Deluxe lower rack Quiet motor

(533725, Depot Direct 113252)



TriClean" Dishwasher

Stainless Steel

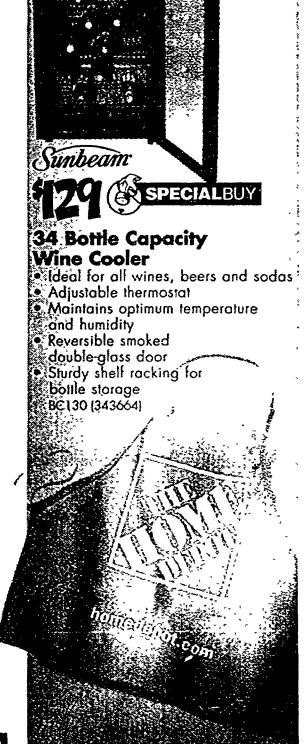
• 3 direct-feed wash arms, 6 wash levels • 100% triple water filtration, dual pumps and

motors and Piranha" hard food disposer Electronic controls with 11 touchpads and 6 cycle progress indicators

GSD5860GSS [220472]...\$499.00

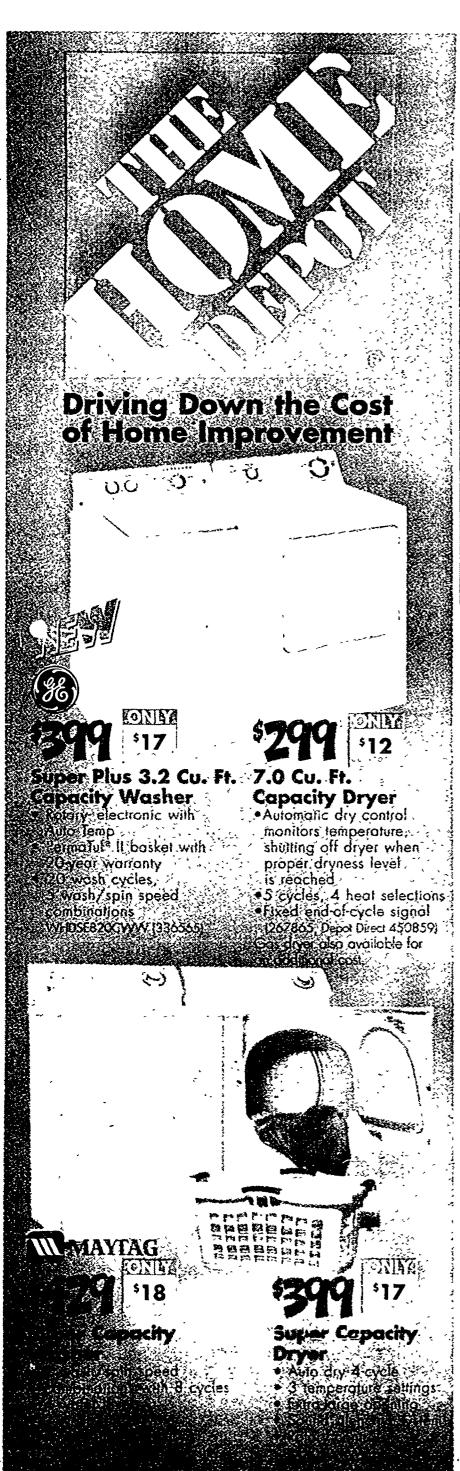
Variable cycles and options
Super upper and lower rack with 2 sets of fold-down tines and accessory basket GSD5800GWW/BB (238294, 238327, Depot Direct 249046, 2491831

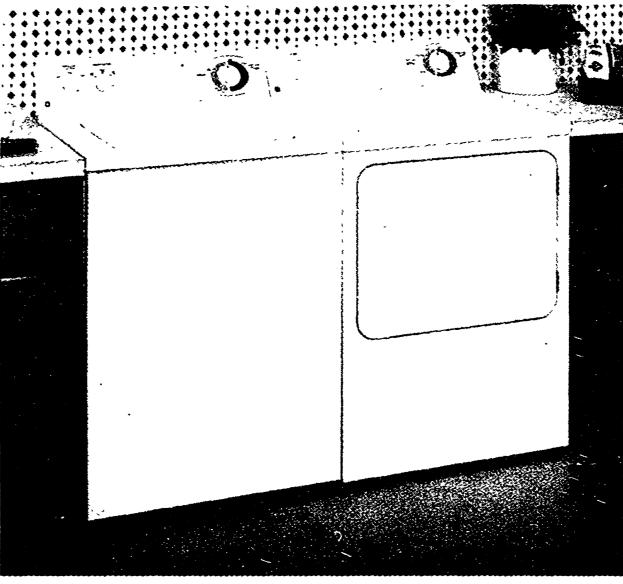
*When purchased with your Home Depot Consumer Credit Card.





No payments for 6 months on applicaces.





3.2 Cu. Ft. Super **Capacity Washer**

- Electro-mechanical controls
- Single action agitator
- 2 speed combinations/ 7 wash cycles (537845)

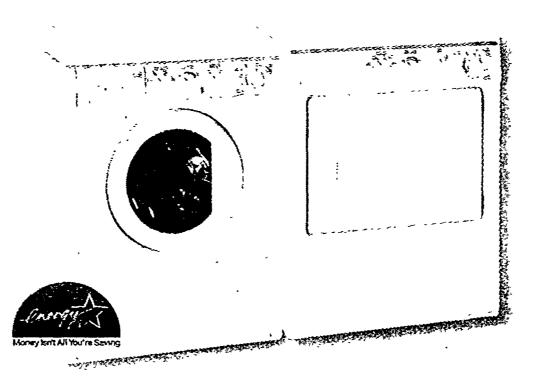




5.7 Cu. Ft. Dryer

- Extra large capacity • 2 heat selections
- 2 drying cycles
- Reversible door (537950)

Gas dryer also available for an additional cost.





Extra-Large Front Loading Washer • Extra-large 2.7 cu. ft. capacity

- Stainless steel wash drum
- 8 cycles, 4 wash/rinse temperature settings
- 2 extra rinse cycle/auto options (788308)

Special order only.



Extra-Large Front Loading Dryer

- Extra-large 5.7 cu. ft. capacity
- Rotary controls
- Under-the-counter and stacked installation options
- Painted steel drum interior
- 3 dry cycles, 4 temperature options
- Adjustable end-of-cycle signal [795626]

Gas dryer also available for an additional cost. Special order only.





ONLY

Neptune® Washer

- Easy-to-use touchpad controls No-agitator design means less
- wear and tear, so your clothes look new longer
- Removes tough stains like grass, blood and chocolate
- Saves up to \$100 per year in water and energy**- the washer that can pay for itself
- Wash fewer loads and clean big. bulky items like bedspreads and rugs MAH5500BWW [818861, Depot Direct . 203269)
- **Based on D.O.E test method compared to competitive conventional washer, 10 loads per week, average water and sewer rates,... 20 oz. electrical rate and dryer-saving. Savings will vary depending on utility rates, model replaced and usage.

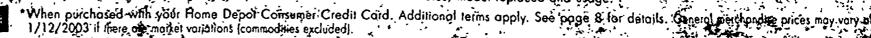


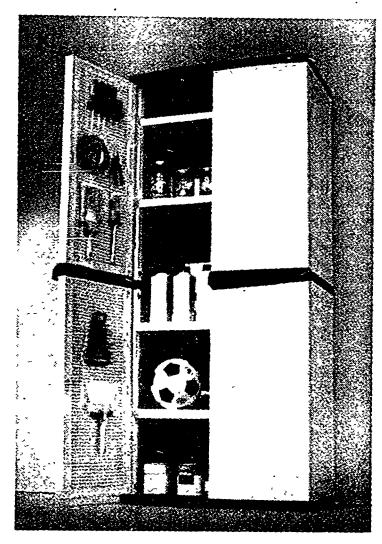


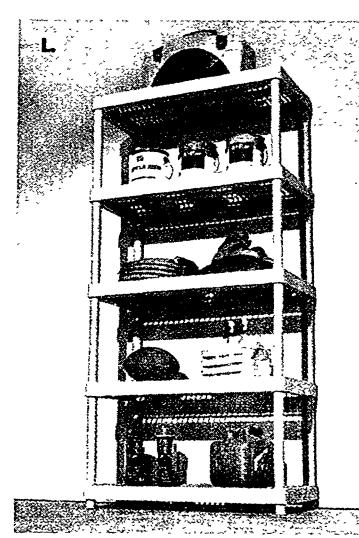
Neptune® Dryer

- Easy-to-use touchpad controls Drying options to help prevent and
- release wrinkles • Dry clothes in the same time as it takes to wash them
- Dry fewer loads and big, bulky items like bedspreads
- 5 temperature settings MDE5500AYW-[443638, Depot Direct 2043961

Gas dryer also available for an additional cost.







Assemble each as a workbench or shelf!

STACK-ON®

J. Professional Workbench 54"W x 23"D x 1-1/4" thick work surface. Pegboard back wall provides additional storage for hanging tools and supplies. Large steel drawers provide easy access to frequently used items.

(839391)^{\$}179.00

WorkForce.

K. Storage Cabinet

30"W x 70"H x 19"D. Two lockable doors. Includes 4 adjustable shelves. Features 4 pegboards with 24 tool holders. (530046)**\$79.00**

SPECIALBUY

5-Shelf **Storage Organizer**

36"W x 72"H x 18"D. Holds up to 750 lbs. Heavy-duty ventilated shelves. No tools required for assembly. Accessories sold separately. (625961) ***29.97**

SPECIALBUY

24" Deep (902519) . . . ***39.97**

M. 5-Shelf Rack/Workbench

36"W x 72"H x 18"D. Steel frame holds up to 5,000 lbs. (evenly distributed). Includes 1/2" particle board shelves and hardware. Accessories sold separately. Limited lifetime warranty.

N. 48"W x 72"H x 24"D



The Home Depot has everything you need to organize your garage including shelving units, cabinets, tool chests, toolboxes and more.

Or you can create your own shelving with

brackets and lumber. We even have pegboard, hooks and tool holders available to help you organize the little things. Talk to a Home Depot Associate to find out more ways that we can help you get organized.

No payments for 6 months on appliches:

shelving

ELOSETMAID

A. Ventilated Pantry Shelving

Vinyl-coated tight-mesh wire shelving ideal for use in pantries, garages, workshops or any other areas where storage space is needed.
Other styles are available.

20" Deep

Choose from 6' and 12' lengths...... \$2.42 lin. ft.

16" Deep

Only available in 6' lengths. **52.30** lin. ft.

12" Deep

B. Wire Shelving Bracket

Locks into vertical support poles to create a strong support for ventilated shelving. Easily movable once installed.

20"	(437145)	 ٠.			.°7.97
16"	(436417)	 		• •	.54.97
12"	(436010)	 			\$2.97

C. Vertical Support Pole

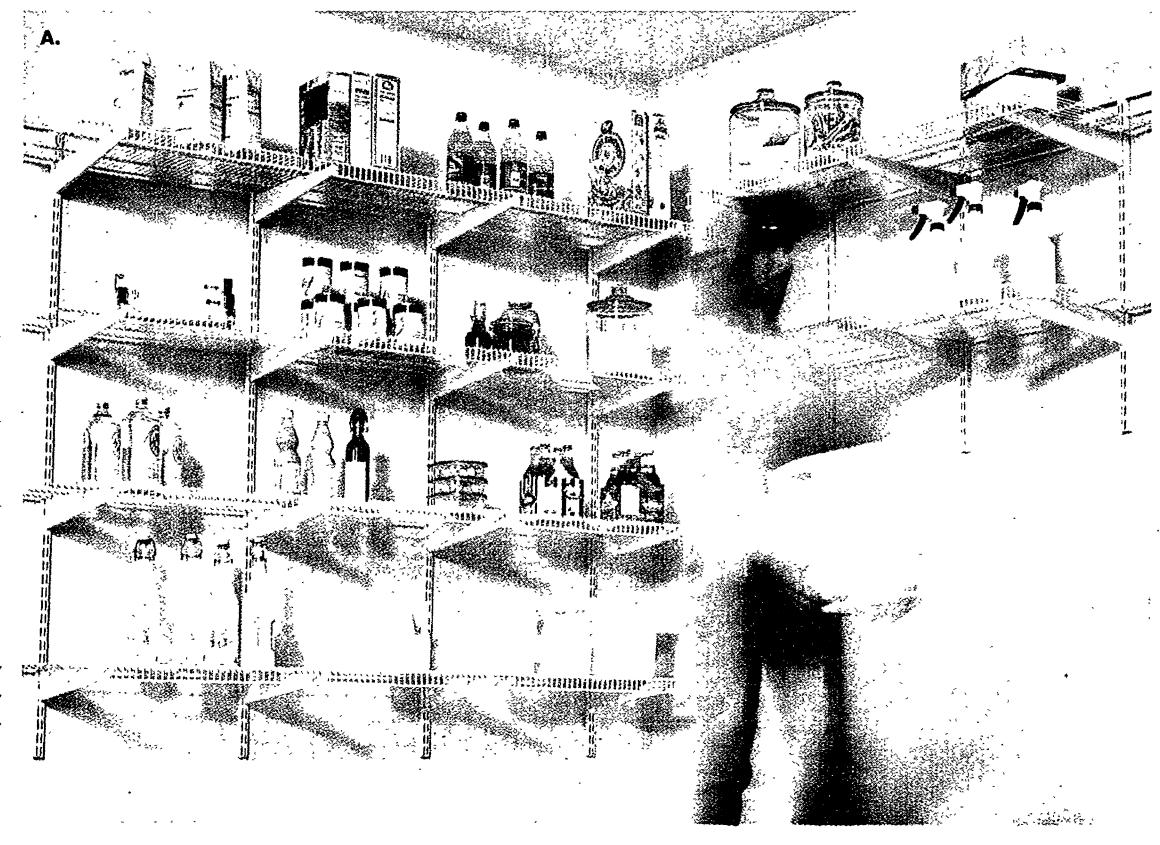
Can be attached to hang track or screwed directly into wall. When used with hang track, may be moved horizontally to adjust bracket spacing for heavier or lighter loads.

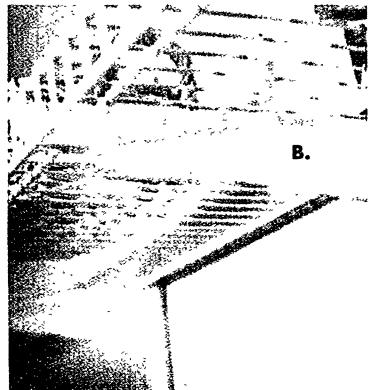
84"	(435592)	\$ 12.97
60"	(435285)	 . \$9.97
48"	(435206)	 .§6.97
30"	(434768)	 .\$4 . 97

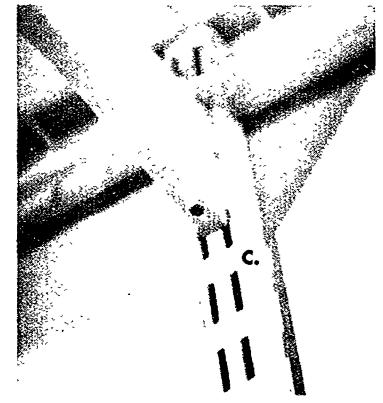
D. Hang track

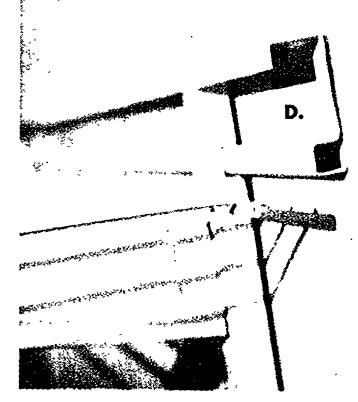
Attaches to wall. Support poles lock into it for maneuverability.

80"	(436005)	 ⁵ 12.97
40"	(435726)	 • 7.97







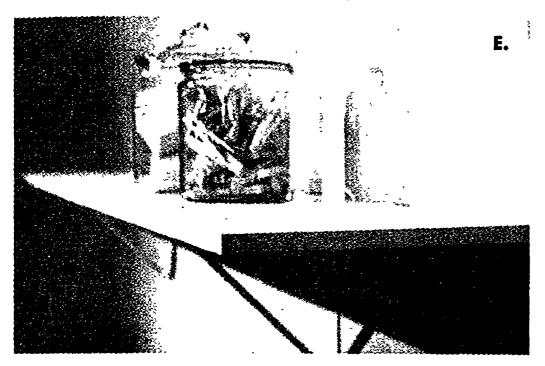


EQOSETMAID

How to hang an entire room of shelves in less than 10 minutes

With Hang Track, you can hang the room in the scene above in less than 10 minutes — with less than 10 screws! Unlike other

systems that require every bracket to be nailed to the wall, all Hang Track system pieces, including support poles, brackets and even the shelves, hang from a track, which is attached to the wall via a drywall anchor, or screwed directly into a stud. This system allows much greater flexibility because brackets can be moved to support heavy objects. It also makes installation simple and quick



Rubbermaid

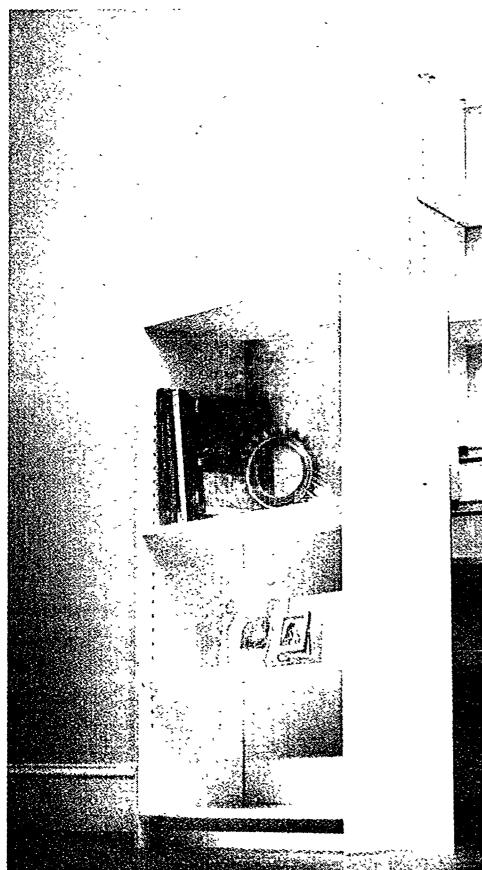
E. White Essentials Shelving · 12"x72".

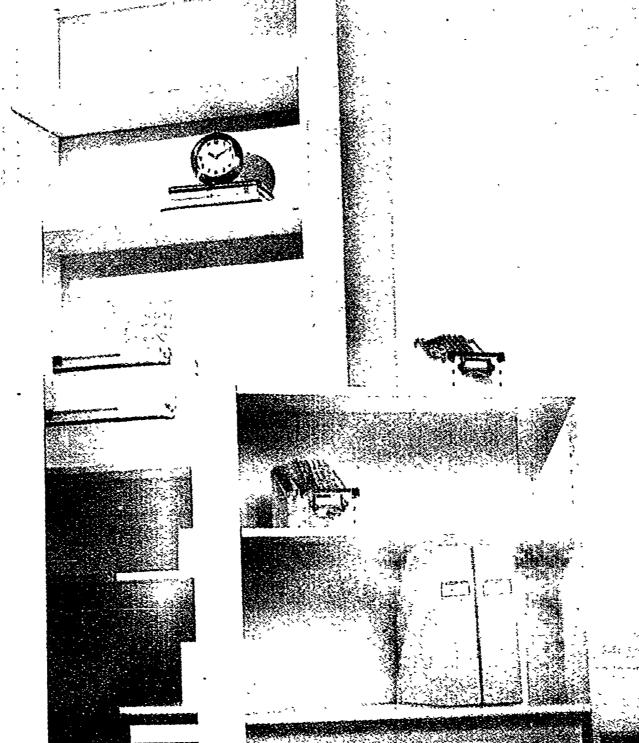
Highest quality, easy-to-clean laminate finish. Will not warp. Hardware sold separately. [598009] **\$9.97**

SIZE	SKU	price
12"x48"	(911673)	\$ 7.47
12"x36"	(911656)	§6.49
12"x24"	(559970)	⁵ 4.59
10"x72"	(278150)	\$8.97
10"x48"	(559962)	⁵ 6.90
10"x36"	(559946)	\$5.47
10"x24"	(559911)	§3.97
8"x72"	(278146)	\$ 7.97
8"x48"	(559903)	\$5.47
8"x36"	(559873)	⁵ 4.47
8"x24"	(559849)	\$3,47

	ا الم
lo. 2 Pine	
(V) & 1 111C	Control of the second

	Pine Oried Bo			1
SIZE	6'	8'	10'	12'
1'x4'	§ 2. 16	\$2.88	⁵ 3.60	\$4.35
1 " x6"	\$3.60	⁵ 4.80	\$ 5.95	\$ 7.20
1 ' x8'	⁵ 4.95	³6.58	\$8 .2 5	\$9.85
1*x10*	§6.60	\$8.80	\$10.95	⁵ 13.20
1'x12'	\$8 .90	\$11.85	^{\$} 14.85	\$1 <i>7.</i> 75





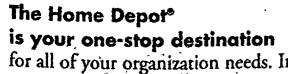


www.millspride.com

F. White or Maple Bookcase

Mill's Pride bookcases are 29-11/16"W x 11-11/16"D and feature: sturdy 5/8" construction, easy cam and bolt assembly, and a full back panel.

72" 5 Shelf (253938) (333931)	549.97
48" 3 Shelf (253937) (336960)	•39.94
28" 2 Shelf (253930) (333945)	\$29.96



is your one-stop destination for all of your organization needs. In addition to our amazing selection of closet, garage, pantry and utility storage solutions,

we also have totes, bookcases and decorative shelving. Whether you need heavy-duty steel shelving for a garage or decorative brackets for an accent shelf, we've got it.

Just ask a friendly Home Depot Associate to

help you select the perfect solution for your individual organization needs.



No payments for 6 months on appliances.



Call Stores for Hours

- burn H28s(248) 393-1004 . (810) 715-1700 (734) 844-7300 ion(South)(734) 495-9414 Mil Two (586) 948-1590 (248) 624-0196 (313) 593-4644 (313) 359-9600 (810) 714-2962 of Two. (810) 385-2932 (810) 230-8784
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(248) 347-6746 (248) 393-9990

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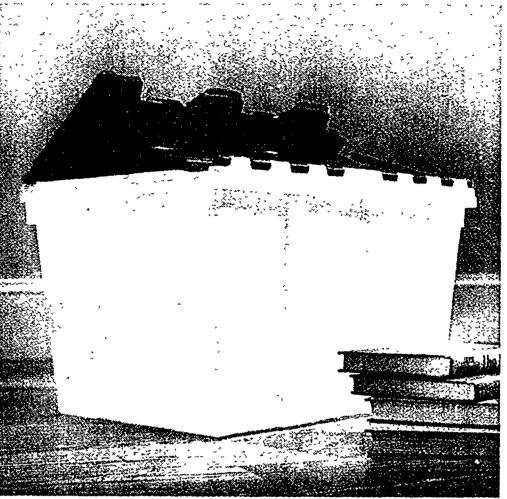
Troy (248) 589-3346 Utica (810) 726-1500 •W. Bloomfield ... (248) 865-7590





31 Gallon Rough Tote® Container

Heavy-duty, integrated handles and tight-fitting lid. Durable, rugged construction.

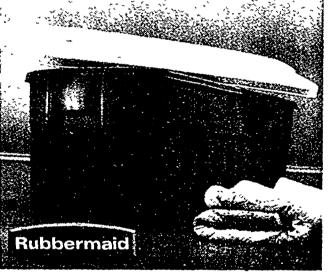


12 Gallon Multipurpose Storage Crate Translucent and stackable. Hinged lids with molded handles. Will not rust, dent, chip or peel.

Rubbermaid

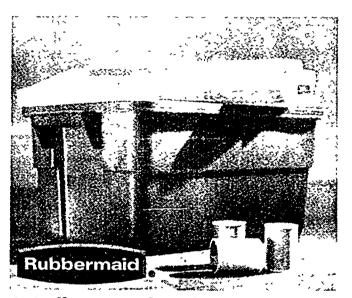
45 Gallon Wheeled Tote

Extra-large capacity for bulky items. Durable latches snap lid shut. Easy-grip, comfortable handles.



50 Gallon Jumbo Rough Tote® Container

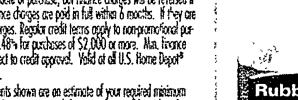
Perfect storage for garage, basement or attic. Durable and all-purpose. (801975)



3 Gallon Roughneck® Tote

Stores virtually anything. Built-in handles. Stackable. Sturdy plastic construction.





Tool

Tool Rental Center hours nay vary from store hours General merahandise prices may vary often 1/12/2003 If these are market variations

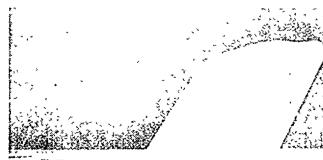
(commodates excluded).

Rental Represents stores with

Ley Credit Terms: Promests are not required for 6 months on any approved purchase of \$299 or inone charged to your Home Depots Consumer Credit (and account. Finance charges and optional inone charges and optional purchase and any insurance charges are poid in full within 6 months. If they are not you will be responsible for these charges. Region credit terms apply to non-promotoral purchases. APR is 21% (18% in W) and 15.48% for purchases of \$2,000 or more. Must france charge is \$1.00 (\$.50 in W). Offer subject to credit approval. York at all U.S. Home Depots these and the Home Depot Hoor Store."

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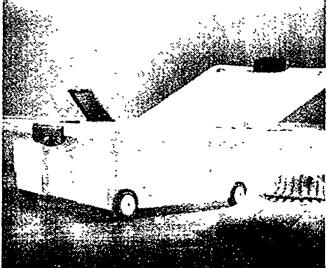
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Rubbermaid

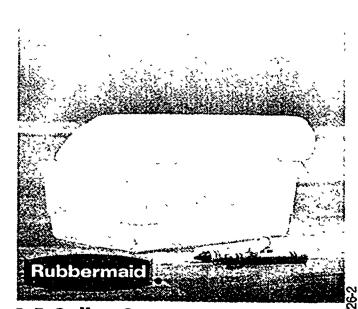
16.8 Gallon Slim Fit™ Wheeled Underbed Tote

Designed to fit in tight, narrow spaces. Reclaims unused storage space under the bed or in the closet.



10 Gallon Under-Bed **Roller Storage Box**

Rollers allow box to slide easily under beds. Features compartment to ventilate potpourri (not included) through contents. (812460) \$9.97



1.5 Gallon Storage Box Stackable. Clear plastic for easy visibility.

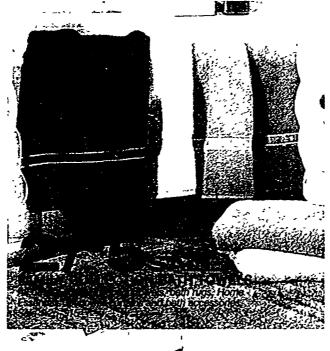
Ideal for shoes or other small objects.

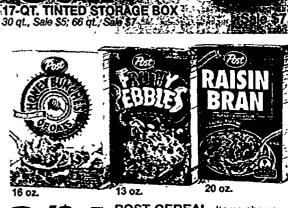
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ALL BOXED GIFT **SETS & BOXED**





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POST CEREAL. Items shown, or Honey Comb, 14.5 oz.; Cocca Pebbles, 13 oz.; or Honey Bunches of Oats with Strawberries, 13 oz.



24 regular or 12 double rolls. On sale thru Sahinday, January 4

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Thursday, December 26 thru Tuesday, December 31



ALL LADIES' and Men's COLD-WEATHER <u>ccessories</u>

LL JEWELRY BOXES AND HOLIDAY OSTUME JEWELRY

40% off SELECT KIDS' **OUTERWEAR**

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SELECT GIRLS' OR YS' TOPS, BOTTOMS, ETS OR SLEEPWEAR

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SALE 1-QT. MOBIL MOTOR OIL All-season motor oil in 10W30, 10W40 and 5W30 weights only. 1-qt. Mobil 1 oil, Was 4.99, Sale \$4





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SALE

2-LITER COKE PRODUCTS
Assorted varieties.
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2-LITER SHASTA OR FAYGO



SALE ARMOUR VIENNA SAUSAGE



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CAMPBELL'S CHUNKY SOUP



PEANUT BUTTER OR JELLY Item shown; or Smucker's grape jelly, 32-oz. net wt.



Dinty Moore



















SALE CLEANERS. Items shown or Murphy Oil Soap Wipes, 18 ct.





look what \$5 and under will buy





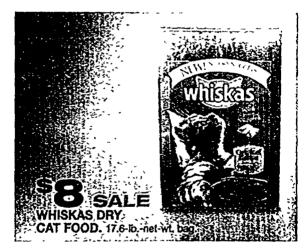








days Sale









SALE KIBBLES 'N BITS ORIGINAL 35 lbs. Hartz Dog treats 1-2-lb. bag, Sale \$8 At some are not set.



SALE **ARM & HAMMER CAT LITTER** Super Scoop, 21 lb. or Crystal Blends,14 lb.



SALE RED CEDAR PET BEDDING. 5 cu ft. Pine bedding; 5 cu. ft, Sale \$5



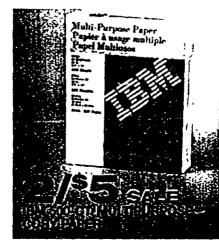
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Full-Queen/King, Sale \$15-\$21



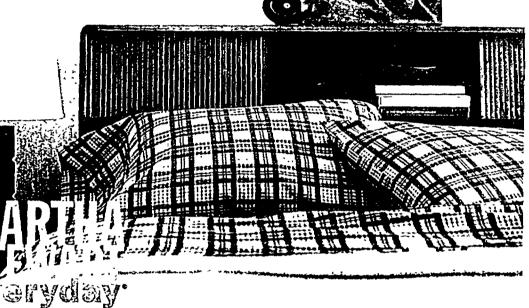
SALE Was 12.99

MARTHA STEWART EVERYDAY® **FLEECE THROWS**

SALE Was 24:99 MARTHA STEWART EVERYDAY* TWIN FLEECE BLANKET

Full-Queen/King, Sale \$26-\$34







MARTHA STEWART EVERYDAY*
TWIN VELLUX* BLANKET Full-Queen/King, Sale \$19- \$28 8 of West Point Stevens Inc. I



SALE Was 39.99 TWIN ELECTRIC BLANKET Full-King, Sale \$45-\$75 Styles may vary by store

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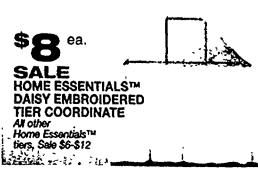




WINDOW TOPPERS Other Home Essentials™ window toppers, Was 11.99, Sale \$9



ea. SALE Was 6.99 HOME ESSENTIALS™ LACE WINDOW COORDINATE Lace panels with attached valance, Sale \$8







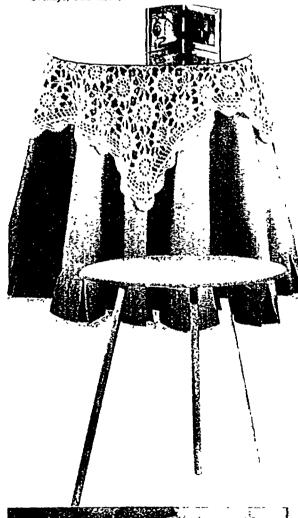
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\$12 SALE
TWIN EYELET LACE SHEET SET
Coordinating twin conforter, Sale \$39
All other lace bedding, Sale \$10-\$59

SAVE 35% 2/\$9 SALE Was 6.99 ea.

20" ROUND DECORATIVE TABLE OR GLASS TOP

Martha Stewart Everyday* Decorative Tablecovers and Overlays, Sale 4.25-\$11







2/\$5

Was 2.99 ea.

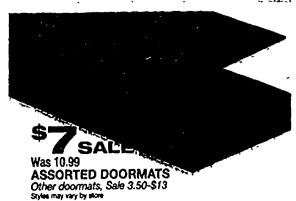
HOME ESSENTIALS™ KITCHEN TOWELS

Other Home Essentials™ kitchen towels,
pot ho'ders and oven mitts, Sale 1.75-3 50





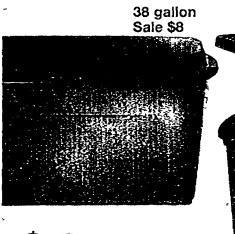








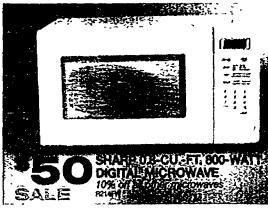
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SALE 20-GALLON HOLIDAY TOTE

38-gallon holiday tote, Sale \$8 50-gallon holiday tote, Sale \$12 All other holiday red and green storage containers, Sale \$3-\$12













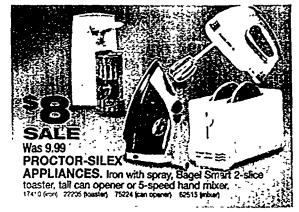


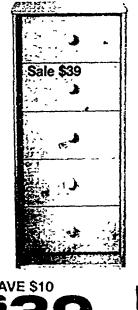
GRIDDLE OR OBLONG SKILLET WWGD-100 (ghoode) WWSK5044 skillet



Sale \$69







SAVE \$10 SALE

Was 49.99 4-DRAWER DRESSER, LINGERIE CHEST OR STUDENT DESK

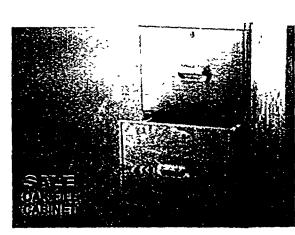
Chifferobe, Sale \$69, Armoire, Sale \$79
Asolavallable in muber thish All furniture on this page is easy to assemble furniture available in most stores.





Şale \$79

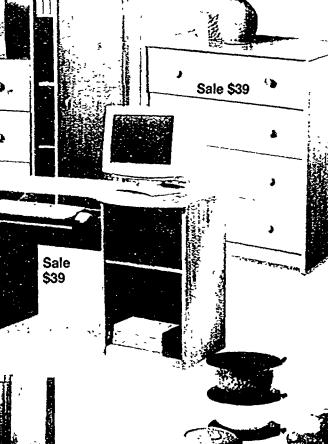
Sale \$39



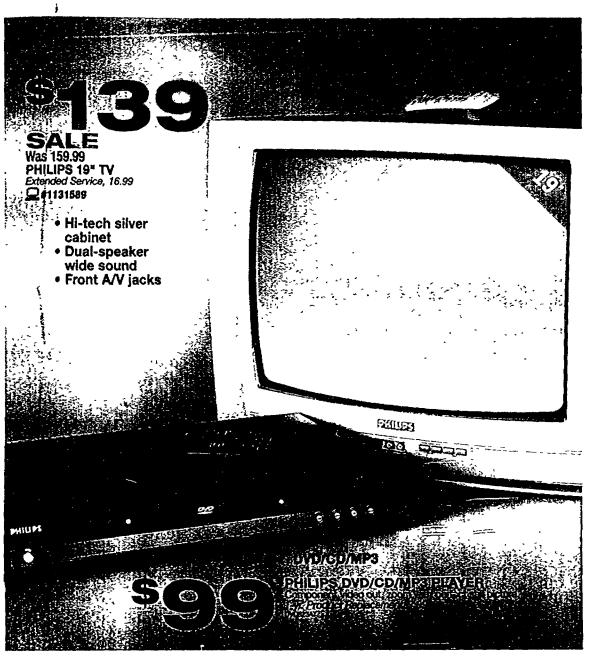
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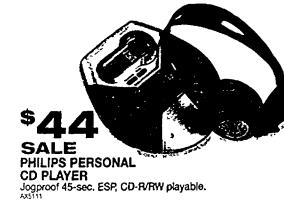
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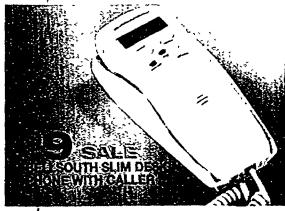


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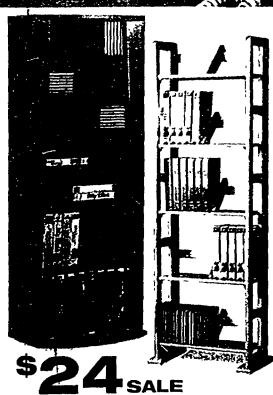












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Lyric booklets included



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TODAY'S COUNTRY HITS



\$7ea.

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STANDARDS

Video Games!



BLOODRAYNE



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Sale





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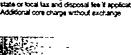
Base utility cabinet, Was 39.96, Sale \$29 Wall utility cabinet, Was 29.96, Sale \$20

Available in the Home Improvement Department











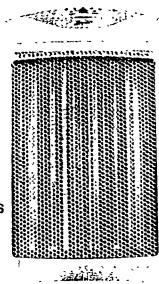
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Rebate form on package.

PEAK 1-GALLON PRE-MIXED ANTIFREEZE No mixing needed.
Rebate limited to mix's stipulations.



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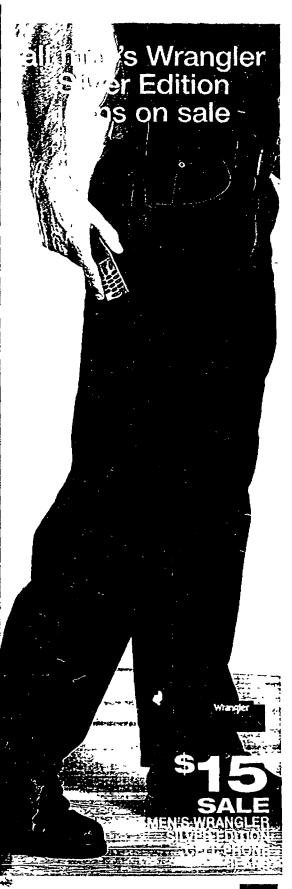




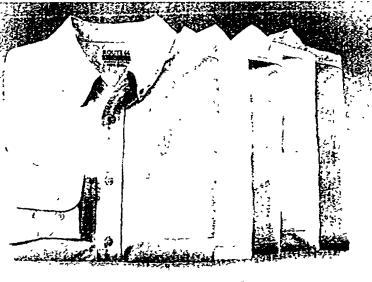














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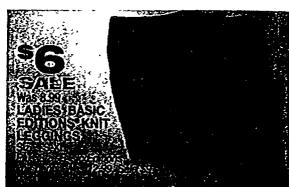




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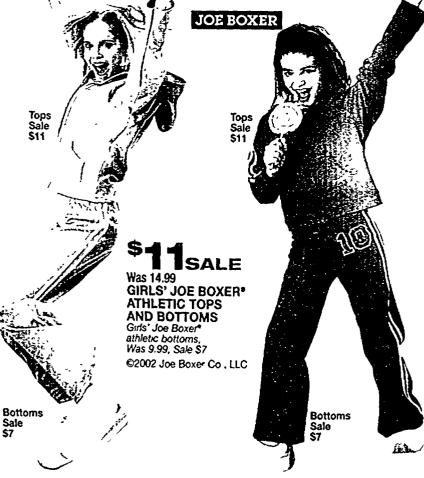




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Tops, sizes M-XL; pants, sizes S-XL.
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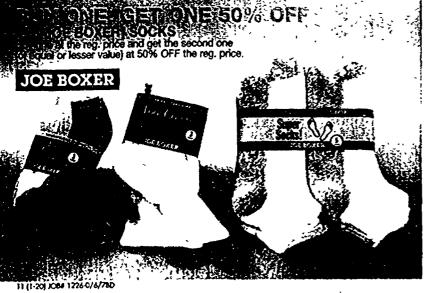
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1

P&G





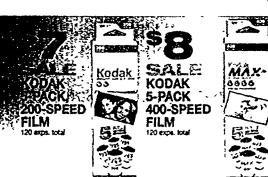
FABRIC SOFTENER Downy, 40 fl. oz. or 80-ct sheets; or Bounce, 80-ct. sheets.



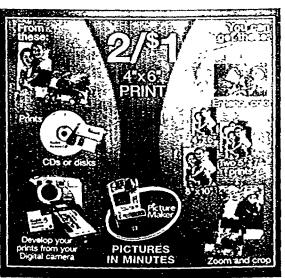
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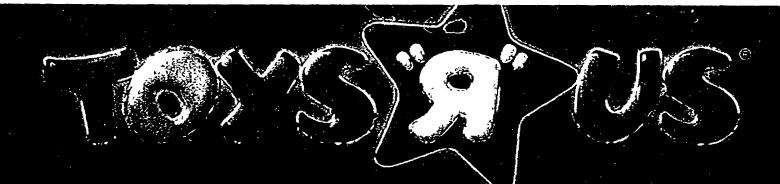
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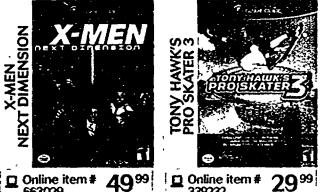
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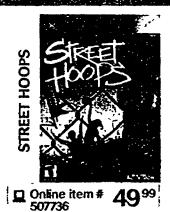


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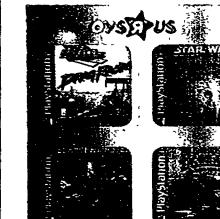


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Includes these 6 Playstation titles: IHRA Motorsports Drag Racing, Star Wars Episode I: The Phantom Menace, Skydiving Extreme, Blaster Master-Blasting Again, The Dukes Of Hazzard-Racing For Home and Burstrick-Wake Boarding

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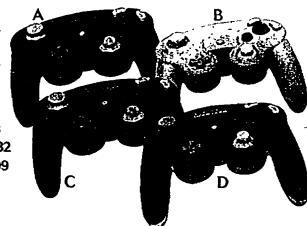


GameCube 4MB **Memory Card** 532587



GameCube Controller

Online item #'s A. 313494 B. 313632 C. 313691 D. 313699





GameCube WaveBird **Wireless Controller**

☐ Online item # 542906



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GameCube/GameBoy Advance Cable ☐ Online item # 512740

PlayStation 2

149⁹⁹

PlayStation 2 5" Color Game Screen

PS2 system, controller and game sold separately.

Online item # 491988



Online item # 071814.



PlayStation 2 Memory **Expansion Pack**

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PlayStation 2 DVD **Remote Controller**

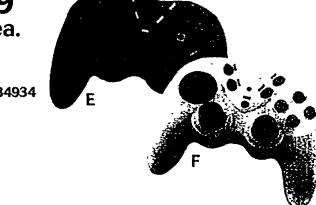
Online item # 417915



PlayStation Dance Mat Online item # 501412

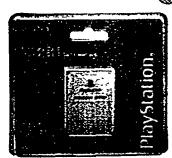


PlayStation Controller E. 235213 F. 234934 Not shown: Silver 234993





RFU Adapter Online item # 095047



PlayStation 15 Block **Memory Card** 242503

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reg. 39.99 GameBoy Advance 16-Pc. Mega Bundle Pack Gameboy Advance system sold separately.



98 **GameBoy** Advance Wing Grip Power Pack 318968



98 **Game Boy** Advance

Power Station

311033

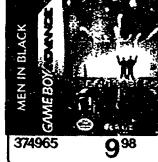


Canvas Shoulder Holster Online item #

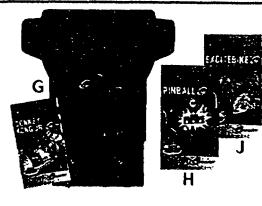


Online Item # 438637









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Donkey Kong Jr. included. Plugs in to Game Boy Advance. Additional e-Reader Cards sold separately, G. 662693

e-Reader Cards . . . 4.99 ea. H. 662456 J. 662440



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Disney Princess Stories 566589 Phonics #2 Tad's Good Night 538496



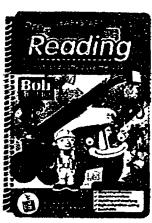
☐ Online item #'s **Making Movies** 661719 Geography Seven Continents 051635 The Human Body 051589

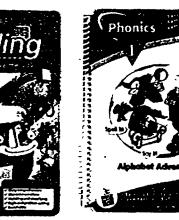
IQuest Software Grades 6-8

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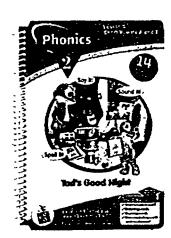
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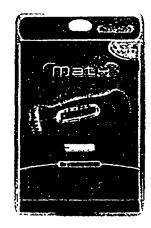






choice **Turbo Twist Software**

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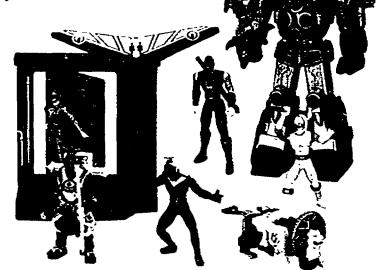
Power Rangers Ninja Storm Ages 4-up.

Online item # 680195



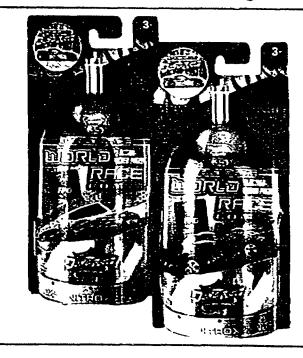
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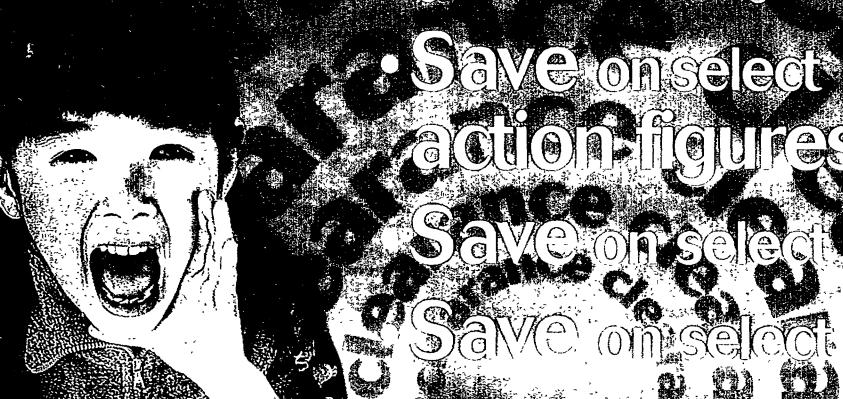
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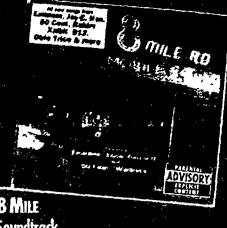


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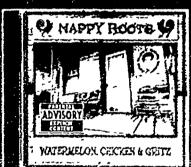


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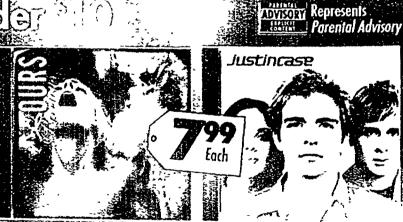


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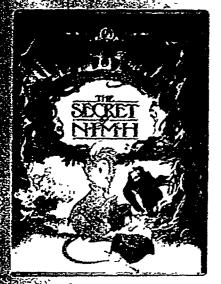
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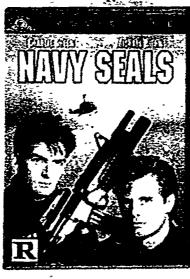
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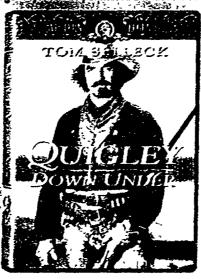
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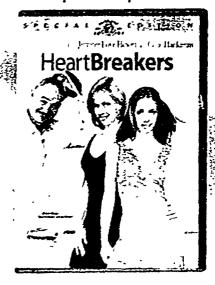
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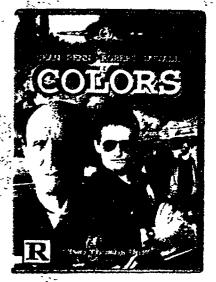
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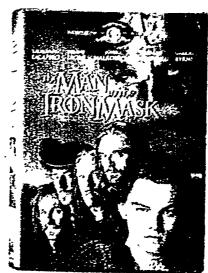


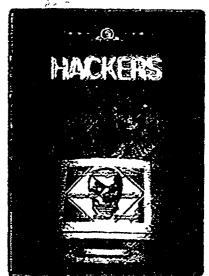














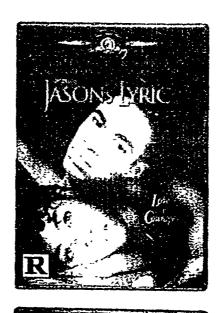
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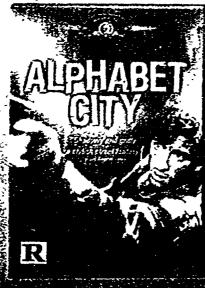




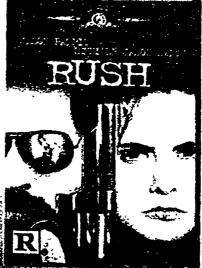


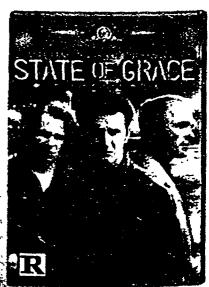












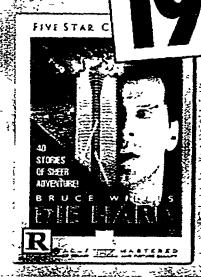
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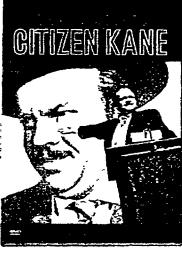












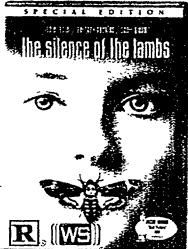




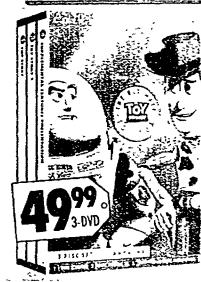


















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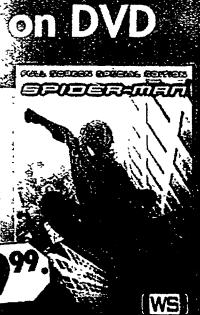
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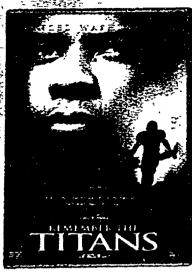


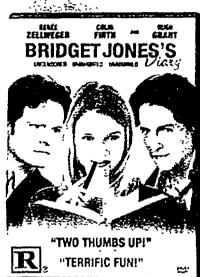
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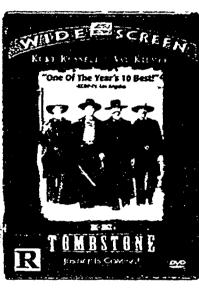
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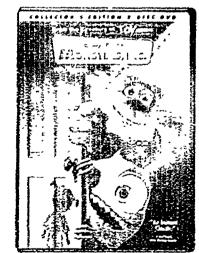




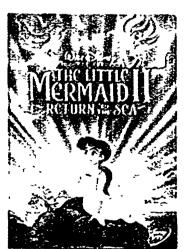












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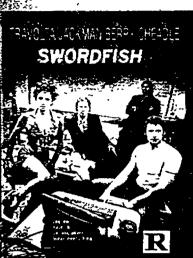












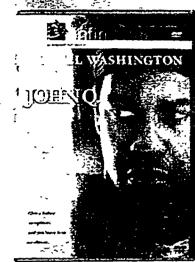




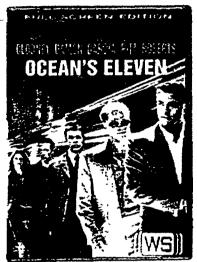














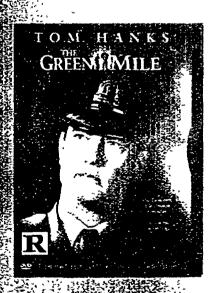
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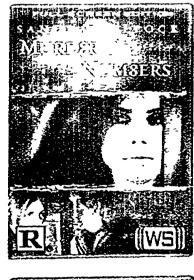
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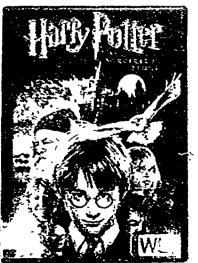












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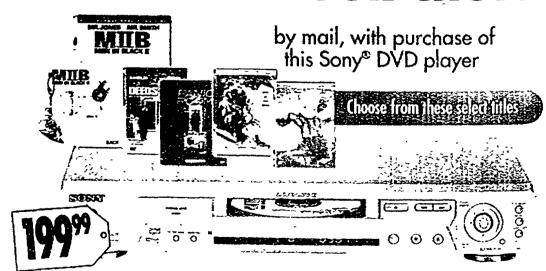
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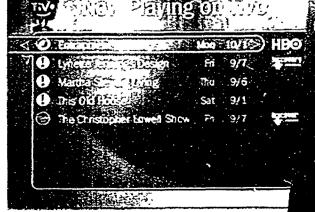
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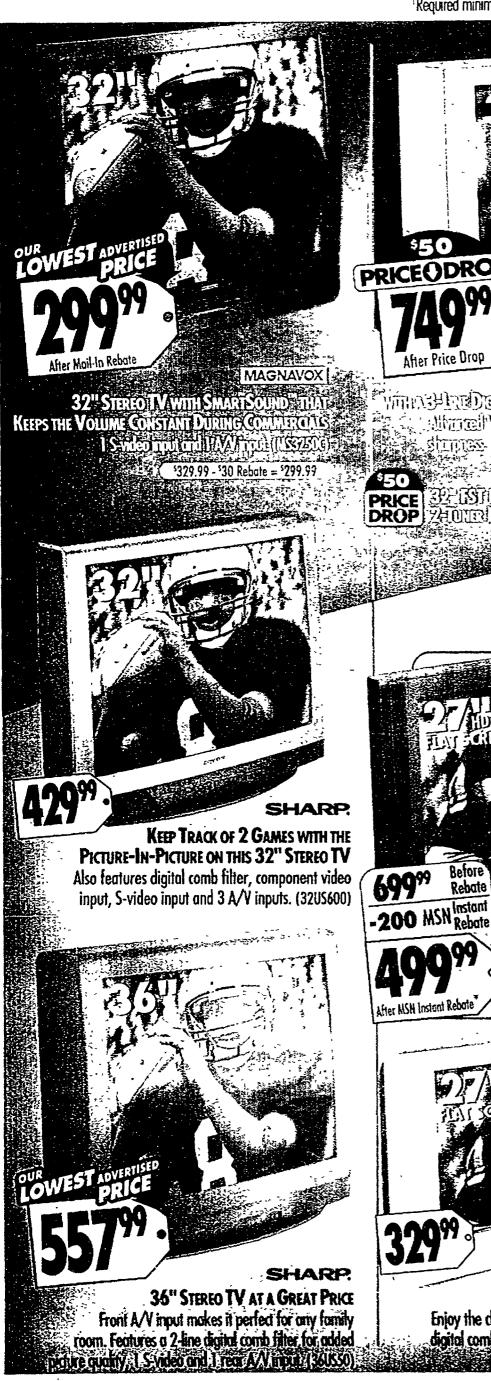


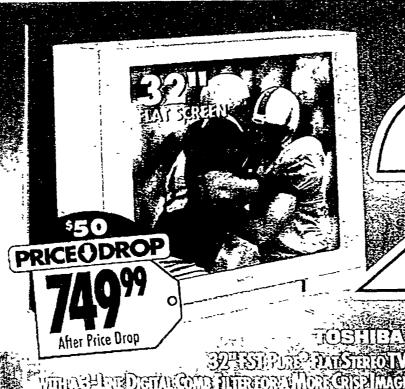
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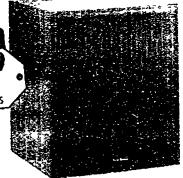
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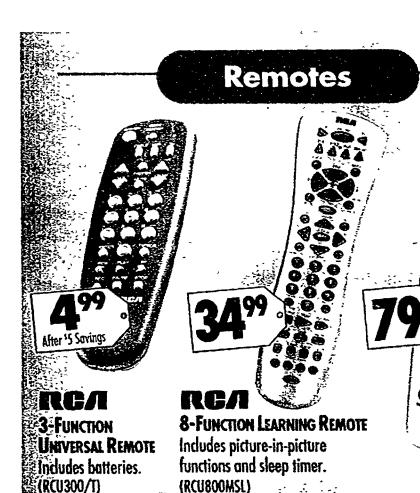
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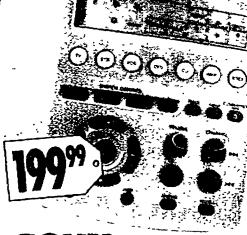


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UNIVERSAL HOME
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Includes learning

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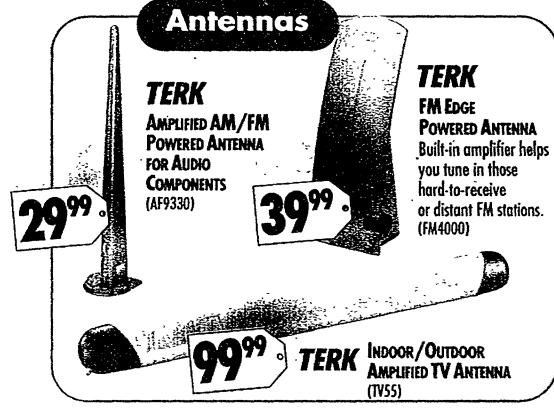


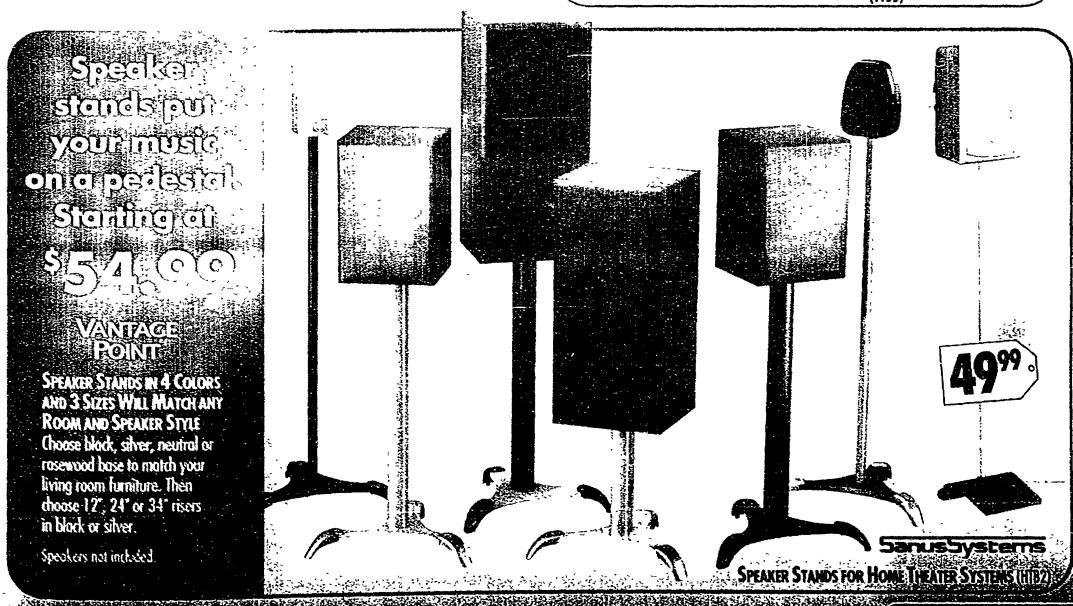




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use of PCS Vision⁴⁴ from Sprint plus

Unlimited night and weekend minutes for 30 per month

including 300 anytime minutes

PCS Vision requires a Vision-enabled phone. After months, pay just \$40 per month for PCS Free and Geor Plan with Vision. Offer ends 12/31/02.



\$179.99 - \$80 PCS Mail-In Rebate = \$99.99



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minutes

for \$39.99 per month² including long distance and no roaming charges on AT&T Wireless National GSM Charter Plans

or **Unlimited**

night and weekend minutes

for \$34.99 per month² including long distance and no roaming charges

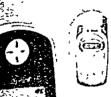
PLUS

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\$129.99 - \$130 Rebote = FREE Phone (Sales fax not included.)

Offers end 12/31/02. New activation and term agreement required. Sovings may not exceed purchase price of phone. \$150 termination and a \$34.99 activation fee apply. Depending on credit, prepayment, \$125 or \$250 deposit may apply. Subject to credit approval. Restrictions apply. See in store materials for details. Sprint service is not available in Alaska; Bangar, ME; Montana; Santa Maria and San Luis Obispo. CA.

² No rooming charges good only on the AT&T Wireless Network. 2 year service agreement and ⁵36 activation fee required. Phones not available in all markets. Restrictions may apply. See store for details.

³ Phone not available in Rochester and St. Cloud, MN; Anchorage, AK and Sarasota, FL.

Not available in San Luis Obispa, CA; Athens, GA; Roddard, IL; 1 15th and Metcall, Lee's Summit and Olathe, KS; Frederick, MD; or Benjamin Plaza, Metro North, Noland Road and Overland, MO.

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after mail-in rebates**

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Credit approval and activation on eligible Cingular calling plans required. Hyear agreement required.

Without eligible activation or renewal, add 5200 to the price of the phone. No additional night and

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Cheap

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Final Week! FREE \$20

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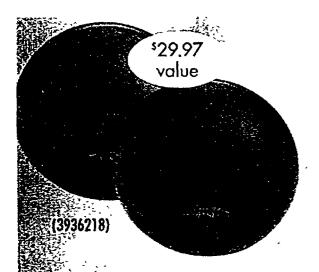
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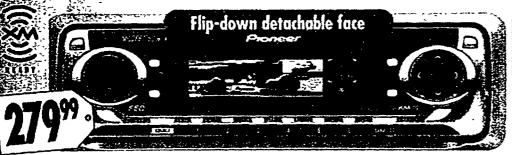
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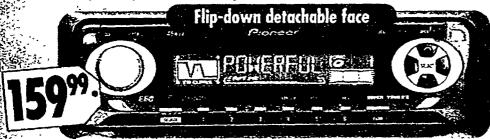
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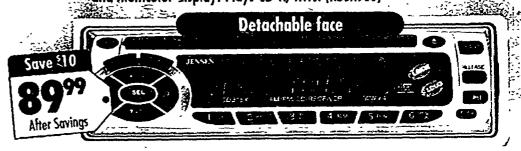


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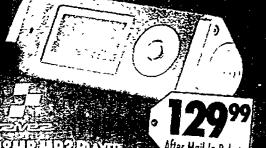




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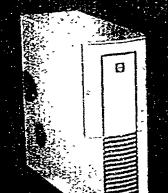
your favorite brand at our in-store Computer Creation Station.



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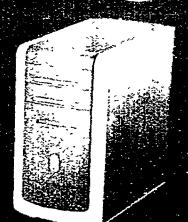
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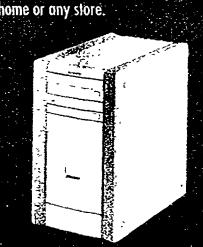




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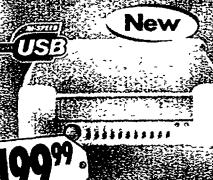
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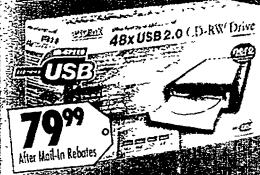


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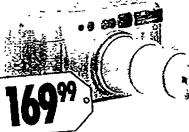
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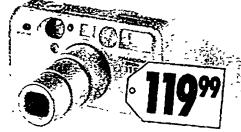
38-170mm Zoom **ALL-WEATHER CAMERA WITH ED GLASS LENS ELEMENT**

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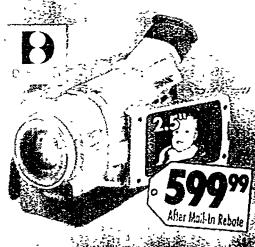
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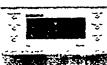
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Builder of the Month Vantage Construction Co.

By Molly Tippen

I magine walking through an elegant estate home with more than 4,200 square feet in a beautiful Brighton setting. Picture a first floor master suite with a lighted tray ceiling, marble vanity countertops and a Jacuzzi tub. Envision its large kitchen complete with hearth room, butler pantry, granite countertops and two-sided fireplace.

Visitors to the 2002 Cavalcade of Homes didn't need use their imaginations. This home in Brighton's Pine Creek Ridge won Best in its Class at last spring's prestigious home show. Owners of Vantage Construction Homes don't need to imagine this level of craftsmanship either – the company specializes in turning the imagined into reality.

Start with Service

Excellence doesn't come easily - it's the result of careful attention to detail and hard work. Each Vantage custom home is the result of years of experience, integrity and professionalism.



Partners Scott Visger and Brian Parsons, as well as senior staff members Bob Kohlhorst and Dale Risden, have made these qualities the hallmarks of their business to make certain that each customer receives the superior quality synonymous with Vantage-constructed homes.

It all starts with service, according to Visger. Vantage is not a mass production builder. The company limits its production to 12 to 15 homes each year to ensure personal attention and quality control. "We didn't want an environment where we were removed from the building process," Visger explains. "We want to give each home buyer the benefit of our experience."

As homeowners quickly discover, this experience has a wide reach. Their knowledge of building comes from first-hand work on various aspects of the building process. Parsons has hands-on experience in residential carpen-

try, remodeling and project supervision. A civil engineer, Visger's background includes design and engineering, estimating and project management on residential as well as large commercial projects. The two merged these talents to form Vantage Construction. Their combined experience equals more than 40 years.

Customers benefit from Vantage professionalism, both on site and off. Vantage has the organizational structure in place to maintain costs, schedules and customer selections that some smaller custom builders simply can't offer. At the same time, Vantage is not so large that the customers' questions can't be answered quickly by individuals with field experience and building know-how.

Instead, Vantage strikes a middle ground. This thoroughly organized company is the perfect size to manage the entire building process clearly and concisely. As a result, Vantage builds its homes on-schedule and within homeowners' cost expectations.

Planning Success

Vantage specializes in building homes that reflect their homeowners. As a custom builder, the company's in-house design service can plan a home from scratch from homeowners' specifications. Vantage will help the homeowner select the site to eliminate surprises that may emerge during construction or design a



plan for a lot that has already been chosen. Vantage also partners with architects homeowners have selected to produce a cost-effective and construction friendly design that works for all three parties.

"We prefer to work with the customer's ideas," says Visger. "Our products are nothing without the customer's ideas and input. Our goal is to use our skills and expertise to bring life to those ideas."

Unlike other builders, Vantage Construction does not discourage changes mid-way through a project. Vantage sees the process as a collaboration of ideas and needs. "It's just part of what it takes to create a home that is unique and beautiful." he says.

Once a plan is designed, Vantage walks the homeowner through each step of the building process. Knowing most homeowners don't build a house every day, Vantage breaks the process down to three, easily understandable stages. Clearly outlining these steps, and providing regular coaching and guidance, helps ease anxiety and ensures that each step goes smoothly.

"Homeowners' biggest concern is finding builders they can trust, professionals who will do what they say they are going to," Visger



otos provided by Rosh Sillars



says. "We think our emphasis on service and making the building process easier is what sets us apart."

This emphasis on service has helped build this company's reputation. Vantage earns constant referrals and is often asked to return to homes it has constructed when remodeling is needed. These referrals have helped build the basis of this remodeling division, specializing in basement and bonus room conversions, as well as additions.

Start with the best

Of course, any homebuilder's most distinguishing characteristic is craftsmanship. Vantage

homes like to start out with the best – in materials and talent — and work their way up. After all, only quality can produce quality.

Each Vantage-constructed home boasts features considered expensive extras by other builders: two-story great rooms, decks, premium appliances, and abundant wood and ceramic tile floors. No detail is spared, from brick and stone detailing, to great rooms overlooked by a second story bridge and balcony.

Focusing on details and craftsmanship also means hiring superior sub-contractors. Vantage enjoys many long-term relationships with talented tradespersons, guaranteeing



dependability and the utmost in quality.

This combination of materials and tradespeople has earned the company the Best of Class distinction for 3 of the 4 years it has participated in the Cavalcade of Homes. "We want to give our customer the best the industry has to offer," says Visger.

The company offers custom building services throughout Livingston County as well as West Oakland and North Washtenaw Counties. Currently Vantage is building in the Pine Creek Ridge subdivision just minutes from downtown Brighton, and the Winans Woods subdivision in Hamburg Township. The size and price of Vantage homes vary between 2,500 square feet to 10,000 square feet with prices ranging from \$300,000 to more than \$1 million.

Vantage will expand its services in 2003. The company plans to add staff to handle a new division dedicated to small commercial construction.



A fine example of a Vantage basement build out.

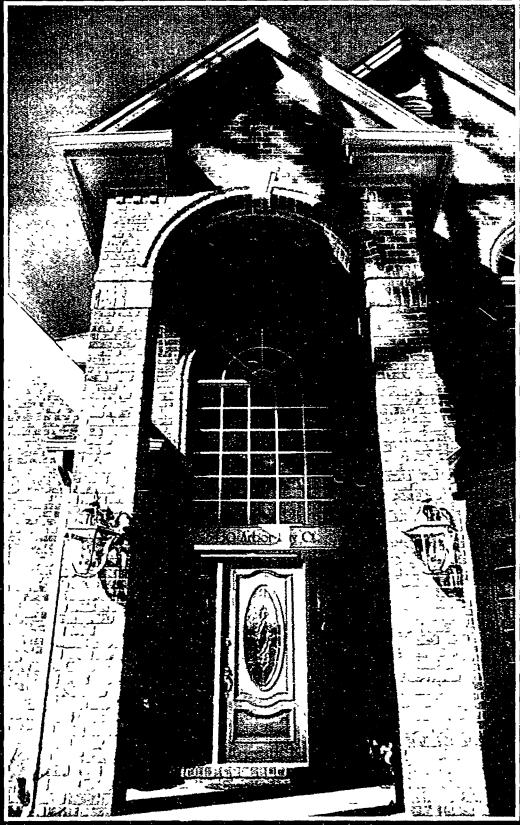


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8th Annual Floor Plan Issue

THE ADVANTAGES OF PURCHASING A NEW HOME: NUMEROUS ADVANTAGES

Then planning your new home, keep in mind that this is your chance to truly have the home you've been dreaming of. The advantages are plenty:

Convenience. Kitchens in new homes usually have dishwashers and other appliances built-in for convenience. Nearly all new homes are built with convenient central heating and, in warm climates, central air conditioning. Space heaters and room air-conditioners are not needed. There are more electrical outlets, as well as outlets for cable TV and telephone. Bathrooms often have more convenient features such as vanity cabinets, large mirrors and medicine cabinets, whirlpool tubs and easy-to-clean plastic tub enclosures.

Safety. Occupants of new homes are much less likely to die from fire than occupants of older homes.

Many new homes have hard-wired smoke detectors on every level. Usually they are interconnected so that if one detector alarm sounds, they all sound. In many areas, smoke detectors are required to have battery back-up. This feature allows detectors to function even when the power goes out.

Space heaters and wood stoves, the second leading cause of fire deaths, are not needed in new homes because of more efficient central heating systems and better insulation.

Electrical power systems in new homes are properly sized for the heavier electrical demands of today's homes, and wiring systems are less likely to cause fires. There also are more receptacles so people need fewer extension cords which can overload circuits, trip people and start fires if they become worn and frayed.

Circuit breakers have replaced fuse boxes which can be overloaded by using the wrong size fuse. Ground fault interrupters for bathrooms,

2003 Floor Plans pg 8 Wexford pg 9 BRG Custom Homes

kitchens, and outside receptacles reduce the chance of fire and electrocution.

Glass in tub enclosures and patio doors in new homes must be tempered so that it will crumble if broken instead of shattering into large jagged pieces that can seriously injure people.

Health. Much has been learned about the health risks of certain home building products in recent years. The industry has responded by building with products and systems that make new homes better for your health than older homes.

Asbestos has been eliminated from shingles,

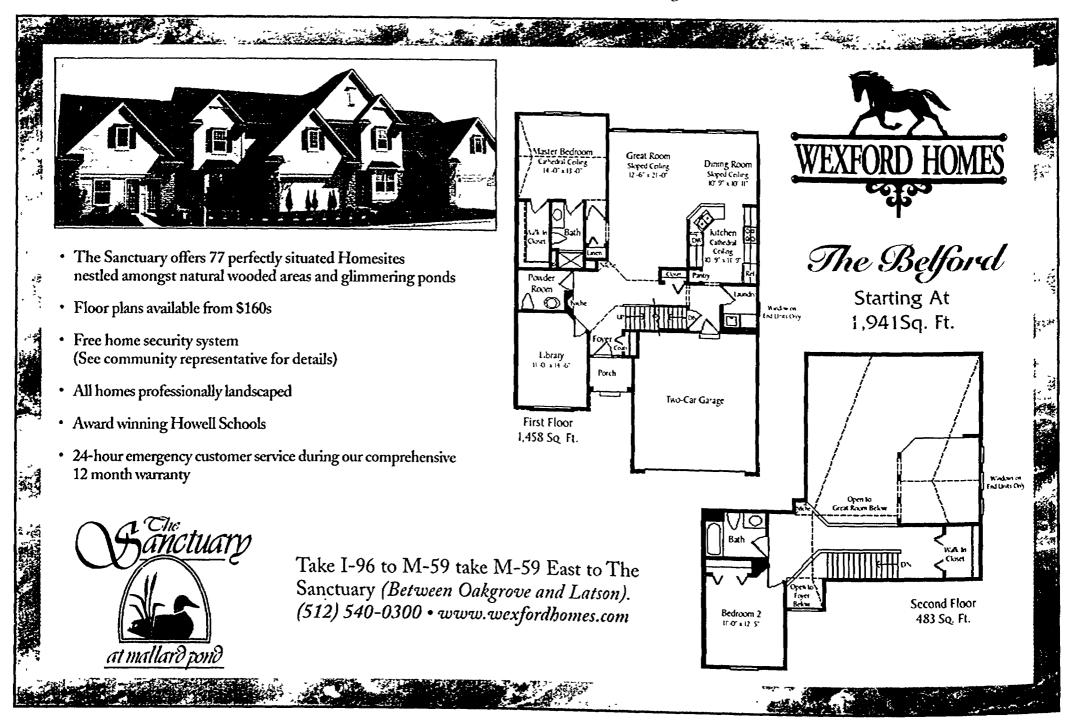
pipe, cement board, roof tar, floor tiles, ceiling tiles and insulation. If asbestos fibers become airborne, they can increase the risk of respiratory

diseases.

Lead can cause a wide range of physical and mental ailments. It is not used as an ingredient in paint anymore, and it is no longer used as solder for plumbing. Formaldehyde emissions from particle board and hardwood plywood have been greatly reduced in new homes. And ureaformaldehyde finishes on most kitchen cabinets are now baked or cured to minimize emissions.

Energy Efficiency. Because of better windows, more efficient heating and cooling equipment, better control of air infiltration, and greater use of insulation, new homes consume half as much energy as homes built prior to 1980. Old homes tend to be drafty and less comfortable. Also, frost and condensation are more likely to appear on windows of older homes, drip down, and cause deterioration of wood trim and walls.

Less Maintenance. New homes are available with siding, windows and trim that never need painting. Wood decks are typically made of pressure-treated lumber which resists rot and insects. Pressure-treated wood is also used where wood comes in contact with concrete.



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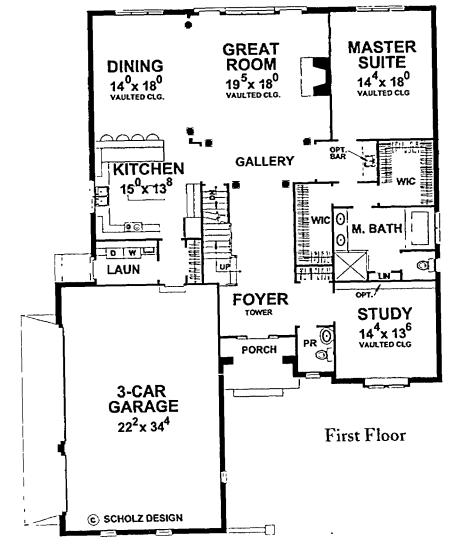
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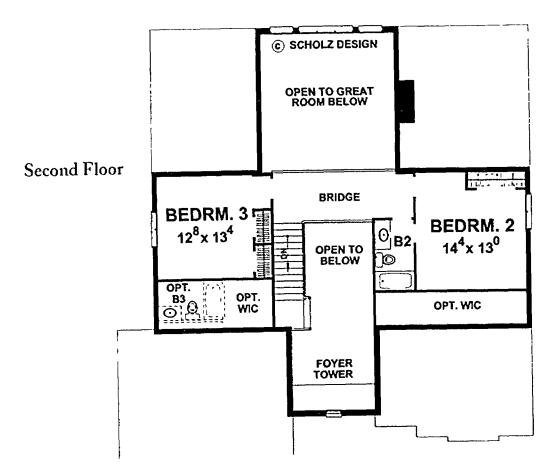
The completed floor plan includes:

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Moving Daze

By Todd Davis

ew look forward to the stress of moving. The planning, packing, boxing, taping and cleaning can make a person feel a little dazed and confused. But getting uprooted doesn't need to overwhelm you; taking some advice from the experts can help make things go a little more smoothly.

Pack it in

White trucks with the label "Two Men and a Truck" have been loading and unloading Michigan homes for the past 20 years. Well, you don't move more than 20,000 Michiganians in one year and not learn a few tricks of the trade.

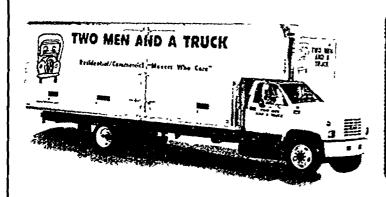
According to Andy Snively of the company's Okemos location, preparation can ease most of the confusion associated with moving. Recommends Snively:

Set a date. not only for the actual move, but to prepare time to pack your belongings, usually three to five days.

Know what you're moving. Whether it's fragile items such as china or antiques or larger items such as pianos or big screen televisions, take a quick inventory to prepare the movers so they can bring the right equipment.

Perhaps the most time-consuming part of the process is packaging. Snively recommends labeling items and boxes so movers

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know where to put them and they can be easily unpacked. The company provides boxes and packaging materials for customers who want to pack themselves and save some money. For those who request it, the company can also handle all the packing.

While it can add between \$800 and \$1,000 to the cost of the move, Snively says his company can pack an average three-bedroom house in about five to six hours compared to three to five days for the average do-it-yourselfer.

"Once most of our customers see us pack everything up for them, they're unlikely to try it again themselves," said Snively. "We train our guys extensively and use the right packing to prevent damage."

Short-term moves

The short-term move is becoming more and more common. This is the solution for transitional times: relocating, waiting for a home to be built, corporate transfers, even visiting families for summer. Companies specializing in these moves provide apartments with all the fixings – appliances, dishes, T.V.s and more – for times when it's not practical to unpack or bring these items.

These temporary suites are commonly referred to as executive suites. Unlike an empty apartment or a small hotel room, they offer home-like conveniences a hotel cannot – at far less then "executive" prices. Suite Life, a local company specializing in these temporary moves, has several southeast Michigan locations and offers fully furnished apartments at prices comparable to a budget motel.

Each Suite Life location is carefully chosen for convenience and accessibility. The Royal Oak location, for instance, is nearby local restaurants and things to do. Locations are also close to residential neighborhoods, allowing families a taste of daily life in that area. Some locations offer fitness areas and even pools for relaxing.

"We're a very mobile society. Most people stay in hotels, which only sounds good to those who don't have to spend a lot of time in them," said Terri Koers of Suite Life in Royal Oak. "People can get really sick of a one-room hotel room. We offer people a more comfortable place to stay."

A boon to pet owners, many Suite Life locations allow cats, dogs, according to Koers. And for those new in town, Koers' company provides information to help people find grocery stores, services, banks, entertainment and more – to get out-of-towners feeling like locals in no time.

"We do what ever we can do to make it easier for our guests," said Koers. "The local YMCA, Secretary of State, real-estate agencies, you name it. We open up the Rolodex and refer them out."

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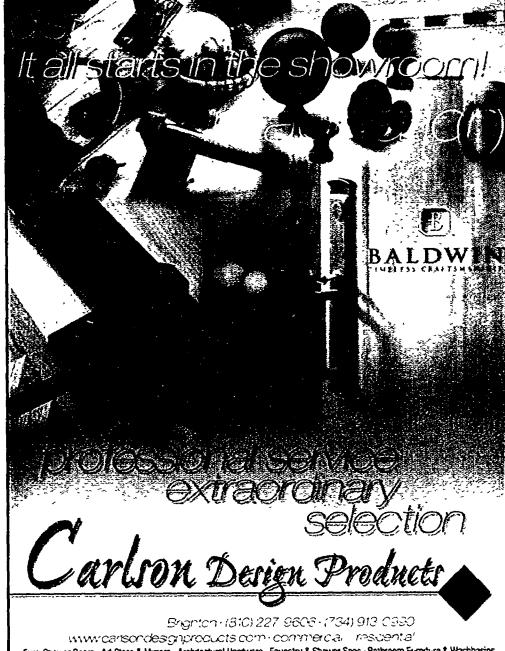
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Appliance Trends

By Todd Davis

hink you've seen it all? Think again. Appliance manufacturers have been hard at work reinventing their products for the latest in convenience and design. Some of the newest products bring European influence and design to their products, while others use good old Yankee ingenuity to heighten performance and style.

Micro management: GE's Advantium

The latest versions now available in microwave cooking have advanced high speed cooking to the next level. Products such as GE's Advantium combine high-speed microwaves with halogen radiant heat to not only heat food but to cook it golden brown.

"It cooks at the speed of a microwave, but meat doesn't come out gamey or bread tough," explained Dorothy Barak of Specialty Showrooms in Berkley. "It comes pre-programmed with various recipes. For some recipes it can cut cooking time in half."

The Advantium comes as a built-in unit or as a vented, over-the-range model.

Wolf scores a perfect 10

Wolf's newest line of built-in ovens, redefine wow. These units bristle with style and innovation, from their cobalt blue porcelain interior with dual halogen lighting and dampened door hinges, to their motorized concealing control panel. These Wolf ovens feature dual convection fans, fully extending cooking racks, a self-heating baking stone, and a temperature probe.

"It's really fool-proof cooking," said Wolf product specialist Darwin Smith. "Take the temperature probe for example. You can set a temperature of 150 degrees for the inside of a roast. Once the temperature probe reaches that point the oven shuts off."

The new Wolf ovens are now arriving in kitchen showrooms and are available in single or dual 30" configurations with classic stainless or two premium stainless steel finishes: platinum or carbon stainless.

Your own personal Starbucks

Well, you no longer have to visit the local Starbucks to enjoy a gourmet cup of coffee — just don your slippers and visit your own kitchen.

The Miele CVA610 built-in coffee system brews coffee to your pre-programmed, individual tastes. Within minutes it can grind a specified amount of coffee, brew it and even discard the grounds. It also has a steamer for heating milk for cappuccino or latte, and hot water if you prefer tea or hot chocolate.

"It's just that easy," said Jim Rysdorp of H & R appliance of West Bloomfield.

Making room

Planning a your party this weekend but afraid traditional deli trays won't fit in your refrigerator? Perhaps the "Wide-by -Side" by Maytag will help. It's unique to say the least, with its zigzag design. Form has a function, however. The unit is wider at the top and bottom, providing an extra six inches of storage space at the top (for your freezer) and at the bottom (for the refrigerator portion).

Got the message?

Does your refrigerator double as a message center? Dotted with sticky notes and report cards? Clean up that mess and consider the fridge with a chalk-board refrigerator panel by Frigo Design. Not yet released, this unit includes chalkboard and dry-erase board panels, in addition to traditional copper and stainless panels for refrigerator doors.

Dish drawers

Have you ever imagined putting your dirty dishes in a drawer and having them come out clean? Who would have thought? Well, Fisher & Paykel did. The single or double drawer model dishwashers look just like cabinet drawers, but once opened, there is space for up to 14 place settings each.

"The nice thing about this product is they can be put anywhere — in a office, family room. It doesn't necessarily have to be in the kitchen," commented Barak. "On the two drawer model, people can alternate between the two. One for dirty dishes, and one for clean ones."

The Fisher & Paykel drawer dishwasher comes in stainless or unfinished to adapt custom cabinetry.



Dirty laundry

Hand-washing clothes because your washing machine is too hard on your favorites? Traditional top-load washing machines with center agitators literally "beat" dirt out of clothes, like the pioneer days of washing laundry along the river. It's time to consider a front-load washer.

The Whirlpool Duet line tumbles clothes safely and gently through the water. And since the clothes don't need to literally float in water, the machines use less water per load. The front load washers differ in two major ways from traditional washers: Front loads have no central agitator and have a more powerful spin cycle. Another feature of front load machines is the spin cycle. Faster spin means faster drying time, and less time in the dryer means less wear and tear on your clothes.

Said Rysdorp, "They use less water, less energy, less detergent, get clothes cleaner and they last longer."

Dry cleaner in your closet

Forget making trips to the dry cleaner. Personal Valet, by Whirlpool is a dry cleaner in your home. The unit can steam, de-wrinkle and freshen dry clean only clothes in the home without the expense and hassle of using dry cleaners.

"We had a customer who came in and happened to have a suit jacket in his car and wanted to try it out. So we did," said Barak. "In 15 minutes his jacket came out. There were no wrinkles and it smelled fresh like it just came from the dry cleaners."

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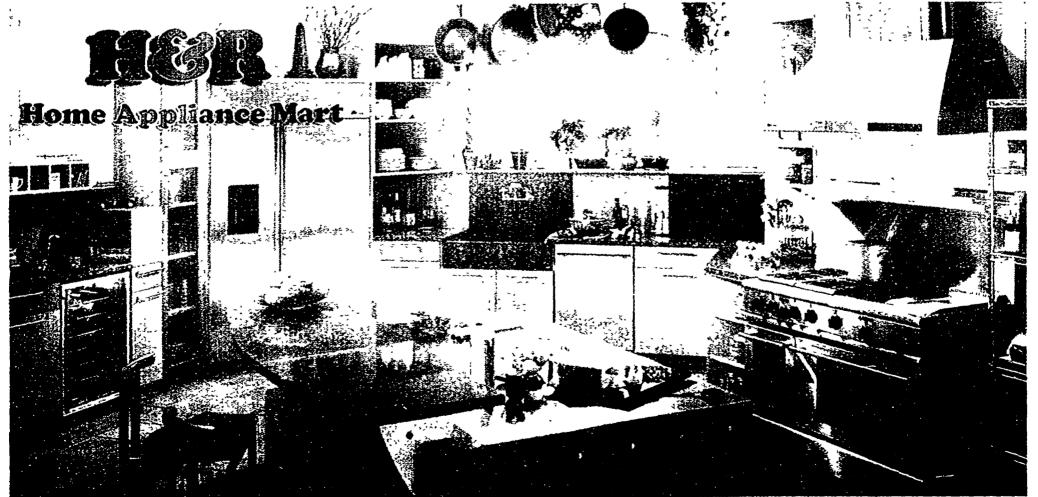
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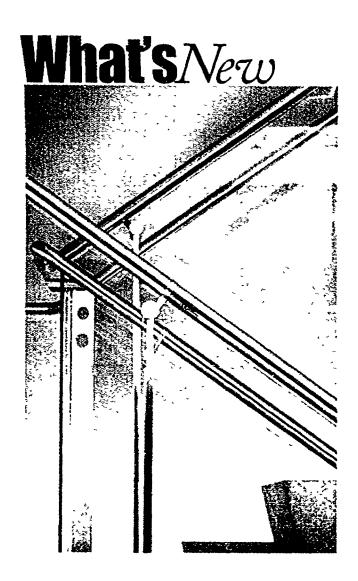
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Doreen Woo Ho, president of Wells Fargo's National Home Equity Group, offers homeowners the following tips for successfully opening a home equity account.

1. Be sure you are working with a reputable financial services company. If you already have a good relationship with your bank or mortgage company, you can probably expect the same from the organization's home equity upit

2. Carefully review the account agreement to make sure you understand the terms and rate. This includes the costs you will incur to open the account, how long you'll have it, and the agreed-upon time for payoff. It's also important to understand the difference between a fixed interest rate home equity loan and a variable rate line of credit. Interest rates are based on the amount you borrow and the term of the loan. Shop around to find rates and terms that most closely suit your needs without putting too much strain on your personal financial situation.

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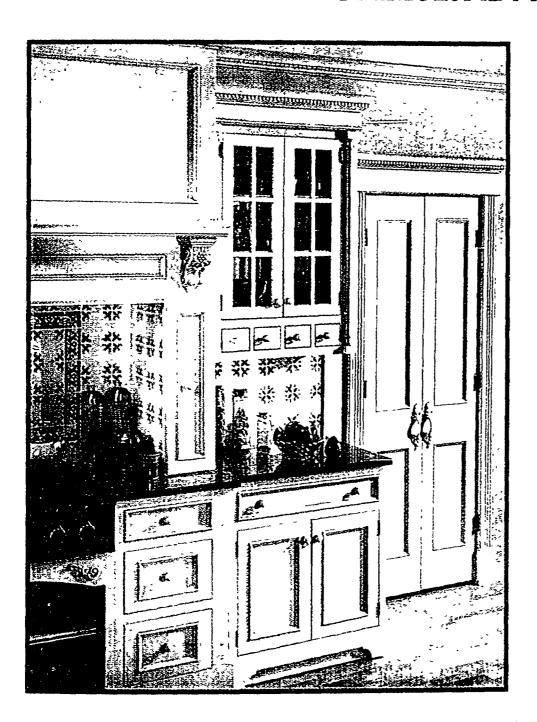
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