

Cable cameras are rolling for Farmington high school sports events

BY TODD WICKS
STAFF WRITER

These days, the public access television crew has become almost as integral to high-school sports as cheerleaders or the marching band.

"And even when the band and cheerleaders don't make it to events like volleyball and swimming, a teenage video-production crew for Channel 10, Farmington Public Schools television, does."

"We've been doing this for

eight years," said Dean Cobb, schools telecommunications coordinator. "We take the production truck to swimming, football, basketball, volleyball, everything. It's an entirely student-run thing, from director down to announcer."

A teacher for 28 years, Cobb started his video production class at North Farmington High school 13 years ago, when the local cable franchise started. Today, his TV Intern class works with Time Warner to make the sports

coverage happen.

"We don't know of another program in the state with its own production van, or as fully-equipped and running as ours," he said. "About 95 percent of Channel 10's programming is

student-produced instead of bought. A lot of these kids go on to fame and fortune, working in the (television) business."

Pete Bosler, 16, is a junior on the swim team at Farmington High. Although not one of Cobb's

students, he was approached to provide commentary on a North Farmington girls' swim meet last week.

"It was uncomfortable at first, but afterwards I thought it was pretty neat," he said. "Fellow

swimmer Matt Beuckelaere) and I did a really good job, we didn't say anything we shouldn't have. We mispronounced a lot of names, but we didn't have those until five minutes before the meet."

"We use (people like Bosler) because they might be able to comment on what the girls were thinking or feeling or use some of the language a bit better," said Cobb.

Besides the commentators, there are plenty of students at work behind the cameras. "There were eight others with cameras and back in the production van doing titles and that sort of thing," said Cobb. "We have a total of 10 kids on a shoot."

Lights, camera . . . Jennifer Dolson (left) operates a camera during the swimming meet.



House from page A1

DCL (Detroit College of Law) and didn't have time."

Grenus said there have been cases where master's candidate has done everything but file for graduation, which includes a fee.

"I can't say in this case and I haven't even looked at that file," Grenus said. "But we have had those types of cases. We had one where a company was updating its records and found the a man who had claimed to

have a master's 20 years earlier didn't. But he had done everything except file for graduation."

Dibert said Raczowski's error was more than an oversight, citing the Republican's experience with the John Pappageorge congressional campaign in which he misrepresented himself to obtain information about a primary opponent.

"The voters of the 37th House District

deserve a representative that they can trust," said Mark Brewer, chairman of the Michigan Democratic Party. "If Andrew Raczowski is unable to be honest about the simplest of biographical information, how can he ever be trusted in Lansing?"

Raczowski said he plans to clear the air about the issue by producing his academic records.

Bond from page A1

School and other existing facilities; addition of new technology.

The 53-to-47 percent vote of Proposition II (\$5,760,000), to construct a community pool at Central, likely was icing on the cake for Geisler and other district officials.

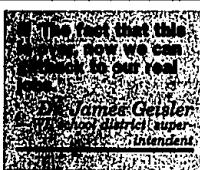
They won't have much time for revelry.

"Boy, am I looking forward to three years of building new buildings," said an elected operations director Chuck Kiasaw. "My, oh my, that's going to be great. I can't wait to get started Monday morning."

Kiasaw said the purchase of property in the "central-eastern side of the district" is imminent for one of the planned middle schools. Meanwhile, another top priority is to complete the three-year renovation at Central without students missing a single day of classes.

The catalyst for the victory, according to everyone at headquarters, was the grassroots informational campaign by Citizens for Walled Lake Schools. To get more of the district's 12,000 parents out to vote, volunteers such as Hoffman connected with their neighbors during a drive that included personal visits and telephone calls.

"We just kept hammering the



message," said volunteer Arnie Weiner. "The truth of the message rang as clear as a school bell."

That message — Without additional classroom space, serious consequences loomed. Those included implementing double

shifts and reducing or eliminating athletics.

"Unlike our other campaigns," said Steve Goldman, a zone director in the Hickory Woods Elementary School attendance area, "the people finally realized what was going to happen if we didn't push this through."

Concurring was Hoffman, who also spoke as if the bond victory signified a new beginning. "If it would have gone down to defeat, I believe this district would have been dead. Now, it's going to pick up speed and leave everybody in the dust."

That would be just fine with Geisler. "The fact that this is over, now we can get back to our real jobs."

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