



Tender moment: Laura Bagwell ("Sarah") falls in love with Jeff Bouschet ("Sky Masterson") in Havana, Cuba, as part of the setting for "Guys and Dolls," which will be performed 7:30 p.m. Friday through Sunday at Harrison High School.

Cast action

High school play gets family treatment

A lot of community support went into Farmington Harrison High School's upcoming rendition of Frank Loesser's musical "Guys and Dolls."

"We had grandfathers and kids working together building the set and our set is spectacular," said Harrison drama director Michelle Harris. "There were people here ages 7 to 71."

She singled out set designer Mike Brahm and Fred Weiss, two parents who labored even though their children are not part of the production.

Their behind-the-scenes efforts will complement the talents of the 54-student cast, who will take to the stage for 7:30 p.m. performances Thursday, Friday and Saturday in the auditorium.

Four cast members will share equal billing as leads. Those are: senior Laura Bagwell, "Sgt. Sarah"; senior Jeff Bouschet, "Sky Masterson"; senior Ashlee Patrick, "Adelaide"; and junior Jon Bjorklund, "Nathan Detroit."

Harris said another 50 students not in the cast contributed



Diego play: Nathan Detroit and the guys are shooting craps in the sewers of New York.

to the production as did band/orchestra director Mark Phillips and vocal music director Tom Schroeder.

About the musical, Harris described it as "a love story, an unlikely love story set against the backdrop of gamblers versus

...the 'do-gooders.'"

Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$6 for students and can be obtained at the door. Call 489-3499 for more information. Harrison High School is located at 29995 W. 12 Mile Road.

Tim Smith

Harrison High students garner top spot in TEAMS competition

Once again, Harrison High School fared well in the statewide Tests in Engineering Aptitude in Math and Science (TEAMS), held Saturday, March 7 at Kettering University in Flint. The eight-student team, coached by teacher Dennis King, placed first, ahead of two teams from Kalamazoo Math and Science and fourth place Detroit Country Day.

The Harrison participants include seniors Eric Allen, David Weidendorf, Carrie Cox, Alex Israel, Trevor Roth, Joseph Walks and Theresa White and junior Ari Shwayder.

This year marks the eighth

consecutive time that Harrison captured the state competition in their division. In addition, the school has placed in the top 13 schools in the country for six out of the last seven years. In 1996, Harrison won the TEAMS National Championship.

The TEAMS competition requires high-level thinking skills and command knowledge of mathematics, chemistry, physics, biology, visual interpretation of information, computer applications, reading analysis and interpretation. Students work in an open-book, open-discussion environment to solve real engineering problems.

Some of those problems included the following:

- Investigating the cooling needs of super computers and recommending designs to accomplish those needs.
- Providing expert testimony in a court case concerning a traffic accident on a rural highway.
- Designing a car with better fuel economy than the company's current four-passenger model.
- Designing a power station for Mars, to enable major exploration over a seven-year period.

Sponsoring the event was JETS, the Junior Engineering Technical Society.

Dunkel seventh-graders digest slice of 'pi' for educational dessert

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

Dunkel Middle School students such as seventh grader John Callahan spent much of last week counting pennies, playing trivia games and eating oatmeal creme pies.

It was all part of the Farmington district school's second annual celebration of "pi," that legendary mathematics symbol that stands for 3.14 - the ratio of the circumference to the diameter of a circle. The activities were designed to show students that math can be a fun subject to learn about.

There were activities all week at Dunkel, as well as at Farmington High School, leading up to Friday's "Pi Day."

"Actually," Dunkel seventh grade teacher Steve Koponen said Thursday, "It's Pi Minus 1 Day this year because March 14 is on Saturday."

Callahan was one of 64 students participating, on a volun-

tary basis, in Friday's Math Bowl - where teams of four competed against each other in the areas of math knowledge and trivia. The tourney, including toss-up and bonus questions, closely follows the High School Quiz Bowl.

"For me, it's easier to remember 'pi' because of all the related activities," Callahan said. "You're not forced to do this. It's something fun to do with kids, to talk with your friends about."

Another seventh grader, Mike Laney, participated in one of the pi-related activities, to guess how many pennies were contained in a five-gallon water jug. Just about the only thing Laney and classmates knew about the jar before guessing was that it was filled with enough copper coins to weigh 181 pounds.

Laney predicted there were 4,196 pennies. "I just guessed." Some of the other activities included: Pi Portraits, where students created posters which

were required to follow the "Math: It Adds Up" theme and include the words "Pi Day 1998"; Etch-a-Pi, involving use of TI-81 graphics calculators; and Pi Phrase Craze, where participants needed to write a mnemonic that corresponds with the digits of pi. Mnemonics are defined as formulas or rhymes that help aid memory.

According to Koponen, the pi celebration "makes math kind of fun. It allows students to use math in a variety of different ways, through art, problem-solving, games and writing."

"But it all ties together, and adds an element of fun and an element of variety from what you typically see in math."

As a bonus, students Friday chowed down on some tasty snack pies. On Thursday, five boxes of oatmeal creme pies were stacked on top of Koponen's desk. "There should be enough for everybody."

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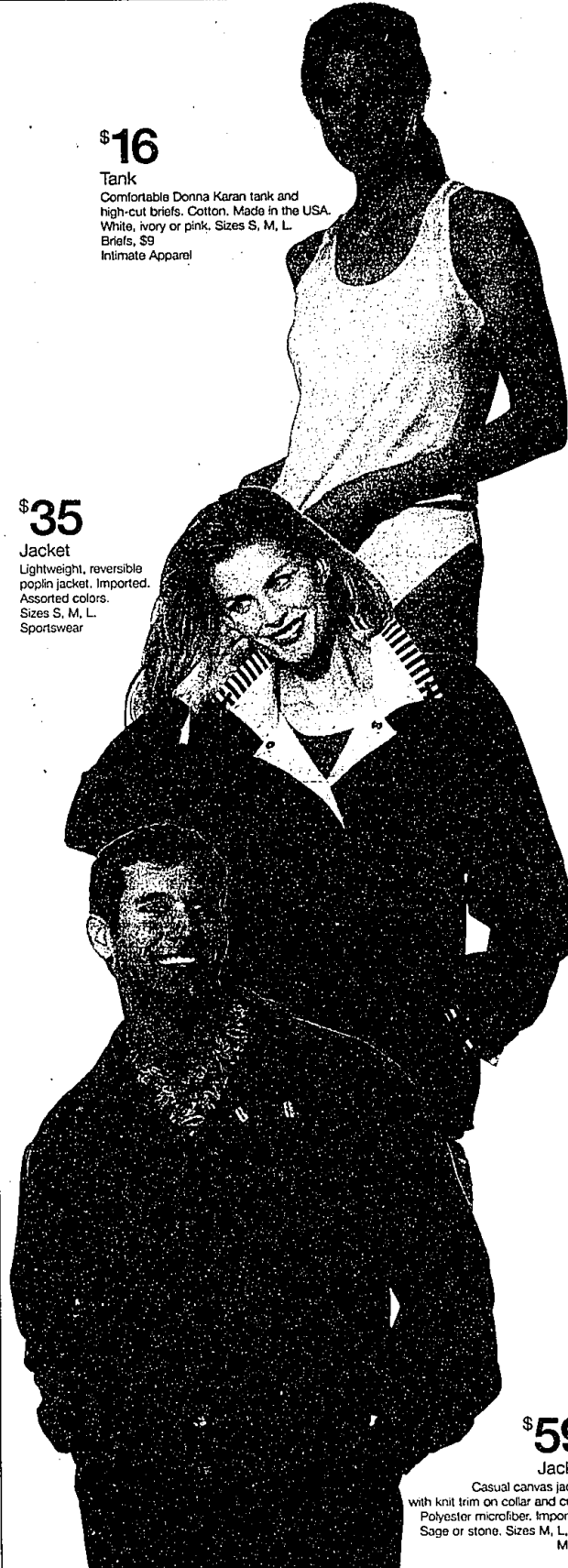
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