

Student nets fish stories, experience

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

GENEVA — Kevin Bienvenue is trying to keep his head above water.

Like many high school students, the DeSales sophomore works a part-time job in his spare hours, hoping to save money for his future. That future involves some pretty fishy business, though.

"I'm eventually going to take my Coast Guard test and become a charter captain as soon as I get out of high school," Bienvenue asserted.

To that end, the student is currently working as a mate aboard a boat owned by Honey Hole Charters in Sodus Point, Wayne County. The charter boat operates on Lake Ontario from April to November.

Bienvenue got his taste for the sea — or the lake, as it were — when he was still wet behind the ears. His father often took him

to Sodus for fishing trips as a boy. Three years ago, Russ Hacker, Honey Hole's owner, hired the student to work on his boat.

On weekends and whenever he's on vacation, Bienvenue rises before the sun does and leaves his house for the trip to Sodus. By 6 a.m., he's usually out on the lake, where he works until mid-afternoon.

While the partying groups who charter the boat toast their catches and each other, Bienvenue keeps things running smoothly. "In the morning, I get all the equipment ready," he explained. "I drive the boat when we're fishing... Sometimes, I will set lines for people."

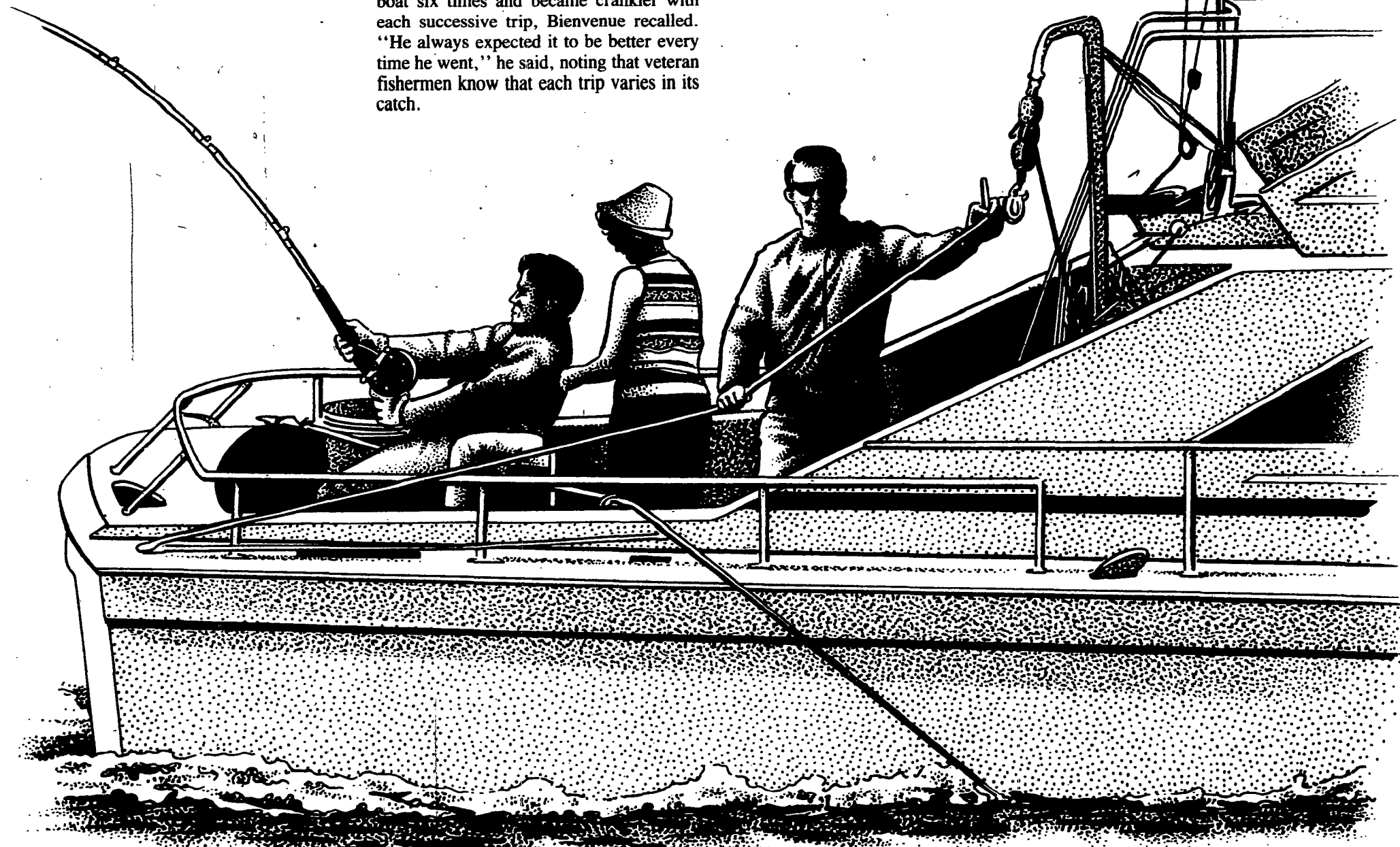
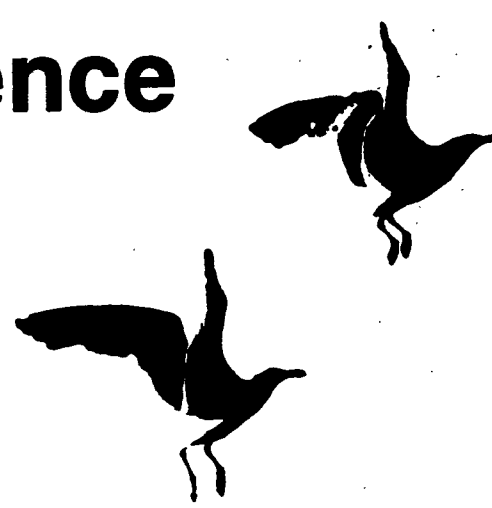
Generally, most of the people on board are fun to work for, he noted. "Sometimes you get real nice people," Bienvenue acknowledged, however, that "there are a few that aren't too pleasant to be with."

One aspiring fisherman chartered the boat six times and became crankier with each successive trip, Bienvenue recalled. "He always expected it to be better every time he went," he said, noting that veteran fishermen know that each trip varies in its catch.

Another passenger left the student with more pleasant memories. "We had one gentleman come on who did the special effects for the Star Trek movie ('Star Trek V: The Final Frontier')," Bienvenue said. "He told us there's this one scene where there's a mountain. They put a rubber chicken in it."

Bienvenue explains that, as a joke, the rubber chicken was placed in a scene in which the Enterprise crew stops on a planet where God supposedly lives. He advises viewers to keep an eye out for the chicken, which reportedly survived the final edit.

Bienvenue hopes to continue collecting such tales from his weekly adventures on the lake. He also wants to collect enough paychecks to buy his own boat some day. Right now, he sees himself as an apprentice, learning the ropes. "It's like going to school," he said.



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If yours is the winning entry, you will be mailed a coupon for a free album or tape of your choice redeemable at the House of Guitars, 645 Titus Ave.

All entries must be received within seven days of this paper's issue date. Winning names and answers will be printed the week following each drawing.

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