



Theresa Scott, a computer specialist from NASA's Lewis Research Center in Cleveland, talks with Jaime Riggs (center) and Kristina Shah, students at East Middle School in Farmington Hills.

Choices urged for women

By Casey Hane
staff writer

A General Motors engineer told young women to "open all doors" during their high school years and to put an equal emphasis on liberal arts and science education.

"What you choose will ultimately open or close doors to you," said Molly Brennan, a 28-year-old GM research engineer, who grew up in Oakland County. "Once you learn how to learn, you can pick up anything. You've got to know the world."

More than 250 sixth- and ninth-grade girls from Farmington, West Bloomfield, Huron Valley and other area school districts attended an annual seminar, which encouraged young women to follow lucrative careers in math, science and technological careers.

BOTH BRENNAN and Theresa Scott, a management computer information specialist with the National Aeronautics Space Administration, were keynote speakers at the seminar, held on the Orchard Ridge Campus of Oakland Community College in Farmington Hills.

Brennan gave the young women a

taste of their future by sharing her recent experience driving the solar-powered GM Sunracer across Australia for competition, winning first place. "Just remember, nothing comes easily," she added, "but it is worthwhile."

Engineering is "increasingly" a women's field, Brennan said. One third of today's engineers are women.

Her 1982 degree from Michigan State University in computer engineering and humanities gave her a chance to "know the world." It led her to a Rhodes scholarship in England. Her diverse background also led her to a career at GM.

Although Brennan said she enjoys her career, she "doesn't make my job my life. I don't take work home at night or on weekends. A person does not have to work that hard to get ahead."

The half-day "Choices" seminar, held last Friday, was sponsored by Farmington schools gifted and career development departments and the American Association of University Women Farmington branch. It is the second year the seminar has been held.

THE SEMINAR'S organizers cite

statistics that show:

- only 13 percent of our country's career aspirations are moderate in comparison to boys, and
- three times as many boys as girls attend summer computer conferences.

• high ability female adolescents' career aspirations are moderate in comparison to boys, and

• by freshmen year in college, the math filter has disqualified most high ability young women from high-achieving, high-salary jobs.

The focus each year will be on sixth and ninth graders, as students in these grade levels are making crucial course selection decisions, organizer Joette Kuntz said.

The girls were selected to attend the conference by teachers, counselors and gifted coordinators in their respective middle schools and high schools.

A pre-seminar for parents was also held in January, when a consultant on sex-equity issues from the University of Michigan shared information with parents. Donations from this program will go toward the AAUW Emma M. Mink Scholarship, a newly formed scholarship offered to a Farmington student in grades five-12.

C'ville to start replacing buses this month

By Kevin Brown
staff writer

With brake failures, exhaust leaks and other problems being reported on some Clarenceville school buses, school board members voted Jan. 28 to start replacing the vehicles.

Clarenceville School District board of education members agreed to take bids on two to four new diesel buses this month, while accepting a plan to replace the entire fleet by 1995.

By the plan, at least two new buses would roll by next fall. Board members and district school bus drivers agreed new buses are badly needed.

"We have had brakes out, clutches out, things you can't even describe,"

said Mary Anne DeWaters, one of several bus drivers attending the board meeting.

"We got so concerned that we were going to refuse to drive the buses," she added.

But driver Delores Sydor stressed, "Children haven't been hurt," as drivers said they understood that bus hasn't been available to buy new buses in recent years.

Barry Sherman, board secretary, echoed a general sentiment among board members.

"IT'S NOT a question of if we can afford to do it, we have to do it," he said.

"Our mechanic is putting in long hours just to keep our fleet on the road," wrote Ralph Skrocki, assistant superintendent for business, in outlining the plan to board members.

"On Monday, Jan. 18, we lost an engine (broken crank). We had to borrow two spares from the Farmington transportation department."

The district bus mechanic "doesn't have time to catch his breath because when one breaks down there's another breaks down," Skrocki told board members, adding that one school employee was transferred to the mechanical staff to help ensure that the buses would run safely.

Because several board members said they were concerned with students' safety, trustee Richard Wood suggested Skrocki take alternate bids on two and four new buses.

"Two is better than one — four is real good," he said.

UNDER SKROCKI'S plan, the district would buy two buses this year, one next year, and alternate purchases of two buses then one bus in succeeding years — 12 in all by 1995.

Each new bus would cost roughly \$33,000 to \$36,000, Skrocki said. He added that fuel savings from switching to diesel fuel, along with a 38 percent state reimbursement for the bus purchases, could mean the district would save \$100,000 by buying rather than leasing buses.

Board members are scheduled to examine bids at a meeting later this month.

Among the oldest buses of the 15 owned by the district are two made in 1975, two in 1977 and three in 1978.

police/fire calls

Listed below are some of the Farmington-area police incidents, fire calls and court cases reported during the past week:

• WOMAN ASSAULTED

A 21-year-old woman was assaulted while talking on a pay phone at Nine Mile and Tuck Jan. 31.

According to a Farmington Hills police report:

The woman was talking on the phone at 7:40 p.m., with her car parked nearby but the keys left inside.

She then saw two men in their late 20s or early 30s, cross Nine Mile and approach her. One punched her in the face, knocking her down, and demanded money.

When she said she had none, he grabbed her by the coat and ordered her into the car. But she managed to wiggle out of her coat and run to a nearby apartment.

The man who assaulted her then

into her car and drove off. The other man stood by the entire time.

• TOO FAST

More than 40 traffic accidents were reported in Farmington Hills during Monday's rain and sleet storm. But no serious injuries were reported.

"There were a lot of fender-bend-

ers," said Sgt. Ray Cranston of the Farmington Hills Police Department. "Invariably, people were driving too fast for the road conditions."

In Farmington, five accidents were reported. No one was seriously hurt. "We normally have one or two accidents a day," said Deputy Director Gary Goss of the Farmington Department of Public Safety. "The weather definitely was a factor."

• CAR DAMAGED

A man walking along Power fired three pellets or BBs at the car of a 17-year-old Livonia motorist at 4:15 p.m. Jan. 30.

Two projectiles hit the northbound car — one on the passenger window, the other on the passenger door. None of the four people inside the car was hurt.

The man, thought to be in his 20s, was wearing black-rimmed sunglasses and a black coat.

Damage was estimated at \$150, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

• EMPLOYEE HURT

Damage was estimated at \$150, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

The 32-year-old woman was taken to St. Mary's Hospital in Livonia,

where she was treated for injuries to her fingers. Officers advised other employees the machine was to be cleaned before business could resume, according to a Farmington Department of Public Safety report.

• TICKETS ISSUED

• Two 19-year-old Farmington Hills men were ticketed for possessing beer and for having open intoxicants in a motor vehicle, in violation of city ordinance, during a traffic stop on Thornybrae, near Thornybrae Court, Jan. 29, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

• A 45-year-old man and a 25-year-old man, both from Farmington Hills, were ticketed for possessing suspected marijuana cigarettes, in violation of the controlled substance act, during a traffic stop on Colfax near Osburn Jan. 30, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

• CAR RECOVERED

A 1984 Chevrolet Camaro stolen from Warren was recovered parked along Briarwyke Feb. 1. It contained jewelry and coins in a pillow case believed taken during a Warren burglary.

The car was valued at \$5,500, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

• THEFTS REPORTED

An in-dash stereo, a radar detector and a cellular telephone valued at \$2,500 were reported stolen from a car parked at Cordoba Apartments Jan. 28-29.

Two bicycles, luggage and books valued at \$950 were reported stolen from a storage area at the Gateway Apartments Jan. 28-29.

A VHS and jewelry of undetermined value were reported stolen from a house on Leyte Jan. 29.

A 1988 Jeep Cherokee of undetermined value was reported stolen from a house on Briarwyke Jan. 29-30.

A 1987 Ford Mustang valued at \$15,000 was reported stolen from Walnut Creek Apartments Jan. 30.

Tools valued at \$900 were reported stolen from a garage on Rensselaer Jan. 30-31.

A 1986 GMC truck valued at \$15,000 was reported stolen from Graffiti Concepts, 23555 Research, Jan. 30-31.

A radar detector valued at \$100 was reported stolen from a car parked at Mulwood Apartments between Jan. 31 and Feb. 1.

A motor home valued at \$25,000 was reported stolen from the Bol-sord Inn, 28000 Grand River, between Jan. 31 and Feb. 1.

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