

## Farmington Observer



hallways

A page of Farmington-area school news



*'I was scared about school. Here it's easier — you have the choice (of classes).'*

— Luisa Cinque



## Italian student adjusting to American way

By Casey Hans  
staff writer

**L**UISA CINQUE is a celebrity in her hometown, thanks to her father's advice.

The 18-year-old hails from the city of Foggia in southeast Italy. But since August, she has a new home, living in Farmington with Jane and Jack Felten and their family.

The exchange student is visiting for one year through the American Institute of Foreign Study and at-

tends Farmington Hills Mercy High School with Kathy Felten, the youngest of the family's eight children.

Her life here is a far cry from the year-round warm climate and pasta-based meals she grew up with at home. Here, the pace is quicker — different from the slow lifestyle of an Italian upbringing.

Her father, a language professor in Italy, encouraged her to apply for the exchange program. She is the first person from her region of Italy to visit the United States.

"He's the one who had the idea to send me here," she said. "At first, they (her neighbors) thought I was crazy . . . then they thought I was lucky."

The oldest of three girls, Luisa comes from a conservative, traditional society where progress for women has not made the inroads it has here. Her father and mother, who is a teacher, encouraged her to make the trip despite these traditions.

She said she chose the eastern area of the United States because it

was "nearest to home."

**SCHOOL WAS** the big hurdle she had to overcome. "I was scared about school," she said, speaking excellent English with a hint of an Italian accent. "Here it's easier — you have the choice" of classes.

Italian students attend school for five years, six days per week, in more specialized settings. They must select one of three types of schools: scientific, business or classical.

Luisa attended scientific school,

where she studied physics, chemistry, Latin, history and Italian Literature plus other courses. She plans to continue her education in Italy to be an interpreter, for which there's a special school.

Mercy is different, as she expected it to be.

Here she is taking choral music — something not offered in her Italian city — French, American government and several other classes.

Luisa's visit with her American family came about when Jane

Felten developed a curiosity about the program and called to inquire about it.

The experience has been so positive, she said the family will bring an exchange student into their home each year. "I think it's an equal exchange," Felten said. "It gives us a glimpse into another culture."

**LUISA'S VISIT** also gives her daughter, Kathy, a new approach

— Please turn to Page 4

## inkwell

Inkwell provides primary and secondary school news and information about Farmington-area students. The column appears monthly throughout the year as part of the Observer's "School Page." Send news items to: The School Page, Farmington Observer, 33203 Grand River, Farmington 48024. Include a telephone number where a contact person can be reached during the day.

#### ● MATH WHIZZES

One Farmington resident and three Farmington Hills residents from local private schools finished within the top 5 percent of Michigan students competing in the Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition Oct. 3.

The students included: Kevin Podszalik of Farmington, a senior at Catholic Central High School in Redford Township; and Farmington Hills residents Dan Hommes, Jeff Michaelson and Fazlur Zahurullah, all students at Detroit Country Day School in Beverly Hills.

#### ● SMEDBERG FIRST

Farmington Hills resident Michael Smedberg, a sophomore at Bloomfield Hills Roper City & Country Day School, has been awarded first place by Lawrence Institute of Technology for outstanding performance on the Junior Engineering Technical Society's National Engineering Aptitude Search Test.

By placing in the top 5 percent of students tested, Smedberg received a certificate and a programmable calculator.

He was one of 300 students participating in the test, designed to measure abilities in verbal, numerical, science and mechanical comprehension.

LIT is in Southfield.

#### ● HONOR SOCIETY

Dennis King, sponsor of the Jack Buller Chapter of the National Honor Society at Farmington Harrison High School, has announced new members of the society.

An induction ceremony was held at the Harrison Auditorium Dec. 17.

New members include: Luann Abdo, Kirsten Anderson, Steve Blaisell, Neal Blais, Jennifer Blum, Jana Bolla, Richard Brockhaus, John Chuhman, H. Earl Cockerham, Eric Cole, Michelle Cookson, Alicia Courtney, Julie Cunningham, Holly Derby, Katie Doll, Christina El-

drodgo, Richard Esker, Scott Farabee, Brian Fitzgerald, Yale Goldis, Michelle Grell, Frances Hale, David Hansen, Julie Hampel, James Hill, James Holden, Michelle Hudson, Douglas Hull, Michael Jacques, Aimee Katz, Elizabeth Kent, Joseph Lichtenberger, Marilyn Mara, Deborah McKenney, Amy Menken, Christine Patterson, Shelly Rakoczy, Dennis Rande, Karen Rasmussen, Julie Reeker, Phillip Rider, Eric Rosenthal, Debbie Sheere, Dawn Simmons, Michael Spitz, Eric Stark, Jocelyn Traitel, Kelly Trost, Yvette Vanlegh, Michelle Wainick, Miriam Weiber, Gary Weissman, Wes Wood and Aaron Yavarsky.

#### ● TEACHER FORUM

Three teacher forums — co-sponsored by the Michigan Department of Education and the Wayne County Intermediate School District — will be held in the Detroit area in March to seek teachers' opinions and suggestions for educational reform, according to information from the department in Lansing.

Titled "A Teacher Renaissance Initiative: Teachers as Partners in Reform," the daylong Saturday seminars will feature guest speakers. They will include such topics as State Policies Affecting Teachers, Quality of Work Life, Career Incentives and Continuing Education and Staff Development.

Seminars are slated for March 14 at the Sheraton Oaks in Novi; March 21 at the Wayne State University Student Center in Detroit; and March 28 at the Pontiac Silverdome.

Teachers can obtain applications from their local district or by calling 1-517-373-3503. Application deadline is Jan. 15.

#### ● ENROLLMENTS INCREASE

Not only are enrollments increasing in local school districts, but at Michigan's 100 colleges and universities.

Fall enrollments reached nearly 520,000, approaching the state's record high of 534,718 set in 1980, the State Board of Education reports.

The enrollment increase of 13,103 students makes 1986 the second highest year for total higher education enrollments in the state's history, the report said.

Oakland Community College is ranked fifth in the highest enrollment with 26,875 behind Michigan State, the University of Michigan,

Macomb Community College and Wayne State University.

#### ● TEACHERS' YEAR

The state of Michigan was able to "improve on a good thing" for education in 1986, according to State Superintendent Phillip Runkel.

The state board took steps to increase the proficiency of the teaching profession — steps that will continue in the coming year, Runkel added.

This year, the state board gave final approval on a significant set of new teacher certification rule changes, tackled a set of recommendations aimed at solving Michigan's new teacher needs, tripled the number of teachers and the amount of money allocated to them in mini-grants and scheduled a series of teacher forums for 1987 to get teacher ideas for improving education in the state.

#### ● TEACHER SPEAKS

Tony Ward — a foreign exchange teacher from Swansea, Wales, teaching at North Farmington High School during this school year — spoke Saturday at a brunch at the Farmington Community Library, Farmington Hills branch.

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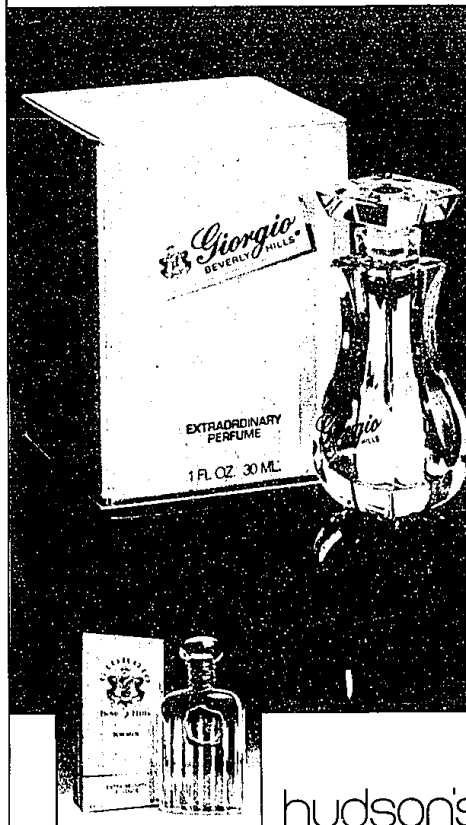
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