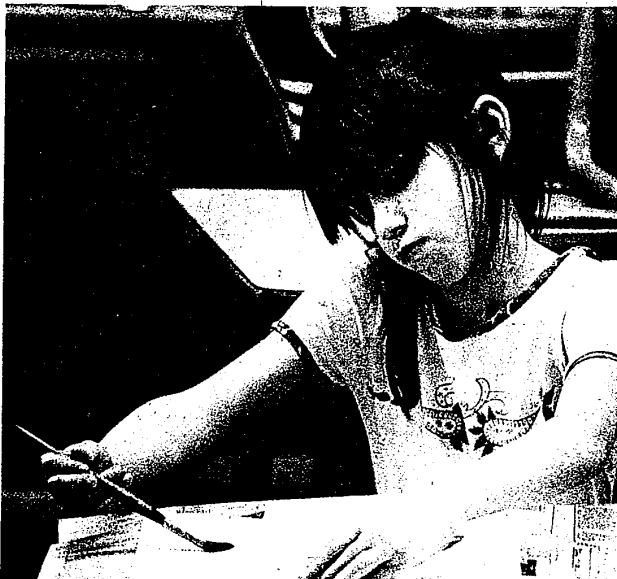


## A Valentine ritual

# Love holiday enthralls Larkshire students



Barbara Hegwood concentrates on a very special project for Valentine's Day, as thousands of students around the country do the same. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)



The heartfelt project takes shape as Barbara Hegwood labors away at her gift of love. (Staff photo)

The pressing question of the hour was: where to paste the next paper heart?

And Pam Fisher's art class in Larkshire School embraced the problem wholeheartedly as they set about cutting, pasting and arranging paper hearts for mom and grandmother.

With another Valentine's Day around the corner, it's little surprise that the class squirmed and twisted in its seats faced with the dilemma of where to place all those hearts on paper, what color to use and what to do with the project when it's finished.

"Settle down or you won't get any paste," threatened Ms. Fisher and the class settled down to their project.

Barbara Hegwood became immersed in her thoughts. Oblivious to the noise around her, she quietly debated over where to place the next paper heart on the sheet of paper. Other second and third graders giggled as they concocted their Valentines but Barbara offered just a smile and a little girl shrug when asked about the fate of her project.

For little girls with long hair and red trimming on their t-shirts, Valentine's Day remains a sweet mystery.

BUT SOME OF the Valentine's Day artists harbor definite ideas about their creations. Natalie Crumb plans to give

her project of tissue paper hearts pasted onto white construction paper to her grandmother.

In one corner of the paper is a purple heart.

"Purple's my favorite color," she explained.

As scissors clipped away at the colored tissue paper and the white con-

struction paper filled up with shapes, Ms. Fisher walked through the room and kept an eye on the proceedings.

"No, you have to paste the bottom one on first," she explained to an impatient boy who tried to paste two hearts at once onto the page.

When it comes to gathering hearts, there are no shortcuts.

## MESC illness bill introduced

A bill that would preserve unemployment credit weeks in case of an individual's illness or injury was introduced last week by State Rep. Sandy Brotherton (R-Farmington).

Under the provisions of the bill, the Michigan Employment Security Commission (MESC) would have to preserve unemployment benefits if a disabled person submitted a request in writing and a medical opinion that the disability prevents the person from working full time.

"This legislation is the kind of revision our unemployment compensation system needs if we want to function equitably," Brotherton said.

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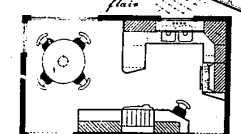
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