



"If It Fitz. . ." Chic partying

By Jim Fitzgerald

A reader named Colleen Johnson sent me a full-page newspaper clipping with this note attached: "Can you write a column about this? All this cutesy chic stuff makes me want to barf."

The clipped article was about Tom and Diane Schoenith, a darling Grosse Pointe couple who attend so many parties they are nationally recognized as the two people most likely to sit on hors d'oeuvres.

"People think it's vulgar to go to two or three parties a night," Tom told a reporter, "but we enjoy it. We never say goodbye — we just fade away and go on to the next."

I don't go to two or three parties a year. And before I leave a party, I always seek out the hosts and thank them for inviting me. I'm not very darling.

If I gave a lot big parties, I'd worry about guests who faded away without saying goodbye. How could I be sure they'd left? Maybe they fell off a chair and rolled under a couch.

The Schoeniths once flew to New York to have dinner with Frank Sinatra. If they

didn't say goodbye to Frank, he may think they are still there. It is undeniably romantic for guests to fade away somewhere in the night, scoobie doobie do, but they may leave behind a host who is suspicious of lumps in the carpet.

It isn't necessarily rude to leave a party without thanking the host for his hospitality. Sometimes there is nothing to say thanks for. The barf-prone Colleen Johnson also sent me a news clipping concerning the "wildest party of the summer."

Five young men "invited 2,000 youngish, chicish people to put on something black-and-white and drop in at the Roosterfall," which is a huge saloon owned by the Schoenith family. No food was served, and guests had to pay for their drinks.

This is the latest thing, a heroic extension of the BYOB party. Instead of instructing guests to Bring Your Own Bottle, the host says there'll be a cash bar.

This is the same as asking a couple of friends to meet you at the neighborhood tavern for some drinks, except it's done on a much larger scale and no one, especially the host, buys the house a drink.

After the wild black-and-white party, Tom Schoenith reported that the five hosts "now have a list of the most gorgeous girls I've ever seen." It is assumed that these chicish girls wore basketball referee shirts and, without saying goodbye, faded away somewhere in the night astride zebras whose hooves made a clop sound.

Why not clip-clop? I don't know everything. All I know is that Alka-Seltzer, which prevents barfing, never goes

plop. It always goes plop-plop. As instructed by TV and print advertising, everybody always takes two Alka-Seltzer tablets for an upset stomach. No one ever takes only one tablet, so there is never only one plop.

Which prompts an obvious question: Why doesn't Alka-Seltzer make a double-strength tablet so a person can conserve plops while trying not to barf at people who go to three parties every night and never say goodbye? I don't know the answer to that question, either.

To make things even worse, Alka-Seltzer sometimes puts an odd number of tablets in a bottle, which causes intervals. A long interval between plops can become dangerous if the prospective barfer empties a bottle at home and then runs into a constant party-goer while on the way to the drugstore to buy the second plop. Life isn't easy.

Another obvious question is why do so many people want to barf when they read about chicish people who go to so many parties they never have time to stand at the door and talk too long to their hosts? It could be that these people with upset stomachs are just jealous. Maybe they don't get invited to parties, not even to cash bars, and they're bitter about not having as much fun as clapping zebras.

To each his own. If sitting in hors d'oeuvres forever means never having to say goodbye, it's OK with me. However, I do think that if darling lumps in the carpet got less publicity, it would be easier for the rest of us to conserve plops.



THE CAR OF Daniel Cooper of Schwegler Road, Cass City, suffered extensive damage after striking two trees at Severance and Decker Roads in Evergreen township last Thursday night.

M-53 crash sends three to hospital

An early Friday accident on M-53 sent three persons to Hills and Dales General Hospital.

Treated and released was the driver of one of the vehicles involved, Robert H. Leczlar, 25, of Sterling Heights. His passengers, Paula Fleming, 24, and Rhonda Fleming, 1, of the same address in Rochester, were released Sunday.

According to the Sanilac County Sheriff's Department, Michael J. Hurd, 26, of Warren, was backing a semi-truck from a driveway onto M-53, north of Pringle Road, when the southbound Leczlar van ran into the truck trailer. Leczlar braked, but couldn't stop in time. The accident happened at 12:05 a.m.

Sanilac deputies reported that at 11:30 p.m. last Thursday, Daniel Cooper, 26, of 6258 Schwegler Road, Cass City, was eastbound on Severance Road and braked too late when he came to the Decker Road intersection.

His car swerved into a tree on the north side of the road, then hit a second tree. (See photo).

William L. McCool, 25, of 3771 N. Cemetery Road, was reported in fair condition Tuesday at Hills and Dales, the victim of an Aug. 5 mishap on the Cemetery Road bridge over the Cass River, south of Cass City.

His brother, Alan, 19, of the same address, told Cass

Sykora to seek recount in Sanilac

Sanilac County Prosecutor J. Anthony Sykora said Monday he will ask for a recount, provided the county Board of Canvassers' tabulations show he is still the loser in the Aug. 5 primary.

Unofficial returns showed ex-assistant Prosecutor Robert Barnes defeated his ex-boss by only 22 votes, 4,607-4,585.

The canvassing board wasn't expected to certify county election results until this Wednesday.

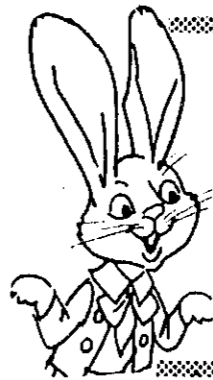
After they do so, Sykora will have six days to file for a recount.

City police the two were riding their bicycles southbound. William was in the northbound lane, hit the guard rail and fell over it. He landed on the rocks along the south bank after falling 6-8 feet.

Police said McCool was intoxicated when the incident occurred.

At 11:05 p.m. Sunday, village police reported, Michael J. McKenney, 20, of 286 Crawford Road, was northbound on Cemetery Road when his vehicle ran into a picnic table at the intersection of Kelly Road.

Officers were unable to immediately determine who owned the table and how it got there.



Rabbit Tracks

By John Haire

(And anyone else he can get to help)

The Chronicle keeps a chart of school salaries. Checking it last week for the superintendent's salary we ran our finger across the page incorrectly and listed the principal's salary instead of the superintendent's.

I've had about 15 calls about that, says Trustee Thresa Burnette and because of that we'll list the correct figure now. It's \$38,067.

All of which doesn't change the point of the column at all. Remember that Cass City's superintendent is neither the highest nor the lowest paid in the Thumb and if a new man were hired the savings, if any, would not change your taxes, or mine, at all.

Despite the importance and the publicity it's likely that fewer than half of the registered voters will cast a ballot in the upcoming school election. Add to that the large number of potential voters not even registered and you can readily understand that the fate of Cass City's schools will be in the hands of a decided minority.

Oh summer, where have you fled? Last week Ben Franklin advertised Christmas ornaments in the Chronicle.

I know that Mark Fidrych is just an ordinary pitcher, if that, and he probably will never win 20 games for the Detroit Tigers.

Still, there's enough little boy in the man to get a charge out of his return to Tiger Stadium Tuesday. This is written before he pitched and I'm guessing that long before the end of the game he'll have taken his shower.

There's enough boy left in the man to hope that I'm wrong.

It's fans like me that help John Fetzer, Tiger owner, get richer and richer. (As if he needed it).

Gagetown makes appointment

The Gagetown Village Council decided Monday evening to put Robert McCreech on the village payroll as full-time maintenance man.

Federal Comprehensive Employment and Training Act funds had paid part of his wages with the village paying the rest. His CETA eligibility expires at the end of this month, so he will be paid entirely by the village

as of Sept. 1. John Tenczer will continue to work part-time.

A new radar system will be purchased for the village police department for about \$600 as the old one no longer works.

Letters will be sent to property owners with messy vacant lots, who weren't sent such letters after the July meeting, asking them to clean their lots.

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The Haire Net

Like a straw in a whirlpool many small towns are swept up and lost in the vacuum created by the pull of larger communities with bigger stores and more services.

In the last 25 years you could name a dozen in the upper Thumb that have withered on the vine. They lose businesses. They lose the community paper and finally the school is gone, too.

Cass City has averted this slow death and prospered without anything extra going for it. We are not a county seat. We are not located on a main highway. We get little tourist business.

What we have maintained over the years is a fine community in which to live and work.

Our municipal park, our pool, our subdivisions, our industrial park, our wide streets, our relatively low taxes and our schools make us a vibrant growing community and it's reflected in our business district.

That's a contrast with the community where I was reared and spent 13 years in school.

There hasn't been much expansion in the business district over the years and the school has been in a financial bind for at least five years.

The residents have turned down millage after millage request and now the board is asking for a huge levy and if it isn't passed, school doesn't open in the fall.

I'd guess that instead of being a rallying point for the town, the school is a focal point of discontent. We've averted that in Cass City.

Cass City Schools don't run half days and we've kept our buildings in fine shape while acquiring enough property to meet our needs for the foreseeable future.

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