



**Mock trial:** Chrissy Jacobs (left), the "defense attorney," looks over Michelle Wilder, Carrie Wolocko and Penelope Appel.

## Learning

### Trial isn't Greek to students

By CASEY HANS  
STAFF WRITER

North Farmington High School seniors mixed modern with ancient last week when they conducted a mock trial based on the characters and story line of Homer's Greek epic the "Odyssey."

Prosecution witnesses included everyone from Zeus and Penelope to Dr. Doogie Howser and Miss Manners, whose character called the abuse of hospitality against Odysseus' wife Penelope "abominable" and said she "believes the rules of good manners are timeless."

The students first studied Homer's second epic work in their Advanced Placement English class with teacher Barb Rebbek, who then helped them set up the mock trial which was her way of enriching the course. She said each AP class selected a side — prosecution or defense — then prepared their case. The trial was not scripted but done spontaneously by students.

The Odyssey adventure recounts the wanderings of Odysseus after the fall of Troy, and his return home.

The three judges of Hades from the Greek underworld — all sons of Zeus — presided over the student trial, offering occasional humor as they ruled on various aspects of the "law" which included the ancient but also had modern twists.

Assistant North Farmington principal Rick

Jones played chief judge Minos who judged difficult cases, counselor Joannie Walkowicz played Aeneas who judged the Europeans; and media specialist Armando Delicato played Rhadamanthus who judged the Asians.

Penelope, played by Lisa Appel, told the court of her woes at having been left alone for 20 years while husband Odysseus went off to fight the Trojan War. She claimed defendants Eurymachus, Melanthius and Antinous and their friends came into her home, eating her food and making themselves at home without her permission.

"They came — I couldn't stop them," she said. "They were relentless. They drained my whole estate. I was a young mother with my child to think of. I just obeyed the laws of hospitality."

Plaintiffs in the case included Penelope, Odysseus and their son Telemachus. They charged the defendants with abuse of the laws of hospitality, sexual harassment of Penelope in attempting to force her into marriage against her will and the attempted murder of Telemachus. The judges found them guilty on all counts.

Another modern twist to the ancient trial: cameras were allowed into this courtroom. Students from TV-10 taped the event, which included student-made costumes and scenery.



**Going Greek:** North Farmington's Chad Abel is Zeus in a mock trial based on the "Odyssey."

## Safety precautions make Halloween more enjoyable

Ghosts and goblins can make Halloween a scary, fun night for trick-or-treaters. But parents and children can help make Halloween safer for everyone by following a few safety tips.

Here are safety tips for parents:

- Keep children's costumes short so they won't trip. Avoid long, flowing costumes.
- Use only flame-proof fabric for costumes.
- Make costumes in bright or light colors so children can be seen in the dark and/or apply reflective tape or luminous paint to the costume's front and back sides.

■ Make sure children's shoes are comfortable and fit properly to avoid falling.

■ Use makeup to paint faces. Masks obscure vision.

■ Do not allow children to carry knives or sharp objects. Toy weapons can be made of cardboard or foam rubber.

■ For very young children, plan a neighborhood party instead of trick-or-treating. This will help protect children from the dangers of traffic and the tampering of "treats."

■ Plan the "trick-or-treat" route with your children ahead of time. When planning a route,

**■ When planning a route, avoid areas where construction is under way and try to stay on residential streets with minimum traffic. If possible, go with your children or arrange to have another adult or older children chaperone.**

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■ Set a reasonable time for children to be home and insist that they keep the curfew. Have children start early, before dark.

■ Keep your own outside lights on so children can see where they are walking. Try to clear their path of any obstructions.

■ Drive slowly. Be especially careful on side streets.

■ Check all candy before allowing your children to eat any.

Throw away treats that are not wrapped. Cut fruit into small pieces before eating any. Contact the police department if you suspect that a treat has been tampered with. Some hospitals will check your children's bag of treats on Halloween evening. Call around to find if a hospital in your area is performing this service.

Here are a few tips for children:

- Go out early, before it gets dark.
- Stay only on the route you planned with your parents.
- Use a flashlight with fresh batteries so drivers can see you.
- Walk facing traffic if there is no sidewalk.
- Cross streets only at corners after looking both ways.
- Don't cross between parked cars.
- Stay away from strangers.
- Don't go inside anyone's house.
- Stay away from houses that do not have a front porch light on.
- Bring your treats home so parents can check them before you eat anything. If you think you might not be able to hold out, have your mom or dad pack a separate treat for you so you won't be as tempted to reach into your goodie bag.

## Employers receive kudos for hiring disabled workers

Eighteen Farmington area employers and businesses were honored recently for hiring employees with handicaps.

This is the third year in which employers were honored under the Handicapped Employer Program, sponsored by state Rep. Jan Dolan of Farmington Hills. As in past years, employers and employees were invited to a special program Monday, Oct. 12, at the Farmington Hills city hall.

The program's featured speaker was Inspector Richard Niemisto of the Farmington Hills Police Department.

This year's honorees include:

- Sharon Dees for Ekstrom In-

dustries, Inc.

■ Jane Stachurski for Knatt. Employees are John Mintline and Marsha Scott.

■ Darrell Turner for Knatt. Employee is Sue Holovar.

■ Karen Voight and Mary Beth Hetrick for YMCA First Step Child Care. Employees are Amy Wilson and Amy Schultz.

■ Michael Clark for Source One Mortgage Services Corporation. Employees are Donald Lipscomb, Lynn Allen, Chris Tucker, Jeff Guthrie, James Roller, Mike Clark, James Rix, Gary Delormier, Kevin Jackson and Diane Gullidge.

■ Jane M. Hanley for Commu-

nity Living Centers Group Homes.

■ Martine Leech for Farmington Community School Adult Basic Education.

■ Loretta Conway for Farmington Hills Senior Adult Division. Employee is Russell Farmer.

Other recipients who were not represented at the program included: Botsford Continuing Health Center; Farmer Jack, Farmington Road; Big Boy restaurant, Farmington Road; St. Vincent & Sarah Fisher Center; Panderosa restaurant; Arbor Cafe; Phoenix Group; Perry Drugs, 12 Mile; Kroger, Middlebelt; and SKP Office World, Inc.



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Saturday, October 24

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Wednesday, October 28

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