

# Students say aye to vocational aid

By RON GARDENIK

Results of a recent survey reveal that Farmington graduates rate the district's vocational education program highly and are satisfied with their present jobs in fields related to their studies.

The Farmington School District drew these conclusions from its survey of 1975 high school graduates who have taken at least one vocational education course.

"This has been the first time that we've received so many responses from graduates," explains Earl Baumunk, the district's director of vocational education. "Their response shows that when compared to state and county figures, our graduates think the vocational education program here does a great job. The program prepares them for employment while their job satisfaction shows they have benefited from their training in Farmington high schools."

Ninety-one per cent, or 374 graduates, from the class of 1975 replied to the four-page questionnaire. Follow-up telephone calls were made to the graduates after the initial letter was mailed.

This figure, Baumunk says, is outstanding because the number county-wide was only 78 per cent.

"WHEN A DISTRICT receives that many responses from 49 per cent of a graduating class of 1,277 students, it does show support of our vocational education staff," the director continues.

The survey was directed to those graduates who have taken at least one vocational educational class in high school or in the Southwest Oakland Vocational Education Center. Questions were geared to rate the total vocational program and supply the district with general information on how graduates felt about courses.

The response of Farmington graduates was higher than county or state figures when it came to rating the adequacy of high school preparation for their present activity.

In Farmington, 71 per cent rated the program good to excellent.

In Oakland County, the figure dropped to 60 per cent and to 61 per cent when taken on a state-wide basis.

"That figure is significant to me because our task is to prepare students for college and give them a valuable skill they can fall back on if they don't continue their education," Baumunk adds.

"It's like a double insurance protection package. To me, that proves we are doing a good job," he says.

When asked about job satisfaction, 85 per cent of those responding said they were somewhat to very satisfied with their present jobs.

THE REST said they were unhappy with working conditions and their present job duties.

"Another significant result is that we have a fair majority of our graduates more than 40 per cent, working jobs that are related to vocational education programs they took in high school," Baumunk says.

"A majority of the graduates did hit the job market with the proper background and that paid off for them."

The unemployment rate for the Farmington vocational education graduates in 1975 was 13 per cent. The Oakland County rate was 14 per cent and 17.5 per cent for the state.

"That's probably the worst figure in most states, 40 years. It sounds bad until you consider that the unemployment rate for 16-to-19-year-olds nationally is somewhere in the area of 37 per cent," the district's vice coordinator explains.

"For the Farmington district, that means only 12 graduates who took vocational education courses are jobless. That's not as bad as the initial percentage could look to an unknowing observer."

Responding to the question concerning degree of use of school training on the job, the survey revealed that 56 per cent said it helped from some to a lot.

Fifty-six per cent, or 291 of the 374 graduates responding, said they are continuing their education either at a two- or four-year college or some other program.

TOP PAY for vocational education graduates was more than \$4.10 per hour with the average pay rate leveling at \$2.10 to \$2.30 per hour.

The highest number of graduates are employed in small engine repair and hydraulics with accounting, computer technology and bookkeeping trailing.

Graduates who took welding are the highest paid employees and electricians rated a close second.

The survey opened our eyes to several important results. But we still need job placement programs to help those graduates find jobs in areas in which they didn't study for," Baumunk says.

"But then again, we don't have enough money to do that and we can't justify a full-time job placement program, so we suffer."

"I think it's important. It's a matter of priorities because our primary concern should be to assist students in job placement matters. With our limited budget, we must continually strive to meet the needs of vocational students while fulfilling those of students who don't plan their careers."

"The district has to train the students to make some decisions about their future even if it is wrong. At least that is better than no decision at all," he concludes.

"Making a career decision is very important because you don't get anywhere without it."

"And that's what the Farmington District does. It helps students prepare for the future."



## They could have danced all night

The event was the spring recital for more than 200 dancers who studied jazz, ballet and tap dancing with Shirley St. Mary and Barbara Burgess in the Farmington Community Center through the past year. Tiny ballerinas from age 3 smiled, spun,

sang and danced through their paces with an age range that went up through young mothers for two acts and a grand finale. (Staff photos by Harry Mauthe)

# Birdwatcher eyes sleepy game

Laurie Barto, of Farmington, spends her Saturday and Sunday mornings at the University of Michigan, Dearborn, Saturday Area, waiting for the birds to be awakened by the sun.

She is part of her experimental biology course. Ms. Barto hands birds.

"You have to get out there before the birds get up," she explains. "You have to put the nets up before the sun comes up. When the birds get up with the sun, they fly downward. They don't see the net in the morning sun."

The number on the band, the name of the species, the approximate age of the bird, its sex and the day it was banded is sent to Lansing. The information helps conservation officials determine the migratory habits and speed of the state's bird population.

"IT'S FUN," Ms. Barto 21 says. "At first, I was scared to death. I was afraid I would hurt it while helping it out of the net."

The nets are the size of four volley ball nets together," she says.

The nets are about eight feet tall. There are six-meter and 12-meter nets that are set up horizontally, like volleyball nets.

"My group caught a bird right away, the first time we went out," Ms. Barto a senior remembers. "We jumped up and down. Then we remembered we had to get the bird out of the net."

The birds are rolled up in the net and have to be untangled. Care has to be taken not to injure the bird, which is especially vulnerable in the wing and neck.

If they have anything in their mouths, we're not supposed to remove it. If they have a part of the net in their mouths, we have to cut that part of the net off and let them eat it."

"One of the birds I caught had its tongue hanging out the side of its mouth. I thought I had hurt it, but our teacher, Dr. Owen Golderos, said that the bird's tongue was supposed to do that," she said.

"I didn't know even some of the more common birds when we started," she said.

"I want to keep on banding birds now," she says. "I've even convinced my boyfriend to come out with me."

The two women in Ms. Barto's group have banded 13 birds, this semester.

IT TAKES them five to 45 minutes to release the bird from the net. Because the birds easily escape when held by hand, the students band the birds while they're still in the net.

Not all of the captured birds are easily identified. Three birds are taken by carrier back to Dr. Golderos' office for identification.

"We let one bird out of the carrier to get a better look at it and it began to fly

around the office," Ms. Barto, a science education major, says.

"We had to ask Dr. Golderos to catch him for us. He was really cool about it. It took him about five minutes. He caught the bird against the window and closed the

shutter so it couldn't fly around. Birds are attracted to the light in windows so it was easy to catch."

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# Rock, pop music producer tells of star-studded life

By CORINNE ABATT

The recording industry has become so highly technical that Michael Edward Campbell, a man deeply involved in the business, says, "They've taken the magic out of music."

The magic may be gone from the music, replaced by walls of highly sophisticated sound instruments, but the magic of the big hit is still a dream for Campbell, of Farmington Hills.

Campbell, 36 and a 1960 graduate of North Farmington High, and his wife Judy a former Redfordite, were in town this week from their home in Los Angeles. They were visiting parents and old friends.

Campbell spent a number of years as a studio musician. Drummer and singer with Motown—they spent a quarter of a million dollars on him in three years—but left the corporation several years ago to be an independent producer, writer, arranger and vocalist.

He also has albums out, one entitled "Michael Edward Campbell," but they never reached the hit charts, partly because of poor promotion, he explained.

He said of the record industry, "Seventy-five percent of it is hype and 25 percent is talent."

HYPE IS PROMOTION, visual exposure and gimmicky public relations.

Campbell, who is as versatile now as he was in his school days, talked about the role of the producer in the record industry. One he is familiar with and obviously enjoys—he produced an album by the Jackson Five due to come out shortly.

"Being a producer means being a nursemaid, psychiatrist, 90 percent business man and 10 percent creative person. The producer is the person who finds the right musicians, the right studio, the right sound and it also the clock watcher," he said.

"Tight, well-thought-out planning ahead of time is imperative. Good studio musicians make \$240 an hour and many do five or more sessions a day."

It is not unusual, Campbell said, to spend \$75,000 to \$100,000 to cut one album. And if it isn't right, the money spent is a tax writeoff.

The producer must know the sound he's after, the one that will sell, and know how to achieve it.

"You're looking for an almost freaky sound," Campbell said.

He has a pretty good idea of what he wants and how to get it before the machines go on.

The sound that sells, that perfect combination of musicianship and showmanship, is hard to define.

Alice Cooper, Campbell said, has the sense of showmanship (the hype) "but he's a better golfer than a musician."

"Rod Stewart," he said, "may not have a great voice, but it has soul—a lot of dirt in it."

He likes the Waylon Jennings and Bob Marley sound.

He understands and works in the highly technical world of the recording industry but misses the "less of magic."

Gone is the day when a song writer could wander into a studio with a handwritten song sheet or a homemade tape of himself playing his song on the piano.

He explained that a professional demo costs thousands of dollars. "It has to be good."

The flip side of the Campbell career is acting. He has appeared in the television shows "All in the Family" and "On the Rocks" and is presently studying comedy at the Harvey Lembeck comedy workshop in Los Angeles.

Campbell said things picked up when he answered the "Hill" cattle call at Detroit's Fisher Theater. A cattle call means the audition is open, and after five tries he landed a part and stayed with the first company for a year.

Judy Campbell is a costume designer and her career blends well with her husband's. She did the designs for the new Barbara Breasard movie, "A Star Is Born."

She also designs for Dyan Cannon and Angie Dickinson.

Campbell is a personal friend to many of the entertainment world's big names.

"Bet you didn't know Kris Kristofferson was a Captain in the army. He's a West Point graduate and a former English teacher. No wonder he writes such great lyrics," he said.

His mother remembers Campbell as the 16-year-old boy appearing in the Episcopal Church choir "with such a fantastic voice."

His father smilingly recalled that in high school, "Mike was the shovelf of the bunch."

And Campbell remembers the years he spent "in Farmington basements playing and practicing the elementary skills to build a career on."

Mike and Judy Campbell tell of their experiences in the world of rock music. (Staff photo)



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