

Odyssey team skit focuses on the Bard

By Casey Hans
staff writer

They may have turned the judges to win a regional competition in March, but a student team from Power Middle School will need to be exceptionally shrewd to win a state challenge Saturday.

The seven team members are eagerly anticipating the state Odyssey of the Mind competition at Central Michigan University, where they will portray the life and works of William Shakespeare in an eight-minute creative skit.

The all-female team took a different twist on a modern day television game show format, using historical characters and naming the show "Make Thy Own Monument."

THE SKIT solves an OM problem called "OMument," which was one of several from which the students could select.

Lauren Helisek, Jennifer Vause, Maureen Carolan, Marchelle D'Anna, Danielle Hasan, Anne Marie Scanlon and Liana Kambouris won the right to compete at the state level after placing first in the regional OM competition in Oakland County in March.

Odyssey of the mind is an international, creative problem-solving program for students in all grades. Teams are judged on the originality of their solutions, as well as a spontaneous problem they must solve on-site at the competition.

The Power OM team chose a problem that required them to dedicate a monument to a person, place or thing. Their problem required that they create an eight-minute skit to explain their choice, construct the monument and use five of the seven team members in a dramatic performance.

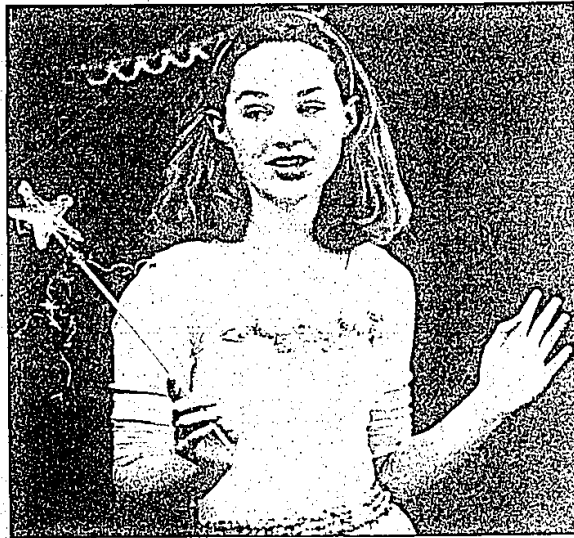
They decided upon Shakespeare as their focus. His plays were researched with the team choosing characters from plays representing the author's various styles. Featured in the skit are the Shakespeare plays "The Taming of the Shrew," "Romeo and Juliet," "Hamlet" and "The Tempest."

For their skit, the team also researched theater styles and designed costumes and settings that reflected Shakespeare's time.

Lauren Helisek, portraying the character Ariel from the tragic comedy "The Tempest," gives Shakespeare another symbol to place into the coat of arms puzzle.



During a skit, Romeo, played by Jennifer Vause, gives Shakespeare, played by Maureen Carolan, a symbol of his broken heart.



photos by SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

Students watching the OM preview were given the opportunity to brainstorm ideas as competitors. When given the puzzle — "Name things that burn and what they burn" — seventh grader Nick Adams said, "Students burn books."

Farmington schools fix meeting's agenda format

By Casey Hans
staff writer

The Farmington Board of Education has, once again, revised its meeting agenda format, plus addressed a separate policy to better define the purpose of board meetings.

The change pleased a former school trustee who had protested a recent agenda format change.

"I'm glad, for whatever reason, they had a chance to think it through again," said Michael Shipce, a Farmington Hills resident and trustee who opposed the change in February. "It sounds like this is a good compromise which will relieve my concerns."

He said it remains important to him that the public be allowed to speak during the meeting's "prime time."

The board first changed its agenda policy earlier this year, making it effective in mid-February.

Prior to the change, general public comment was heard mid-meeting prior to the superintendent's report and comments on specific agenda items were heard during that segment of the meeting. The February

change moved public comments on agenda items to the midway point on the agenda; those not dealing with specific agenda items were placed toward the end of the list.

SCHOOL OFFICIALS said they made the changes because the district was preparing to cablecast meetings, and they wanted a better format.

Shipce told board members the change represented a "cutback in public participation and openness."

The revised policy, adopted April 14 by a unanimous board vote, puts all public comment as the sixth item on the agenda — after the superintendent's report — and moves routine items to the end of the agenda.

The policy also limits public comments to five minutes per person, which will be noted at the bottom of the agenda.

Although the board voted to approve the most recent change without comment, several trustees made their feelings known at previous meetings. During a March 3 committee meeting, members decided to completely revamp the agenda to handle not only public comment, but to rank agenda items by importance.

Though she voted to re-amend the agenda format, board secretary Cathleen Webb had said at an earlier meeting that she was pleased with the first change in February. "The idea has been to run our meetings more efficiently," she said. "It seems to be what everybody else is doing. I'm confident with it."

BOARD TREASURER Helen Ditzchay said she had no problem with the original meeting format, before the February change was made. "I think this has served our community very well," she said. "It's been a very important thing. It kind of bothers me to split up the audience reaction."

The new policy on board of education meetings says that "meetings are conducted for the purpose of carrying on the business of the schools, and therefore are not meetings of the public and the board; but board meetings held in public."

The policy also asks that residents attempt to work through problems with school administration before coming to the board, but said that the board "intends to allow everyone who wishes it a fair and adequate opportunity to be heard."

police/fire calls

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

● FALSE REPORT

A report that ran in the Farmington Observer on Thursday, April 16, about a 22-year-old Novi man who said he was abducted by two unidentified men April 12 is false, according to Farmington Hills police.

The man told police two men forced him into the back of his car when he stopped at a gas station on Grand River. After driving around for a couple of hours, the pair dropped the man off and drove away with his car. Upon investigation, however, police determined the man's story was untrue. Police con-

tinued to investigate.

● THEFTS REPORTED

A car phone valued at \$450 was reported stolen from a 1991 Buick on Country Circle in the Crosswinds Condominiums, April 14-15.

A three-drawer tool chest and drill set, valued at \$1,500, were reported stolen from a 1990 Ford on Orchard Lake Road at the Village Oaks Apartments, April 13.

Hubcaps valued at \$600 were reported stolen from a 1986 Cadillac at the Echo Valley Condominiums on 12 Mile, April 15-16.

A phone and radar detector valued at \$630 were reported stolen from a 1989 Mercury at the North Valley Office Building, 30600 Northwestern Highway, April 1-15.

A tool box containing tools valued at \$200 was reported stolen from a 1986 Ford on Lundy, April 12-13.

● DAMAGE REPORTED

Damage was estimated at \$150 when the rear window of a car parked at the Card and Gill Center, 37033 Grand River, was broken out with an unknown object.

Tires were slashed on two cars, a 1986 Oldsmobile and a 1987 Lincoln, while parked on Dresden, April 14-15.

Damage was estimated at \$200 when someone threw a cigarette into a 1992 Chevrolet and burned the seats. The car's owner said the burn occurred when he crossed the picket line at Kroger, 37550 Halsted, April 16.

Kirk pastor marks 20th anniversary

The Rev. James Anderson's 20th year as senior pastor of Kirk in the Hills will be commemorated on Sunday, April 26, after the 9 and 11 a.m. services at the Bloomfield Hills church.

The guest preacher will be the Rev. Robert Lindsey, who served as associate pastor at Kirk in the Hills from 1977 until his retirement in 1989.

Named as the church's third pastor on April 3, 1972, Anderson was officially installed as senior pastor on April 30, 1972.

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