

Sailing—an educational experience for students

By DENNIS O'CONNOR

Ah, the wonders of an educational experience.

Many students find such rewards in the classroom. But for a select few at Cranbrook, Kingswood and Brookside schools, their educational rewards came while sailing the British Virgin Islands this month.

The project, called "Adventure at Sea," was part of the fourth-annual Cranbrook Interim Program where students select different educational activities for a two-week period.

Mickey Price, a teacher and soccer coach at Cranbrook, is the avid sailor who organized this excursion — the second of its kind at the schools.

The students had their fun with the mainland parties and snorkeling exhibitions, but there was the serious side of things. Not only did the students learn important techniques of sailboat racing, there was also an important book work, tests and a daily log which was kept for the nine-day journey through the islands.

"It's experiential education dedicated to giving kids opportunities to investigate areas that they wouldn't normally see," Price said in explaining the interim program. "Adventure at Sea" teaches concepts of sail navigation, water safety, group cooperation, history, seamanship, naval architecture, and marine biology.

Price was joined by sailing friend

Bob Steel, faculty associate Lynn Osterbeck, and her husband, Gary Osterbeck. The four adults joined 26 students on four different boats, exploring the waters 30-45 miles south of Puerto Rico. Last year, Price took only one small group of middle school students from Brookside in the first-year of the program.

THE SAILORS wasted no time on this \$700 per person trip, reaching Maya Cove on the island of Tortola and sailing 10 miles for three hours to Norman Island.

"It was beautiful because many of these kids have never sailed," Price said. "The reactions were fantastic. I wish I had a tape recorder."

"They were bubbly all over (during the first sailing trip), and this is after 12 hours of flight time (to the islands)."

Price felt the "group cooperation" aspect of the trip was, perhaps, the most important part of the learning process. All four boats organized crews with captains and planned each day's activities together. There were 10 boys from Cranbrook, 10 girls from Kingswood and six middle school students from Brookside on the trip.

"We thought the delegation of chores and sailing duties was the whole crux of the thing," Price said. "We tried to teach them to respect the sea. We were very insistent that when they snorkeled, they use the buddy system, and they did it religiously."

"The kids got along famously," he added. "I don't remember any real argument or personality conflicts."

ONE HIGHLIGHT of the trip came on the fourth day.

After three days of rigorous learning about the basics of sailing, the four boats decided to hold a 25-mile race from the Cane Garden Bay to the Virgin Gorda Yacht Harbor. It was the longest journey of the trip, and it was through the roughest waters.

The result — a wind storm, up to 40 knots, and the sails of one of the boats fell and landed in the water.

"You would have almost expected some of the kids to panic, but they didn't," Price said. "They performed very well (to restore the sails on the boat)."

The trip included snorkeling at Sandy Cay, enjoying the sights of the beach at Cane Garden Bay, experiencing the differences in life styles from island to island and exploring the underwater ruins of the ship "Rhône," which sank near the island of Salt I in the 1860s.

The climax of the trip came with the race for the symbolic "Cranbrook Cup" as the four boats with the nine-day "skilled" crews, raced the final leg of the journey from the Great Harbor back to Maya Cove.

Although Price was hesitant to say, the winner of the race was Gary Osterbeck's crew in a close battle to the finish. Price's crew of middle school's finished second.



Lahser's ice hockey squad is not for men only

By LAURA CLARK

"Sugar and spice and everything nice — that's what little girls are made of."

But little girls who play a sport like hockey, dominated by male affluence, rarely get the "sugar and spice" label.

In recent years, girls have been allowed to play contact sports with the boys on the high school level. Leslie Curtiss is one of the few who took advantage of this new rule last winter playing right wing for Bloomfield Hills Lahser High School's varsity hockey team — an accomplishment which took four years to complete.

Curtiss' family is involved in the Royal Oak hockey program where her brother plays and her father, Phillip Curtiss Sr., manages the girls' team.

In 1976, he introduced hockey to young Leslie where she made a change from her old figure skates to hockey skates within two months. She stayed on the team for another year improving her skills. But the team was still rebuilding, and the program was young.

When Curtiss entered Lahser in 1978, joining the boys' varsity hockey team was just an idea. She went to the workouts despite the jeering from other members. The joking stopped when she proved she was serious.

Curtiss ran and weight lifted with the team every morning and after school, and when the skating started, she was a match for any guy. But her shot and checking abilities weakened her game and cost her the trophy.

"I was down for the whole week. It disappointed me because I had worked so hard," she said.

THOUGH CURTISS did not play in the games, she remained to help the team as a manager and skated in the varsity practices. She continued to play for the Royal Oak girls, where she was named captain and scored four goals.

Over a pair of seasons, Curtiss worked on the strength in her arms for her shot. She ran and lifted weights daily — never giving up the idea of being the first girl high school hockey player in the area.

When the new coach, Phillip Matara, entered Lahser this year, he was interested in the Curtiss story.

"I have been told that Leslie was trying out, but I was interested and worried at the same time — worried that the game might be too physical for her," Matara said.

Supported by family and friends, Curtiss made her second attempt to make the team last November.

"My dad pushed me a lot. He didn't

want me to look like a quitter," Curtiss said.

And she succeeded, stirring both negative and positive reactions at school.

Her teammates accepted her from the start, but they were hesitant to check her into the boards.

"The coach didn't make any exceptions for me and really yelled at them if they didn't check me," said Curtiss. "Matara's physical emphasis improved my game."

Curtiss noticed big changes working with the guys.

"Girls are so easy to check. You touch them and they will fall," she said.

"They don't think when they play hockey. Guys play all out."

Curtiss sat on the bench for the first 2½ games as a member of the fourth line, which didn't see much action for Lahser. In the third period of the Livonia Bentley game, she played for the first time.

"I didn't think about it because I knew how scared I would be. It was the best feeling — like I had finally made it," she said.

"The guys really admire her efforts, especially her hard work to make the team," said coach Matara. "She's competitive with third-line competition. I'm very pleased."

HER TEAMMATES accept her as "one of the guys" on the ice and a "regular girl" off.

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CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS PLANNING COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING
April 17, 1980
8:00 P.M.

Farmington Hills City Hall
31555 Eleven Mile Road
Farmington Hills, Michigan 48018

The City of Farmington Hills Planning Commission will give formal consideration to a proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinance, Request No. 11-2-80, which would rezone part of the NW ¼ of Section 12, City of Farmington Hills, County of Oakland, State of Michigan, being more particularly described as:

- Lot 155, Supervisor's Plat of Woodcrest Farms No. 1, a subdivision of part of Section 12, T11N, R16E, City of Farmington Hills, Oakland County, Michigan;
- according to the Plat thereof as recorded in Liber 55, Pages 33a and 33b of Plats, Oakland County Records.

This property lies on the south side of Northwestern at its intersection with Valley Drive, also known as 30449 Valley Drive.

The above-mentioned request would rezone the above-described property from its present RA-1A, Single Family Residential District classification to OS-3, Special Office District classification.

The proponents in this matter are Linda Hinde and Mary St. Amour, who seek this rezoning in order to erect office buildings on the site.

Any person who is interested is invited to participate in the discussion of the proposed zoning change. Copies of the Zoning Text, Zoning Map and Application for Rezoning may be observed at the Farmington Hills City Hall on any business day between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

FRED HUGHES, Chairman
City of Farmington Hills
Planning Commission

Published: March 31, 1980

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