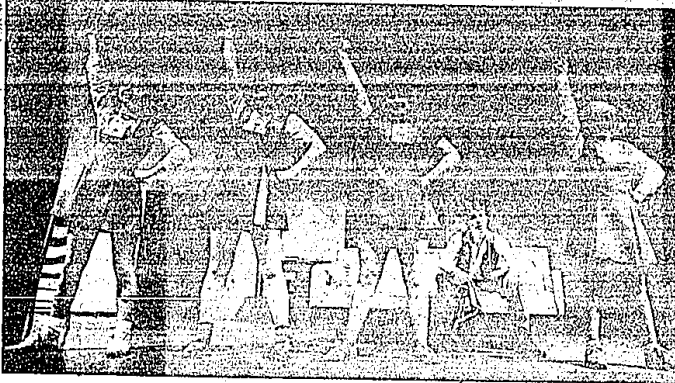


There's 'Life' at Harrison



Todd Charkasky (seated, rear) watches (from left) Aliza McCormick, Sarah Kamoo, Rachelle Dones and Ann Turargilvo a choir for "Life of the Party."

Play to run May 24-25

"Life of the Party," Farmington Harrison High School's spring play, will be presented Thursday and Friday, May 24-25 with 8 p.m. performances on the school stage. Tickets at \$2 each may be purchased at the door.

The play is directed by substitute teacher Dale Farrell. The assistant director is Scott DeChant, a Harrison senior. Starring in the play are Harrison students Dave Burton and Laura Livingstone.



Harrison players (from left) Steve Seinsky, Adam Springal and Paul Amendt go through the motions at a recent rehearsal.

Staff photos by
Randy Borst



Sue Miller (left), Paul Amendt and Laura Barry act out a couch scene during a "Life of the Party" rehearsal.



Liz Blondin (back, left) and Cathy Yeveraky Burton, Amy Menkon and Laura Livingstone watch (front, from left) Marc Tennenbaum, Dave rehearse a scene from Harrison's upcoming play.

Architect has designs on school-board seat

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the first in a series of stories about the candidates who are running for the Farmington Board of Education in the June 11 school election.

By Tom Baer
staff writer

If college professor James J. Abernethy wins a seat on the Farmington Board of Education, he'd better include Trustees Jim McGilney on the list for thank-you notes.

McGilney announced back in March that he would not be running for re-election after almost six years on the board, thus creating a vacancy at which Abernethy jumped.

"I want to join a board I basically respect," said the 44-year-old Abernethy, one of five candidates (including one incumbent) for two positions in the June 11 school election.

"I would not be running if there was not a vacancy."

Abernethy, who teaches would-be architects at Southfield's Lawrence Institute of Technology, is a 17-year resident of Farmington, and a member of that city's planning commission.

The Abernethys, James and JoAnne, have two sons, Bruce, a 10th grader at Farmington High, and Craig, an eighth-grader at Power Middle School.

If elected, Abernethy said he would attempt to "raise expectations and standards" in the classrooms of the Farmington Public Schools.

He said that many Farmington students, including his sons, "are not consistently day-in, day-out being challenged to anywhere near their potential."

ABERNETHY CONTINUED: "There are some classes where they are being challenged... There are some marvelous things going on in the system. But I think we have to be very, very careful before we say everything's perfect because there are some classes where not a lot is expected."

"A student gets fairly good grades without expending a whole lot of effort. The student doesn't complain too much; the teacher doesn't complain too much. This concerns me. They (the students) will be in for a real shock when they move on to college or the work place."

Needed in the district are more "solid, high expectations from the teachers," Abernethy said. "That's what causes good learning experiences to happen. That's the main ingredient. It's there some of the time, but not all of the time."

Abernethy expressed concern about the board "squandering the limited resources — the dollars — that we have."

One worthy project, he said, would be to retrain teachers who have been "dumped" into teaching subjects they know little or nothing about. "So that they'll be more comfortable with the subjects they're stuck with."

"These are mature people who may need some retraining," he said. "It's going to cost some money, but we're going to have to do it."



James J. Abernethy
candidate for the board

school board race

troit Cass Tech High and the University of Detroit before adding a master's degree in urban planning from Wayne State, said he was concerned about inroads made by private schools.

"There is a solid competitor in the marketplace today called the private school," he said. "It's always been there. There are hundreds of parents in the Farmington District who perceive, rightly or wrongly, that the private school is a better investment."

"The public school is under attack right here in this community. And people here have sufficient funds to exercise that option. We have to get the blinders off and make this public system as strong as possible. Let's not fool ourselves into thinking that part of it isn't strong."

Abernethy mentioned three major "particular concerns" about public education in Farmington — only one year of science is required in high school, no computer training is required at that level, and too many subjects are required at the middle-grade level.

"My campaign will be to try to get across to the voters in this district who I am, what my credentials are, what my commitment has been to Farmington and of the school and what my hopes are."

Abernethy, who celebrated his 41st birthday last Monday, is a consultant to many midwestern school districts. Farmington among them, the building safety during tornadoes.

OH! CHANTILLY SUMMER SPECIAL EAU DE COLOGNE



If your favorite fragrance isn't soft and lush, sensuous and undeniably romantic, then Chantilly. And now you can have it too. The Oh! Chantilly Eau de Cologne for 7.50 a 3.16 ounce. There's a hint of vanilla and cherry, the warm, rich tones of ylang-ylang, by Heuberg, the "Fleur du Aïole" of Sicily, the delicate, sweet, glowing Musk. Merivon, the "Belle Epoque" and "Musk" are also available.

Hudson's