

Parents 'buy' mock arrest

By Bill Casper
staff writer

It was an embarrassing, somewhat frightening and frustrating day for two unsuspecting Orchard Lake girls who were arrested Thursday by Redford Township police and jailed — a practical joke initiated by their parents.

Their parents followed every minute of their daughters' ordeal — after bidding \$125 between them for a night in the Redford jail as part of a fund-raising auction for Our Lady of Mercy High School in Farmington Hills.

They filmed the arrest from a covert van and taped the girls' conversation from their jail cell in the Redford lockup.

But it was all in fun, at least for the parents, Mary Ellen and Mike Cotter and Sharon and Norb Hoffman. They had a good laugh at the expense of their daughters, Chris Cotter and Sandy Hoffman, both 16, also known to their parents as "Laverne and Shirley."

A RETIRED Redford police officer, William McColeman, played a key role in the plot.

McColeman, who retired as a lieutenant two years ago after 25 years on the Redford police force, has a daughter attending Mercy High, where he has become active in fund-raising to support school operations.

One of the school's most productive fund-raising events is an annual auction. This year McColeman suggested auctioning a night in the Redford jail at the Feb. 18 event.

"It was just intended to be an item that could be auctioned off to raise money for the school," McColeman said. "But the Hoffmans and Cotters wanted to take it a little further and actually have their daughters arrested. So I arranged to get township approval for the mock arrest."

"These girls are ideal for this type of practical joke. They think they can talk their way out of anything," he said.

THE TWO are close friends, who have attended school together for 11 years.

"This little joke is dedicated to the many late nights their dear mothers spent waiting up for them to return home," Mike Cotter said in jest.

"They're good girls who have never been in trouble with the police, but they are mischievous. We learned they participated in an egg-throwing activity on Devil's Night."

The trap was set by the parents, who, without their daughters' knowledge, had confiscated each of their driver's licenses, then arranged for Chris to drive to Catholic Central High School where her brother is a student.

The mock arrest took place at CC, where patrolman Tom Boyda was stationed, along with McColeman, the girls' parents and the media, all concealed in McColeman's van.

"The original plan was to pull them over for a loud muffler, but they turned into the school parking lot against a one-way exit, and that gave me the perfect reason to approach them," Boyda said.

"I asked for the driver's (Chris') license, but of course she didn't have it. She told me someone must have taken it. Then I asked her name and date of birth, telling her I'd check on her license through our computer system."

"I FAKED like I was checking, but I told her our records showed that she apparently had never gotten a driver's license. I said to her, 'so you've been lying to me.' I then instructed her that I'd have to take both of them to the police station, where she would be given one telephone call to get their parents to come get them or I'd have to lock them up."

During that time, the parents were joking and laughing at Chris banging her head with her hand, apparently in response to her missing license, and Sharon "talking a blue streak" to get out of the jam.

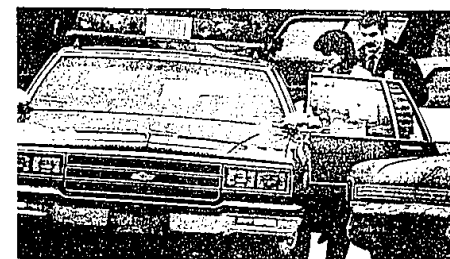
"I wanted to put the handcuffs on them, but they were reluctant so I didn't press the issue," said Boyda. "I told them to get into my squad car. They pleaded with me to let them go. I think at first they thought someone was just playing a joke on them, but I think they started to get a little worried when we drove away in my squad car heading for the police department."



Photo by DAN DEAN/Staff photographer

Chris Cotter (left) and Sandy Hoffman replay their hours in a Redford jail cell. Their mock arrest was arranged by their parents, who

bid \$125 for a night in the Redford jail at a Mercy High School auction.



LEFT: Their parents listen to the girls' conversation via loud speaker from their cell. ABOVE: Sandy is escorted to a Redford squad car by Patrolman Tom Boyda.

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INSIDE ANGLES

Know someone doing something notable? Let us know. Write: Inside Angles, Farmington Observer, 23352 Farmington Road, Farmington 48024.

LAURA MILLER, daughter of Larry and Beth Miller of Farmington, has received the Association for Retarded Citizens (ARC) Oakland County Youth Volunteer of the Year Award. Laura received the award for her special effort, dedication and work on behalf of mentally retarded citizens. She is a senior at Farmington High School.

ELLEN PATRICIA WOLF, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Wolf of Farmington Hills, was recently elected marshal/reference chairman of Phi Gamma Chapter of Delta Delta Delta sorority at Michigan State University. Ellen is a junior majoring in merchandise management.

KIM PYKO, daughter of Frank and Marlene Pyko of Farmington Hills, was promoted to editor-in-chief on Marketline Magazine. Marketline is an award-winning student publication at Michigan State University with a circulation of about 10,000. It is affiliated with Michigan State University Marketing Association. Kim is a 1981 graduate of Harrison High School.

PAM BROWN'S first-grade class at Woodcreek School received a thank you letter from President Reagan. For his birthday, they sent him a handmade birthday book.

GREEN IS THE COLOR of the day as a St. Patrick's Day Party salutes Detroit's Irish heritage. Celebrants should watch for leprechauns and shamrocks during a party on The Westin Hotel's Promenade Stage from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

EILEEN CULLEN of Farmington Hills won second place in the Mid-America Irish Dances Competition held at Michigan Inn in Southfield. She will now go to County Cork, Ireland in April for two weeks to compete in the All World Contest. Eileen graduated from Harrison High School in 1983 and is in the nursing program at Wayne State University.

RONALD LETWINSKI, son of Mike and Lucy Letwinski of Farmington Hills, will celebrate his Bar Mitzvah with a Soviet Jewish boy, Edward Doks, in absentia at Temple Israel on March 16. Ron, a 7th grade student at East Middle School, will read from the Torah for both of them.

COLONIAL CLICKERS, 30859 W. 10 Mile Road, Farmington Hills, will celebrate St. Patrick's Day Friday and Saturday, March 16 and 17 with a corned beef dinner for \$3.95, green beer, special drinks and light entertainment.

GREG LEMANSKI of Farmington Hills, a

senior at Albion College, is serving for the third consecutive year as coach and trainer of the Albion Pistons basketball team. Proud of his first-place Piston basketball team, he reveals the secret of their success: "The Pistons establish the basics . . . When they do the basics right, they out-finesse the other teams."

CONGRATULATIONS to the Farmington High Forensic Team on awards received at their first meet. A first-place trophy was brought home by Tami Horvath and a second place in informative skills was brought home by David Walworth. Tim McHugh received a third place in humorous, and Mike Finegan received a sixth place award in storytelling.

DR. SEYMOUR R. ROSEN of Farmington has been named to the Council On Sports Vision, a national organization made up of eye-care professionals with an interest in vision care for athletes. Dr. Rosen joins over 1,000 eye professionals affiliated with the Council in addition to professional athletes Rocky Bleier of the Pittsburgh Steelers and tennis player Eddie Dibbs. According to Dr. Rosen, good vision implies more than just 20/20. "The well-known eye chart test measures only a person's visual acuity. This is important but certainly not the only skills a person needs to see and perform well." The Council on Sports Vision has tentative plans to sponsor sports vision clinics for coaches, trainers, and athletes.

FARMINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS have extended their registration through Friday, March 16. All children who will be 5 on or before December 1, 1984 are eligible to register for the 1984-85 school year. Registration can be completed at your local elementary school.

NORTH FARMINGTON High School students will perform in the play "Arsenic and Old Lace" on March 15, 16 and 17 at 8 p.m. Reserved seats may be bought in advance for \$2. For further information, call 626-2511.

THE FOURTH ANNUAL Providence Novi Run will be at 1:30 p.m. Sunday afternoon, April 29. The annual event is sponsored by Providence Hospital, in conjunction with the Novi Parks and Recreation Department, to promote health and exercise in the community. Run participants will be able to choose their own pace this year. Wheelchair participants are encouraged to enter the 5K or one-mile fun run. Entry fee is \$6 before April 26 and \$8 on April 29. Registration blanks are available from the Novi Parks and Recreation Department and the Providence Hospital Novi Ambulatory Care Center, 10 Mile and Haggerty, or by calling Providence Hospital's community health education department at 552-9041.

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