

IN THIS CORNER

If and when it all comes out in court, the trial of the Finger Lakes jockeys accused of conspiring to fix Superfecta races should offer some old-fashioned melodramatic ingredients.

Key testimony by a colorful blond chick who was wired for sound to set up the chauvinist riders... a sellout to investigators to beat a bad check rap... a tangled romance... the betrayal of a would-be financial fixer... beneath it all, the fury of a woman scorned. The soaps wouldn't dare try it. But you'll hear it any day now in federal court. It all makes for super pre-season publicity, with the "crazy weekend" season starting on March 2.

The trotters are in far more serious trouble, because big leaguers are lined up on the conspiracy counts at the Big Apple. You wonder why major league drivers would dump a race for \$1,000 a trip? Well, so many harness teamsters are so used to "giving" horses a race (not trying) that they consider it all part of the routine of building toward winning a bet. So when they are offered \$1,000, tax free, to stiff a horse they may have planned to stop anyway, they take it and do it laughing.

The impact of the Superfecta stink in New York (Roosevelt and Yonkers) already has had a tremendous effect on the public. Meaning an alarming drop in betting handle, because of the public loss of confidence in the trotting game.

It is, incidentally, far easier to stop a harness horse than a runner. Harness horses are basically more dependable and consistent. If a driver can make the mile consistently in 2:09, he can set up the public by losing

with the horse in 2:11 and 2:12 or more, for half a dozen races, before dropping into a class so low he can win easily even with a 2:10 clocking.

The State of Illinois was way ahead of other states when its own track operators sensed the dangers in the gimmick wagering with boxcar payoffs. Illinois operators willingly accepted a slight loss in handle to outlaw the gimmicks before the "talent" got into cheating in high gear.

Even if you couldn't care less about racing, it's important to you from a tax viewpoint, because the Sovereign State of New York is the one big fat winner from harness and flat racing.

All this becomes increasingly important if the energy crisis is an energy crisis and if we are in trouble for gasoline.

Finger Lakes and Batavia Downs draw 90 per cent of their fans from areas 20 to 30 to 50 and more miles away. Double that for a round trip. Now tell me, if you are hurting for fuel for your wheels, are you still likely to decide so casually to spin out to The Thumb or The Friendly Track a couple of times a week?

Or will you veto the idea, particularly because you're reading constantly about the fixes and dumps, and because you're positive your driver or jockey wasn't trying the last 9,999 times you tried to make a winner?

The outcome of trials in Rochester and in Fun City are likely to have tremendous impact on racing's immediate future. Meanwhile, let me tell you about this mare that's been working out on the farm right near the Victor Thruway Exit.

SCHOLASTIC NOTEBOOK

The Gannett Rochester Press Radio Club's annual charity awards dinner at the Downtown Holiday Inn was a highly successful affair again, with \$7,500 going to Rochester charities before the patrons sat down to eat.

The Gannett Rochester newspapers awarded O.J. Simpson, everybody's pro athlete of the year, a piece of rare Steuben crystal, especially hand-crafted by the Corning Glass Company, in the shape of a silver eagle atop a crystal sphere.

The award was accepted on O.J.'s behalf by Buffalo Bills teammate Walt Patulski because O.J. was in Buffalo accepting the Dunlop pro athlete of the year award.

Gannett Rochester publisher Gene Dorsey presented Patulski-Simpson with a check for \$5,000 and O.J., on film, in turn donated the five big ones to School of the Holy Childhood, located ironically, on Buffalo Road.

The Italian American Civil Rights League of Rochester presented Bob Thomas, the Notre Dame kicker via McQuaid, the local athlete of the year winner, with a check for \$2,500 which under the rules he turned over to the PR Club for its other charities.

The dinner was not without its snags, however, although they were more embarrassing than anything else.

Rochester artist Al Landsman, whose talent for translating professional sports action to paper smacks of photographic qualities, failed for the second year in a row to be recognized by the MC, in this case WHEC-TV's Chuck Stevens.

The omission was especially awkward because Landsman again donated his time and talent to create the pro athlete's portrait, for which he also taps his friend Jack Riddle, owner of General Color Printing, to print a thousand copies over the weekend preceding the dinner, for distribution at the dinner. Riddle also donated his time, talent and materials.

As if these omissions weren't enough, MC Stevens' name didn't appear on the dinner program.

Stevens, it should be noted, took over for perennial MC Jerry Flynn who was working the Buffalo-Dunlop dinner the same evening. Flynn had handled the 23 previous PR dinners which makes Stevens' choice as his successor indeed unique in PR Club history.

New PR Club president is Aquinas and St. John Fisher grad Jack Palvino of WBBF.

The Swimming Story

"There's no way the D&C is going to publish swimming times," D&C sports editor Larry Greybill told us recently. He cited AP readership surveys as the basis for his decision.

Greybill said the surveys show wrestling is more popular with readers than swimming is, and added that few readers bother to read the summaries anyway, with the exception of baseball box scores.

The afternoon Times-Union, (Frank Cardon, sports editor) publishes the swimming times to appease what Greybill describes as a small, special interest group of coaches, swimmers and parents.

CALENDAR

St. Jude's — Spring dance and supper, March 16 after 7:30 Mass; tickets, \$5 per person, available after Masses Feb. 17. Reservations: Norma Amico, 436-5379.

St. Ann's — Spaghetti supper by Rosary and Holy Name societies, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 21, in school hall. Reservations: Mrs. James Fahy, 274-0006.

Catholic Daughters — Court Our Lady of the Cenacle, regular meeting at 8 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 19, St. Philip Neri school hall; Mrs. Cletus Schum and Mrs. Nelson Schum hostesses at birthday party for all members.

Catholic Mission Guild — Regular meeting 1 p.m., today, Feb. 13, at 513 Monroe.

Southwest Golden Age Group — Valentine party, 1:30 p.m., Friday, Feb. 15, at 34 Monica St.; music students from Brockport State to entertain.

Alumnae Association of the Sacred Heart, Manhattanville Club of Rochester — Annual communion breakfast Sunday noon, Feb. 24, at Carmelite Monastery, 1931 W. Jefferson Road, Pittsford, and Locust Hill Country Club.

Open House — Corpus Christi School, 880 E. Main, open to the public 9:30-12:30, tomorrow, Feb. 14, in observance of Catholic Schools Week.

Spaghetti Dinner — Genuine Italian food at St. Francis Xavier, 316 Bay St., 1-6 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 24; adults \$2, Children \$1.

Barn Dance and all-you-can-eat supper — 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. to midnight Thursday, Feb. 21, East Side Community Center, 70 Denver St., at Parsells; building fund benefit, adults \$2, children \$1, senior citizens \$1.50. Information: 288-0021.

Energy Lecture — By Donald Ross, director, New York Public Interest Research Group, 4 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 19, sponsored by Nazareth College lecture committee, Arts Center Auditorium.

Rochester Dreams — Overnight Star Theatre show, 11 p.m.-7 a.m., Feb. 22-23. Reservations at Strasenburgh Planetarium box office, 244-6060.

Butterflies are Free — Rochester Community Players opening tomorrow 3 p.m., the Playhouse, 5 Clinton at Meigs, to run Feb. 14-17 and Feb. 21-23. Sunday curtain 7:30. Reservations: 473-4320.

The Snow Queen — Blackfriars tryouts tonight, Feb. 13, 7:30-9:30 p.m., in Xerox Auditorium; play to be produced in mid-May. Contact: Rick Case, 464-2330 or 461-1633.

Flakara! — Romanian folk dancers, singers and orchestra, April 10, Eastman Theatre. Tickets from Original Performances, 282 Midtown Plaza Terrace.

Space Tunnel — Refurbished, reopens Feb. 14 at Rochester Museum and Science Center; open daily.

Landmark Society — Early 19th Century children's handicrafts, Campbell-Whittlesley House, 123 S. Fitzhugh, Tuesdays through Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; locomotive paintings by the late John C. Wernich, Brewster-Burke House, 130 Spring St., Monday through Friday, 9-5.

GeVa — Lunchtime theater, The Pedagogue, 12:15 p.m., Feb. 18-22; Rush-hour, 5:45 (refreshments at 5) and evening, 8:30, The Hollow Crown, through Feb. 16; Hedda Gabler, Feb. 18-23, Feb. 26-March 2, Pinocchio at 2 p.m., Feb. 20-22, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 23. 168 S. Clinton, 716/232-1363.

Rochester Shakespeare Theatre — The Tempest, through Feb. 16, 8 p.m., 50 N. Plymouth, 716/232-1220.

Memorial Art Gallery — The Age of St. Louis, lecture by Prof. David Walsh of U of R, 7:15 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 19. Free.

Eastman School Musicians — In Memorial Art Gallery recital, 2:30 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 17.

Deadline

Calendar items should be mailed to the Courier-Journal Calendar Desk, 67 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604. Deadline is Wednesday noon, one week ahead of the publication date.

The Housing Game

By PAT PETRASKE

Welcome to Metchester. It is a metropolitan area of about 600,000 people which can be located anywhere. Members of the human development committee of St. Pius X Parish Council became residents of Metchester last week as they played the game called Housing.

Metchester is divided into four neighborhoods: Summit Circle, an upper income area whose residents control the city's political structure and media; Madeit Drive, a middle income area in the comfortable suburbs that is primarily concerned with neighborhood preservation; America Street, a moderate income area in the midst of transition; and Downunder Alley, a low income area trapped in an escapable circle of poverty.

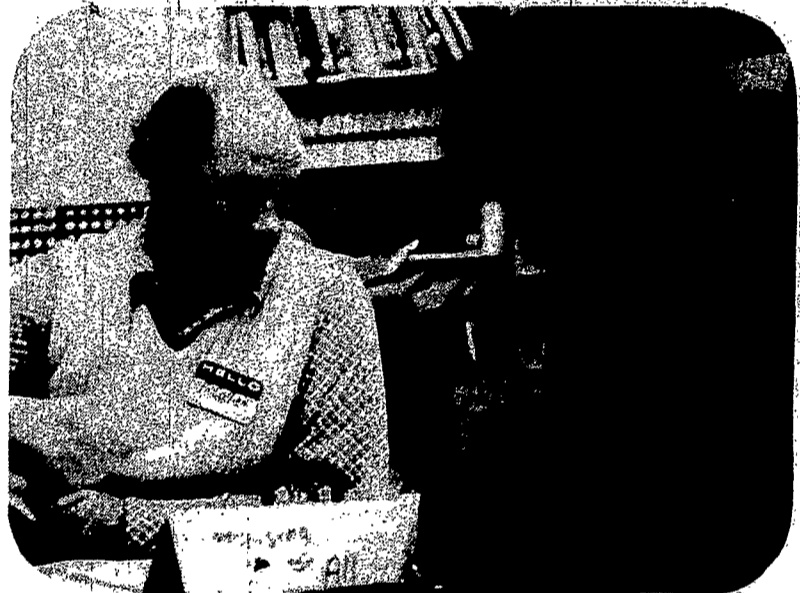
Roaming the city is HFA (Housing For All) which tries to provide better "human living conditions for all," explained Lourdes Perez, an intern in training for the Office of Human Development. She is also a member of the Bishop Sheen Housing Foundation who presented the game as the first in a series of available programs on housing.

The rules of the game are a little confusing because no one is told what they are. The players must try to secure the passage of one or more of nine legal proposals ranging from property upgrading and slum renovation to tax reform and mass transit development.

"The game is like life because people often do not know the rules or the consequences if they don't play by the rules," explained Joseph Torma, education training director for the Office of Human Development. He added that people are so used to playing by the rules, otherwise known as "the Law," that they don't know rules can be changed.

A proposal in the game is passed only after it obtains a majority of vote points held by each neighborhood, and that occurs only after several rounds of coaxing and convincing. Sean Connelan, representing the downunder of the Alley, managed to take over the "media" and used a fog horn to tell everyone to vote for his proposal for innte city low-income housing.

With such wisecracking as "Aw, you go play golf" to one member of Summit Circle, came several important insights.



Father Charles Collins, SS. CC., associate pastor of Ss. Peter and Paul, [I.], plots strategy with Kevin McBride for better conditions under the Housing Game.

Frustrated residents from Downunder Alley discovered that they had been allotted the fewest number of points to work with. "The poor are always the last to know what's going on," sighed one Alley dweller.

"No one really cared about us. All they wanted was to get our points, they didn't care about our issues," said Marge Glasser of Downunder Alley who admitted that to get ahead she had to "cheat a little."

At the other end of "town," those from Summit Circle tried "to be Christians but that didn't work. We didn't realize how

much power we had. Whatever we wanted to happen, happened. So we just let everyone come to us," commented Barbara Zacks. She confessed that everything that Summit Circle did was for its own benefit and "Downunder really bit for it."

The Housing Game was devised for the Bishop Sheen Housing Foundation by Barbara Steinwachs and is available nationally through Simulation Lab, Inc. at the University of Michigan. Further information may be obtained by calling Torma at the Office of Human Development, 328-6400.

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