

'Be citizens of the world'

French visitor brings message to North students

By Susan Buck
staff writer

It's the bicentennial of the French Revolution.

In honor of the year-long celebration, Pascal LeVigoureux, director of the hosting program in France for Nacel Cultural Exchanges, visited North Farmington High School Tuesday.

Delivering a short speech, LeVigoureux spent half an hour in Barbara Herman's third- and fourth-year French classes and made a pitch for the foreign exchange program.

LeVigoureux's one-day appearance in the Detroit area was part of a 10-city visit. Locally, he also took part in a press conference at the Detroit Press Club, was a guest on J.P. McCarthy's radio program and visited Andover High School in Bloomfield Hills.

"When I was a little younger than your age, I started learning foreign languages," said LeVigoureux to students at North. "This determined the rest of my life."

"People who never take the chance of learning a foreign language will always remain a citizen of their own country. If you take the chance of practicing a foreign language, then you become a citizen of the world."

North Farmington has long been a center of cultural exchange. "For at least eight years, North Farmington has sent students to France, Spain and Germany through the Nacel program," Herman said. "Since the building opened in the early 1960s, the high school students have participated in foreign exchange programs."

THIS IS Nacel's 10th year in Michigan.

'If you take the chance of practicing a foreign language, then you become a citizen of the world.'

— Pascal LeVigoureux
cultural exchange director

Last year, Michigan sent more students abroad than any other state except New York, which had one more go. Eighty Michigan students have signed up to go to France so far this year.

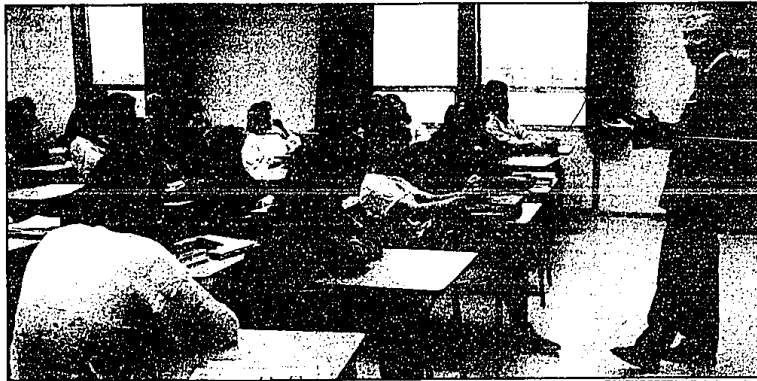
The cost is \$1,295 from Detroit or Grand Rapids, which includes all transportation and insurance. Nacel also offers a \$200 scholarship off the price of the trip if the teenager's family, in turn, hosts one of the Nacel teenagers from France.

More than 1,700 French families are opening their homes to American teenagers this summer. Two hundred more French families are still hoping an American student will be assigned to them. LeVigoureux first came to the United States as a chaperone for French students. He has worked for Nacel since 1978.

Nacel, a non-profit organization, is the largest exchange between France and the United States. The organization was founded 30 years ago by teachers in France.

"Among the nations of the world, the only two that have never fought are France and the United States," said LeVigoureux.

NORTH SENIORS Dan Rudman, Jeff Rochlen and Ian Sherbin, all headed to the



RANDY DORSET/staff photographer

It's the French bicentennial and Pascal LeVigoureux, director of the hosting program in France for Nacel Cultural Exchanges, got the word out in Barbara Herman's French class at North Farmington High Tuesday.

University of Michigan this year, headed in the other direction last summer. All three visited France.

In hindsight, they wish they had had a better grasp of conversational French. "We're learning textbook French. We need conversational French. You get there and they speak twice as fast. So you stand

there, smile a lot and say 'Oui,'" Sherbin said.

French kids couldn't understand the concept of summer camp, said Rochlen.

"The beaches are what surprised me," said Sherbin. "They're nude."

Likewise, Jell-O, Sander's Hot Fudge

and dental braces were novelties for their host families, said the three students.

For more information on the program, call Nacel coordinators Evelyn or Julian Prince of Farmington Hills at 625-6641.

"The French bicentennial only happens once," said Evelyn.

Sen. Faxon pushes tax break for senior care

Legislation designed to make life easier for senior citizens who can no longer live independently, as well as the people who care for them in their homes, was reintroduced April 6 by state Sen. Jack Faxon, D-Farmington Hills.

"We are doing very little as a state to make life easier for seniors who are no longer able to care for themselves," Faxon said.

Instead of looking for nursing homes and institutions for seniors who can no longer live independently, we should try to assist the families of seniors so that they can care for them in their homes. My bill addresses some of the basic economic issues that a person faces in caring for a senior citizen," Faxon said.

THE TWO-BILL package reintroduced by Faxon will assist people who care for a senior citizen with Alzheimer's disease or a related disorder in their home. Senate Bill 283 will provide an additional state income tax exemption while Senate Bill 284 will provide up to a \$1,000 income tax credit.

Senate Bill 283 will provide an additional tax exemption of \$1,500 if

'Instead of looking for nursing homes and institutions for seniors who can no longer live independently, we should try to assist the families of seniors so that they can care for them in their homes.'

Sen. Jack Faxon

the senior citizen's taxable income is less than \$6,000 or the taxpayer pays at least 50 percent of the senior citizen's support, Faxon said. A taxpayer would be eligible for two added exemptions if both conditions applied.

"A senior who lives independently can claim a double exemption for himself or herself because that's the reward we give for independent living," Faxon said. "But a householder who cares for a senior citizen cannot claim the double exemption."

"So, in effect, we have a disincentive to caring for that person and the

law is counterproductive because if you look at it realistically, the cost of caring for a person who can't care for himself or herself is far greater, but the tax structure gives less to assist that person in the process."

UNDER THE terms of Senate Bill 284, a taxpayer who cares for a senior citizen with Alzheimer's disease or a related disorder could claim up to a \$1,000 credit for money spent on medicine or physical aids prescribed by a doctor; respite care for up to 14 days; food, clothing and transportation; personal care services provided

by a third party; and the renovation or adaptation of the taxpayer's home to meet the senior citizen's needs.

A taxpayer whose income is \$10,000 or less could receive a credit of \$1,000. A \$750 credit would be allowed for a taxpayer whose income is between \$10,000 and \$20,000. For taxpayers with an income of more than \$20,000, a maximum credit of \$500 would be allowed.

"If the senior citizen lives inde-

pendently and encounters these kinds of expenses, they are deductible," Faxon said.

But, "if the senior goes to live with someone else and they make modifications to their home or encounter other expenses, they are not deductible," he said. "These are absurdities in the law. We ought to be making it easier — not more difficult — to care for those who can no longer care for themselves."

Although these bills have not been approved during past legislative sessions, "I am still confident that in the long run, the objectives in our society to provide for more humane and compassionate treatment for our elderly frail will require that we look realistically at how we can improve the laws to provide more for these people in in-home situations with the care of their own family members," Faxon said.

Richardson wins state veterinarians award



FILE PHOTO

Dr. John Richardson, a local veterinarian for 28 years and former Farmington mayor, has received the Michigan Veterinary Medical Association's W. Kenneth McKersie Service Award for 1989.

The award, the MVMA's second highest, recognizes a vet for outstanding service to the profession and to the community. Established in 1956, it had been called the MVMA Service Award until this year.

Richardson was cited for "being a sparkling example of the spirit of dedication and professional loyalty by which Dr. McKersie (a Dearborn vet) lived."

While serving on the Farmington City Council, Richardson was mayor pro tem from 1975-76 and mayor from 1976-77.

He has been active in the Farmington Area Goodfellows, the Farmington Exchange Club and the Farmington YMCA. A scoutmaster for 15 years, he won the Boy Scouts of America Silver Beaver Award for character and service in 1983.

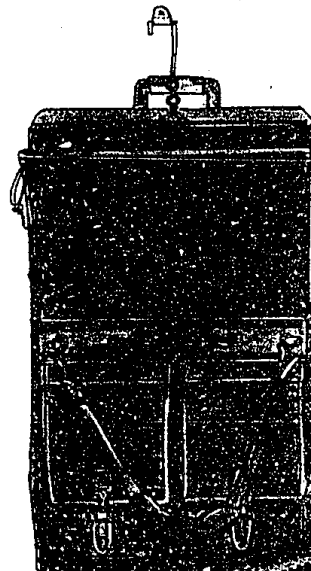
RICHARDSON WAS named Farmington Young Man of the Year in 1964, Michigan Jaycee Sound Citizen of the Year in 1967, Michigan Jaycees Outstanding Young Man of Michigan in 1969 and Farmington Elks Citizen of the Year in 1970.

He was named a Jaycees International Senator in 1970. In 1979, he received the Southeastern Michigan MVMA Award for outstanding contributions to the community.

Richardson earned a doctor of veterinary medicine degree from Michigan State University in 1957. He earned a master of science degree in medicine and surgery three years later.

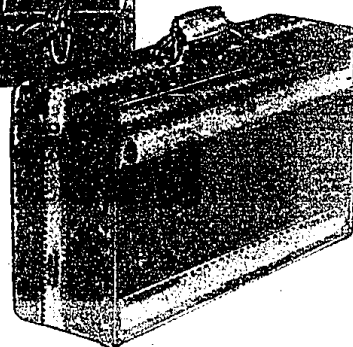
He served on the MVMA board of directors from 1970 to 1981 and was president in 1980. He is on the Southeastern Michigan Veterinary Medical Association governing council.

H A R T M A N N



We keep the price of travel stable. For example, our handcrafted Hartmann luggage remains at the same sensible prices, day in and day out. Because we believe a good value is a quality worth keeping. This applies to all Hartmann pieces, including attache and brief cases... all through the year.

Jacobson's



We welcome Jacobson's Charge, MasterCard® and VISA®
Shop until 9 p.m. on Thursday and Friday. Until 6 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday.