

the Review

for the people

FREE

March, 1997

A FREELANCE NEWS AND ART PUBLICATION OF KALAMAZOO

<http://www.net-link.net/~revurb>

URBAN ideas for living CONCEPTS COLUMN

Calvin Klein, Ralph Lauren, Clinique, and Simple Books are a few examples of the merchandise you will find in downtown specialty stores. However, you will have to venture into the store to get a closer look. Window displays have taken a back seat in our downtown area. Some have not changed in the last six months; why? Most cities emphasize this method of advertising to give the passer-by a look at what they will see when entering the store. *Window displays* provide the merchant with the ability to inform the consumer of what they offer, while using their storefront for low cost, direct advertisement. Displays offer movement, color, sequence of products, and result in increased consumer traffic. At *Urban Concepts Design Group*, the focus is on the individuality of each merchant, and the uniqueness of the products. This allows a display design to target the desired market. We want people to enjoy shopping downtown during and after business hours, to remember specific merchandise, and return to shop. An excellent, cost efficient way to provide this, is through *window display and prop styling*. In larger cities this has proven to be successful. Now in Kalamazoo there is a service which will offer design, set up, and take down of display at a low cost.

URBAN CONCEPTS DESIGN.
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welcome to --

the Review

by Jason Powell

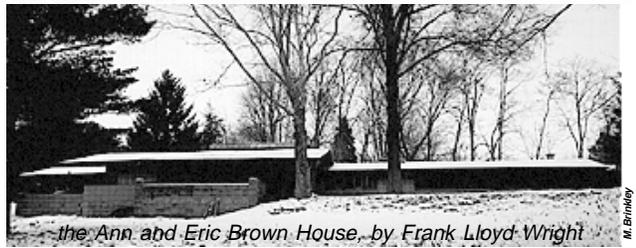
Coming to you from well within your own city, it's the first issue of *The Review*, a new publication for Kalamazoo, bringing you freelance news and art, and this is only the beginning. This issue will offer a preview of what is to come (more pages with more issues). We that put this endeavour together are pretty excited, simply because we hope to provide the people of our city with an outlet for change, a new place to voice opinion, and a representative for all the people here who feel that this town needs more small businesses, all around excitement, positivity and unity. At such a crucial time in our evolution, with important decisions affecting our city's future, exposure to new ideas and energy are the key to growth. The people need to connect, and make known what we want, instead of waiting to hear what's been decided. We'd like to help take Kalamazoo into the future, because an extreme amount of change is taking place, and this town can't afford to miss out. So here it is, please help us grow, and grow with us Kalamazoo!

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Wright Under Your Nose

by Matt Brinkley (mbrink@net-link.net)

Kalamazoo is not exactly replete with outstanding examples of modern design and architecture. More often than not, the built environments we are exposed to are bland and altogether uninspired. Newer construction typically reflects the goals of commerce rather than design, while existing structures decay and are abandoned. Sadly, we are losing important parts of our architectural past while building an architecturally less important future. What kind of monuments are we leaving to posterity? After all, is a landscape dominated by strip malls, megastores, and tract housing something we really want? I don't. This is a column for readers who value innovative, compelling design and architecture, and for those who simply need to be reminded that South Westnedge and its sprawl are not interminable.



the Ann and Eric Brown House, by Frank Lloyd Wright

Our first reminder comes courtesy of Frank Lloyd Wright. Many of you are, of course, familiar with his name and work. But you may not be aware that Frank Lloyd Wright constructed several houses in Kalamazoo. Almost fifty years ago, a group of families and individuals decided to create a neighborhood built to their specifications. Wright was asked to engineer the project; and, after surveying what was then a derelict pasture, he accepted. Thus Parkwyn became a reality as did the home of Ann and Eric Brown. *More on back*

Quake Revolutionizes PC Gaming

by Chad Dickert (otise@net-link.net)

Something very strange is happening down in Texas. And it's spreading like a virus. Through any vessel that it touches, a mania surges in the belly of the next believer. We like to call it *Quake*. You materialize inside the Gloom Keep with the nailgun floating directly in front of you. Running towards the pee-shooter you are suddenly confronted with HD-HKFooei racing down the steps to your right, grenades fill the air and glib, you are dead due to an explosive pineapple.

Id Software, located outside Dallas, has been shaping the path of 3-D gaming since they released *Wolfenstein-3D*. With it's 3-D levels and unique first-person perspective, it was groundbreaking. Id's next game, *Doom*, pushed the envelope beyond anyone's expectations, and set the standard for the genre. *Quake* is the next generation game on the same theory that made Id legendary in the gaming community. It's quite simple and to the *More on back*

Actors and Playwrights Initiative...

A journey into Kalamazoo's underground

by Leah Kamalii Ferguson

Eight years ago this April, Robert C. Walker, Jeremiah Lemons, and Catherine McNeil opened the *Actors and Playwrights Initiative Theater* (A.P.I.). Their vision was to provide a theater where they could "develop new original works throughout the regional great lakes area, bring the classics back to the stage, and produce the 'under-produced artistic successes.'" The A.P.I. has gone through some changes since then. Their emphasis on the classics has waned a bit and Robert is the only remaining founder. Sadly, Jeremiah Lemons died of an Aids related sickness several years ago and Catherine McNeil is presently in Chicago working in theater. The skills of the resident company not only include acting; they are set designers, directors, lighting technicians, laborers,.....the list goes on. They use every bit of creativity they can muster to work within a tight budget. *More on back*

Old Kalamazoo maybe not so old fashioned.....

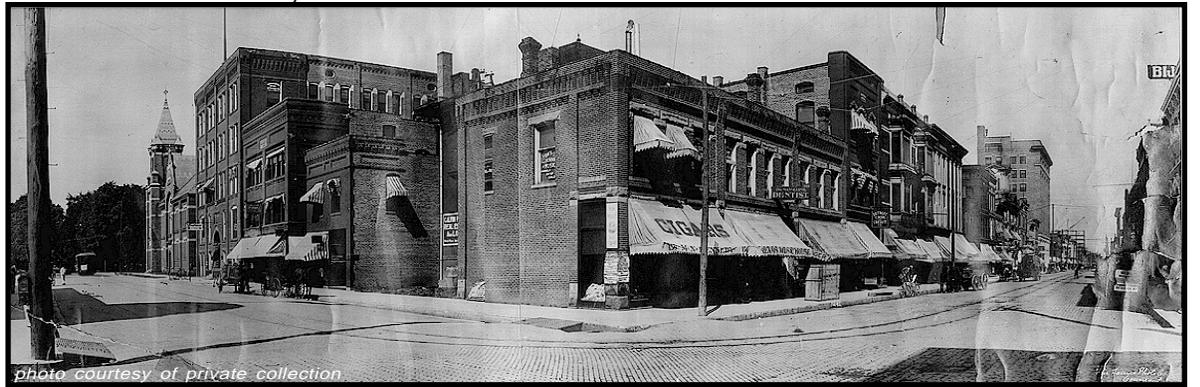


photo courtesy of private collection



J. Wesaw

This turn of the century photo (above) of the Burdick and South Streets intersection, which is now the walking mall, shows an old cigar shop, (now a fast food chain), and a glimpse of Bronson Park to the left. Perhaps this could compare if our new mall has a street. The present photo (left), shows the mall as we now see it. Word is another vote on the mall issue is being approved. Many felt that the previous vote was somewhat confusing due to the identities assigned to the "yes" and "no" votes. Logically, some assumed that "yes" meant yes, I want a street, and "no" meant no, I don't. Most were still able to vote successfully. Now the question, what will happen? Obviously, this issue has embedded deep opinions throughout our city, but either way, most of us would love to see an improvement.

GO TO HAVE THE BEST ANYTHING

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Martini's

Noble Makings in the Art of Cooking



"Quake" (Continued from front)

point. Kill or be Killed. There's a few finer points, but this thought permeates the player through the whole experience. This game scares you, really.

Although a single player can progress through the game fighting various monsters and completing levels, there is a better way to play. Play with friends in multiplayer. Quake was designed with multiplayer in mind, built from the ground up to be a networking monster. Best yet, Quake



HD-HKFooui

can be played over the Internet since it uses the standard TCP/IP protocol to communicate. This aspect of the game is where it shines, and a phenomenon of rare magnitude is the result. Up to 16 players can participate in a net game of Quake. There are upwards of about 450 games running across the Internet on a good night, so that makes for some worldwide carnage riding on those zippy electrons. But it can get a little lonely just running around killing whoever comes across your path, and peace of mind can be hard to come by with no one to be your friend. So the Quakers decided that they needed to create clans. Clans are by far the most fascinating social evolution of the Quake experience. I believe we're standing on the cusp of a whole new level of gaming. These clans (going by the names of *Impulse 9*, *BotR*, *Clan Dong*, *Ruthless Bastards*, and my favorite *Hand of Doom*), battle each other in organized matches. This game is turning into a sport. Tournaments and divisions help bring order to the mass of clans scrambling for dominance and a good time. Quake has another ace up its sleeve. It's open architecture and easy to use. Quake C programming language make it possible to create not only user levels, but modifications or outright conversions of the game itself. Capture the Flag 3.2 is a modification for Quake that changes the objective of the game to retrieving the flag of the opposing side while protecting your own team's home base. Add all new levels by Quakers and a new item to the inventory, the grappling hook (which allows one to shoot a hook into anything solid and be pulled to it), and it's almost a new game. My personal favorite. Total conversions are in the works, such as *Ghostbusters* and, of course, *Star Wars*. There is no limit to what the Quake engine could be utilized for. Thanks to Id Software for not only creating another great game, but for living by the principle that information is free.

"A.P.I." (Continued from front)

This is the real theater. Walking up the narrow stairs into the dimly lit room one imagines what it must have looked like in the days of Shakespeare. They work together like a family. A family connected by friendship and an attachment to the theater. Robert is like Fagen of Dickens' *Oliver Twist* - the surrogate father to the company of found children.

The A.P.I. is one of the only theaters that is still doing "unproduced original works". Robert receives close to fifty scripts a month from areas as near as Kalamazoo and as far off as the United Kingdom. In a time where television has taken the place of literature it's difficult for theater to survive. People seem to want to sit at home and watch poorly written and acted substitutes, rather than venture out to experience the genuine energy and passion of real theater. If they do, they end up at just another rerun of Andrew Lloyd Webber, rather than experiencing the off-beat beauty of modern theater. Robert remarked that the A.P.I. has been "unfairly" tagged as a theater that does plays that are too sexy for mainstream audiences. "It's not true.. Some of the plays we've done contain sexuality, but sexuality permeates everything, we're just trying to portray life...that's one of the responsibilities of theater." Robert is very conscious of doing reruns, the A.P.I. is only interested in providing our community with new and overlooked talent. Also, they are one of the only places that still does Greek productions and the like. They've done Euripides' *Medea* and Oscar Wilde's *Salome*. This year they are doing Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. Within the recent years we've seen our Government cut funding for the creative arts across America. There are some people that think they are not as important as things like math and the sciences. I believe the creative arts are the seeds of our soul. If we loose

the theater, we shelve our opportunity to empathize with characters on stage. In theater, both actors and patrons, can celebrate the wonders of the human condition and discuss the aspects of ourselves we do not yet understand. Theater can also be a therapeutic tool for actors. Robert confessed his shyness to me saying that theater was one way he could live through characters to relieve the tension of social situations. I can attest to the same experience, because all of us who have experienced theater on any level, as an audience or an actor, have been changed by it. Robert, a self-proclaimed "bedwetting liberal" is "still trying to change the world with his little plays," and with the amount of passion and faith he puts into them he just may.

A FEW WORDS TO ABSORB

I was alone, i thought, in a dark basement. A crack of light from the far stairs lit my tin cans, and the far walls of cement. I was creating new rythums to my life, but when i hit the tallest of the cans a voice resonated from inside, speaking words I couldn't understand. My body was caught in the rythum and couldn't stop and every time i hit the can words came pouring out. I stopped the rythum finally out of complete curiosity and tapped only the can with the ghost inside. I put my left ear closer to understand. When it felt as if my ear opened to frequencies too low for any human to hear. Just like that, I'm in my bed, havent fallen asleep yet, and my left ear still hurts.

Some how the dementions connected, but the communication didn't.

by Pete Switzer

for some worldwide carnage riding on those zippy electrons. But it can get

Fire brings tragic loss to Stuart Neighborhood

This house at 214 Woodward Ave. in the Historic District was victim to a fire on Tuesday, February 25th. Residents of the house's apartments escaped the flames and no one was hurt. Apparently, the cause of the fire has been declared accidental. This photo was taken around 11 a.m. that day, when an abundance of police and fire crews were at the scene, and had the flames under control. The house was 117 years old. This is a tragic loss for the owners, tenants, and for Kalamazoo's Historic District.



The Gallery Hop Hip



Wheel Thrown, Soda Fired Vessel by Steve Keerl

by Jason Powell

For a long time I thought that the KIA was the only place to see good art on display. Well, this may be true on a daily basis, but every once in a while,

the Kalamazoo Arts Council pulls all the stops with the *Gallery Hop*. Usually, five or six "galleries" are involved, showing one or two artists at each, in one night. This way, patrons have the option of seeing many works in one evening. Recently, the Kingscott Gallery hosted ceramics by Steve Keerl. Steve is the main man down at the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts ceramic studio (where I have the distinct priveledge of volunteering my time in order to make pots and learn more about the processes of ceramics). Steve works at the KIA teaching classes, making clay, firing kilns and much more. He also recently studied at a workshop in Japan. The Review salutes Steve Keerl for his work and continued dedication to the arts.

Wright

Their house, built from 1949 to 1950, features many of his trademarks. A spacious great room, for example, offsets the modest dimensions of the bedrooms. Furniture (designed by Wright for this particular house) reflects the deceptively straightforward geometry present throughout the entire structure. Honduran mahogany runs across the spans of gently vaulted ceilings, stretching them far beyond the immediate confines of walls. Seamless corner windows preclude the formation of corners where exterior walls join. These simple lines and geometric forms generate surprisingly elegant harmonies which endow the house with an unavoidable vibrancy. Some of this energy and life (perhaps much of it) emanate from yet another source. It cannot be found in discussions of sheer aesthetics, but rather in the human history which collects in a place as it is built and then put to use. Few people have the opportunity to be as intimately involved in this process as did Ann and Eric. From the very beginning

they struggled against contractors and financiers who were reluctant to support such progressive design. One contractor even refused to build the roof which he believed would collapse. The Browns poured their own cement walls, wired lighting fixtures and outlets, fabricated built-in and free standing furniture, all the while raising a family. The house is unique in many ways, and yet it manages to address more universal ideas about the way we live. For one, it chal-



interior living area, 1953

Room at the Top

Hair Salon

Siobhan (Shivon) Owner

3 4 5 - H A I R
15th Floor
Old Kent Bank Building
136 East Michigan
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007

THE REVIEW

PO BOX 50503
KALAMAZOO, MI 49005
616.390.8995

The Review is a freelance publication distributed locally for people of Kalamazoo who are interested in making our community a better, cleaner, more interesting place for all. Please support our sponsors and other small business. Send your comments, questions, gripes, announcements, photos, opinions, art, etc. Thanks to all the free graphics online, and especially thanks to the Brown family & our contributing writers.

-the Review Staff-

Matt Brinkley, Jason Powell,
J.W. Stovall, Pete Switzer
and Jason Wesaw

lenges built environments which alienate and belittle everyday life. Here is structure which accommodates its human inhabitants, and even reminds us that we amount to something collectively. After all, it took a couple of us to build it.

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OF KALAMAZOO

URBAN ideas for living CONCEPTS COLUMN Spring Solutions

Simple landscaping is a low maintenance and cost effective solution for enhancing our city. Renewed dedication to the maintenance of our downtown could create a welcoming feeling, and elevate the appeal of our residential and business districts. First, removing all litter will enhance our community pride and in return, reduce and discourage pollution. Existing trees and shrubbery simply look better without trash underneath them. Secondly, by providing more trash and recycling containers, and replanting groundcover, flowers, etc, we will promote awareness and a fresh, vibrant environment. Our participation and commitment will make it happen.

CLIMB KALAMAZOO takes mall patrons to new heights

by Jason Powell

An exciting new small business has climbed onto the mall scene in downtown Kalamazoo, and is taking patrons to new heights. Climb Kalamazoo is a full service indoor rock climbing gym, which opened for business on April 4th. Some of you may have seen the rage of indoor climbing facilities in other cities, and now, a very well executed example of this is here within our own, providing a mountain sport to flatlanders. Climb Kalamazoo offers something for the climber in everyone, from beginners to the hardly challenged veteran, this place is extreme, and brings a new form of physical fitness to the people of Kalamazoo. There are ten thousand square feet of climbing surfaces, as well as men and women's locker rooms equipped with showers, and a spectator and warm-up balcony trailing through the entire facility, overlooking the ground floor (where climbers begin their venture). Several technical training areas (which are low to the ground, and look like small caves hidden under the gym above) are available to advanced climbers who



an observation deck and part of the climbing terrain

wish to work on difficult techniques without the burden of ropes. Patrons can climb with a day pass (\$9), as well as rent equipment such as shoes and harnesses. They even have lessons for beginners, as well as monthly and annual memberships. Owner, Mark Kubas, and his crew have worked diligently since September, when they started demolition of the previous

interior at their Kalamazoo Mall location. All in all, 180 cubic yards of old plaster, and 5000 square feet of old cement floor (from between the basement and main floor) was removed to make room for the new walls, all of which are speckled with man-made climbing holds that simulate rock surfaces. The design of the gym is impressive. Kubas, a Grand Rapids native, decided to pursue opening such a facility after spending much time climbing at another gym there. When asked if he thought there was a high demand for such a facility in Kalamazoo, he was sure of it, due to the fact that so many of the climbers in Grand Rapids were from Kalamazoo and other areas in southwestern Michigan. Not only does Climb Kalamazoo give the people of our city a new recreational pastime, it brings climbers from surrounding areas in to our community to patronize mall businesses and spread the word that our city can and will thrive. The Review salutes Climb Kalamazoo for an excellent addition to our downtown.

Cool Media?

by Matt Brinkley (mlbrink @net-link.net)

Everyone and everything is on the net these days. At least Microsoft would have us believe as much. Although printed media is not yet dead (fortunate for the Review), more and more information is communicated and transferred via this new electronic media. Perhaps too much information. Somewhere around 25,000 new sites are being added daily, all of them looking to attract attention. How does one effectively navigate through this vast data field and avoid fruitless hours wasted online? Derek Kenney of *Robot Design* thinks the solution lies in regional hosts like his *Kalamazoo Cool Loop*. Unlike traditional search engines which patrol the entire net expanse, the Cool Loop acts as a focal point for searches of regional interest. For instance, you are looking for a restaurant and venues for live music in the Kalamazoo area. *Cool Loop* will immediately direct you to establishments which fit this description. In addition, it also



POW WOW IS A TIME OF CELEBRATION FOR ALL PEOPLES

by Jason Wesaw

Native Americans from the Great Lakes and Canada congregated at WMU's University Arena on April 5th & 6th for the 8th Annual Pow Wow hosted by the university's Native American Student Organization. A Pow Wow serves important purposes for both Native Americans and the general public alike. Anishnabe, as Natives call themselves, translates as "the people". An important part of maintaining tradition in our culture is through song, dance, and oral stories that are passed on from elders to the young. These gatherings allow us time with our family and friends to do this, and also to remember



J. Wesaw

This Fancy Dancer is one of the many who attended the 8th annual WMU Pow Wow.

and honor our ancestors who have both prospered and suffered on this continent for thousands of years. **MORE ON BACK**

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allows you to place a reservation, peruse the menu, etc. And the sites are updated as needed so all the information is as current as possible. Lastly, each individual site is designed to work in concert with others, creating a consolidated marketing

MORE ON BACK

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POW WOW *continued*

For the non-Native, a Pow Wow offers a true look at the unique and vibrant culture of the American Indian, that has at times been grossly stereotyped through the naming of sports teams ('Redskins', 'Indians'), and Hollywood movies. Many have painted an almost cartoon-like picture of Native Americans. To spend a day at a Pow Wow allows one to experience many things: hand-made jewelry and crafts, food vendors selling wild rice, corn soup, and fry bread, dancers dressed in both traditional and fancy regalia, and most importantly, the heartbeat of the Indian nation, the drum. We should all be proud of where we came from. Likewise, we should be proud of what Kalamazoo is and can be; a place of many different peoples, a place of both city and wilderness, and the place where we live. Respect that!

Developing the Power of Art

Kalamazoo Institute of Arts Prepares For New Facilities, Expanded Programs

KIA Press Release: The Kalamazoo Institute of Arts officially "broke ground" for its downtown renovation and expansion project on Thursday, April 10th. The facility expansion is at the heart of a three-year, capital and endowment campaign that will also enhance and expand collections, re-develop art educational curricula, and provide greater outreach capabilities for the KIA. Construction completion is scheduled for the summer of 1998. "This project will ensure that the KIA remains a cultural cornerstone in our community,



ground breaking day

demand for facilities and programs. A permanent collection gallery will be added, as well as a new interactive gallery, a jewelry studio, offices, and a multi-purpose classroom.

Room at the Top

Hair Salon
Siobhan (Shivon)
 Owner, Stylist
AUGUSTUS
 Stylist

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 Old Kent Bank Building
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Now and Then

The photo above, showing the Portage Road and Main Street (Michigan Ave) intersection, shows many of the storefronts of some of Kalamazoo's first small businesses. Today (bottom left), the corner is occupied by three major corporations, and some small businesses and restaurants. The Old Kent

Bank building, (built after the turn of the century photo was taken) stands next to Farmer's Alley, which is an original feature of this landscape. Our city has many obvious examples of a rich history. Recognition of our heritage and even more, preservation of the buildings is of great importance, and offers small business opportunities due to all of the vacant and un-renovated space in old buildings around town. As our city grows in new ways, renovation of these types of spaces will hopefully become more common. There are presently many well-renovated lofts, studios, and storefronts downtown, and this will continue to give today's small business owners a connection to Kalamazoo's roots.

Martini's

Noble Makings in the Art of Cooking

TO HAVE THE BEST ANYTHING

Cool Media? *continued*

strategy for any advertiser. To this end, Kenney employs demographic ties. The idea is to link information, which should appeal to the same groups of *Cool Loop* users. With these features and the allure of engaging graphic presentation, Kenney hopes to expand the content of *Cool Loop* from its restaurant/entertainment emphasis to include more area businesses. In doing so, Kenney and his *Cool Loop* must overcome advertisers' reluctance to choose the internet as their media of choice. Advertisers know that the current market can use more traditional media (e.g. they know that we buy and read newspapers and magazines in which they can place ads, and that we watch a lot of t.v., etc.). In this respect, the internet is as yet unproved. The benefits of regional specific hosts may appear compelling and rather obvious, but the advertising world seldom acts in very rational manner. Will the new media catch on? This part is up to us, consumers and citizens of the great new cyber-infoland. Find out for yourself at URL www.parrett.net/~tmarkie/robot and (in the near future) www.robot.com or www.kloop.com.

MY SHARED ESCAPES

Like a Sponge Without Water

This happened while I was traveling to a place I sometimes go for love and sometimes go places I wish I've never been, but I found a key when I was about 5 years human. So I can leave whenever I want to. So there I was on a well controlled gas burners trail, watching the trees blur, and the night roll in. A giant cloud covered the stars so the sky was completely dark. Headlights shinning into the future lit our paths. I was relaxed for I had been there many times before. I was sinking further into my seat, the view and the music from the speakers had me in a trance. Then found myself elsewhere talking to a friend under a ceiling under a sun filled sky, inside walls of a house. I don't know exactly what was being said like a station out of tune. There were words leading to words, leading to words, leading to a point. When the woman who spoke in fuzz reached the point of her story, I fell fast from my fall freaked because the words from the speakers were telling me the same thing, at the same time.

by Pete Switzer

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URBAN ideas for living CONCEPTS COLUMN

Dinner Anyone?

Preparing for a dinner gathering is easy with a few simple entertaining solutions. Lanterns and luminaries edged along walkways provide an alternative to lighting for outdoor entertaining, and welcome dinner guests as they arrive. Market umbrellas and large canvas party canopies provide shelter from weather and an intimate setting. Quick hors d'oeuvre recipes are readily available in, cookbooks, fine cuisine magazines, or on the internet. Locally we have many options on locations to hold banquets and receptions. Also, catering services provide a vast selection of different types of food and services to complement your occasion. As the Review format expands we will include new columns such as wine selections, local restaurant events, musical talent available for entertaining, and current news about gourmet products offered in the area.



photos by M. Brinkley

mate relationship with the land on her farm where she now tends to 80,000 plants every season. Viavi is an extension of the farm, and embraces the organic world, its inhabitants and unfolding process. For example, Wanda grows and sells heirloom and other unusual varieties of plants. These vari-

What's in a Name?

by Matt Brinkley

"Viavi." What, or who, is it? I checked the dictionary, nothing. I even searched the Internet, nothing (yet). It is, of course, the name of the new garden and plant related store at 170 North Edwards. It is, of course, a place where fresh plant material like flowers, bulbs and seed can be readily acquired. But after speaking with proprietor Wanda Miller, it becomes evident that "viavi" is something which falls entirely outside the purview of "retail sales" and "lawn and garden." Wanda's interest in agriculture and the agrarian way of life solidified while she was an art student at Western. Subsistence farming provided her with a majority of the food she consumed, and allowed her to maintain

a degree of independence from the everyday workings of an increasingly commercial economy. Miller has maintained this intimate relationship with the land on her farm where she now tends to 80,000 plants every season. Viavi is an extension of the farm, and embraces the organic world, its inhabitants and unfolding process. For example, Wanda grows and sells heirloom and other unusual varieties of plants. These vari-



more on back

Thoughts on Mall City..... Now and Then



J. Wesaw



photo courtesy of private collection

In light of the recent decision to open the Kalamazoo walking mall to traffic, we bring you yet another now and then pictorial of our city's downtown. On top, is a recent photo of Michigan Avenue where it intersects with the walking mall. Many of the buildings seem to be architecturally original. You can also see a darkened evening view of the mall to the right. The larger photo (above) shows us what this corner looked like before it was the Kalamazoo Mall. This and other turn of the century photos in previous issues of the Review give an idea of this area with a street landscape. Around that time, when my great uncle Thomas Baden owned a jewelry store on Burdick St, the architecture and old city feeling were new and full of energy created by citizens who were loyal to downtown merchants, because that was the only option. We now know that the money is available for the city's ten point plan, after several Kalamazoo organizations made multi-million dollar donations to the efforts. But as is evident, it will take not just a new street or new décor, but an extreme dedication to devise what will not only make Burdick St. a beautiful place with new renovations, but a thriving place that will attract businesses from all walks of local and international retail and commerce. The Review Staff has heard many ideas about these issues, and one example of an

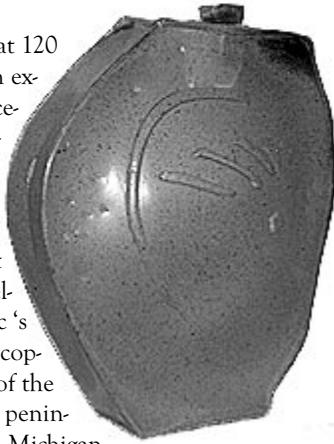
idea that was mentioned is the lack of a welcoming feeling when driving into Kalamazoo from outside areas. It was mentioned that perhaps signs at city boundaries exclaiming "welcome to Kalamazoo!" would create a warmer feeling. Things like this are just as important as the ten point plan, as is input from Kalamazoo residents. We are interested in hearing any other city planning ideas to pass on as well. Now many of us are asking ourselves one question. Will this issue and all of the opinions connected with it continue to divide the people of Kalamazoo, or will the change that is to occur next spring (which is only one part of the ten point plan) be accepted as a positive decision that has the potential to create growth, economic development, and an overall good village feeling in the center of our downtown? It is important to look at the new street as an enhancement that could help our community thrive, like we would the multi-million dollar development and renovation of the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, and the new Kalamazoo Public Library facility being built, both of which will definitely contribute to the growth of culture, society, and education in Kalamazoo.

J. Powell

Ceramic arts alive and well in Kalamazoo

by Jason Powell

On Friday May 9th, the Dumont Frameworks Gallery, at 120 North Church Street in Kalamazoo, was the host of an exhibit featuring linocut prints by Jeanette Aleo, and ceramic pieces by Eric Davis. Davis, a Kalamazoo resident, has studied the art of ceramics extensively for many years, as is obvious when admiring his work. All of the pieces in his exhibit were soda-fired, slab-built vessels, of which Davis has concentrated on for about the last year. Prior to this, his main focus was functional wheel-thrown work ranging from dinner ware to teapots. Eric's inspiration for his slab-built pieces came from leftover copper mining structures that were built around the turn of the century in the copper country of the Michigan upper peninsula where he grew up. Davis graduated from Western Michigan



University in 1994 with a BFA in Ceramics, and has also volunteered much of his time over the past three years at the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, where he is a studio assistant who makes clay, fires kilns, and helps with studio up-keep. He has studied with local artists such as Tom Kendall, and has also participated in many ceramics workshops with artists like Steven Hill, Byron Temple, and Peter Voukos. Eric's work has also been featured in two past KIA Area Shows, as well as various small art fairs that he has participated in. It is inspiring to see that dedicated artists are in Kalamazoo and working in many different media. For more information on ceramics by Eric Davis, contact the Review at 616.390.8995. Also, don't miss the Kalamazoo Arts Council's next gallery hop event on June 6th at the Dumont Frameworks and other participating galleries.



photos by J. Wesaw

What's in a Name? (from front)

ies are increasingly rare, because commercial agriculture does not share this commitment to bio-diversity. It simply is not profitable enough. A dangerous reliance on few hybrid strains is the result; dangerous because a greater proportion of plant material is susceptible to environmental variables such as disease. According to Miller, cooperative seed exchanges and those dedicated to the cultivation of older varieties slow this trend toward biological homogeneity. For her part, she will cultivate some 400 varieties on her farm. Other products featured at Viavi (such as handmade soaps, fruit and herb vinegars, and honey) reaffirm this do-it-yourself approach toward life. Above all, Viavi provides a place where both human and natural genius and creativity are respected and admired. You can find Wanda next to the Heritage Company on Edwards, or at the Bank Street Farmers' Market.

MY SHARED ESCAPES

(Take a deep breath and release it slowly)

Nature's Dance

The clouds waited where the wind left them. The future city waited to shine the cloud's beauty. Until then, the moon colored the night's view. Reflecting the past, reflecting the light. Showing to us cloudy on his destination flight. Cloudy, who was flying low, knowing not where to go, waited for the wind to show. From watching his shadow drag below, he looked up to see through his mist the most gorgeous she cloud his unexisting eyes have ever seen. So they danced, and they danced, and they danced. Until they became one. Noticed from people below, they had created a vacuum in the breeze. The weatherman called it a tornado, the plumber called it a mess. Cloudy and Cloud-she danced through nature, so the city was saved at the age of a town.

by Pete Switzer

Notas Del Pasado

All the way down south, out west and back again. The journey smeared except the friends we made. The good times we had, and there were many. I can't help but have nostalgia for those days when Cole was alive. Listening to the trashiest rock & roll and pretending we were the shit and nothing else mattered. The Liberty Bell rang for us as we played lousy music and I watched them drink wine and eat pizza. And some of the dirtiest movies I care not to remember. These are all times we had, our little pack that God blessed with the good life. I needed the big snowshoes, during that winter there was a great need for them. Cole was up to his chin in the white powder, and we just had the pad. There was quite a bit of traffic. People made there pit stops there in the Gateway to the West. I wonder what they're all doing now. I wonder if any of them remember all the crap we were perpetuating. Those were some of the best days of my life.

by Henry Grose

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THE REVIEW

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- THE REVIEW STAFF -
Matt Brinkley, Jason Powell,
J.W. Stovall, Pete Switzer
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ATTENTION AREA FREELANCERS

The Review is expanding issue #4 to four pages next month, and is seeking contributors for this and other issues. Also, if you wish to help distribute the Review at your area business, we would like to hear from you. Please mail or call with your input or sponsorship inquiries.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Theatre- Local Playwright and Western Michigan University English graduate student Lisa Beckwith will have an original one act play produced at the Zack L. York Arena Theater on the WMU campus, June 6th and 7th at eight o'clock PM. *The Ballad of Cass* is a play about a young man coming to terms with his mortality. The production is free and open to the public. For more information on the production of *The Ballad of Cass*, please call 629-5952.

The First Annual Taste of Vine Festival

is to be held in the Vine Neighborhood's Pioneer Park on Saturday, June 7th from 11 AM to 5 PM. This festival was organized by the Vine Neighborhood Association to give people an idea of what the Vine Neighborhood is, and has to offer. Sean McCann of the VNA said, "the purpose is to showcase the attributes and diversity of the neighborhood." There will be a stage with live music, various food, information, and arts & crafts from area merchants. Several Kalamazoo businesses and non-profit organizations from the Vine Neighborhood and other areas of Kalamazoo are participating.



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for the people

ISSUE 5 - <http://www.net-link.net/~revurb>

Kalamazoo, Michigan

What's Inside?

LISTEN TO THE LITTLEMAN



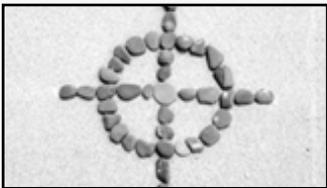
More on eccentric entertainment, including Thornetta Davis...



Wine tips 2

The Annual Michigan Wine and Harvest Festival Returns

Creative Writing and Photos by Jason Wesaw and Pete Switzer



Beergarden experiences Heavy Weather and other eccentrics

by Jason Powell

Over the past several years, Kalamazoo Brewing Company, at 355 East Kalamazoo Avenue, has brought much to Kalamazoo. Beginning with the opening of the first micro-brewery east of the Mississippi, and then Michigan's first brew pub in 1993, a place where the brewers could serve Bell's Beer. With the many varieties of quality beer that they offer, and the distinct microbrew flavor that packs its own uniqueness, Bell's Beer and the Eccentric Café have become icons in our city and across Michigan.

As the beer and the pub became more popular, the company began to expand, making aesthetic changes to the bar. The ceiling was raised, and a stage, new entrance, bathrooms, and more parking were added.

While all of the improvements were going on, I recall reading the prospected plans for a beergarden (posted on the wall in the pub), which was to open the following summer, and after opening last summer, the Beergarden has been a hit because of its aesthetic flare and garden setting. The stone and brick masonry show craftsmanship and taste, as does the all wooden stage and trellis (on which hops vines grow plentiful). Most importantly, the large yard area provides a great place for an outdoor concert, and is nicely landscaped.

This summer, the pub has hosted the "grand re-opening" of the beergarden, and has brought in local acts like the outstanding bluegrass band, *Great Lakes Grass*, and other talent like *The Jazz Firm*. Recently, the pub featured three big name acts as an end of summer concert. The September 5th & 6th shows featured *Thornetta Davis*, *Robert Bradley's Blackwater Surprise*, and *Heavy Weather*.

I attended on the second night, and early on, many people were raving about how good the previous night's show was. The opening act, *Heavy Weather* of Cincinnati, Ohio, was excellent, and created a great atmosphere in the beergarden, while getting the crowd rolling. They have a very *more on page 2*



Heavy Weather: (left to right) Carole Mueller, Jason Barney, Jake Newman, Joshua Knarr, Brian Aylor, and Chris Walker

Butterfly gardening attracts natural summer beauty

by Brian Steele

When I moved to my current home in the Kalamazoo area I was blessed with nearly an acre of property flanked by 4 acres of city forests. For 5 years now I have hoisted and nailed bat houses, owl houses, wren houses, and hummingbird feeders. For all of my efforts I was rewarded with zip, zilch, nada. Not one animal that I cared to lure to my backyard came to take advantage of my hospitality. I rechecked every publication I relied upon and found that I had done everything correctly. I was beginning to give up hope as a backyard naturalist with my greatest achievement to date being the attraction of several million Japanese beetles with traps.

Upon a visit to my parent's home in Pennsylvania last summer I was astounded at the number of butterflies that appeared to feed on one plant in their garden. After sitting and watching these winged wonders like a kid peering into an aquarium, I was beginning to develop a last ditch effort to keep my gardener's ego alive and well. My plan



was to create a butterfly garden right in the center of my backyard; a garden so large that a butterfly wouldn't miss it as it flew overhead. I was traveling home with a mission in mind and what I found out was that given a sunny location this was an endeavor that couldn't fail. And the best part was that most of these plants were perennial and only had to be planted once. Today, I have people traveling to see my butterflies and

more on page 2



photos by M. Brinkley

Art by Regurgitation

by Matt Brinkley

Brandtworks Space recently opened to the public with an exhibition of metal sculpture by Dan Gesink. From building pedestals to organizing the week-long show which followed, the event was a collaborative effort between Gesink and Ben Brandt. Despite the long hours of preparation, Dan appreciated the chance to arrange and light his sculptures according to his own preferences. (Such executive decisions are often removed from the artist's purview when their work is shown in unfamiliar galleries.) Taking further advantage of this freedom, Gesink displayed pages of poetry



written by his brother, Ryan, whom he credits as a significant influence on his work. Distinctions between different artistic media do not discourage Dan from considering a range of subject matter, and he often finds inspiration for his work outside the visual spectrum. Rarely, if ever, does he build sculpture from sketches. He is more likely to find something of interest in poetry or music, and attempt to pull and translate it into his own sphere of influence. That sphere is heavily oriented toward sculpture. For the past five years, Dan has worked in the Alchemist Studio casting bronze. During this time he has primarily explored three-dimensional art,

more on back page

Wine TIPS 2

Wine lovers attend the annual Michigan Wine and Harvest Festival

by Brian Steele

There is no doubt about it; the days are getting shorter as autumn quietly approaches. Most people in Michigan view this as a sign that the best days of the summer are over, but for those of us that relish the vintners' art it's the time to break out the glasses and taste. The 1997 version of the Michigan Wine and Harvest Festival came through town this past week bringing with it the best wines of our state. The festivities began on Thursday, the 4th of September and continued until Saturday the 6th, with Kalamazoo and PawPaw celebrating Michigan's wine industry. This opportunity gave all of us in West Michigan a chance to taste the flavors that come from our soil, air, and water. Or as the French would put it, we had an opportunity to experience our *terroir*.

Because Michigan is like no other place on Earth, we expected that the wines we tasted at this year's festival be unique; a product of the Michigan *terroir*. Most of the wines we tasted at Bronson Park were the moderately to less expensively priced proprietary wines. These wines were blends of different grape varieties, designed in the minds and palates of the winemakers. Proprietary wines that are also perennial favorites at the festival are *St. Julian's Great White*, *Good Harbor's Trillium*, and *Leelanau Cellars' Spring Splendor*. These wines are usually made with French American hybrid grapes and blended under the supervision of the winemaker. Despite the low class status that these wines maintain with the wine elite of the world they are worth the time and money for a taste. I can quickly recall stocking my cellar with a host of proprietary wines after giving them a try.

The wines with the highest stature in the current wine world are the varietal wines or the wines made up of mostly one grape type. These wines are most easily recognized because they have the name of the grape on the label. For those people looking for a great Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay, or Zinfandel, this festival might have been a disappointment. Michigan, while being a great state to produce wine, just doesn't have a sufficient growing season to make great wines out of these grapes. But, if you left your wine snob hat at home during this celebration, you just might have discovered what great things can be done with grapes like Riesling, Chancellor, Chambourcin, and Seyval Blanc. The vintners all across Michigan have worked though each season to produce the best fruit possible and then press every ounce of essence out of them. These wines will give you the best education on what makes each grape and vineyard unique.

The final group of wines that we ran across at the festival were those wines that most wine snobs and advocates wouldn't be caught dead drinking. Those are the wines made from the grapes native to North America and non-grape fruits like cherries and strawberries. There was even one producer that makes wine out of the ever-popular rhubarb. Native American grapes though hardy, produce wines that are very grapey rather than displaying the subtle characteristics of Michigan's *terroir*. While most high-browed wine sippers consider these wines harsh and foxy, thousands of wine drinkers across the state add these wines to their shopping list every week. These wines were best experienced by tasting wine from *St. Julian and Peterson and Sons*. Since Michigan is one of this country's leading producers of cherries, I happened to taste a few wines made from this sweet fruit.

For those wine tasters that wanted to experience the best of what Michigan vintners produce there was annual "Best of Michigan" wine tasting at the Radisson Plaza Hotel on Thursday evening starting at 6:30 PM. This event showcased the top of the line that our state's producers have crafted. The best showing of all the wines by far was the ice wine that was provided by Chateau Chantal. Its flavor and depth of sweetness proved to be the gem of the wines offered. The \$25.00 charge for the tasting and extensive appetizers was money well spent.

The best part about the Michigan Wine and Harvest Festival experience was the mix of food, friends, music, and wine. Every where you looked were people taking time out of their busy schedule and mingling in the crowd. They grabbed something to eat, pulled up a section of the fountain while the bands played, and if nothing else, gave the wines of Michigan a chance. If you were lucky, you just might have drunk something that tugs on your heart, a wine that soothed your soul. It may not have been an award winner or liked by your friends, but it could have been the one that sends you down the path that all of us wine lovers have taken, a path that has made each wine lover's life a little better.

eccentric entertainment (continued from front)



(left to right) Mike Danner, Matt O'Brien, Thornetta Davis, Phil Durr

a Sub-Pop records recording artist from Detroit (who has twice been voted best blues artist in the Motor City Music Awards), was excellent as well. She has attracted much attention due to her Motown influenced style (not typical of Sub-Pop) mixed with the style of her band, formerly *Big Chief*. The crowd reacted when they pulled out the number, "Funky Dollar Bill," once a *Big Chief* classic. The band first got together when Thornetta was asked by *Big Chief*, also from Detroit, to sing back-up vocals on their 1992 Sub-Pop release, *Mack Avenue Skull Game*. When *Big Chief* broke up, three of the members offered to back Davis in a new band, resulting in Davis's debut solo release, *Sunday Morning Music* (on Sub-Pop).

Unfortunately, I didn't stay late enough to catch Robert Bradley's *Blackwater Surprise*, but reaction was great. Perhaps Ben Hunter of *Swing Magazine* in New York City summed it up when saying, "Bradley sings autobiographical songs influenced by the legendary soul singers, including Marvin Gaye and Otis Redding... and his band, *Blackwater Surprise*, adds punch to his frainty, impassioned vocals... Singer/storytellers like Bradley are rare so take the plunge into the *Blackwater* and enjoy the rewards..." This band is one to watch for.

I'm sure that The Kalamazoo Brewing Company will continue to bring great acts, and with the extremely limited number of good bars and social gathering places in Kalamazoo, Bell's Eccentric Café and Beergarden is definitely one of the best places to go to hear great live music by up and coming acts, and to partake in a finely crafted beer product, while enjoying the aesthetics of a unique outdoor gathering place. Watch for their monthly music schedule in each issue of *The Review*, and don't miss the fall shows while the weather is still accommodating.

unique style, which I found to combine funk, soul, reggae and R&B into some awesome grooves. This band is evidently talented, and seemed to never miss each other's beat while having a great time playing together. Lead singer Carole Mueller's energy was consistent throughout the show, and watching her was exhilarating, and made most get up, to get down. Heavy Weather returns to Kalamazoo on September 13th to play at the World Beat Music Festival at the Arcadia Creek Festival Site at 6:30 pm, and then again later that night at The Club Soda. Don't miss this band!

The second act, Thornetta Davis,



Robert Bradley's *Blackwater Surprise*: (left to right) Mike Nehra, Robert Bradley, Jeff Fowlkes, and Andrew Nehra

butterfly gardening (continued from front)

photograph their beauty. If you have always wished to create a simple, but dramatic effect in your yard you can follow my simple plan.

The first step in creating a butterfly garden is to find a patch of soil in a location that gets at least 10 hours of summer sun. Don't worry if grass is already in your chosen spot. You can take that patch of lawn and cover it with a couple of layers of newspapers and a 6-inch layer of mulch. The mulch is a necessity for winter root survival anyway. The paper and mulch combination will kill the majority of the grass, and the newspaper will virtually decompose by the first Spring rain. The shape of the garden is open to your own interpretation and creativity. I prefer a free form shapes so I can expand it without upsetting the balance of a perfect square or circle. If you have concerns over the quality of your soil you can take a sample to your local gardening center. The experts there can make any recommendations on what should be added to amend your soil. The best advice that I can give you is to add compost, compost, and more compost. These decomposing materials add nutrients and water retention properties to your soil. Just mix it in under your mulch and let it do its wonderful work.

After you have placed your paper and mulch down and watered it in with the hose or a good rain you are ready to plant. The king of the butterfly garden is the butterfly bush (*Buddleia spp.*). This bush was the main butterfly stimulator in my parent's

yard. They usually reach heights of 3 to 6 feet and produce clusters of blossoms up to 12 inches long. These blossoms do the majority of the work and bring these winged jewels flying in from all over the neighborhood. These blossoms range in color from pink to lavender to deep purple. There are also those which produce large white blossoms. I simply picked out the varieties I desired and took them home. I moved the mulch from the desired location, cut the newspaper, dug a hole approximately twice the size of the pot, and planted the new specimen into the garden. I made sure that I watered and fed them according to the instructions given to me at the nursery. After waiting until nearly the middle of June of the following year, my 5 plants sprang to life and are now blossoming with great profusion. On any given day, these 5 bushes attract hundreds of butterflies. With the space you have left, you can add other plants that are also great butterfly attractors; granted that none will compare to the majesty of the butterfly bushes. Most butterfly gardeners will add samples of butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*). Its beautiful orange flowers and tasty foliage seem to attract butterflies as well as the butterfly bushes, but at 18 inches tall, just doesn't make the same gardening statement. The other two big guns in your butterfly garden should be purple coneflowers (*Echinacea purpurea*) and Joe-Pye weed (*Eurpatorium purpureum*). These plants are tall and striking. They are also irresistible to the tastes of



Michigan butterflies. Planting all of these plants is as easy as planting the butterfly bushes. Keep them watered and fed as directed and you should have blossoms galore by the middle of next summer.

There is still time to create one of these spectacular gardens in your yard. Make sure to water these plants well to protect them from autumn droughts and to mulch them deeply to ward off the freezing affects of winter. When next July rolls around you can pull up a lawn chair, watch the butterflies wing past, and remember what it was like to watch them as a child.

LISTEN TO THE LITTLEMAN by Chafe Hensley

Independent Kalamazoo Record Company Releases First 7 Inch

LITTLEMAN RECORDS was initialized back in June of this year, with it's first release: "The Trocar/Pinko split 7 inch". Both of these bands are local as well as being one of my own (Trocar). These bands hit the K-zoo music scene this past year and feature a more aggressive side to the rock n' roll of the Kalamazoo Valley. If you like loud, melodic, angst-producing music (as my mom likes to say) then you'd probably find something enjoyable within these two bands.

The intent on starting something like this boils down to my obsession with all forms of music and sound. I've had a desire since I was young to make and play some sort of creative noisemaking, whether it be just noise or actual song writing (nowadays, thanks to evolution, both get equally respected). So I began playing in bands at the age of 15. Granted, I think the music I'm involved in has progressed from those days, boy... the humiliation at times. So eventually you get better, start to play parties and small shows and then move towards the local clubs, usually bringing better shows. Better meaning more people show up and once in awhile you get to play with a very well known band. I have been lucky for the shows we've been given, it's exciting. The whole while I had slowly collected records, tapes, cd's, of all sorts of influences. I really appreciated all the effort that went into most of the records I bought and thought that I should try this someday. Fortunately, friends of ours who were involved in the actual process of making records, asked for our music, and in return, put out a record.

The day our band (*Inourselves*) pressed our first vinyl, I flipped, I couldn't believe that our music was on a legitimate piece of plastic that you spin on your record player. Since then I've been hooked. Why not do more? At the time, the ideas was great, but didn't get anywhere. Laziness, frustration and being 18 all had it's part at slothing things, but I never lost hope.



So I'm over in Germany last fall, a vacation in a sweet hell, and I made a goal for myself that I would put out a record of Trocar's old recordings when I got back to the states. I wanted more that just a few people to hear what we had recorded, I was (and still am) proud of it. So I came

back with a clearer head and an idea, and I just decided to put a name on the whole production... "Littleman Records."

After months of frustration and waiting and saving money, we finally put it out. We sent our (*Pinko/Trocar*) recordings to United Records Inc. in Nashville, TN. They only press 7 inch records (a.k.a. "45's"). It was a pain, but when we finally received our product, it was an extremely gratifying one. Everyone involved (and there were more than you can count on your hands) was extremely excited, but not for long, it was time to think about bigger and better things. It got people together, we played more shows, and now we have future *Littleman* projects in the works. So it's actually moving along, at the pace of a tortoise, but at least it's doing something, if not anything but putting creative people's brains to work, networking and joining together to make everyone's idea work. d.i.y... one of the best ways to go.

So I started something, and hope it remains solid. Littleman means something substantial to me, it's an idea, an attitude, and expression, and most of all, a way of life. Do it yourself no matter how small or how big something is. Just stick out your neck a little and try it. Whatever it is.

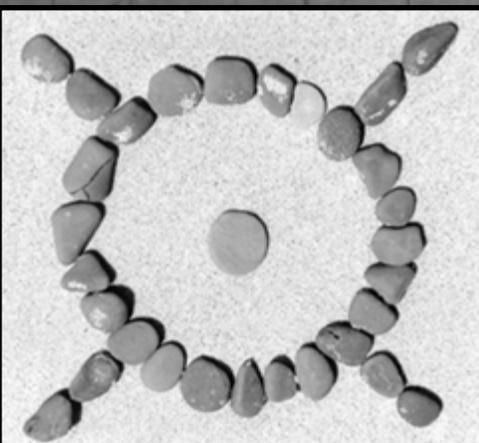
Kalamazoo is a great place for a lot of things. I'm not trying to inflict my ideals upon anyone, but this place needs more. Support the little people of this community, there are tons.

You know, I'm not really sure why I'm doing this exactly, My friend Matt, who writes for this publication, suggested putting something in an issue of *The Review* relating to "Littleman Records." So here it is. Support it if you like. There are many people doing the same, I'm just trying to be another.

LITTLEMAN RECORDS has upcoming releases to look out for:

- LMR02 "TROCAR/life on mars; mambo hardcore" 7 inch
-September 26th '97
- LMR03 "DYNAMIC RIBBON DEVICE" 7 inch
-late October/early November
- LMR04 "KALABAMA... THE LITTLEMAN COMPILATION" cd
-sometime this winter, featured bands: Trocar, Pinko, Senor Cummypants, Dynamic Ribbon Device, Lollygore, and ??? to be announced.

So if you are interested in progressive, loud, music, come check this out. Records are and will be available at these local stores: RADIO KILROY - FLIPSIDE RECORDS - REPEAT THE BEAT - MUSIC EXPRESS. If you would like to inquire about these local bands, or information on upcoming shows, or just want to write love or hate mail; contact: LITTLEMAN RECORDS, PO BOX 50453 KALAMAZOO, MI 49005



Living. Life Life
The wind carries voices
Life
Throats and dirt, dry
Good birds fly
and sing the song of living
The wind carries stories

Coming and passes by
Lessons for learning
and the answers why.
The wind carries
from four directions
As he stand swirling,
it gives no objection.
Strong and calm it
pushes
bad dreams and wishes.

Purple crushed velvet hanging on the wall Day and night grooves square and small. Dreams of shirts and sofas vanished- A window of color in a white room

words and photos  by Jason Wesaw



ON TO CLR

OUTSIDE IN THE RAIN
 WHATEVER YOU FIND
 ROLLING SO FAR,
 NOT FAR BEHIND
 NO REASON TO GO FAST
 NEVER THE RIGHT GUESS,
 PAINTED IN CLEAR

COLOR A SUNNY DAY

UNDER THE SKY IN MOURNING, UNDER THE SKY IN EVENING
 SLEEP AND FALL AWAY, COLORING ON A CLOUDY DAY
 THROUGH EYES LIKE FLIES, WAVING TO A FRIEND A GOODBYE
 SEARCHING FOR A WORD TO SAY,
 SLEEPING ON A SUNNY DAY

 by Pete Switzer

THE REVIEW

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Thanks to our sponsors for their support. Please support them and other small businesses. Send your comments, questions, gripes, announcements, photos, opinions, art, etc. Special thanks to the talented contributing freelancers.

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- THE REVIEW STAFF -

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*Dawn Campbell with Blue
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----- 19th and 20th -----

Jah Kings, sweet reggae

----- 26th and 27th -----

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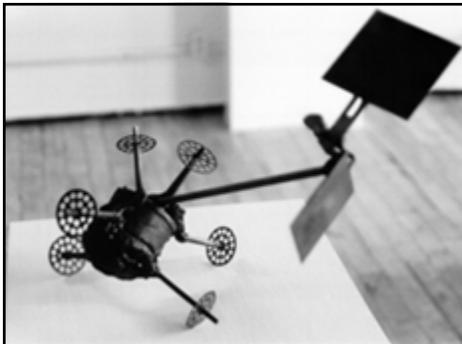
3 4 5 - H A I R



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Old Kent Building
136 East Michigan
Downtown Kalamazoo

metal being his material of choice. But within these boundaries, Gesink has established a flowing and expanding landscape of expressions and interpretations. Although several pieces at the show shared common thematic and formal elements, they tended to highlight differences and the tensions produced by such a condition. The two figurative pieces both strongly rooted in tradition by their formal and allegorical energy, contrasted sharply against a background dominated by formal challenges to the primacy of those traditions. A clown cast in bronze sulked convincingly on his steadfast perch while around him various metal forms flexed indeterminate, polymorphous skins and appendages. For me, however, one piece sounded a tone that resonated throughout the

*Satellite
of Love*
by Dan
Gesink



entire show. Titled *Form Follows Function*, the assemblage of an automobile crankshaft and deer vertebrae seamlessly connected organic with inorganic forms, tradition with innovation, etc. Overcoming dichotomy, connecting things ordinarily perceived to be separate and incommensurable without comprising the unique qualities possessed by each opposed element, this piece acted as a sound-board from which the others oscillated. Although the long-term future of this gallery/workspace is tenuous, the well attended yet intimate debut demonstrates the potential for underground art in Kalamazoo. That potential resides (albeit dormant at times) in many young artists and an audience interested by and supportive of new art. In contrast to less personal public museums or private galleries which cater more to "upscale" cultural consumers and established artists, events like this invite new participants into the often closed circles of the culturally initiated (snob). Unencumbered by formal training and textbook orthodoxy, new audiences bring with them ideas which are not informed by "informed" prejudices. After all, the democratic thrust of art is not a motive chosen by consensus, but rather its underlying vitality and natural progression. Artistic endeavor remains a meaningful activity only because we need it to digest the obtuse and otherwise unrelated pieces of our everyday lives. That is not to say everyone who attended the Gesink walked (or in some cases stumbled) away enlightened and inspired. But at least everyone, thanks to Ben Brandt and Dan Gesink, had a chance to see something they hadn't before. Hopefully their efforts, and others like them, will provide points of departure for other projects and events.

Art by Regurgitation

(continued from front)

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Martini's
Noble Makings in the Art of Cooking



reader response:

As a playwright / composer at the API Theatre, I was very pleased to see your feature article about our theatre. As we are striving to increase visibility within the community and promote the concept that this is "In your face" theatre... something a little dangerous for both the actors and the audience... as there's nowhere for anyone to hide in our intimate little 60 seat house. Thank you for the exposure provided in your publication.

Sincerely,
PS Lorio - e-mail

As an Ann Arborite living in Kalamazoo for 1 1/2 years now, I am eager to help this town to realize its cultural potential. There are some great things happening here. They just seem to happen in little pockets, without a viable communication tool to let folks know what's going on... On the surface, Kalamazoo is a bit dirty and run down, but there's a beauty to its dusty ruggedness...this place is growing on me, and I want to help support its "coming into its own."

Lisa Pappas - e-mail

announcements

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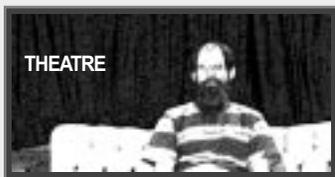
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COLUMN



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November is
Nouveau season.

word Art
A creative writing column



MATT BRINKLEY

Whole Art Theatre Performs Rebirth

As a high school student, I visited the Whole Art Theater on many occasions. Many/all of the occasions did not involve theater as much as they did mohawks, skateboards, and punk music. It never really occurred to me as I was watching the God Bullies or FAQ that the Whole Art actually staged theatrical productions. But they did and continue to do so, though not within the familiar confines of the Whistle Stop building. WATCO has made a place for itself in a "cozy" theater at the World Tree Peace Center Located at 246 N. Kalamazoo Mall (behind the museum, between Water and Eleanor streets). The collaborative arrangement between the Whole Art and the World Tree provides a central space for arts and culture, politics and social issues, and the activities associated with these interests. Though the days of punk shows are gone, the Whole Art will continue to offer music with events like Acoustic Night, and Folk Life. As for theater, WATCO started their first



photos: Wesan

full season in their new home with James Thurber's *A James Thurber Menagerie*. Matthew Clysdale, managing director, likes to think of this season as a rebirth and time of rebuilding.

They most recently completed their second annual Halloween performance. A combined effort involving members of the World Tree and individuals from the community, this performance consisted of a one-act play titled *The Enemy's Ancestors*, a Celtic ritual called the *Spiral Dance*, and *The Stag Dance*. Intended to dispel contemporary misperceptions about Halloween, the production sought to reveal the traditions behind the commercialized brand of Halloween that we generally embrace today. Honesty and the willingness to publicize it lie at the core of many Whole Art productions. Theater is used to probe and explore life in a forthright (and sometimes confrontational) manner.

Upcoming events evidence this dedication to critical, provocative performance. *The American Dream* by Edward Albee and *The Bald Soprano* by Eugene Ionesco, for instance, question false and see **Whole Art** on back

FROM THE REVIEW DESKTOP : THE COMMUNITY THAT COUNTS

MATT BRINKLEY

Originally, I had intended to write an article which would address the immanent relocation of Upjohn-Pharmacia world headquarters. And I intend to do so. But rather than recapitulate the loss to our community in objective terms with which we are by now familiar (e.g. numbers of jobs), I want to use this event to illustrate something that has become more apparent to me as of late; specifically, that we lack a strong sense of community and are unwilling to do much about it. Sure, everyone has their own little stake in their neighborhood or block, but I am talking about a broader sense of community. It did appear for a time, that our fair polis was unified by a general though ambiguous feeling of anxiety related to "the move." What proportion of the citizenry participated in this a moment of self pity and doubt I cannot accurately say. But the affect was significant enough to capture the front page of the *Kalamazoo Gazette* day after day, after day . . . And that kind of community reaction should be expected given the role Upjohn has played in the region. Beyond its status as an internationally recognized corporation, Upjohn occupied a privileged space in the public mind. Forgetting that Upjohn is now a multinational corporation and not the neighborhood apothecary, we thought of it as a partner and friend with whom we would continue to build our common economic future. We trusted "it," this monolith of enterprise. Other "communities" are driven by this need to trust in something bigger. Sweden wanted a piece of it; and now, the citizens of New Jersey will get their chance to trust in something inherently unworthy of such a human sentiment. Despite the rather sickening episodes of groveling that preceded the final decisions, Kalamazoo has been left behind for another place and people. As the

see community page 2

DEFACING... These two Kalamazoo buildings are great examples that less is more (with great variation), and that taking away from something reveals what it truly is, a painted chair, a floor, or a building. Not that all buildings look better defaced, but some of the buildings downtown are covered by façade, like *Gazelle Sports* on the mall, and the *Standard Federal Bank* (top), which, until recently consisted of metal grate outer façade (popular some time ago), and is now beginning to carry the authentic look (popular when built and still turning heads). In this picture, part of the facade is still up, so it is easy to tell how much nicer it is without it. As it is being restored, so is the *Globe Casket* building on Water Street (bottom), which is less one paint job via sandblasting, and looks even more improved thus far. Improvements like these are sure to set standards for other old restorable places of commerce downtown.



photos: Wesan

Wine TIPS 3

November is *Nouveau* season.

BRIAN STEELE

When I was a wine novice I was certain that white wines would always remain my favorite. Most of them were lighter and friendlier wines. As I was learning about wines I found that you had to have much less of a wine education to be familiar with the whites. Wine tasting after wine tasting presented a whole smorgasbord of red wines, but I, stubborn to the end, concentrated my palate on the whites. One crisp November evening presented an interesting situation for me. A *Nouveau* Wine Tasting was held and I jumped at the opportunity to try a new set of white wines. When I got there I was terrified to find that this tasting was a worldwide event and featured only one type of wine. As you probably guessed, it was red, a *Beaujolais*. It was time for an education and the beginning of a great journey.

The *Nouveau* festivities celebrate the release of the first red wines of the vintage. Where most red wines sit in large oak casks and age for years to mellow out their tannic bite, *Nouveau* wines are pressed, fermented, bottled, and shipped within weeks. To be able to produce red wines in such a short period of time requires a few tricks. The grapes are picked in whole clusters and placed in a sealed fermentation tank. The grapes quickly use up all of the oxygen in the tank and a special form of fermentation called carbonic maceration takes over. I do feel a bit guilty as I ponder these poor grapes suffocating themselves into wine. After a quick fermentation they are filtered, bottled, and stored for release on that magic day.

Traditionally, when you talk about *Nouveau* wines you are talking about *Beaujolais* wines from France. These wines come from the *Beaujolais* district of Burgundy. In *Beaujolais* the *Gamay* grape is king and makes up almost all of the *Nouveau* wines. These wines are friendly, approachable, and lack any pretension of being a serious wine. They are meant to be consumed young and are truly a red wine for white wine lovers. The best part about these fun wines is that they are affordable enough to bring to every holiday celebration. Rumor has it that the growing conditions this year were wonderful. I am expecting that this year's *Nouveau* will be even better than last year's fine bottling.

By now you are probably wondering about this big day. Put the third Thursday on November on every calendar that you have. George Duboeuf, the self-proclaimed king of *Beaujolais Nouveau*, will start the festivities in France with the release of his wines and travel via the *Concord* to New York City to release them in the States. You can look for the *Beaujolais Nouveau* festivities in downtown Kalamazoo. *Tiffany's*, in conjunction with *Francois' Seafood and Steakhouse*, will be throwing a *Nouveau* celebration of their own. *Tiffany's* events have presented some great wines in the past and at a cost of \$35.00 for the wines and dinner should not be missed. Information can be obtained by calling *Tiffany's*. If you can't make the festivities the wines will be on the shelves of your favorite wine shop by the time you make your way home.

American wineries, along with some Michigan vintners, are jumping onto the *Nouveau* bandwagon. Many California wineries, like *Beringer*, are producing these early reds out of the *Gamay Beaujolais* grape. Surprisingly, this grape isn't even closely related to the *Gamay* grape from France and has sparked some debate on the lawful use of the name. Not to be outdone, Michigan wineries, like *Fenn Valley Winery* of Fennville, produce a *Nouveau* wine from *Chambourcin* and *Chancellor*. They also have a *Nouveau* Festival during the first weekend of December. They not only provide a chance to taste their *Nouveau* wine, but also present the first tastes of their white wines from this year's vintage.

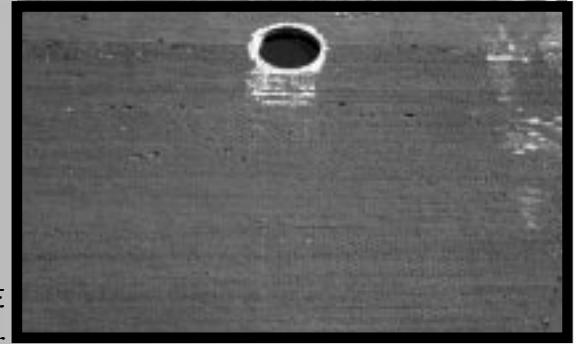
The *Nouveau* festivals around the world remind all of us wine lovers that wine is a celebration of life. Wine can bring all of us together as friends and offers us a chance to relax during hectic times. No other wine can be so friendly and warming as a *Beaujolais Nouveau* consumed with friends on the third Thursday of November.

If you were looking for a monthly wine tasting that has been spectacular in the past, I would like to recommend the *Black Swan*. The wine and food has always been well matched and presented in an environment that stimulates friendly wine conversation.

Around the Townscape

KALAMAZOO CITY VIEWS

JASON WESAW



PUDDLE ON THE WALL



3 DOORS



CONCRETE and STEEL

COMMUNITY *continued from front*

rejects in this scenario, we felt a little resentment toward the decision-makers. The next thing you knew, news anchors were throwing around the word "community" to describe what was previously an atomized collection of resentful rejects. Was our resentment and consternation really a "community reaction?" Was our resentment so pronounced because we care so much about the condition of our community? In reality, there's nothing to care about. Of course lives will be altered as they are moved from southwestern Michigan to the East Coast, and those of us remaining will likely experience (however indirectly) some kind of economic consequence. But the worst part about such a betrayal is not the act itself, but rather the inevitable realization that one mistakenly trusted something or someone in the first place. All at once, we are made aware of our own childish naivete and the emptiness that it previously concealed. In this case, we mistakenly placed our trust, our public faith, in a private economic institution, which was not obliged to heed the community's will. Now we find ourselves without that relationship. As long as we continue to allow our sense of community to be framed by commerce, specifically larger companies, we will continue to experience such disappointments. A city should be more than an aggregate of its constituents; more than a loose collection of individuals who work for or benefit from the presence of some economic behemoth. Ad hoc community does not a community make. Community is what is left over after all the Upjohns and General Motors leave us in the lurch. But it has to be there to begin with. To some extent, this is why we started producing *The Review*. We wanted to create a public space, which was not framed by any concern other than the health of the community and environment around us. Increasingly, however, I question whether that community exists at all. *The Review* meant to be a community resource, and yet we receive very little participation from the community. Perhaps my expectations are too high for this city. Maybe we should relegate ourselves to lives which are merely comfortable and private. Limit our relationships to a close circle of friends. And remind ourselves to never ever compromise either to enhance something as abstract as our "community."

a local art showcase: PARK TRADES CENTER



photo: Brinkley

Young admirer Abigail Goodwin gets into artwork by Kelly Coats and Donna Collins.

By many accounts, the recent Park Trades studio tour was the best attended yet. Opening artists' studios to the general public enabled them to experience finished works and to some extent the context and process responsible for them. Beyond the commercial importance of such exposure for individual artists, the show served

a definable if loosely associated arts community endures in Kalamazoo day to day

some higher functions. It reminds us, for example, that art has a public component and existence; that the people responsible for producing art work hard to bring new things to the rest of us; and most importantly, that a definable if loosely associated arts community endures in Kalamazoo day to day. Unfortunately, the event also marked the finale for Brandtworks Space (featured in #5 *Art by Regurgitation*). Unable to sustain itself financially, the gallery/workspace closed its doors last week. Despite its impending demise, the final show articulated the same hope and enthusiasm that made the *Regurgitisms* show unique.

love Reviews

print & web reviews by J.P.

Infinite Fish Productions <http://infinitefish.com>

I stumbled across this site one day while searching for background textures for my desktop, and was amazed. Not only does it contain an extensive library of some of the best seamless background textures I've found on the web, but it is a great web-site to visit if you are in search of some excellent uses of Java and Dynamic HTML programming.

Within the pages of the site, you can find several creative and interesting interactive images and animations that react when you drag your mouse atop. Each page in some way uses the capabilities of the newest web browsers available, and most of them require Netscape 4 or higher or Internet Explorer 3 or higher. One of the more humorous pages, "I Pity the Haiku" consists of animated poetry dedicated to Mr. T. Another, the "Ninja Mail" page offers a free service to anyone interested in sending email to enemies through a third party or "ninja" in order to disguise the true origin of the message.

"Amorphous Cornbread", is a crazy Java version of a web-site guest book, which, unlike most guest books that offer a place for you to tell the web author and visitors who you are by typing a message, this one gives you a group of ten words that you have to put together to create sentences. There is also a good amount of information for designers on how to make seamless textures in Photoshop, a "top ten homepage rules" page, as well as many other Java based pages including "two player fish-tac-toe". You really just have to see it.



<http://infinitefish.com>

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word Art

This moment is frozen in time,
like the skeleton of a tree waiting to bloom again.
Stop thinking about the future, forget about the past.
Right now is all we have anymore,
for the clocks we use will enslave us!
So willing to spend time we spend energy
only to lose ourselves in the fantasy of wealth.

Can you silence your mind or will you
surrender to screaming desires?
Stop and listen if you can to the whispering winds again
until the sounds grow into a melody of nature.
A freezing of consciousness will reveal reality for a moment,
silence is true, then it is back to the
distractions & chaos of our normal everyday lives.

ANONYMOUS



Control....
Dreams...
water
to drink
or swim...
Standing AwakKE
floating

DRINK OR SWIM

FOUND A LILY PAD MIGHT CLAIM IT
FOR THE DAY
HERE TIME DRIPS SUCH AN EASY PACE
THE FALLEN LEAVES FLOAT WITH ME
OVER THE WATER
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Thanks for all of the response! *The Review* is a freelance news and art publication distributed locally for people of Kalamazoo who are interested in making our community a better, cleaner, more welcoming place for all. **Thanks to our sponsors for their support.** Please support them and other small businesses. Send your comments, questions, gripes, announcements, photos, opinions, art, etc. Special thanks to the talented contributing freelancers.

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ATTENTION KALAMAZOO

The Review is seeking contributors for issues. Also, if you wish to help distribute the Review at your area business, we would like to hear from you. Please mail or call with your input, questions, or sponsorship inquiries. Thank you.

THE REVIEW STAFF -

MATT BRINKLEY,
JASON POWELL,
J.W. STOVALL,
PETE SWITZER
AND JASON WESAW

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Whole Art continued from front

misplaced cultural values. In February, the Whole Art will screen Victor Brown's *More Than One Way Home*. The documentary provides a "photographic history of African Americans in Battle Creek between 1834 and 1960." To exercise the talents of local actors and draw new talent from the community, WATCO also offers lab classes which are "intended to ready the actor for any theatrical situation." From absurd to classical, stage to film, the diversity of works produced by Whole Art certainly enhances local theater and its place in the public mind.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Kalamazoo: Lost and Found wall calendar for 1998 is now available in 30 retail locations and by mail. It is published annually by the Kalamazoo Commission for Historical Preservation.

The American National Bank building (now the home of the Old Kent Bank - Southwest) is featured on this year's cover. And, as with last year's edition, each month features historic and present-day photographs of commercial, residential and other buildings throughout the city. A sampling of other sites for 1998 include Stetson

Chapel, The Johnson House, The Gernat & Lansing Meat Market, and the former Dewing home on "Mansion Row."

Historians and consultants Lynn Houghton and Pam O'Connor wrote short histories of each site; photographer John Lacko took the present-day photos, and Peter Suess Brakeman of Seuss-Brakeman Design did the graphic design work.

The 1998 calendar has been produced in a limited edition: there are only 1000 copies available. Proceeds from its sale will again be used to

provide financial support for a 300 page publication, which will also be titled *Kalamazoo: Lost and Found*. Over ¾ of the needed funds have been raised, and the KCHP hopes that this year's sale will bring the fund-raising to completion.

The retail price of this year's edition remains the same, only \$11. Those who wish to receive copies by mail should send \$14.00 for each, check or money order to KCHP Calendar, Robbert McKay, Historic Preservation Coordinator, 241 W. South St, Kalamazoo, MI 49007. They should allow several weeks for delivery.

Coming to Dumont:

Opening December 1st and continuing through the 24th at the Dumont Frameworks Gallery at 120 N. Church Street in Kalamazoo, will be the wood fired ceramic work of Jeff Cline and watercolor paintings by Alecia Cross. The opening reception for the artists will be December 5th from 7 to 9 pm. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday 9:30 to 5:30 or by appointment. For more information please contact Ron at 382-3855.

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