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Math students are honored

Three Farmington residents were among those persons honored in the 20th annual Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition sponsored by the Western Michigan University mathematics department.

Taking third place honors were Alfred Jean of Harrison High School and Daniel Togasaki of North Farmington High School. They each were awarded $400.

Winning an honorable mention was Keven Perry of Harrison High School.

Farmington Observer

Published every Monday and Thursday by the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft Rd., Livonia, Michigan 48150. Second-class Postage paid at Livonia, Michigan 48151. Address all mail (subscriptions, change of address, Form 3579) to P.O. Box 2428, Livonia, Michigan 48151. Telephone 261-3600.

Co-Publishers
Henry M. Hogan Jr.
Philip H. Power

HOME DELIVERY SERVICE
Newsstand ... per copy 25¢
Carrier ..... monthly, $1.00

Working together

Terry Todd (left) sang the "First Time Ever I Saw Your Face," as Brian Detter provided the music to her rendition during the recent Harrison High School talent show. (Staff photo)

Mothers fight fire retardant

By LINDA TAYLOR
West Bloomfield Editor

A group of suburban mothers will attempt to alter national legislation concerning babies' sleepwear.

The mothers, all from West Bloomfield Township and all with youngsters, will meet Monday morning to organize a petition drive and draw up a letter to U.S. Rep. William Broomfield (R-Bloomfield Township). They want the fire retardant TRIS removed from the market until more tests are made. They want any chemically treated garments labelled, and they want the option to buy children's sleepwear not treated with flame retardants.

The original six-member group, now being joined by a number of other concerned mothers from the area, was formed following articles in a local newspaper on infant sleepwear treated with TRIS. Tests have indicated TRIS may be a cancer producer if absorbed through the skin or eaten by a child sucking his garment.

"WE'VE HAD a lot of response," said Pat Medwar, who will host the 10:30 a.m. Monday meeting of the group. Concerned Mothers of West Bloomfield, "but not as much as we would like."

She said most women responding to a recent West Bloomfield Eccentric article represent entire neighborhoods of concerned parents.

She said one member had contacted Broomfield, who returned a note saying he was looking into the situation with the Consumer Products Safety Commission.

A spokesperson for the commission recently said tests on TRIS should be completed and the results announced soon. A meeting on TRIS was scheduled for Tuesday.

The commission has been evaluating data from the National Cancer Institute, which found TRIS caused tumors in some mice.

The Environmental Defense Fund, a national watchdog agency, had petitioned the commission to ban sales of TRIS-treated garments. Attempts have been made for almost a year to force labelling of treated garments since many children are allergic to some chemicals.

THE MOTHERS' group, which also suspects TRIS substitutes, said it wants the chance to buy babies' sleepwear free from fire retardants.

"What's wrong with 100 per cent cotton?" asked one mother. "I don't care if my children's pajamas are wrinkled."

According to the Consumer Products Safety Commission, triacetate and polyester are commonly treated with TRIS, while cotton and nylon require other chemicals to render them fire resistant.

Some synthetic blends are inherently fire resistant.

Anyone interested in attending Monday's meeting or learning more about the group may call Mrs. Medwar at 851-9105.

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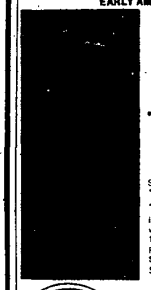

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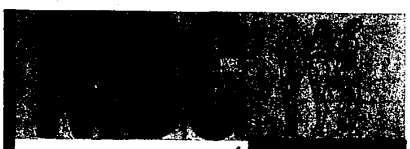

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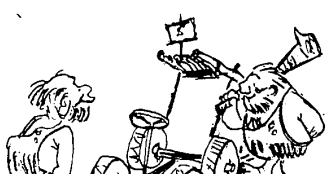

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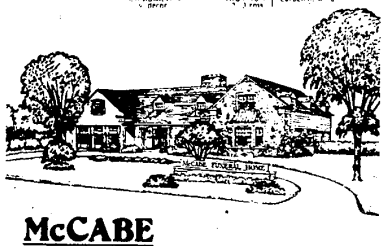

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