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spring musicals her junior and senior years. It isn't just performance that fuels her dream.

"I'm looking at San Diego State University to pursue a master's degree and eventually a Ph.D. in theater education. I'd like to teach theater at the college level," she said.

But she doesn't mind keeping that dream on hold for awhile. She claims to have never watched a Miss America pageant growing up. Her first stab at Miss Farmington/Hills was in 1996. She won the talent competition and was second runner-up. She then competed in the Miss Redford Township pageant and was also second runner-up. Her sponsor, Contemporary Awards of Farmington, agreed to try again last year. Her third contest turned out to be the charm.

### Dream come true

"To hear my name called, it took me a minute for the information to process," she said.

As Miss Farmington/Hills, she received a \$1,600 scholarship, \$500 for winning the talent competition, \$300 for wardrobe, and various other prizes.

Pageant executive director Ginny Morris is confident of her chances next month at the state pageant.

"I feel she has an excellent opportunity. We're all rooting for her," said Morris, adding, "My heart is set on going to Atlantic City this year."

Rehearsals begin June 13 in Muskegon and Hoemke is getting butterflies already.

"The interview is the scariest part. I've had nightmares lately," she said.

The 12-minute interview before a seven-judge panel can include questions about a contestant's platform as well as cur-

rent events, politics or world events. Trick questions are a possibility.

"They're looking for poise, sincerity and a positive aura," she said.

She has been working with Farmington pageant board member Pam Eldred (Miss America 1970) and Farmington Councilwoman JoAnne McShane for polishing pointers. A mock interview is scheduled Sunday at the Costick Activities Center.

"I'm trying to watch the news now and catch up on current events."

She'll be one of 25 contestants for the state title. If she can just ace the interview, the rest should be a piece of cake.

"For talent, I'm doing something called 'Art is Calling For Me,' a musical comedy aria piece I've been working on all year."

She's also confident for the physical fitness portion of the pageant. "I'm a dancer and I eat healthy, so I'm in good condition."

And if her reign ends with the passing of the crown to the next Miss Farmington/Hills at Vladimir's restaurant on July 8, it won't be the end of the world. "I have a couple of job opportunities and I will continue to support local programs."

"I'm very blessed," she added. "I've had incredible backing from the community."



Striking a pose: Hoemke poses with Arden and Emily Coffey, 10 and 8, respectively, of Farmington Hills.

## Book fair hosts authors

The Birmingham Temple is hosting its second annual book fair which will include hundreds of books for sale and a four-day schedule of national authors and speakers covering topics ranging from cloning to circumcision.

Admission is free. It begins Friday, May 15 and runs through Monday, May 18 at the temple, 28611 W. Twelve Mile Rd., in Farmington Hills.

Visiting authors include Princeton University professor

Lee Silver who will discuss the

subject of cloning in his new book: "Remaking Eden: The Future of Cloning."

University of California history professor Albert Lindemann, author of "Ezra's Tears", will discuss the subject of Jewish power in his book.

Dr. Ronald Goldman, author of "The Circumcision Controversy" and director of the Circumcision Center in California, will discuss the subject of Jewish power in his new book and debatable subject of circumcision.

Michigan's own Rev. Harry Cook will also make an appearance at the book fair to talk about his new book, "Christianity Beyond Creed."

Other authors attending include Ruth Jacobs, author of "Be An Outrageous Older Woman," Rabbi Sherwin Wine of the Birmingham Temple, and a local illustrator of children's books, Cyd Moore.

Call 477-1410 for more information.

## Chat room from page B1

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One of the most important lessons to learn, which became our motto for the entire trip, was "nous sommes une famille" (we are a family). Our slogan was proudly displayed in red, white and blue as the girls wore their group T-shirts while traveling abroad. We helped and took care of one another, ate meals and spent time together, shared jokes and laughed together and cherished every passing moment. During the course of our 10-day itinerary, specifically designed to include areas of French culture and history studied in class, La Bretagne, La Normandie and l'Île-de-France, the students became more comfortable with their speaking skills and level of comprehension. It was amazing.

I've never traveled with a student group that was so emotionally charged that the enthusiasm remained unquenchable! I was so touched as a French teacher who shares this same love and passion for the French language and culture, to visibly see the tears streaming down my students' faces and hearing shouts of "Look! There it is!" at their first glance at La Tour Eiffel.

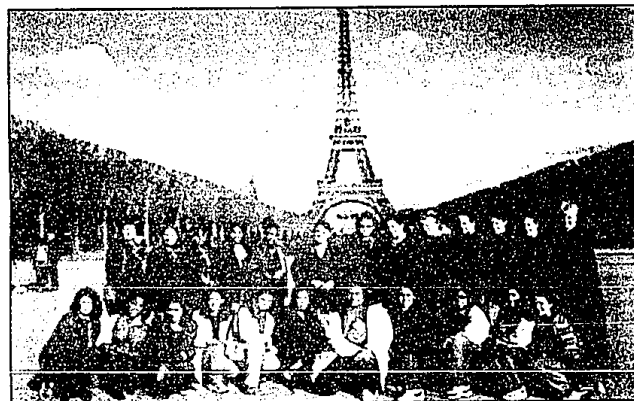
Students attended Easter Sunday Mass at Notre Dame in Paris. What a memorable experience to hear the Gregorian choir accompany the Bishop of Paris who said the Mass in French and Latin, no further than 60 feet away from us. Their excitement equally surged at all the monuments and places we visited in France. A highlight was the

French Impressionist segment of our trip. Eyes moistened as we stepped into the garden at Giverny, home of Claude Monet. Exclamations of "I can't believe I'm here. I just studied this last week, it's real!"

As the departure date neared, the visible sadness of leaving was replaced by cheers for a 10-year reunion in Paris, the year 2008. Oh in la! Although we left Paris, Paris would never leave us. Many students left with such powerful and memorable impressions of this beautiful country and language, that career choices began to change suddenly to include French in their future minor or major areas of study.

Besides being a fantastic educational experience, this trip will be remembered in the hearts and minds of these young women who were touched by the magic of "La France." Shabnam Daneshvar, a junior French student, commented to me after returning to school, "I've dreamt about this trip for the last five days and I'm definitely changing my career!" Other senior students remarked that they were thankful they experienced an educational trip such as this instead of the traditional spring break in a sunny climate. Yes, France did come alive for us this April and will not be forgotten.

Joyce Campbell is a language teacher at Mercy High School in Farmington Hills. She is planning a July 1999 trip to France for adults. Call her at 476-8020, Ext. 213, for more information.



Paris: Mercy High French students pose in front of the Eiffel Tower during their trip.

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