



Who's that masked reader? Why, it's Vincent Stempien, one of Beahan Junior High's Radical Reading Rebels.



Energized: Duncle Middle School's Energizer reading team counted on Jennifer Pak (right) and Lindsey Burtney. Below, Cleta Perry, a member of the Royal Readers from East Middle School, looks excited at the Battle of the Books.

## Battle of books becoming battle of bulge

BY TOM BAER  
STAFF WRITER

This is one skirmish that seems to have outgrown its battlefield.

The Farmington Community Library's third-annual Battle of Books, held April 22 at the Mercy Center in Farmington Hills, attracted more than 300 Farmington-area middle-schoolers who were organized into 60 teams.

Last year, when students for only 24 teams entered, the Farmington Hills Branch was large enough to handle the event.

"It's getting to the point where it's a happening," said Sharon Vincent, a young adult services librarian for the Farmington Library. "Where are we going to hold it next year? Cobo Hall?"

Battle of the Books is a program designed to promote reading for fun and to give recognition to those who participate. Team members read from a list of 10 books and then compete with other teams by answering questions based on the books.

It's important for children of middle-school age to maintain an interest in reading and books,

■ 'It's getting to the point where it's a happening. Where are we going to hold it next year? Cobo Hall?'

Sharon Vincent  
librarian

Vincent said.

"This is typically the age when their interest in reading drops off," she said. "After all, there are so many other things to do as a teenager."

But the enthusiasm displayed

by youngsters — most dressed in costume — April 22 pleased Vincent and others from the library.

"You can tell by the energy put forth that they were having a great time," she said.

A six-member team called the

Booketeers (Annie Jacobs, Courtney Joy, Nicole Martin, Holly Rodriguez, Elena Spencer and Samantha Yellan) was the overall winner. Booketeers coach was Rosemary Martin.

The Dream Team won the top prize in the costume division. Jenny Loussia, Katie Manlon, Jennifer Ruff, Meghan Ruhl, Beth Vanderveen and Laura Vincent are on that squad.

The contest was open to all students in grades 6-8 in public and private schools in the Farmington area.



Power to the readers: The team Power Surge from Power Middle School includes readers David Hartman (left) and Andrew Knepley.

## Home fix-it money available

The city of Farmington Hills' housing rehabilitation program is offering financial assistance to eligible residents to improve their houses.

Typical home improvements include furnaces, replacement windows, roofs, siding and other code-related items.

"It's an ongoing program," said Richard Lampi, community development coordinator. "I want to advertise it and drum up more business."

Lampi said the money for the improvements is provided by the federal government. In 1992, 34 homes were improved using more than \$200,000 in grant money. Owners of houses 20 years old have taken advantage of the program to replace furnaces and roofs, he said.

Lampi said eligible applicants must meet federal income guidelines:

■ An individual can't have an annual income exceeding \$26,150.

■ A family of two can't exceed an income of \$29,900.

■ A family of three can't exceed an income of \$33,600.

■ A family of four can't exceed an income of \$37,350.

■ A family of five can't exceed an income of \$40,350.

■ A family of six can't exceed an income of \$43,350.

■ A family of seven can't exceed an income of \$46,350.

■ A family of eight can't exceed an income of \$49,300.

## Program examines 'New Right' agenda

The efforts of the so-called "New Right" to influence public life in America will be the subject of "Exposing the New Right Agenda — What's At Stake" at 7:15 p.m. on Tuesday, May 11, at Adat Shalom Synagogue, 13 Mile and Middlebelt, Farmington Hills.

The program is free and open to the public.

The aim of the program will be to examine the effects of these efforts on our community, and will identify ways in which proponents of Constitutional rights and personal freedom can combat the threats against those freedoms.

Panelists for the program are

■ Panelists are Howard Simon, the Rev. Harry T. Cook, Sharon Howell, Patricia Godchaux, state Rep. Maxine Berman, and J.B. Dixon.

Howard Simon, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union, Michigan Chapter, the Rev. Harry T. Cook, rector of St. Andrew Episcopal Church and former newspaper columnist;

Sharon Howell, professor of Rhetoric, Communication and Journalism at Oakland University; Patricia Godchaux, trustee for Birmingham Public Schools; State Rep. Maxine Berman; J.B. Dixon, communications specialist.

The program is co-sponsored by the Jewish Community Council, whose offices are in Bloomfield Hills, and the Southfield-based National Council of Jewish Women. The planning committee is comprised of Steven Silverman, Lois Granader, Judith Rosenberg, Wendy Wagenheim and Marilyn Levine.

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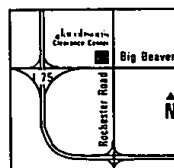
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