

# School stores help students stock up on business life

*They profit from summer school project*

## ECONOMICS

"We kept a ledger for the day," Powell continued. "It just taught us a lot about responsibility and how businesses are run."

Concurring was "Popsmart" co-manager and North student Gretchen Pittluk. She noted how students "learned about the free market and autonomy."

Both stores did very well, earning more than \$1,100 in sales. Subtracting the original investment of \$104, the class will donate the rest — about \$1,000 — to the American Red Cross.

Grievance said the for-credit class satisfies a state mandate for "authentic assessment," requiring that public schools teach students to apply economics terms and concepts.

Students "did everything" toward reaching that goal, Grievance said.

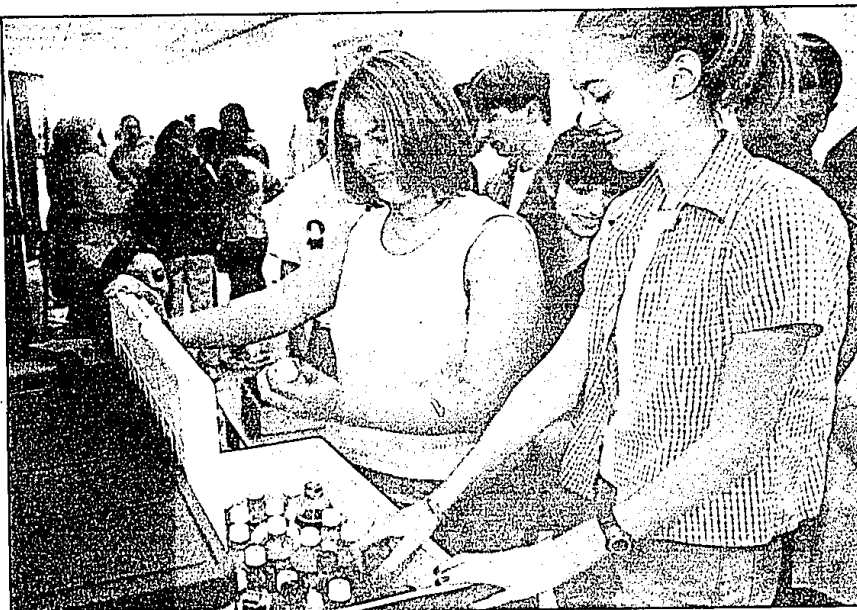
One part of the business the students learned about was how sales don't always match projections.

According to North student Rachel Kasubowski, co-manager of "Popsmart" with Pittluk, a source of much exasperation was the student survey done the first week of summer school. Both stores relied on the survey to purchase start-up goods.

"In reality, they wanted more Coke instead of ice tea," Kasubowski said.

That carried over to "Sci-monoco," which is economics spelled backwards.

According to Harrison junior Marsha Henry, who did accounting for the snack shop, a detailed



Smart pop shop: Students Gretchen Pittluk and Caroline Womack sell soft drinks at "Popsmart," one of two profitable Farmington Summer School businesses set up for three weeks at Harrison High School.

ledger was kept every day about what sold and what didn't.

On the plus side were fast movers such as Twix candy bars and Big Apple Bagels, the latter which sold to the tasty tune of five dozen daily. Henry said extra orders needed to be made on those items to keep up with sales.

Conversely, "cookies didn't sell, not for a long time," lamented Henry.

But, noted Farmington High School student Lindsay Bette, both stores benefited from something that doesn't happen in real life. Their only competition was from a vending machine down

the hall.

"I expected everything to take off (sales-wise) because we were the only ones selling," she said. Farmington Summer School principals Kurt Campbell and Steve Koponen enthusiastically supported the student-run stores.

"This experience has been extremely valuable because it presents real life situations and allows students to develop strategies and solve problems that would make their project successful," Koponen said.

About 300 middle-school and

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Catherine Powell  
—North student

high-school students attend the summer school, for those who want to take an accelerated learning path, Koponen said.

In business: Catherine Powell, who manages "Sci-monoco Snacks," oversees business while "employees" Calvin Corey and Scott Post sell candy to fellow students. "Sci-monoco" stands for economics, spelled backwards.



## Hills police nab Traverse City woman after Rite-Aid robbery

A woman from a place cherries are popular may have picked the wrong place to commit a robbery.

Farmington Hills police arrested a Traverse City woman, 42, after a holdup at a Rite Aid Sunday afternoon. Though no weapon was found, she has been charged with one count of armed robbery.

The woman, who pleaded not guilty at her arraignment Monday, is being held in Oakland County Jail in lieu of \$10,000 bond. A preliminary exam is set for 8:30 a.m. Friday at 47th District Court.

"Just because no weapon is involved, if it is implied, it meets the state (law) for armed robbery," Farmington Hills Assistant Chief Chuck Nebus said.

At 3:40 p.m., a woman ran up to a cashier and demanded all the money from the register at the store on 12 Mile and Farmington roads. The woman

appeared to be concealing something behind a black, backpack-type purse, the cashier told police.

After getting the money in a plastic bag, the woman said "thank you" and left. A 22-year-old female store employee estimated the thief made off with nearly \$500.

The robber fled in a yellow, Oldsmobile-type car driven by a man on the telephone: Farmington Road.

Four minutes after the robbery, police stopped a 1983 Buick matching that description on southbound Orchard Lake, near the Old Orchard Theatre. Officers ordered the couple out at gunpoint.

Inside the car, police found a plastic Rite Aid bag with a single dollar bill inside. A black leather bag on the passenger seat nearby had a large number of dollar bills in small denominations.

In all, police recovered \$478 in cash. No weapons were found.

In their statements to police, the 47-year-old man said he and his 42-year-old wife drove from Traverse City to get away from the tourists. He wasn't aware his wife had been involved in the robbery, police said.

However, the wife said they had been away from home for a couple of months to avoid an arrest warrant for her on a bad check charge.

Both admitted to having drug problems, which they said they support through the woman's shoplifting.

The woman told police she didn't intend to rob the Rite Aid, but saw the opportunity when she saw the cashier by herself. She denied threatening the cashier or using a weapon.

The cashier told police the woman threatened to "blow her ... brains out."

## Calendar for 1998-99 school year taking shape

Farmington Public Schools' bargaining team has much negotiating to do before hammering out new contracts with unionized employees, most who are represented by the Michigan Education Association.

But both sides have agreed on essential calendar dates for the 1998-99 school year, said Diane Bauman, the district's director of school and community relations.

Following are those dates which have been decided:

■ Thursday, Aug. 27 — First day for teachers, "Teachers Work Day."

■ Friday, Aug. 28 — District-wide in-service day; no students.

■ Monday, Aug. 31 — First day for students. It has not yet been determined whether students will attend half- or full-day sessions.

■ Nov. 26-27 — Thanksgiving break.

■ Thursday, Dec. 24 through Sunday, Jan. 3 — December winter break, school is in session through Wednesday, Dec. 23 and renews Monday, Jan. 4.

■ Feb. 15-19 — Mid-winter break, school is in session through Friday, Feb. 12 and

reconvenes Monday, Feb. 22.

■ April 2-11 — Spring break, school is in session through April 1 and renews April 12.

■ May 31 — Memorial Day recess.

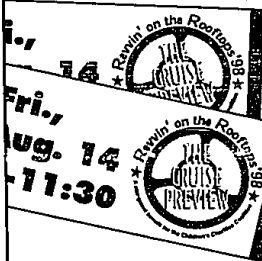
The last day of the school year has not yet been determined, nor have those for: parent-teacher conferences; the end of marking periods; and other key dates. Bauman said that information will be made public as soon as it becomes available.

Bauman added that the calendar can also be found on the district's Web site, at [www.farmington.k12.mi.us](http://www.farmington.k12.mi.us).

## TICKETS ARE LIMITED!

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\$100 Friend ticket to the two rooftop locations includes entertainment galore, a strolling supper, fun foods and two complimentary beverages.

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