

# Wash-brush-flush film logs water use

By KATHLEEN MORAN

It was like a scene at Universal Studios Monday when David Sims made his acting debut in the bathroom and Concern Inc. launched its first environmental film series.

A two-man film crew from Rochester, N.Y., recorded every move the 16-year-old Sims made during a grueling 12 hour session — all for a three-minute film designed to make viewers aware of how often they use water.

Entitled "Water Everywhere," the film traces Sims' movements as he gets out of bed, takes a shower, brushes his teeth, flushes the toilet, makes some orange juice and washes his car.

The camera clicked, lights glowed and occasionally the fuses blew as the sequences were shot over and over to assure that lighting was perfect, backgrounds were sharp and the Southfield star looked his best.

The water sequence is one of three "trigger films" being shot in Bloomfield Township, Southfield and Rochester this week to be used in discussions of environmental issues.

Trigger films are designed to spur discussions. The short movies have been the dream of volunteer environmentalists in Concern Inc., a Troy-based ecology education group.

Fundraising for the films began several years ago, but hopes for producing them faded as the \$5,000 raised was determined to be only half the amount needed for the first of three series.

When young film makers Tim Callahan, 23, and Alec McCallum, 22, learned of Concern's plight, they agreed to make the films within the \$5,000 budget to help advance the environmental cause.

"WE'VE WANTED TO do this for years," said Grace Gluskin, executive director of Concern whose home in Bloomfield Township provided the setting for much of the water film. "There are virtually no good films available on ecology. Most of the ones that have been made are loaded with statistics and have become easily dated."

"These films are technically easier to make and their audience is virtually limitless."

"There are no rights or wrongs in the films and there will be no rights or wrongs in the discussion guides which will be written to go along with the films. We just want the films to be believable and to get people talking."

To keep costs within budget, the "stars" are all Concern volunteers and the settings are in local homes. Sims, a junior at Southfield-Lathrup High School who aspires to be an actor, has the good fortune of being Mrs. Gluskin's nephew. "I just got lucky. I was in the right place at the right time," he laughed.

Crowded into a corner of the bathroom, Sims brushed his teeth for the 12th time before — finally — the scene was acceptable to the crew. "I thought this was going to be one, two, three and done," he sighed.

The film makers said they share a concern for ecology and were happy to be helping out Concern. "I'd much prefer to do films on natural subjects," said McCallum. "This seemed a worthwhile thing to do."

Callahan, who said he also does still landscape photographs to inspire people to preserve natural resources, said the trigger films are an excellent medium for promoting environmental awareness.

"They're an inexpensive way of covering a large number of issues or broad

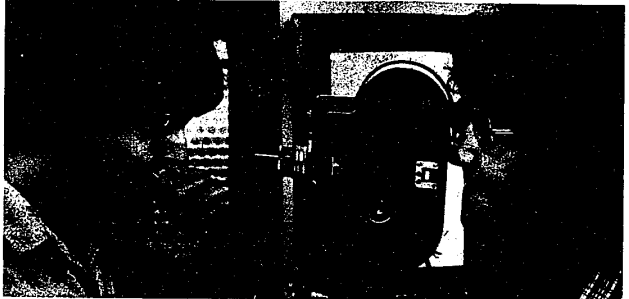
topics," he said. "They assign no guilt to the viewer, only make people think and come to whatever conclusions they may."

FILMING OF the two-minute "Dinner Is Served," dealing with nutrition, was slated for Tuesday at the Rochester home of Peggy O'Neil. The crew plans to wind up today (Thursday) by filming "Cleaning Day," which takes a

look at toxic chemicals in the home. McCallum and Callahan plan to edit the films in New York and return the final versions to Concern in August. Discussion guides will be written and then both will be made available to the public. The films also will be available for purchase for a "very small amount," said Mrs. Gluskin. Any proceeds from these three films will be set aside for future films.

"Hopefully this is just the beginning of things to come," said Mrs. Gluskin. "Maybe they could be in a series of 12 which would correspond to the semester calendar of a science teacher, for instance."

"We hope they stimulate enough interest in the community so that this could be just the start of something good."



It took 12 takes before Alec McCallum decided that the footage of David brushing his teeth was acceptable. And after all that work, David's name won't be listed in the film credits — just the phrase "Concern volunteers" denote actors and actresses.



David Sims, 16, aspires to be an actor, but didn't plan on making his debut wearing pajamas in the bathroom. But the Southfield youth was grateful for the chance to star in an environmental film about water usage.

## Students achieve academic honors

Farmington area students recently garnered departmental awards for high achievement at Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge campus.

In forensics, Lisa Carr and Sandra Tomilenko were honored. Advanced lettering honors went to Judith Boczek and Marlysa Hollyer, both of Farmington Hills.

Efforts in photography garnered honors for Farmington's Kim Booth and Farmington Hills' Steve Schowick. Ceramic honors went to Judith Fleck and Karla Rado, both of Farmington. Janice Cratori, of Farmington,

received a departmental award for her studies in theater, while Betty Troyanek, of Farmington Hills and Paul Wicks of Farmington received honors in graphic and commercial art.

Patricia Girback, of Farmington, received honors for her work in chemistry.

Other awards went to Matthew Abar, of Farmington Hills for English studies; Marjorie Brokhage, Sandra Horne and Kristine Lehman, all of Farmington for their studies in history and anthropology; and Sandra Tomilenko received a special departmental award.

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