



STAFF PHOTOS BY BILL BRADLEY

**Brass:** The East Middle School Concert Band performed "Until Justice Rolls Down Like Waters." Billy Shay, Ralpheal Thompkin and Dan Rumbell are part of the trombone section of the band.



**Words:** Patricia Mobley, a speech pathologist at East Middle School also chaired the Multi-Cultural Committee. As the Concert Band played in the background she recited words of and about Dr. Martin Luther King. "He gave us more than oratory ... He gave us truth."

**King** from page A1

famous bus scene. "Her message was about Rosa Parks being more mentally tired than anything else because of being treated as a second-class citizen," Mobley said. The East program, "Bridges:

Cultures Coming Together," also featured musical performances by the Preston Brown-directed eighth-grade choir, by the eighth grade concert orchestra directed by Tracey Riggs and the Junior Thespian Troupe 88331.

Cathy Cordle also directed the East Middle School Theatre Group in "The Rainbow People" skit. It's theme was about people of different colors discriminating against each other until they are united following a nasty storm.

"At the end, all of the colors accepted each other," Mobley said. Students "grasped the mos-

sages," said Mobley, emphasizing that they spent time after the assembly filling out "reflection" forms and talking about

them in classrooms.

Another interesting program celebrating King's birthday was "Big Words, Strong Words," in a fourth-grade classroom at Wood Creek Elementary School.

Teacher Rosheen Kilano said her students performed a three-act play, featuring Seth Kritzman as Martin Luther King, Jr.

The acts all revolved around how King used words to change people's lives for the better, and about how others should follow his lead, Kilano said.

**Protect**

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Councilwoman Nancy Bates asked the city attorney to look at potential liability issues, especially with residents serving on the committee.

"We wouldn't want to put any of our citizens in harm's way," Bates said. "When you read about some of the things they are doing, I'm just wondering if there is any kind of liability here."

Councilman Jon Grant asked if committee members will want a budget. So far, the group asked for the city for \$70 for a national consumer advocacy organization membership, said Joan Ginsberg, committee member.

"Would I like to see a budget? Absolutely," said Ginsberg, who is one of two attorneys on the committee. "Everything is money-run. We don't have a specific request right now ... If you're willing to give us money now, we'll certainly take it."

Council backing gives the committee a go-ahead for future endeavors. The group wants to hold a consumer protection seminar.

As a city committee, members would serve three-year terms. In addition to bringing attention to an upstart gas company's questionable door-to-door sales techniques, the group has started a hotline, (248) 428-4456.

Since its formation, the group received praise from other consumer advocates such as WJRAM's Joe "The Appliance Doctor" Gagnon.

Vagnozzi cited former state Attorney General Frank Kelly, who said 10 times the number of people are affected by consumer scams than are by criminal acts.

"While I realize criminal acts are far more dangerous, there is this problem out there," Vagnozzi said. "Especially with (Energy America): It's amazing the number of people who have had their gas service switched without them really knowing it."

A consumer protection committee is needed on the local front, said Councilwoman Vicki Barnett. She cited the demise of The Michigan Consumer's Council and cutbacks in funding for similar agencies.

"Now is the time for Farmington Hills - the largest city in the county - to fully take a leadership role on this very important issue," Barnett said. "It not only affects seniors and children but every resident."

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