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Student gripes aired

(Continued from Page 1A)

bad," Frank says and his FHS peers agree. "They never gave Frank a chance," says Jerianne.

"Teachers demand respect but you don't get it from them," says Terri. "What everyone should have is equal opportunity, but they don't always get it," says Mary Cook, FHS senior and a nursing major.

And the students discussed a number of concepts they think might help in eliminating disparity for students.

"There should be options in requirements," says NFHS senior Dan Tozanski. "Vocational students could have some requirements and college prep students could have another."

In general, students are required to take 18 semester classes—six semesters of English; five semesters of social studies including a mandatory semester in American government; four semesters of physical education; two semesters of science; and two semesters of math.

"However, many of the required classes include students with disparate educational goals.

"I've liked a lot of the English courses and I have a lot of respect for some of the teachers," says Frank, a vocational education student in printmaking. "But why should I have to read 'Moby Dick'? That does nothing for me."

The students agreed that classes should be relevant to the kind of education the individual student is pursuing.

Mary would like to see a move to modular scheduling, so students could take more classes for shorter periods of time.

"In Europe, they learn a little about a lot of things," she says. "I think that's a better way to teach what we should know about."

FHS senior Kelly Nelson would have liked to take some art or photography classes in high school and less of the basics.

"I took one year of government and learned a lot about voting and the electoral college—but I'm not learning anything in the other social studies classes," he says.

FHS students were particularly critical of the social studies department; while Megan believes the history department is one of North's best.

Jerianne liked history in junior high but doesn't have very high marks for her FHS high classes. Megan's experience at North is a different story.

"History's changed my opinions," she says. "We've discussed things that have changed my whole outlook on what I'm going to do. Now I want to go into political science at college."

"The teacher can interest you in a class," says Terri, who believes the tenure system protects inferior teachers. And all the students agreed that teachers make the difference in what students get out of a class.

"They don't evaluate teachers well enough," says Mary, and Jerianne believes a once-a-year visit to the classrooms is insufficient.



JERIANNE GUGEL



KELLY NELSON

"The teachers can make a good show when they come in," she says.

Student evaluations of teachers and classes would minimally allow students to express their views and maximally allow teachers to get a better idea of what the students respond to in a class, the students say.

Teacher and class evaluation is done each year at Our Lady of Mercy High School, says sophomore Lisa Higgins, and she believes the evaluations are worthwhile.

"Some of the kids might think it's a joke, but most of them take the responsibility pretty seriously," she says.

And like college professor evaluations, the teachers can get some positive feedback from the students, Lisa adds.

SOME OF THE students will miss high school like Jerianne who admits to being a sentimentalist. Others, like Kelly and Frank, are looking forward to getting jobs and getting on to the real world.

Mary hopes she won't be disappointed. "I think I'm looking too much ahead and I'm afraid of being disappointed," she says. "I've more or less put up with high school."

To next year's sophomores, they have some definite advice—don't allow yourself to get pushed around; stick up for your rights; and don't get into cliques.

Farmington 4 are Madonna grads

Four Farmington residents are among those who graduated at the 30th annual Madonna College, Livonia commencement class, recently.

They are: Joan Crane who received a BA in gerontology; William Dingle, who has a BS in nursing; Dana Hoerger, who has a BS in nursing with high honors and Donna Mosbauer, who has a BA in gerontology.

Navy sends Swarc to west Pacific

Navy Seaman Apprentice Kenneth G. Swarc, husband of Denise M. Swarc of 3101 Harlow, Farmington Hills, has left for an extended deployment in the Western Pacific.

He is serving as a crewmember aboard the amphibious cargo ship, USS St. Louis, which is homeported in San Diego. His ship will operate as a unit of the US Seventh Fleet.

Swarc, who joined the Navy in June 1976, is scheduled to participate, along with fellow crewmembers in numerous training operations and exercises with other Seventh Fleet units and ships of allied nations as well as visiting various Western Pacific ports.

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