

Caring for pet



SHARON LEHMAN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Animal welfare: Amber Arbuckle (left), the reigning Miss Farmington, talks to Asha Mathew (right) and Shena Mathew and Sarah Lachowski about caring for pets at the Farmington Hills branch Library on Tuesday. The program, which is to be repeated at the Farmington Branch Library at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 18, is sponsored by the Animal Welfare Society. The Farmington Library is at State and Liberty.

Sundog film company honored

Sundog Films Inc. of Farmington Hills recently won a gold award at the Houston International Film Festival for its short feature film "Camus' Shoes."

"Camus' Shoes" was shot on location in Ann Arbor and produced by Sundog Films in Farmington Hills. The film stars Detroit-area native Scanlon Gail and Grand Rapids-area actor Kevin Yon.

The film won the festival's top award in the dramatic-original short subject category. Approximately 1,000 short films were entered, and only 90 were screened.

"We are thrilled and honored to be recognized in such a prestigious and internationally-renowned festival," said Larry Carroll, director/producer of "Camus' Shoes."

The Houston International Film Festival is part of the 25th Annual

WORLDVEST-Houston, the largest film and video festival in the world in number of entries. All WORLDVEST winners are automatically submitted to the top 200 international film festivals around the world.

Filmmakers such as Stephen Spielberg, George Lucas and David Lynch each won their first significant award at this festival.

"Camus' Shoes" marked the feature film debut for director Carroll, a former Michigan resident. The film is a shadowy and provocative 30 minute presentation of writer Michael Clary's screenplay, which has been described as a "comedy noir."

It is the story of a desperate and uptight realist who is going through a mid-life crisis, and who — at the peak of his angst — has an encounter

with the ghost of French existentialist and novelist Albert Camus, author of "The Stranger" and "The Plague."

"Doing the film was something that I have dreamed about for a long time," said Carroll. "The fact that it is receiving recognition alongside internationally-acclaimed films is tremendously gratifying."

Carroll describes this film as "a labor of love" for everyone involved in its production. More than 30 of the area's brightest production people and film crew members contributed their time and talent. Ed Kravewski and Mike Janz, of Sundog Films, acted as executive producers of "Camus' Shoes." John Barry Meier was director of photography and Christa Kintz edited the film.

"Camus' Shoes" was also selected for screening.

Holocaust Center hails grant

Rabbi Charles H. Rosenzweig, founder of the Holocaust Memorial Center in West Bloomfield, said the first installment of a \$75,000 grant from the State of Michigan will be "very helpful."

Rosenzweig Tuesday said the grant — to be administered by the township — will be used for maintenance and various projects at the center that he said has attracted more than 100,000 visitors so far this year.

Township Supervisor Sandra M. Draur was notified by the Michigan Department of Commerce, on July 31, that the \$30,845 installment would likely be available by mid-August.

State funding for the center, at 6602 W. Maple Road, was in question earlier this year when Gov. John Engler reduced public assistance across the board.

State Sen. David Honigman, however, helped restore public funding under the 1992 Michigan Equity Program allowing the Legislature to set aside money, on a competitive basis, for regional cultural activities. Under the law, the state set aside about \$1.3 million for awards to communities with populations between 40,000 and 125,000 residents.

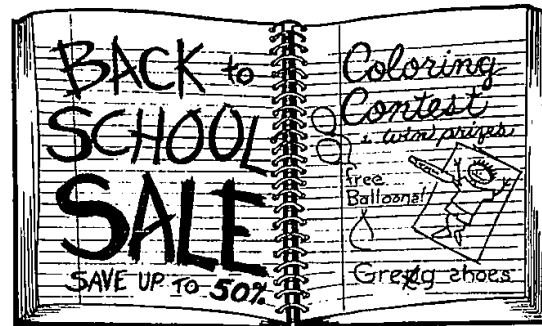
Through the grant application from the supervisor's office, officials demonstrated the extent of regional cultural enrichment and economic benefit derived from the center. Officials also said public and private support for the center.

"West Bloomfield is proud to host the Holocaust Memorial Center within its jurisdiction," Draur said. "Although the economic impact for the region is significant, the real benefits of Holocaust and developing a moral fervor to ensure history does not repeat the inhumanity of the Holocaust to any group or minority."

"The Holocaust Memorial Center goes beyond presenting the tragic history of the past," Honigman said. "It presents a lesson to humanity to end anti-Semitism, racial discrimination and religious oppression."

Since opening in 1984, the center has been an effective educational facility and resource center, said Rosenzweig.

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