



Lois Haberkamp of Northville tells Farmington students Alicia Roncilio (left) and Bethany Bonner about the handmade umbrella stand she once received as a Christmas gift. The students interviewed shoppers at the Sears store at 12 Oaks Mall as part of a Writers Club assignment last month.

BARBARA REBECK

Student writers try their luck at interviewing

A GROUP OF Farmington students took advantage of the recent holiday shopping crunch to try their hand at interviewing techniques — something they'll need if they ever become professional writers.

The mall was jammed and the shoppers apparently receptive.

The students converged on 12 Oaks Mall in Novi on a busy, pre-Christmas Friday for their interviews, from which came a variety of writing pieces. This was a major assignment for 15 middle school and high school students, part of a recently formed Writers Club, coordinated by Barbara Rebbeck.

"I wanted to get students out into the real world for real, pre-writing experiences," said Rebbeck. "Motivation for writing soars after a trip outside the walls of the school."

WITH THE permission of store managers Bob Friess of Sears and Mike Farmer of J.C. Penney, students were able to conduct interviews in those major department stores.

Other students wandered the central mall area to eavesdrop on the Santa line or to just soak in the atmosphere of the hectic season.

Armed with their information, club members met to write and revise articles based on interviews and experiences. The writing pieces will be published in a small collection with pictures taken at the mall.

Students from Farmington High, and Power, Dunclell and East middle schools make up the club, which meets Tuesdays at Power Middle School.

Ties, fruitcakes are out as gifts

By Bethany Bonner and Alicia Roncilio special writers

"May I ask you a few questions?" I continued speaking without waiting for a response.

"I'm Alicia Roncilio, and this is Bethany. We're from Farmington schools, writing an article (gulp). We knew this wasn't the best way to meet a customer at Sears, but it worked for us. With the help and approval of Sears manager Bob Friess, we were able to collect some interesting information from busy Christmas shoppers.

• Is there a specific price range

you're looking in? The most common response was "cheap." (We couldn't help wondering if our parents were in the same price range.)

• Would you prefer receiving a large or small package under your tree this year? Answers varied. "Small if it sparkles" was our favorite.

• What gift do you absolutely not want? Eight of 10 men said they would gag at the sight of ties under the tree.

• What kinds of gifts are on your own list? Women said typewriters, gold earrings, and a bath in Chanel No. 5. Men said shop tools, belts and warm cuddly sweaters.

• What's the worst gift you've ever gotten? A tie with a terrible pattern, a knit suit that was two sizes too small and "a terrible color that made me look dead."

• Do you plan on getting a fruitcake this year? Most people hate them. One woman said that if given one, at least she had a window to throw it from.

• What's the best hiding place for gifts? Answers included a locked suitcase, under a pile of clothes in the hamper, under the bed and at a relative's house.

Well, the clock is ticking — we're off to shop at Ties R' Us and Fruitcakes Galore.

Salvation Army merits support

By Allen Altow and Ryan Mathews special writers

As I slipped a dollar into the canister, I thought to myself, why do these volunteers stand out in the cold weather when they could be home with their families?

So we asked the volunteer outside 12 Oaks Mall in Novi why he was there. He did not want his name mentioned but replied that when he was a boy a tornado struck his home

town. He said both the town and he received a lot of help, so from then on, he has tried to help others, too.

We also spoke to Lt. Jonathan Rich, the corps officer in the Farmington Hills area. He told us that the Salvation Army is all over the United States and in 90 foreign countries.

THE GOAL for the Farmington area this year is \$70,000, and the army usually reaches that goal. The money it receives at Christmastime carries it throughout the year to help

the poor and disaster victims.

Lt. Rich is in charge of handling the mall, and officials there are cooperating very well, he said. Due to all the publicity the Salvation Army received in the last few weeks, public support rose and helped the Army return to the malls, he said.

In our opinion, the Salvation Army keeps the meaning of helping the needy at Christmas. We would like to thank the public for its support and the Salvation Army for its cause.

inkwell

Inkwell provides news about Farmington-area primary and secondary students and education issues. The column appears monthly as part of the Observer's "School Page." Send news items to The School Page, Farmington Observer, 33203 Grand River, Farmington #8024. Include a telephone number where a contact person can be reached during the day. Items will not be taken over the phone.

• special call
Adria Villar, a fourth grader at Lougacre Elementary in Farmington, received a special telephone call from the Michigan Thanksgiving Day Parade Committee. She was selected as one of the winners of the float design contest for school children.

Her design was judged best for all third-grade entries in the state. She finished runner-up in the contest for all grade levels. Her art teacher, Diane Russell, encouraged all of her students to enter the contest.

As part of her prize, Adria was invited to walk in this year's parade next to the float designed by school children. She was also able to visit the warehouse, which held many of the floats before the parade.

The Michigan Parade Committee presented a certificate to Adria highlighting her achievement.

• creative production
Students at Highmeadow Common

Campus elementary school in Farmington Hills were busy last month, wrapping up their winter productions and sharing with others:

• third graders in a production enrichment class presented the play "The Tortoise and the Hare." Students put their new skills to work, after they had learned how to act, change their voices, make costumes and other theatrical skills.

• the entire school sponsored Project Share to help the needy and focus student attention on the giving and sharing aspect of the holidays. Students worked with Neighborhood House, a referral clearinghouse for those in need. Students participated to gain a sense of belonging for their community and to help reinforce Highmeadow's school theme for 1989-90: "Citizenship Think Globally, Act Locally!"

• Former Highmeadow Elementary student and author Barry Rudner came to speak to students on Dec. 15, sharing his career and the writing process. Students at the pilot school have been studying the writing process throughout this school year. Rudner is the author of "The Littlest Tall Person."

• birthday club
The Birthday Club at Gill Elementary continues this year. When students and parents donating a book to the school library on a student's birthday, a nameplate is placed in the book with the student's name and

date of donation.

If students wish, they can bring \$3 and a nameplate and an already purchased book will be dedicated to that student. These donations will be used to further replenish the school library.

• Interact Club
The Rotary Club of Farmington has set up an Interact Club at Harrison High School, an organization that will spread the Rotary leadership ideals at a school level.

Carrie Dean is the newly elected president of the club, which meets regularly at the Farmington Hills school. She was elected to the post by other members of the club. A Charter Day meeting with the club is tentatively scheduled for Jan. 9.

• special trip
Dennis Place's fifth graders at Gill Elementary School in Farmington Hills studied a special type of job as part of a unit on careers.

On Dec. 12, Place took his students to visit a group home for developmentally disabled adults. Chris Compton of Community Living Centers first spoke to the class about social work as a "helping" career. She then accompanied the class on their field trip to the Freedom House group home. Students were able to see the many similarities between their own family lives and those of the residents of Freedom House.

Fox takes over as Hills mayor

Continued from Page 1

ble to the voters or to those outside the community.

"These controls must be imposed by the people, not the council. I intend to propose such a needed community measure."

SEVER WAS equally pleased with Fox's commitment to continuing the fight against drunk driving and the illegal sale of alcohol to minors. Sever's goal during his mayoralty.

Fox also spoke of the need to "revisit" the city land use master plan.

"It was never our intent when we wrote the zoning ordinance to have the laws of over 90 percent of the office buildings along Northwestern

(Highway), 12 Mile and Orchard Lake (roads) sprouting "For Lease" signs."

The city's beauty is also of concern to Fox in the year ahead.

Efforts must be made to maintain the natural beauty that has over the years been destroyed with the advent of development and the accompanying maze of roads.

"Today an increasing density of both residential and commercial growth has caused too much of this beauty to disappear," Fox said.

BOTH VAGNOZZI and Costick lauded Fox's determination to tackle issues often spoke of by residents, such as growth, density and preservation of the city's natural beauty and heritage.

"We call it progress," Fox said, drawing a comparison between the present and the past. "But in 1934 we never locked our doors, or if we did, it was with a skeleton key, and we weren't teaching our fourth graders about drugs, either."

But the new mayor also spoke of goals less tangible, to be achieved in great part by cooperation from the city council and the community in maintaining the city's "sense of place."

"Do we foster this sense of community? Do we underscore, as our answer to the 'gimme' society, the nobler notion that each individual owes something to this society, this small section of a wonderful globe — our home and hearth — which has given us so much?" Fox said.

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Subtle earth tone markings bring out the full beauty of this coat. Easy body and straight sleeve add comfort to the good looks. Topped off by a shawl collar. Brightener added.

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