

Mercy girls live it up, learn a lot in Europe

By Diane Hofessa
special writer

"The gentle reader will never, never know what a consummate fool he can become until he goes abroad," said Mark Twain.

Suspect is arrested

A Farmington Hills man has been charged with attempted murder in the shooting of a Belleville man in Canton Township.

Richard Wayne Daugherty, 49, was arraigned by Judge Glenn Valesco in 3rd Circuit Court in Wayne County on two felony counts in the shooting May 3 of Edward Morelli, 39. The second count was for allegedly using a firearm in the commission of a crime.

According to Canton police, Morelli was in the parking lot of a shopping complex at N. Hagerly and Cherry Hill when he was approached by two individuals, one of whom he recognized.

Police say the two tried to force Morelli into a car at gunpoint. When he

But Twain never met the 42 Mercy High School girls of Farmington Hills who last week returned from a 12-day trip to Spain and France.

"They may have gone over there as giggling high school girls, but they came back as young ladies," said Morelli.

The girls also brought to life what they had learned in the classroom. "All of the students are studying either French or Spanish in school."

The all-female troupe was met with mostly positive reactions by those they encountered in the two Western European countries, said Smetanka.

She told of an incident in which two of the young students went to lunch at a Parisian cafe on one of their free afternoons. The cook was so enchanted by the Americans that he baked them each a pizza in the shape of a heart.

When the waiter delivered the custom pizzas to the two unsuspecting Mercy girls, the entire staff of waiters, waitresses and cooks was waiting to see the girls' reactions.

BUT NOT EVERYONE was so nice. In Madrid's finest disco, the girls were first greeted with a sign across

the bar screen that read, "Welcome Mercy Girls." That was quickly followed by an overzealous picture of President Ronald Reagan with his finger up his nose.

Carrie Fraser, one of the 42 students, said she interpreted the picture as a crude attempt at humor to which the girls didn't quite know how to respond.

The trip included six days in Spain and the same amount in France. The itinerary was planned by Smetanka in conjunction with the Boston-based American Council for International Studies.

From the Detroit airport the girls were routed through New York, landed in Malaga, Spain, then took a three-hour bus ride to Granada, where they attended Easter Sunday services in an ancient Spanish Cathedral that Twain would have called "poetry in marble."

Their next stop was Seville, where Don Juan romanced and Figaro bartered. There the girls were dazzled by flamenco dancers and street gypsies that sang ballads, said Fraser.

From there they went to Cordoba, then Madrid. In Madrid was the famous "Joy" disco excursion, where they danced with native Spaniards and stu-

dents their own age. "Did they ever dance?" Smetanka asked.

Also in Madrid the girls were surprised to see so many Wendy's and Burger King restaurants.

THEN THE GIRLS "did" the French Riviera, which 16-year-old Fraser said was a highlight of the trip.

Sporting her new Cote d'Azur sweatshirt she bought there, she talks of the joys of sunbathing on the Mediterranean beaches at Nice — even if everybody she was going to meet and they couldn't quite do that and feel comfortable.

Later the group toured a perfume factory at Exe and went to Monaco. Monaco is an independent French-speaking principality on the Riviera that is ruled by Prince Rainier III, widower of the late Grace Kelly.

Their grand finale before catching a

return flight in London was Paris. Learning to ride the Metro proved to be a learning experience. The massive network of underground passages is perplexing to Americans accustomed to car travel.

The girls fared far better riding the Metro than when they tried to squish through one skinny Spanish train car with their suitcases in tow.

Other Paris adventures on their agenda included a night cruise down the Seine River to see Notre Dame Cathedral and other historic monuments.

They also saw the Mona Lisa painting at the Louvre Museum, sampled assorted croissants, and climbed the Eiffel Tower.

While in Paris for three days they stayed in the swankiest part of town, the 16th arrondissement, which is nestled between the Eiffel Tower and the Arc de Triomphe.

Democrat to be feted

U.S. Senator Carl Levin will be the featured speaker at an dinner to honor Aldo Vagnotzi, a community leader and Democratic Party activist. The dinner has a 7 p.m. start on Sunday, June 3, at the Botsford Inn in Farmington Hills.

Cost is \$20 per person, or \$35 for two. For ticket information, call Mike Breshgold at 477-8885, or Kevin Howley at 553-2195.

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