

COMMUNITY LIFE

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1997

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Mercy me! Auction has it all

■ An eclectic mix of goods and services are going on the block to benefit Mercy High School.

BY MARY RODRIQUE
STAFF WRITER



The goods are as varied as a Notre Dame football signed by Lou Holtz, a three night stay in Paris, France, and a script

signed by the cast of Seinfeld. There's also a week's stay in Vail, Colorado, tickets to the Oprah Winfrey show with flight to Chicago, a Hot Springs hot tub for five, and a suite at the Palace for the Pistons.

All totalled, about 650 to 700 items will be auctioned off this Friday and Saturday, Feb. 21-22, during the 18th annual auction for Mercy High School of Farmington Hills.

Administrators hope to raise \$150,000 for educational expenses at the private, Catholic college preparatory high school for young women, located at Eleven Mile and Middlebelt roads.

Tuition is \$5,300 this year for the 870 students. Proceeds from the auction will be used to offset the additional cost per student of providing an education.

"This year's theme is Deep in the Heart of Mercy, a country and western theme," said Carol Mihal, an auction co-chair with husband, Dan, and the mother of a senior Mercy student. Food, decorations and entertainment will have a country western theme.

The auction is a parent sponsored event and the result of five months of planning and preparation by dozens of committee people, she said.

Nancy and Ed Moeller, parents of two Mercy graduates and a current Mercy junior, have volunteered as



Jet ski, anyone? Mercy students Beth Bezak, Rebecca Webb, Sister Regina, principal, and Jenny Cousins display a jet ski that will be up for auction this weekend with hundreds of other goods.

co-chairmen for several auctions, including this one.

"I think the best part is coming together with others who believe in the same philosophy, the same strong moral value system. In the past few years, we've brought new life into the auction with new people, new items," said Nancy Moeller. "We hope to reach our goal."

Like other volunteers, Moeller says she and her husband will have their collective eye on the hot tub when the bidding starts.

Co-chairs Laurie and Barry Cuda

plan to bid on the weekend trip to Paris, France for their 25th wedding anniversary. The Cuda's daughter, Amanda, graduated from Mercy two years ago and is now a sophomore at Michigan State, but the couple still enjoys helping out.

"Mercy was great for her," Laurie Cuda said. "We've been enjoying working on the auction. It's really kind of fun."

The couple is helping with advertising and publicity. Barry Cuda was responsible for securing the Paris hotel for the auction.

"He wrote letters to eight hotel owners in Paris. A woman responded right away, saying she loves the Sisters of Mercy," Cuda said.

"It's a nice group of items we're offering. They're not all big ticket items. Anyone can come and find something to bid on."

Lorraine Sherk and her husband, John, parents of Mercy junior, Elizabeth, are also co-chairs.

"It's really a fun job, but a lot of work," said Lorraine Sherk, whose

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KATHY NYBERG

To be well schooled is to be literate

Twenty three across on The New York Times crossword puzzle was eight letters long. With no "down" letters yet filled in, I had only the clue "well schooled" to work with. "Trained" was too short, but "educated" fit perfectly. With some hesitation, I penciled that in. Soon the "down" letters began to collide with "educated." The third letter was a "t," the seventh another "t," the fifth an "r" until "educated" was replaced by "literate."

To be well schooled is to be literate. Of course, literacy is not confined to proficiency in the English Language Arts; science literacy, math literacy, music, world language, and computer literacy are goals of these disciplines as well. For now, however, we will look at literacy in the English Language Arts, considering the impact of both the school and the home on the literacy of our children.

First, students must learn to read, and that is the number one priority of English Language Arts instruction. This is accomplished in Farmington by using a two pronged system that addresses both reading skills and content. The saying that "we learn to read so that we can read to learn" is not in practice as linear as it sounds; the process of learning to read is entwined with learning as we read. A blended phonics/whole language approach, the teaching approach used in Farmington which consists of direct instructional strategies, delivered deliberately and sequentially and enriched by quality authentic literature, scoops more children into the reading circle than any single approach. This balanced

See Literacy, B2

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