

Corps offers youths jobs and summer fun

By Chris Rizk
staff writer

Dave Abella is a 20-year-old Michigan State University student majoring in economics. Ed Norwood, also a 20-year-old MSU student, is interested in engineering and math. Veronica Stephenson, 20, is studying criminal justice.

All three have more in common than their ages or scholastic pursuits.

This summer, the three are attempting to mesh their enthusiasm and ambition with sound economic judgment by working with the Michigan Youth Corps — a state-funded agency that puts unemployed youths to work throughout Michigan.

Despite the lack of recruits in past

years, Oakland County this year can boast placement of more than 920 18-21-year-old youths.

WITH APPROXIMATELY 1,068 job positions available in Oakland County, that figure suggests a successful fourth year of the summer program, said Sue Allen, youth corps communications director.

Yet there's more than figures and statistics available to show the program's success.

Attitudes of workers toward the program suggests that beneath the veneer of bureaucratic red tape and state guidelines, the youth corps is touching the very people whom Gov. James Blanchard and the legislature intended to reach.

"Corps Four," the informal label

for this year's program, has reached more than 103 youths in Southfield, Farmington and Farmington Hills. The program extends to young workers in Birmingham, Bloomfield Township and Rochester. But, according to former coordinators in those cities, these cities did not participate this year.

Abella, a Southfield resident and second-year corps worker, said his reasons for joining the NYC were simple.

"I NEEDED A job and this was available," Abella said. "But this has absolutely no bearing on my future. I'm just here until I return to school."

While Abella's comments may be considered harsh and realistic, state

youth corps organizers understand and take such attitudes into account. "The corps appeals to all kinds of youths," Allen said. "That's the point. It's not the same thing for everybody. For some, it's a summer job. For others, it's not just something to bring in money. It helps them learn skills while helping the state."

Youth corps is the brainchild of Gov. Blanchard, who had promised during his 1982 campaign, to supply "a lot of jobs to a lot of people."

Since 1983, the corps has succeeded in putting more than 72,000 men and women to work, Allen said.

"It's a good program," Farmington Administrative Assistant Bob Schultz said. "We simply define a task or a project that lends itself to primarily unskilled labor, those with no particular qualifications, except youth, willingness and an exuberance for work."

A few of the possibilities leading to the program's original promise to teach workers introductory skills at minimum wages.

To further its reputation of promoting young laborers, the youth corps will send 29 workers to the Netherlands Aug. 16.

Sponsored by the AFS International/Intercultural, formerly the American Field Services, the U.S. Information Agency and the Dutch Ministry of Culture, the trip to the Netherlands is a pilot project that will introduce youth corps workers to a different culture.

In September, 20 Netherlands youths will visit the United States to conclude the exchange project.

Lennie Ford, a 29-year-old Oak Park resident and third-year youth corps supervisor for Farmington, said his reasons for participating in the program — first as a worker and subsequently as a supervisor — were very basic.

A TEACHER in the Oak Park School District, Ford said his natural compulsion to teach readily lent itself to the youth corps goals.

"It gives me a chance to be with 18-21-year-olds," Ford said. "They are usually college students or kids having to make up their minds about what direction they're going in. I try

to give them a healthy attitude about working."

Ford refers to his crew that is currently working on a senior citizens walking course project at Shlawassee Park in Farmington.

"Look at these guys," Ford said. "Some of them have never done anything like this before. But they don't complain, they just learn how and get the job done."

Dan Thomas, 18, of Southfield decided to enroll in the youth corps this summer. One of the crew members constructing the walking trail, he had participated in the renovation of the Farmington Historical Museum.

"One of the things it teaches you is job skill," Thomas said. "That's one of the good things about it. When you leave here, you might be able to go somewhere else and tell them that you learned this or that from the Michigan Youth Corps."

STATE ORGANIZERS have learned something too, Allen said.

"In the beginning, we had this idea but no practice in implementing it," she said. "Now, we have a better program — we've modified it and ironed out the bugs."

Surveys conducted by the state and based in part upon evaluation reports of workers, found that most supervisors and crew members rated the program very successful.

Three-quarters of the participants were either in vocational education or enrolled in higher education courses, indicating that the program's goal of supplementing a youth's experience with temporary summer employment can work.

"We're in constant touch with our communities," said Joan Walton, a youth corps coordinator in Southfield. "We get a lot of feedback from those areas sponsoring projects. The most frequent comment is that most of these projects would never have been touched had it not been for the youth corps."



Youth corps worker Steve Black of Birmingham, who is assigned to Farmington's Department of Public Works, is trimming cattails near Nine Mile and Freedom roads.

'The corps appeals to all kinds of youths. That's the point. It's not the same thing for everybody.'

— Sue Allen
Corps communications director



Dave Harrington of Farmington Hills is spending his summer days scraping old paint off the porch of the Gov. Warner Mansion in downtown Farmington.



While fellow workers scrape off old paint at the Gov. Warner Mansion, Mike Dyer of Southfield puts on a fresh coat of the cleaning white paint that has long characterized Farmington's historical museum.

Staff photos by Rick Smith

short takes

If you recently opened a shop, captured an award, earned a promotion or are planning a new venture or project — and there's a Farmington-area business angle — we'd like to hear from you so we can share your news item with other Farmington Observer readers. Send items to: Short takes, Farmington Observer, 33205 Grand River, Farmington 48024.

EXPANDED FILM TRANSFER

Grace & Wild Studios has expanded its custom film transfer capabilities with the addition of Steadi-Film, Sho2 Detection, and a second Rank Cintel Mark III C telecine with X-Y Zoom.

Grace & Wild is a Farmington Hills video production facility.

The Steadi-Film System is a major technological breakthrough in film-to-videotape transfers, completely eliminating jitters and weave in the transfer process. Until its introduction last year, no one had been able to completely solve the telecine weave problem, a major concern to film producers and video post houses for many years.

Adapted to Grace & Wild's two Rank Cintel telecines, Steadi-Film is a pin-registered gate system that creates rock-steady film-to-tape transfers for 35mm film. This unique pin-registration also allows the Rank to be used in an "optical printer" style with Grace & Wild's Abekas A-62 digital disk recorder.

For the first time, many new possibilities exist for producers seeking to take advantage of the visual quality of film, as well as the speed and ease of video for editing special effects. Multiple film sequences can now be composited onto video during transfer with perfect registration, eliminating the weave created during the separate transfer of elements.

Computer graphics may also be combined with film during video post, allowing intricate rotoscoping or specialized animation of film and video elements. Multi-layer compositing using Steadi-film, Ultimate and the Abekas A-62 is another breakthrough now possible directly during the transfer process. Not only do these features allow for effects never before possible, but they also reduce costs by eliminating certain optical printing or on-line editing,

saving time and improving overall quality.

NEW POSITION

Knollwood Clinic, Lapeer announces the association of Dr. Roger Skindell, an osteopath in general practice at their clinic.

Skindell is the son of Edward and Joyce Skindell of Farmington Hills. He graduated from Livonia Franklin, Michigan State University in 1979 and from the University of Osteopathic Medicine and Health Sciences, Des Moines, Iowa, in 1985. He recently completed a one-year internship at the Flint Osteopathic Hospital in Flint.

NEW OFFICERS

Stanley Freedman of Farmington Hills has been elected president of Children's Oncology Services of Michigan Inc. Freedman has served as vice president and treasurer of the non-profit organization, which owns and operates the Ronald McDonald House in Detroit.

Julie Maskin of Farmington Hills has been elected treasurer. Randy Friedman has been elected to the board of directors.

Ronald McDonald House is a temporary home-away-from-home for families whose children are hospitalized or receiving treatment as outpatients.

NEW POSITION

Mary Ann Robb, formerly vice president of corporate communications and special assistant to the chairman of the Hall Financial Group in Dallas, has joined MG and Casey Communications Inc. as an account supervisor. She is responsible for the programming, planning and implementation of various account activities and projects.

In her position at Hall Financial Group, Robb developed and directed the company's public relations program, wrote and edited corporate marketing materials, and was responsible for media relations. Previously, she was director of marketing and investor services at Hall Financial, working in Southfield and Dallas.

Earlier, she was a political research analyst and project director for Market Opinion Research in Detroit where she was responsible for study and questionnaire design, project management and data analysis.

The Farmington Hills resident holds a bachelor's degree with honors in political science and political marketing from the University of Michigan.

RECIPIENT

Susan Haight of Stamen Circle in Farmington Hills has been awarded a Wesley Berry Flowers 40th Anniversary scholarship. She received the scholarship following completion of a professional course in which she demonstrated talent in floral design. The scholarship is sponsored by Future Corp., which holds the franchise rights to Wesley Berry Flowers. The professional floral design course was conducted by the Professional Florists' Institute.

Haight is a 1983 computer science graduate of Pittsburg University.

COMPLETES TRAINING

Denise Albrecht, supervisor for Christmas Around the World, national Christmas decoration party plan company, based near Kansas City, Missouri, has just completed a two-day training session on management skills, and to introduce the 1986 marketing program.

The Farmington Hills resident participated in a variety of training classes, discussed company program and previewed the 1986 product line. This is the second year for the company in Michigan. Commercial orders and fund raisers for local organizations, churches, scout troops, etc. will be offered this year.

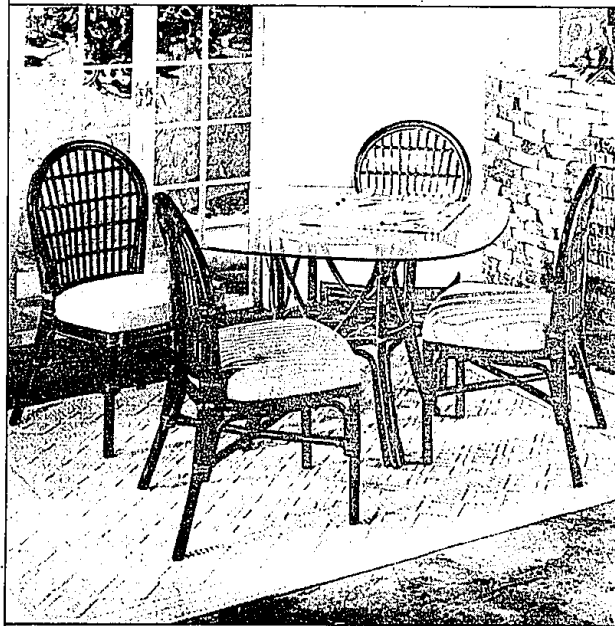
Christmas Around the World by House of Lloyd specializes in unique Christmas decorations, ornaments, children's items, and gifts representing many cultures and countries.

Active in the community, Albrecht is chairman of the board of the Farmington Area Community Women. She has also been involved with Farmington Youth Assistance, Farmington Area Preschool Council and is co-founder of Kids Day which kicks off the Farmington Founders Festival.

She will be hiring and training sales personnel in this area over the next two months. The company offers excellent commissions, sales incentives, an admirable hostess program, and an opportunity to earn prizes, trips and recognition. No cash investment is required; training is provided free.

For more information on the company and its offerings, contact Denise Albrecht at 478-3218.

O'Asian rattan game set, \$665



5-piece set includes table and four chairs. This 5-piece rattan set from O'Asian has a warm pecan finish, and blends with any decor. Each chair seat is made of a neutral "woven" fabric, and the table has a beautiful rattan base with a 42" square round glass top. Chairs, \$119 each.

Table, \$189. 5-piece set includes table and four chairs, \$665 (\$412 per month).

Furniture, all metro Detroit stores except Farmington, also at Flint, Toledo and Ann Arbor.

*Minimum monthly payment, subject to credit review. *See store for details. *Not available in all areas. *See store for details. *See store for details.

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