

# Mary Kay Marshall

## She's twisting now with the country's elite

Mary Kay Marshall, a Farmington Hills resident and one of Michigan's outstanding young athletes, will represent the Farmington Gymnastics Center at the prestigious American Classic April 1-3 in Atlanta, Ga.

Known formerly as the Elite Nationals, the three-day affair will feature about 50 top female gymnasts in the U.S. Competition will be in the Georgia Tech Coliseum and the event will be used as a qualifying meet for the 1981 USA National Championships in Utah, in May.

Mary Kay, sometimes known as 'Merkie', earned her spot in the American Classic by amassing a 72.5 point total and a third place finish in the all-around at an Elite zone and Olympic qualifying meet early in March in Louisville, Ky.

Her score indicates marks achieved in both compulsory and optional routines in vaulting, uneven bars, balance beam and floor exercise.

"YES, IT WAS by far the most exciting thing that's ever happened to me," the Farmington High School sophomore said.

"I was very nervous inside, but I tried not to show it on the outside. If you do, the judges will see it. What seems to help me is laughing. That keeps me relaxed."

Dennis Spencer, her coach in Farmington Gymnastics Center, says she handles the pressures like a seasoned professional.

"Now that she has entered into a very select group of gymnasts (the Elite) she will face an ever-mounting

challenge with each new competition she enters. Names like Tracy Talavera and Julianne McNamara will be at the American Classic, names known round the globe."

"That's what I want the most," Merkie said. "The chance to compete against the very best and a chance to show what I can do."

In order to qualify for the 1981 USA Championships in May, the 15-year-old will have to place among the top 16 finishers in her senior category in Atlanta. Spencer says she's got the tools of her trade, the question is whether she can approach this new challenge with the same calm and confidence that has been her trademark to date.

Hearing her talk, one would have to believe that that is quite possible.

"I realize that this next meet will be

much more difficult, but I'll get used to that from now on. Once you've finally made the Elite level, nothing comes very easy anymore. Everyone you compete against is just as good or better than you are," she said.

"All I really know is that I think I can make the top 16. That's my only goal right now."

HER NEW-FOUND status as a bit of a star is enjoyable, but she strugs her shoulders and flashes an ear-to-ear grin when pushed on the subject.

"What I really like about being known is having people I do not even know in school come up to me and say 'congratulations.' That's nice," she said.

Area residents will have the chance to see Marshall, along with many more of Michigan's top female gymnasts in action on Saturday and Sunday, March 27-28, when Farmington Gymnastics Center hosts the 1982 Class 1 USGF (United States Gymnastics Federation) State Championships in Harrison High School.

Competition gets underway at a.m. Saturday and runs until about 4 p.m. Finals begin at 10 a.m. Sunday and should be completed at about 4 p.m.

Admission is \$3 for the weekend, or \$2 for the day, while children 12 years and under will be admitted for \$1.

National champions will give gymnastic demonstrations during breaks for the competitors.



Mary Kay Marshall aiming for the top

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Loraine McClish editor/477-5450

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## OCC Womencenter

# Women help women find new answers and direction

By Loraine McClish staff writer

Women who are in the midst of divorce, women who are working and not liking their job, and women who are

wondering where in the world the money is at, make up the bulk of those who come to Womencenter seeking answers or direction.

"With agencies closing left and right there are few places left to go so the



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

J.B. Rizzo (left) is one of the peer counselors-in-training now who will be giving time as a para-professional this spring to drop-ins at Womencenter. Mary Beth Perkins (right) is a co-leader in the program. The next course in peer counseling begins the first week in May.

traffic keeps getting heavier," said Yvonne Strand, who heads the peer counseling program on the Oakland Community College (OCC) Orchard Ridge Campus.

About 90 percent of the women see the sole providers for their families. We've seen abused women and those who suffered sexual harassment. And we've saved a few from being bored right into suicide," she said.

Three or four peer counselors are on duty from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday-Thursday in Womencenter, Room 309, J Building, offering the free drop-in service.

The women donate their time as a part of the peer counseling course sponsored by Womencenter and devised by Strand in the women-helping-women program.

"ANY WOMAN who finds herself in the midst of a struggle finds that she can't cope with whatever the problem, there is no one better to turn to than another woman. And we've proved that," Strand said.

"We've proved that through the feedback we get personally from the women we've counseled and we've proved it through the feedback from social workers and psychologists who send women to see us," she said.

"When someone calls and says they are no longer getting beat up, they get another job, they are back in school and loving it, that's my reward."

Strand grew up in Livonia and has worked professionally with alcoholics

and the emotionally disturbed. After her divorce, she went back to school at Schoolcraft College for awhile and is pursuing studies in the mental health field now at OCC and is a resident of Redford.

She believes she has the most intensive and effective peer counseling course that is offered now in the metropolitan area.

"It is somewhat different than the others I've seen in action," she said. "It's much more far-reaching for both the counselor in training as well as for the women she will one day be counseling."

THE PEER counselor in Strand's program spends 36 hours in training, and much of that in role playing.

"Role playing is the nuts and bolts of my program," she said. "Every potential counselor knows beforehand that she is going to have to take a risk and reveal some of her own anger, pain and real feelings. They have to come to terms with themselves before they can help anyone else on a personal level. And all of them come out believing more in themselves and more in other women."

Many of the women who come to the counselors just need someone to listen to them, Strand believes.

"Most of them have all the skills they need to make whatever change they're looking for, but lack self-confidence. "All they need is a starting place and just talking sometimes points them in the right direction," she said.

Strand boasts that she has had less

than a 1 percent drop-out rate since the onset of the counselor-in-training program.

She also boasts that some of the peer counselors who volunteer regularly at Womencenter are highly skilled professionals, laid off or retired, "who are just anxious to give and to help others."

THE NEXT non-credit short course in peer counseling runs for 12 weeks beginning the first week in May. The fee is \$52 and a commitment to volunteer a given number of hours as a peer counselor in OCC's Womencenter.

"Some complete their volunteer time and fly away, off and doing other things. Some complete their volunteer time and want to stay on to keep giving what they've learned to others," Strand said.

Womencenter is made up of students, faculty and women devoted to raising the consciousness of all people regarding women.

Its purpose is to help women identify their personal and social needs and assist them in developing the skills to meet them.

Peer counseling in an integral part of Womencenter, training volunteers in the essence of counseling to become competent qualified para-professionals who offer personal and supportive assistance.

Appointments are not necessary for those who wish to avail themselves of the service.

Women interested in becoming peer counselors may call Strand at 476-9400, Ext. 509.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Yvonne Strand, a resident of Redford, devised and oversees the peer counseling course that is now an integral part of Womencenter on Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge Campus. The program trains volunteers in the essence of counseling to become qualified para-professionals.

## Bishop of Kenya visits

Bishop Lawi Imathiu, United Methodist bishop of Kenya, will preach at the 9:30 a.m. worship service Sunday in Orchard United Methodist Church, 30450 Farmington Road. Bishop Imathiu is a member of a "Committee of 80" founded by World Methodist Council to develop a strategy for Christian evangelism in the 1980s.

Leadership for the mission comes from six denominations within the Methodist family — African Methodist Episcopal, A.M.E. Zion, Christian Methodist Episcopal, Free Methodist Church, United Methodist Church and Wesleyan Church.

Commenting on Bishop Imathiu's visit, Rev. Robert L.S. Brown, pastor of Orchard Church said: "It is significant that after so many years of Christian churches in America sending missionaries to other lands, it is now necessary to have missionaries come to our shores to bring a gospel of hope and love."

He is in Detroit this week as part of a mission to the large population areas of North America. An estimated 2.4 million people in metropolitan Detroit are said to have no claim or tie to any faith.

## Farmington Youth Assistance

# Child abuse is topic for panel discussion

Farmington Youth Assistance (FYA), concerned with the increase of reported child abuse and neglect is sponsoring "Family Stress — Child Abuse" a panel discussion, at 7:30 p.m. March 23

in Farmington Branch Library, 23550 Liberty.

It is only recently that child abuse has been recognized as "the actual abuse of a child" with laws being enacted to protect children. It wasn't until the mid-1960s that all 50 states enacted some form of child abuse reporting statutes.

Michigan's first child abuse reporting law was enacted in 1964 with subsequent amendments in 1967, 1967 and 1970, and an entirely revised law in 1975 called the Child Protection Law.

According to this law, child abuse and neglect is defined as harm or threatened harm to a child's health or welfare by a person responsible for his care, through non-accidental physical or mental injury, sexual abuse or maltreatment. Neglect would occur through negligent treatment, including failure to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter or medical care.

Those children who repeatedly appear at school with bruises and unexplained injuries, who are poorly clothed or whose medical needs are not being met, might cause us to suspect abuse or neglect," explained Christine Parfen, the Oakland County Health Nurse assigned to Farmington School District.

"Under the state law, professional medical people, school teachers, administrators, counselors and police are required to report suspected abuse of children under age 18," she said.

THE DEPARTMENT of Social Services through Children's Protective Services, investigates reports of abuse and neglect, and then takes appropriate action in the best interest of the child.

Sgt. Richard Murphy, in charge of the Farmington Hills Police Juvenile Division, said that during the past eight years he has investigated child abuse under many circumstances but said two contributing elements that appear again and again are lack of communication within a family and the inability of a parent to cope with frustration brought on by personal or financial problems.

"Nobody wants to be told that they are not a good parent. People have a

hard time dealing with that. What people have to realize is that everyone has the potential to be abusive," he said.

Participating in the discussion will be Marjorie Ziefert, assistant professor of social work, Eastern Michigan University, Donald Mussen, supervisor of Oakland County Children's Protective Services; Sgt. Murphy of Farmington Hills Police Juvenile Division, and Ms. Parfen.

There is no charge for admittance.

## Camp Fire has shared and cared for 72 years

Camp Fire girls and boys will celebrate the youth agency's 72nd birthday with parties and community-service projects on the theme "I Love Camp Fire." Camp Fire Founder's Day is March 17, and birthday week is March 14-20.

To kick off the week-long celebration, Camp Fire members in the Birmingham and Farmington schools are participating in a poster contest during the month of March with the "I Love Camp Fire" theme. Posters will be judged in local school grades. Recognition will be given with first- and second-place ribbons. Honorable mentions will be given to all participants.

According to Sharon Johnson, executive director of the Detroit Area Council, "We're not forgetting that love

works both ways. The community won't care about Camp Fire unless Camp Fire cares about the community."

Throughout the year Camp Fire members are busy with service projects in their communities. Projects vary from holiday caroling at convalescent homes to city beautification projects.

The Detroit Area Council of Camp Fire was founded in 1922 and has 4,500 members in Oakland, Macomb, Wayne and Livingston counties. The national organization, formerly called Camp Fire Girls, was founded in 1910 in Maine by Dr. Luther Halsey Gulick and his wife, Charlotte Gulick. Today members include girls and boys.

For further information about Camp Fire, call 833-2670.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

## Featured artist

Betty Noreen is Farmington Artist Club's featured artist for March. Ms. Noreen's oil painting are on exhibit in the Quiet Room of Farmington Hills Branch Library through the end of the month. She paints exclusively with oils and palette knife in an impressionistic style. Her florals, landscapes and seascapes emphasize her love of nature. The brilliant colors she uses express her own perspective of the subject. The library is located on 12 Mile Road, east of Farmington Road.

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