

Tribune Chronicle

**Finest
frozen**

Even big-name celebrities are singing the praises of Handel's ice cream.

-Page 5A

Celebrities scream for Handel's Ice Cream

By **BRENDA J. LINERT**
Tribune Chronicle

YOUNGSTOWN - There seems to be a consensus among big-name celebrities who come to town screaming for ice cream, the owner of Handel's Homemade Ice Cream and Yogurt said last week.

Handel's owner Leonard Fisher said comedian Bill Cosby was the latest star to enjoy nationally-acclaimed Handel's ice cream. Cosby's unexpected treat came courtesy of a local real estate developer when the comedian made a recent rare appearance in Youngstown.

Cosby, who performed May 15 at Powers Auditorium as part of the Youngstown Symphony Society

Performing Arts Series, came to the stage speaking about ice cream, Fisher said.

A local entrepreneur, who happened to be in the audience and who asked not to be identified, called for her driver to pick up some Handel's ice cream and deliver it to Cosby.

"Monday morning, his office called," Fisher said with a chuckle. The woman from Cosby's office asked Handel's to ship four more quarts - two quarts of cookie dough flavor and two quarts of the parlor's "Spouse-like-a-house" flavor - to Cosby's New York office.

Fisher said Cosby's representative requested that two quarts also be shipped to Matt Lauer on the set of NBC's Today Show.

"We send ice cream all the time. We have been getting a phone call everyday," Fisher said.

Celebrities apparently aren't the only Handel's lovers.

Fisher said the farthest he's ever shipped ice cream, packaged in dry ice, was California - all at a cost of \$220 for 14 quarts.

Handel's, in business since 1945, has been recognized by USA Today as one of the nation's top ten ice cream stands, by Ohio Magazine as among Ohio's best and by Chocolatier magazine largely for its signature Chocolate Pecan flavor.

Several years ago Handel's also tempted the taste buds of Hollywood superstar and racing aficionado, actor Tom Cruise, Fisher said.

"They were racing out at Nelson Ledges. We found out where he was staying. We sent him butter pecan. About a half-hour later he came to the store. He just came over to personally thank us," Fisher said.

Other celebrities who have enjoyed the home-made confection: Ben Vereen, Maureen McGovern and, of course, Youngstown native and star of Married With Children, Ed O'Neil.

"Every time he (O'Neil) is in town he comes up. He used to come at least twice a year," Fisher said.

The Vindicator

Section **C**
Wednesday

June, 9 1999

Pulse

**PULSE
OVERVIEW**

Cosby and Handel's
Merle Fisher, co-owner of Handel's Ice Cream, has reason to be excited these days. Seems Bill Cosby has made pushing Handel's Ice cream something of a preoccupation. After the comedian enjoyed some chocolate-pecan Handel's during his recent show here, a representative of his called to request more of the same for Cosby's visit to the Rosie O'Donnell Show. Later, Handel's got another request - this time to send some to Matt Lauer, because Cosby was pushing for a mention on the "Today Show".