

Freshening up floors

Nothing is so beaten up after the snowiest winter in New York's history than its floors. Now's a good time to call Empire Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning. They treat each carpet individually, with specialized cleaning procedures for each fabrication. Any two rooms with synthetic carpet can be cleaned for \$19.95. Chemical washes for wool carpets run about \$50 per room. Free pick up and delivery is provided for rugs, vertical blinds, drapery and upholstered furniture. Wood floors can also be restored to their natural beauty. In addition, Empire sells and installs new carpet through an at-home buying service. A carpet repair department is also available. Empire is bonded and insured.

Empire Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning, 800-820-1210.

A fixer-upper

Hold off on that share in the Hamptons. Blind dates from hell may be a thing of the past. The dating service for the '90s may be the answer to a sweeter season. It's Just Lunch, a matchmaking service for the busy professional, offers a low-pressure way to meet a potential mate. Instead of the typical, endless dinner date, It's Just Lunch arranges first dates over lunch, with a built-in time constraint. Best of all, clients are not given each other's last name and telephone number prior to the meeting. If the date goes well, it's up to the participants to exchange that information. It's Just Lunch reports an impressive track record: 75 percent of all lunches have resulted in second dates and there have been nearly 100 marriages since its inception in 1992. A six-month membership, which includes six dates, is \$500.

It's Just Lunch, 120 East 56 Street, between Park and Lexington Avenues, 212-644-0022.

Getting punchy

No broken noses reported here. Kingsway International Boxing offers a great way to get in shape for the summer while learning an Olympic sport. Men and women, beginner to advanced, are welcome to try their hand, er glove, at the sport that made Rocky a household word. On-going classes are offered mornings, late afternoons and evenings. Nigerian-born owner Michael Olajide teaches a defensive style. "I teach students how not to get hurt," he says. "Everybody wears headgear, mouthpieces and private part protection and there is no sparring without supervision." Kingsway, which moved from its 40th Street location, has a weight room, speed bags, two rings, heavy bags and double-ended bags that are hooked onto the ceiling and floor. Fees are \$100 per month or \$800 per year, allowing students to participate as often as they want. For those who wish to train themselves, the cost is \$65 per month.

Kingsway International Boxing, 1 West 28 Street, 212-679-3427.

Women's hair loss

Most people think of hair loss as a problem that generally afflicts men. Yet an estimated 20 million adult women in America — nearly one of every five — suffer some degree of hair loss, from thinning hair and patchy bald spots to total baldness. Elline Surianello, owner of LeMetric Hair Center knows firsthand the pain and frustration felt by many women who suffer hair loss. At age 29, Ms. Surianello discovered that she was going bald. After trying almost everything including pills and potions, tonics, special shampoos and bad hairpieces, Ms. Surianello found a solution that would dramatically change her life — hair additions. While most hair specialists use adhesive to bond hair additions onto the clients' natural hair or scalp, Ms. Surianello found a specialist who tied the additions in place, resulting in no damage to the existing hair. She

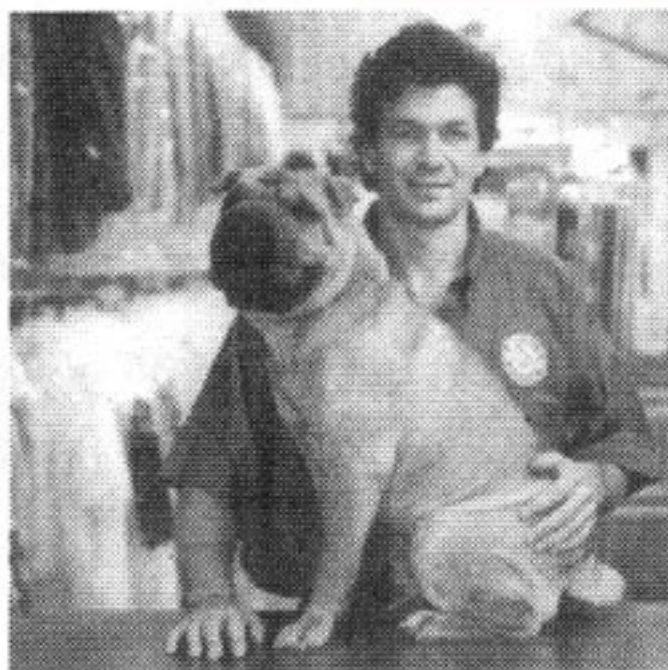
Spring Fever Great Finds

was so impressed with the procedure, she decided to create a company to teach other hairstylists about this innovative technique. In addition to providing training for hair stylists, LeMetric also provides a full service hair addition system exclusively for women. To date, LeMetric has helped more than 3,000 women and has trained more than 600 stylists. The consultation is free. The price of the system varies depending on the needs of the customer. Starting price is \$500.

LeMetric Hair Center, 29 East 61 Street, between Madison and Park Avenues, Suite 240, 800-217-9052.

Skeletons in the closet... and on the shelves

From the outside and on initial inside inspection, Maxilla & Mandible appears to be an emporium of history and science. But on closer examination, there's another world going on. It's all dead and it's all for sale. For the weak at heart, it's as frightfully gruesome as it is endlessly fascinating. To begin, the bug showcase features an array of perfect specimen, each set in its own display frame. Buy a butterfly for your lover, a tarantula for your boss. Skeletons and bones of dinosaurs and other animals are scattered about. A shark's tooth, \$1. How about some authentic dinosaur dung, \$84. A human brain? \$495. A rare head-hunters mask from Borneo, \$700 to \$1,500. Located near the Museum of Natural History, it's a great stopover for a truly unique gift. Says boneman and owner Henry Galiano, who collects deformed human skulls for himself, "It's a dying art." Maxilla & Mandible, 451-5 Columbus Avenue, between 81st and 82nd Streets, 212-724-6173.



When you bring your clothes to Meurice Garment Care, don't forget to say hi to dapper owner Wayne Edelman and company mascot Booger.

Spring cleaning

Wayne Edelman describes himself as half dry cleaner, half psychologist. A recent trip to Meurice Garment Care found him on the telephone calming down a bride whose designer gown got dirty just days before the wedding. Customers even send him clothing to clean from as far away as San Francisco. "My forte is to make a garment look like it's brand new," says Mr. Edelman, bedecked himself in perfectly pressed dress pants and a buttoned down shirt, his normal workday attire. "Whatever it takes to do that, we do, including hand-shaving fabric pills off a jacket or hand-scrubbing the vinyl sleeves of a school jacket." As a wedding gown specialist, Mr. Edelman eschews the traditional practice of airtight boxing. Instead, he opts for wrapping the cleaned gown in unbleached muslin and an acid-free box. Wedding gown preservation starts at \$250. Customers also have access

to a 24-hour hotline for stain emergencies.

Meurice Garment Care, 245 East 57 Street, between Second and Third Avenues, 212-759-9057. Other locations in Greenwich Village and Manhasset, Long Island.



A reproduction of a shark jaw, available at Maxilla & Mandible. Six feet high and retails for \$9,500.

Smooth riding

Anyone who has experienced the thrill of careening through rush-hour traffic or riding the open trails knows that bicycling is not just a mode of transportation, it's a way of life. Whether you're a nine-to-five commuter, a weekend racer or a mountain biking maniac, the place to go for the ultimate vehicle is Metro Bicycle Stores. "This spring, the quality of even low-priced bicycles has gone up," says Bob Denison, one of the owners of Metro.