

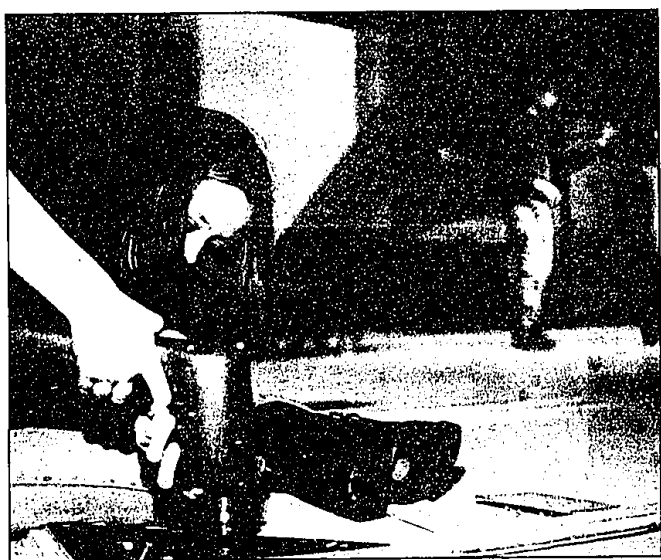
District's programs honor King on holiday

Farmington Public Schools will have several programs to commemorate Dr. Martin Luther King Monday.

Those include:
 ■Dr. Frederick Sampson, pastor of Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church in Detroit, will speak during a 9 a.m. program at East Middle School. The program includes music by the eighth grade choir and orchestra and remarks from Superintendent Bob Maxfield and East Principal Eugene Seaborn.

■Betty Smith and Bertha Cooke are returning to Eagle Elementary for several presentations on ArtChes Dolls representing African and African American history. Their collection includes dolls of famous Black Americans as well as authentic African dolls in native fabrics.

Presentations start at 8:50 a.m. Monday and run through the day.



Set work: Senior Lauren Nichols, part of the set crew, works on dismantling an old set from "Little Shop of Horrors," during the rehearsal of "Bye Bye Birdie" at Harrison High School last week.

Birdie from page A1

ranks the lucky girl is chosen. Junior Liz Cannon plays that girl, Kim MacAfee. "This musical is something different," she said. "It's a little more fun than the past (musicals). There's about 40 name parts, compared to last year, there were only about 10."

On top of their busy schedules as students, the young actors have two-to-three hour practices after school. Friday saw two complete run-throughs of the show, while this week contains still more practices and dress rehearsals.

"Wednesday, we get a day off to prepare mentally," said Junior Ashley Patrick, who plays Rosie Alvares. "I review my scripts constantly, go through the music, the dances, and make sure I have everything down."

Pulling off such a large-scale musical has had surprisingly few hitches, according to Schroeder. "The only problems we've run into so far is conflicts of schedule with kids being committed to other activities, and the flu, colds and things like that," he said.

"Kids are sick during rehearsals. We're keeping our fingers crossed for the next couple of weeks, with the weather the way it's supposed to be."

Everyone interviewed has raved about the show's set, reportedly the most elaborate a Harrison production has ever had.

"Someone's grandfather came in

to help because he's a retired electrician," said drama director Michelle Harris. "We had sisters, aunts, people with talents coming out of the woodwork to help. There was so much intergenerational interplay between kids and adults, it's almost a community production."

"I loved working on it," said senior Aaron Box, who plays Conrad Birdie. "This the first year we've actually had a two-story set, with (Kim's) bedroom on the second floor. There are a lot of set pieces this year. Nothing compares to this set."

In a case of real life imitating art, Box plans to join the military soon — in his case, the Marines.

"This part is actually helping me out, because I write music and want to be a performing artist. This is getting me ready for the stage," said.

Should Box succeed in a post-military singing career like Elvis did, he'll take a lesson from his role.

"The fame all goes to his head, and I could certainly see why it would," said Box.

Performances of "Bye Bye Birdie" will be at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 23-25 at the Harrison High Auditorium. Tickets are \$6-7 for adults and \$4-5 for students, depending on the seats. Tickets are on sale now at the school office, from 8-11 a.m. and 1-3 p.m. Call the school at 469-3499.

Safety from page A1

lomed to thinking about safety. "They are to be congratulated."

The city has a history of outperforming the municipal standards for workers compensation loss control. Since 1990, it has realized insurance premium savings of approximately \$1.4 million.

"We have an active safety pro-

gram, departmental safety committees, and ongoing city and departmental training programs," Whinnery said. "We strive for awareness among employees and the city council has worked hard to provide modern, safe equipment and facilities which help reduce the potential for injuries."

Millage from page A1

market value.

"We haven't given too much attention to the millage renewal as we gear up for our informational campaign," said Cheryl Cannon, assistant superintendent for Finance.

"We're concerned about the millage, but we don't feel it's enough concern to make it a separate election. The rank before us is to have a good informational campaign."

If the renewal fails, school officials would have to cut an additional \$8 million from \$114 million operating budget.

Already the district is looking to pare \$5.5 million by 1998-99 in order to curb a gap between spending and revenues. Officials are looking at contract services, overtime, non-classroom sup-

plies and field trips for possible cutbacks.

Layoffs are not planned. Instead, the district plans on lowering the number of employees through attrition, Cannon said.

The district has cut spending by consolidating vehicle maintenance areas and buying natural gas directly.

"We want to stay away from the classroom as much as we can," Cannon said about the cuts.

The district will have a surplus of \$20.1 million by the end of this fiscal year, which is 17 percent of the total budget. By 1999-2000, the fund balance would dwindle to \$1.8 million at current spending, projected revenue and current rate of infla-

tion, Cannon said, which is below the 8-12 percent rainy day fund recommended by the financial strategies committee.

Voters supported a three-year renewal in 1993 by a 4-to-1 margin.

That renewal was endorsed by the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce and tax cut advocate Richard Headlee and approved a series of renewals — a bulk of which don't expire until 2001.

School officials wouldn't mind similar endorsements for the bond and millage renewal. Money raise improves the district's infrastructure, which benefits everyone, Webb said.

"In turn, it enhances our property values and it brings business here and people here because of our schools," Webb said.

OBITUARY

WALTER A. KULSON

Walter A. Kulson, 91, died Jan. 12 at Providence Hospital in Southfield.

A resident of Woodmore, Manitoba, Kulson lived in Farmington Hills for nine years, and is also a former resident of Plymouth and Novi.

He was owner and president of Wit-O-Matic, Inc. in Novi from 1944-1992, building grinding machines. He also belonged to the Elks Club.

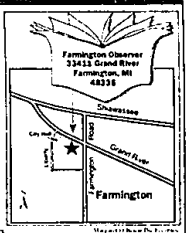
He is survived by wife, Stephenie; son, Earl; daughter, Carol; sister, Elizabeth Kosachenko; four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held Jan. 16 at Thayer-Rock Funeral Home.

Tributes can be sent to Alzheimer's Association, 17251 W. Twelve Mile, Suite 109, Southfield 48076.

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Dentistry in the 90s

by Herbert M. Gardner, D.D.S. & Martha P. Zinderman, R.N., D.D.S.



THE QUALITY-OF-LIFE FACTOR

When assessing the quality of their lives, older adults are likely to take into account the fact that they have teeth. This indicates both natural teeth and dentures. Among those individuals over the age of 65 who were surveyed about the quality of their lives, almost half thought that having teeth had a positive effect on their appearance as they grew older. More than 40 percent believed that having teeth affected their chewing and biting, their eating, or their enjoyment of eating. Thirty-eight percent thought that having teeth affected their overall comfort and health. On the other hand, most did not think that having teeth affected their moods, weight, appetite, romantic relationships, or success at work. When it comes to the basic enjoyment of life, however, it seems a good idea to preserve the teeth you have.

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P.S. Although it has not necessarily been the paramount interest of their patients, dentists have always had it as their number one priority to save teeth, rather than extract them from expediency or financial concern.

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MORE ON METHOTREXATE

I discussed methotrexate in 1986 and again in 1995. At those times I presented the drug as a new addition to therapy for rheumatoid arthritis. I noted that for most rheumatologists, I.M. gold remained the first choice when you needed therapy beyond the usual anti-arthritis drugs.

Since those columns appeared, physicians have accumulated more data on the efficacy of methotrexate and the incidence of side effects as compared with gold. It appears that the toxicity of methotrexate is not as great as once believed. Furthermore, taking 15-25 mg per day — with methotrexate decreases the incidence of low white blood cell and platelet count that initially was a frequent cause for stopping the drug.

Further information gathered on methotrexate indicates that more patients can remain on the therapy for a longer time than was the pattern with gold.

Furthermore, using methotrexate is easier than treating with gold. You take methotrexate by mouth once a week. If you use intramuscular gold you must be coming to the physician's office weekly for 20 weeks, and having blood drawn before each injection of gold.

The effect of this experience brings physicians like myself to advocate methotrexate as the initial drug when more than non-steroidal medications are in order to treat your rheumatoid arthritis.

ADRIAN SHEREMETA, M.D.

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