

Bustiers from page 1A

In rehearsals, a teacher also asked one of them to tone down the parts where they grabbed their crotches another Madonna trait. They complied.

Instead of doing 10 to 12 gestures as the routine originally called for, Fallon said they decided to do one at the beginning and one at the end of the performance.

That wasn't good enough for Clarke, who told the group 15 minutes before show time that no clutches would be permitted. They complied.

"When they auditioned they were asked to delete the — excuse me — crotch grabbing when they performed, and they would be allowed to do the show," Clarke said. "It was a little distasteful for a high school."

"We didn't do it," Krell said. "We were afraid of getting in trouble. We got into trouble anyway. We should've just done them."

The students met with the administration, which noted out the punishment. Clarke said it was decided to take away off-campus

lunch privileges rather than suspend them.

Clarke added none of the four students involved have had discipline problems in the past. "They're great kids," she said.

The performance has been the subject of talk around school. Classmates said they liked the routine, as did a couple of teachers. One instructor accused them of "going to the school," according to one of the students.

They think they've been treated unfairly.

Krell said Clarke never said anything about the bustiers until after the show.

Said Krell: "Somebody's got to take the blame for something. I think it was a lack of communication and poor organization on the part of the administration."

The variety show is an annual event, which is attended by parents as well as students. Also, several teens jumped on stage during a performance by a band named Einstein's Dog.

Books from page 1A

will have a grand opening for his third bookstore in Farmington. Seven authors will appear at the daylong event, including William Kienzle, who is going to sign copies of his new book, "Dead Wrong."

Farmington Book Center joins Books Abound and Books for Less in the Rosenthal collection. He operates all three stores with his wife, Alice McCoy, whom he met working at the Livonia Public Library.

The latest acquisition makes Rosenthal the undisputed book baron of Farmington, something that has escaped even him.

"It happened so quickly I haven't even noticed," he said.

Ten years ago, Rosenthal decided to retire. So, he and his wife opened a used book store in Royal Oak.

Business wasn't the best, so they moved to Farmington in 1988. They renovated the store near the Civic Theater on Grand River, selling used books and classic collectibles.

Books Abound became crowded, and they opened store No. 2 across the street a year-and-a-half ago. Books for Less sells used paperbacks.

Store No. 3, which used to operate as Little Professor Book Center next to Kmart, came about as a lark. Someone called Rosenthal around Christmas, asking if he was interested in buying it.

The store sells new releases and periodicals.

"I wasn't going to do it," Rosenthal said. "I was too busy. The more we talked, the more they kept bringing the price down. . . . It came down to a reasonable price. We jumped in."



Lots in store: Ship Rosenthal and Alice McCoy are a husband-and-wife team in the bookstore business.

His entrepreneurial grit is surpassed by a passion for books.

Rosenthal, like his wife of 14 years, is a former librarian. He was in on the ground floor of the Livonia Public Library system from 1957-66. He later became the director of the Henry Ford Community College Library, working there until his retirement.

Rosenthal still looks the librarian, dressed in a brown tweed coat and black shoes.

"He's compulsive about it," Alice McCoy said, "but it's fun. We're working harder now than we were in, quote, our 'real jobs.'"

He credits McCoy for her aesthetic taste in the decor. A comfortable easy chair and a colorful array of jars filled with stick candy make a place such as Books Abound a cozy place to browse. She also buys titles for children and young adults.

Otherwise, books are his domain.

Choosy about books

Rosenthal examines collections amassing dust in people's basements. He claims he can tell a lot about people by the books they read — their religion, ethics or

mental state.

And he's choosy.

"People think you put a bunch of books together and you have a bookstore," said Rosenthal, 66, shooting out of his chair. "It doesn't work that way. They have to have meaning. When you touch a book . . . it has to have some consequence."

"It was books my whole life," he added. "I went to Hobrew school. If a book dropped on the floor, you would have to kiss it. Books were that precious."

"I've done a complete turnaround. . . . Some books need to be thrown in the garbage."

Running a successful bookstore has come by trial and error. He recalls buying a \$7,000 collection of books sight unseen, borrowing the money to pay for them.

Half of them were not in proper

condition; a lawyer who consummated the deal died suddenly. He repaid the loan, writing it off as a learning experience.

"We have never closed a store," he said. "Wait a minute; that's not completely true. We had a blizzard and we had to close once. I always open on time, though."

Punctuality shares the spotlight with Rosenthal's musical aptitude. Rosenthal can be seen playing the banjo for patrons lining up for the Civic Theater during the summer months.

He's trying to bolster business. "I believe in downtown," he said.

Rosenthal is ripe with ideas, suggesting such things as model art deco for buildings or old-fashioned signs. But books — that's where the action is for him.

"I love books," he said. "I love this life."

Drain from page 1A

could begin as early as this fall, he said.

Not only will the Kendallwood/Westbrook Storm Relief Program address flooding in Kendallwood, but in other parts of the city as well.

"The city had to do this," said Mayor Nancy Bates. "There had been flooding there several times because of the development. They probably should not have built there in the first place because it is a flood plain. But after the most recent flooding in 1989, we had to go through with this."

Although the plan has its critics, it will likely meet Michigan Department of Natural Resources guidelines.

"We feel that there are some less expensive alternatives," said Luis Saldivia, a DNR engineer in the Livonia office.

Saldivia said less expensive alternatives could have been less harmful to wetlands, but added that the city had worked hard on the project's engineering. He also said there will be tradeoffs in the project, including protection of

2 1/2 acres of wetlands that would have been eliminated under the original plan.

Mayor Pro Tem Larry Lichtman, who was critical of the plan, said he was not sure at least addresses development north and west of the city. That development could continue, adding to Farmington Hills' flooding problems unless it improves its drainage system.

"I don't think people in Kendallwood understand that this will probably be the most intrusive public project in the city's history," Lichtman said. "But this has tremendous public support and has for the past four years. There's no doubt that it's going to help."

Costick had opposed the project last year for fear the ballot proposal C would limit the city's ability to pay for such a project. With that cloud lifted and interest rates low, he said this is the time to complete the project.

Costick said the city has levied .6 mills for the projects over the past two years.

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