

Students make the best of a snowy situation

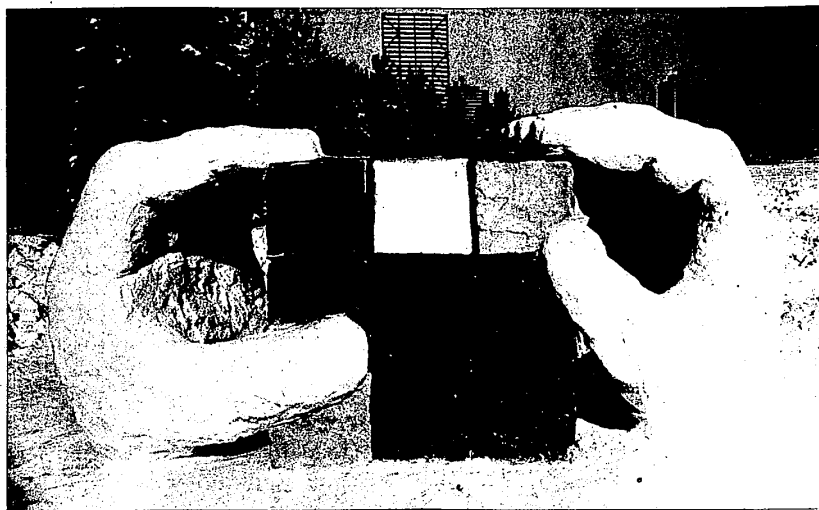
For the past two years, early thaws have cancelled the snow sculpture contest at Lawrence Institute of Technology. Lack of snow wasn't a problem this year.

Student groups at the Southfield campus packed together mounds of snow and then carved out designs. The winning entry was a giant Rubik's Cube being manipulated by giant hands. The cube — complete with spray-painted squares — and the hands were the handiwork of the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity.

Second place went to members of Alpha Sigma Phi, another LIT fraternity. They crafted a replica of the cartoon cat Garfield, resting against a frosty mug of beer.

The winning entries were selected Thursday afternoon by two snow experts — meteorologists Mal Sillars of Channel 4 and Rob Kress of Channel 7.

Ironically, earlier attempts at the snow sculpture contest were cancelled this year due to heavy snows.



Rubik's Cube and a giant pair of hands took first prize in the snow sculpture contest. It took members of the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity more than 30 hours to put the creation together. At left, members of Alpha Sigma Phi put the finishing touches on their second-place finisher, Garfield the cat resting against a mug of beer.



Rob Kress of Channel 7 and Mal Sillars of Channel 4 take a cold, hard look at the LIT snow sculptures.

Staff photos by
Mindy Saunders

'Street Law' adopted by school district

By Phil Jerome
staff writer

After hearing strong endorsements from three high-school social-studies teachers, the Walled Lake school board voted 4-2 last week to approve use of the controversial textbook "Street Law."

Glenn Ruggles and Gerry Chapple, who teach at Walled Lake Central, and William Fox of Western said the textbook is a valuable learning tool. They said it would stimulate thinking in the classroom and promote a better understanding of the legal system.

"Street Law" has been the topic of considerable debate in surrounding districts, particularly in the Bloomfield Hills district. That district voted recently to remove the book as the basic text in a mandatory ninth-grade social-studies course.

Both the Walled Lake and Bloomfield Hills districts serve residents of West Bloomfield. Bloomfield Hills decided instead to use "Street Law" as a supplementary text in the ninth-grade course.

The book was reviewed by Bloomfield Hills after a parent filed a formal complaint charging that "Street Law" attacks "family life, God, free enterprise and the United States government."

IN PRESENTING the book for adoption as a supplementary text in the Walled Lake schools, Secondary Education Director Donald Chalker said the district has received more favorable than negative responses from residents. But he added the intensity of the negative comments could not be overlooked.

Opposition to "Street Law" among board members was led by trustees Janet Callahan and Patricia Jackman.

Trustees David Roddy, Mario Tozzi, Robert Co-

per and Kenneth Tucker voted for the book.

Callahan charged the book is being promoted from outside the school district by the Oakland Intermediate School District, as opposed to from within the district.

She also noted that "Street Law" is controversial and suggested the board should attempt to select a supplementary text which "does not divide the community."

Jackman said she found existing texts in the area of law and constitutional ethics to be more than adequate. She said "Street Law" tends to encourage young people to question the law and do what they think is right.

Support for using "Street Law" as a supplemental text was led by the social-studies teachers who will teach a course at the high-school level using the text.

Ruggles said the book presents the pros and cons of relevant issues and encourages students to think for themselves.

"The book merely deals with issues that students are exposed to every day in their lives," he said.

CALLING "STREET LAW" one of the finest texts he has seen in 20 years, Ruggles said students should be encouraged to think for themselves so they will become strong citizens.

Chapple also called "Street Law" the best text in its field and questioned how it would divide a community.

"It's straightforward and nonpartisan," he said. "It's probably less controversial than some of the supplementary texts we already use which do take a specific viewpoint."

Denying that the book was being promoted from outside the district, Fox said he personally requested "Street Law" be added to the curriculum two years ago.

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Embezzlement charged

Wayne Daniels, who resigned as head of the Walled Lake School District's Food Services Department last November, was arraigned Feb. 5 on two charges of embezzlement of public funds.

Daniels was arrested and arraigned on the embezzlement charges in Walled Lake's 52nd District Court and subsequently released after posting a \$1,000 personal bond on each count, said court clerk Virginia Perry.

Examination is March 8 before Judge Michael Batchik. Daniels has requested a court-appointed attorney, the clerk said.

Daniels was charged with two counts of converting public funds or property over \$100 to his own use. Each charge carries a maximum penalty of 10 years imprisonment and a \$5,000 fine.

The first charge alleges that on April 7, 1980, Daniels converted \$2,300 to his own use through his capacity as an agent for Walled Lake schools.

THE SECOND charge alleges that Daniels fraudulently converted to his own use \$1,495 in public funds on July 23, 1980.

Don Sheldon, Walled Lake superintendent, declined comment on the charges last week, saying he was advised by district attorneys not to discuss the case.

Sheldon informed the school board at an executive session in December that an audit of the food services department was being conducted. The Oakland County Prosecutor's Office also was contacted about the possible misuse of money.

The audit, completed last week by Plante & Moran, "substantiated what we found to be the case," Sheldon said.

Daniels was appointed food services director in 1977 and resigned the post shortly before Thanksgiving. The resignation, citing personal reasons, was accepted by the school board Dec. 14.