

Kernickys see 4 children graduate in 1 week's time

By Loraine McClish
staff writer

Sy and Irene Kernicky of Farmington Hills will be spending the week before Christmas traveling from one university to another to see each of their four children take his or her college degree.

All of the couple's children graduated from North Farmington High School.

Sharon Kernicky Churchill and her twin brother Roger graduated from high school in 1975. Mark Kernicky graduated in 1978 and Jane Kernicky in 1980.

Mark and Jane take their degrees from University of Michigan Sunday, Dec. 19. From Ann Arbor the elder Kernickys will head south to see Sharon graduate from Middle Tennessee State University, and from there

they'll travel on to Miami for Roger's graduation from Biscayne College.

"We'll all be home for Christmas except Roger," Irene Kernicky said of her family. "He's got a job that won't allow him time off, and he's already started work on his master's degree at Florida International University."

SHARON KERNICKY entered Wayne State University after high school.

She married her instructor, Dr. Perry Churchill, and switched her major from nursing to biochemistry. She is now a resident of Tennessee and will take her bachelor of science degree Dec. 21.

Roger Kernicky was both a community service officer for the Farmington Hills Police Department and a volunteer fireman while he lived here and attended Madonna College for a while



Jane Kernicky



Mark Kernicky



Sharon Kernicky Churchill



Roger Kernicky

after high school graduation. He transferred to Biscayne College to study police administration and is working on his master's degree in that field. He takes his bachelor of arts degree Dec. 23.

Mark Kernicky majored in psychology for his liberal arts degree. He was a clarinet player during his growing up years in school bands and played the electric bass outside of school "whenever he could," his mother said.

"All of the children played some musical instrument, but Mark was the only one who was serious about it."

Mark was also the only one of the couple's children who commuted from home to college.

"That didn't leave too much time for playing, but he's still at it whenever he can find the time," she said.

JANE KERNICKY never had a va-

cation through her high school days that wasn't used for picking up extra credits.

By the time she graduated from North Farmington, she had accumulated enough credits through interim study at Oakland Community College so she could enter college as a sophomore.

She graduated Phi Beta Kappa from high school, was given the American Legion Award for outstanding scholarship and citizenship, and won three scholarships in her senior year.

Meanwhile, she worked in Farmington Hills Branch Library's division for the blind and handicapped, played flute in the school band, worked on the school paper, was a member of the student government and picked up a couple of awards for forensics.

Jane Kernicky used one of her schol-

arships from high school to study at Kalamazoo College, then switched to U-M. to pursue a degree in English, while continuing with interim courses at Oakland Community College.

Last fall she began work on her master's degree so she's been in a dual

English program for the past three months.

Her most recent honors came in winning the Brumm Scholarship, given to those working toward graduate degrees in communications. She is planning a career as an author.

'Telecommunications' is topic for men's club

"The Bell System of the Future" is the name of the talk to be given by John Connarn of the Michigan Bell Telephone Co. at the December meeting of the Farmington Senior Men's Club.

This group will meet in Farmington Community Center at 11 a.m. Wednesday to hear Connarn speak on recent Federal Communications Commission actions to increase competition in the telecommunications field. Other points of interest are the governmental actions that led to the break up of the Bell System and prospects for the future of the company. Implications for investors will also be discussed.

John Connarn is executive assistant of public affairs in the Regulatory and External Affairs Department of the Michigan Bell Telephone Co. In this capacity he serves as Michigan Bell liaison with federal and city governments.

He has been active in many civic organizations sharing his marketing and public relations expertise while serving on the fund-raising committee of Junior Achievement of Southeastern Michigan Inc.; Summer Job Program of National Alliance of Business; and as a member of the speakers bureau of United Foundation.

He has served as past president of Catholic Big Brothers and Board Chairman of Catholic Charities Youth Service. Connarn is currently serving on the board of directors of March of Dimes.

Connarn's program will be followed by lunch and conversation.



John Connarn

The senior men's club is open to all men in the area interested in pursuing information on a variety of topics and entertainment, and conversation in the center.

Beginning in January the Farmington Senior Men's Club will be known as the Farmington Men's Club and will gather for programs and lunch in the center at noon on the third Thursday of the month. As always 24-hour advance reservations should be made by calling the center at 477-5404. January's speaker is Eric Harwell, known as "the voice of the Detroit Tigers."



ART EMANUEL/Staff photographer

Three musicians who grew up together recently cut a rock record which amounts to a virtuoso performance for Xavier Carbaljal (at right) who wrote the words and music, served as producer and

designed its cover. He is with Gary Chiaravalle at left and Chris Buda.

Childhood friendship leads to rock disc 'Man Plays God'

By Sherry Kahn
staff writer

IT MIGHT be expected that anyone who started playing the piano at 9 and at 21 can play 17 instruments would someday make a record.

Xavier Joseph Carbaljal has done just that. The Farmington Hills resident who grew up in Garden City recently cut a disc called "Man Plays God." Among the musicians joining him in making the record were Chris Buda and Gary Chiaravalle, both of Garden City.

Carbaljal describes the record as "poetry rock," meaning it is more dependent on the words than other rock music. It is something of a virtuoso performance for the young musician inasmuch as he wrote the words and music, served as producer and even designed the front cover.

He said the album is on sale at the Record Outlet in Westland, Farmington and Lincoln Park, and at Dearborn Music and Plymouth Rock Music Center.

On the record he is heard on vocals, 12-string guitar, piano, lead guitar and

synthesizer. Buda plays drums and does backup vocals. Chiaravalle strummed rhythm and lead guitar and participated in backup vocals. Recording with them were Tracy Campbell, rhythm guitar; Steve Freeman, drums; Dan Howard, lead and rhythm guitar, and Mike Ronska, vocals.

"I'M NOT A PERSON who likes to read books," explained Carbaljal, who with his wife, Anne, has formed a record company called Temple Productions. "But I listen to what a person has to say on a song. 'Man Plays God' asks where is man leading himself when he deals with nuclear warfare, robotics and yet is unable to communicate with his neighbor."

"Man is leading himself to a higher level where he wants to play God. I have to say what I feel in hope that someone will hear and feel something about it."

As a 9-year-old piano player, Carbaljal learned the names of notes and chords from an encyclopedia. But when he joined the band in Cambridge Junior High School, he had added the trumpet and French horn to his repertoire.

"I wanted to play the drums, but too many others did too," he said.

When he was 14, a friend was looking for a bass guitar player.

"So I learned that," he remembers. "It took about a month. We played for dances at Junior and senior high schools."

While attending Garden City West, Carbaljal met Chris Buda, who is now an apprentice designer for an engineering firm but at that time was throwing all his youthful energy into banging drums.

"It started off as a pastime, but I got engulfed by it," said Buda. "If things go right I wouldn't mind making it a career. It's a lot of hard work, but fun."

THE DRUMMER gives the band its power, he noted. It involves "keeping a steady beat and thinking about what you will play before you play it. In a split second you have to think how it will sound. You've got to be awake." Buda's life also involves split second timing. In addition to his job and his drumming, he studies at night at Henry Ford Community College to be a tool and die engineer.

Chiaravalle has a similarly crowded schedule. He studies computer science at HFCC, works as a stockman at Frank's Nursery, and plays with a band called Power Source.

"I do everything but sleep," said the guitarist, who also finds a spare moment to write music, which he describes as "top 40 danceable songs." To him making a record was exciting, "not just the music, but the experience of recording in a studio."

Chiaravalle, 19, also attended Garden City West High School. He called Carbaljal's music uncommercial and creative.

WITH A COMBINATION of hard and soft rock, and with a light bow toward country, Carbaljal's writes about what is wrong with the world. His lyrics call out, "They're gonna replace me! They're gonna deface me! With a robot!"

One of his song titles is "The World Doesn't Revolve Around Television." In the lyrics he says, "Someone's getting greedy. Someone's taking more than their share. Someone's taking cuts in line and some just don't care."

MEN'S NIGHT

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15
7 p.m. - 10 p.m.

THE NIGHT FOR HIM... TO SHOP FOR HER
Refreshments will be served.

148 PIERCE • BIRMINGHAM
Open every night til 9
Sat. - 5:30 Sun. 12-5
115 KERCHEVAL • GROSSE POINTE
Open every night til 9, Sat. - 5:30