

Advertising

[Classifieds](#)
[Personals](#)
[Job listings](#)
[Place an ad](#)

Essentials

[Editorials](#)
[Horoscope](#)
[Lottery](#)
[Weather](#)
[Death](#)
[Notices](#)
[Search Engine](#)
[Back Issues](#)
[Site highlights](#)

Sections

[Accent](#)
[Autos](#)
[Business](#)
[Casino Guide](#)
[Comics](#)
[Cyberia](#)
[Discovery](#)
[Food](#)
[Golf Guide](#)
[Homestyle](#)
[Macomb](#)
[Mail from the net](#)
[Metro](#)
[Metro Center](#)
[MetroLife](#)
[Money](#)
[Movie Finder](#)
[Nation/World](#)
[Obituaries](#)
[Outlook](#)
[On Detroit](#)
[Rearview](#)
[Mirror](#)
[Screens](#)
[Showtime](#)
[Sports](#)
[Sports:](#)
[College](#)
[Sports:](#)
[Preps](#)
[Sports: Lions](#)
[Sports:](#)

Was that really actor Brad Pitt in Birmingham?

By Laura Berman / The Detroit News



People claim to have seen Brad Pitt all over town.

Maybe you've seen Brad Pitt driving around town in his red Ferrari. Or in his yellow Mustang. Maybe you spotted him at Beau Jack's in Bloomfield Township or at Dick O'Dowd's in Birmingham or working out at the Oakland Athletic Club. Naturally, you've heard that the actor is renting a house in Birmingham or, no, in Bloomfield Hills, or that he's staying with Brendan Shanahan.

Well, it's October, the leaves are turning, and Brad Pitt did once star in Legends of the Fall.

"It's a complete hoax," insists Cindy Guagenti, the star's publicist. "He's filming Meet Joe Black in New York City right now. He's been there all week and last weekend. He's been on the East Coast for over a month." Could her "hoax" charge be a cover-up, slyly designed to conceal Pitt's fascination with Michigan? Several people think they saw Pitt at Birmingham's Irish pub, Dick O'Dowd's, last Saturday night.

But Mitch Black, one of the pub's owners who was on duty last Saturday, is skeptical. None of his staff said they served the star and "I personally did not see him," says Black.

At the Oakland Athletic Club, young women have been calling manager Cynthia Best about Pitt. "Let's just say he's not here," says Best, coyly, who adds that she has not "personally" seen the actor.

Neither have neighbors of the houses he supposedly is renting. The movie scene allegedly being shot at Cranbrook is being filmed in New York City and Rhode Island instead.

"I've gotten 45 calls today about Brad Pitt," sighs Janet Lockwood, director of the Michigan Film Office.

[Pistons](#)
[Sports:](#)
[Wings](#)
[Sports:](#)
[Tigers](#)
[TV Listings](#)
[Voices](#)

So forget Brad Pitt. Haven't you heard that Sean Connery and his dog were lunching at the Townsend Hotel?

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◀ INDEX ▶

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