



**Majorette queen:** Cara Jasolek of Northville was crowned Majorette Queen of America in North Carolina recently. She studies twirling in Farmington Hills.



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## Twirler takes top honor

Cara Jasolek of Northville was crowned Majorette Queen of America 2000 on July 31 in North Carolina.

The Northville teen is a student of Derek Brooks of Farmington Hills. This is the highest honor that Drum Majorettes of America awards each year at the national finals. Girls from across the United States compete throughout the week in different age groups and ability levels. Jasolek's title is for elite contestants ages 16 to 23. To be eligible for the top division, a contestant needs to place in the top three in the advanced division four times at a national competition.

Jasolek, 18, is a sophomore at Eastern Michigan University where she is a feature twirler. She also performs at all the Detroit Lions home football games. DMA awarded Jasolek a \$2,000 scholarship, a five-foot-tall trophy, crown, roses and banner. This year she will travel throughout the country promoting baton twirling with performances and being the hostess at competitions.

Jasolek began taking baton twirling at age 7 from Derek Brooks. Brooks guided her to other national titles as national majorette queen (1994) and majorette princess of America in 1996 prior to winning the top award.

Preparation included spending five hours a day four days a week practicing. Brooks had 10 twirlers compete at nationals and the group had the best showing in six years with five bringing home titles.

Brooks teaches twirling in Farmington Hills, Troy and Chelsea as well as camps and clinics throughout the country.

## Chat room from page B1

came from a single-parent divorced family and somehow I never felt the urge to gun down innocent people.

### Morals missing

What is largely missing in homes today is a basic moral foundation. Don't be fooled into believing children are different today than they were yesterday. While society definitely exposes children to a great deal more, it is the parenting that has changed. Many parents are afraid to parent for fear of "ruining" their children for life.

I am not "blaming" parents because I know how hard it is to parent firsthand from my own experiences. But there is this syndrome we have all been raised with and that is to believe that more is better! We want our children to have a better life and more than we did. Well, that sounds great and it may be very

well-intentioned, but when I think about it, I realize my life wasn't, and isn't that bad! In fact, I would be happy if my daughters had a life like mine (minus a few mishaps) because I was loved with consequences. I was taught morals, and believe me I felt my conscience when I did something I knew was questionable.

We live in a materialistic society and we are mistakenly raising our children to believe material things will bring them real happiness. Our children are overindulged and don't have a real appreciation of what it means to work for something. When we rob our children of that appreciation, they begin to expect things rather than work for or truly value them. These kids that committed this crime had everything to live for and everything they could possibly want. And according to today's

experts, their parents were taking all the right actions to help them. Yet, something was missing in their lives. Morals and values.

### Taking charge

As a parent and a teacher, I don't want to forget Columbine as I begin the new school year. I am not afraid to draw moral lines with my students and children. I am willing to tell them "no" when I know it is right. I want to make sure that I am doing my best to build a moral ground for my children and students to walk on. It is imperative we teach our children to respect each other and care for each other as human beings. As soon as we stop sending our children the message that it's "all about me", we may begin to overcome this terrifying trend that is overruling our youth and heal the wounds that have so badly scarred our country.

Maureen Lemon lives in the Clarendonville school district and teaches at Hilbert Junior High.

## Chorus auditions

The Farmington/Farmington Hills community chorus will hold auditions for its winter season 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 7, and Sept. 14 at the Farmington Hills Activity Center.

Living in the Farmington area is not a requirement.

The chorus performs two major shows each year - a holiday concert and a spring concert - as well as performances at the Farmington Founders Festival and at Heritage Park.

This is a musical opportunity for anyone age 18 or older. Musical experience is not necessary but is helpful. All sheet music and a practice tape is provided.

Registration will be the week following auditions.

For more information, call chorus manager Kathy Hall at 471-4516. The Center is on 11 Mile east of Middlebelt in Farmington Hills.



Bev Cornell, the Ask Bristol columnist who answers pet questions in the Farmington Observer, has moved west to Chandler, Ariz. with husband, Tom, and pets Marbles, the collie, and Bear, Georgie Girl and Teddy Bear.

This e-mail arrived from Marbles on Tuesday:

Well, my parents and my kitty brother and sister and I have moved into our new home. My cat buddies were so used on the trip. I had a great time riding in the car and watching the scenery. I got very sick on the trip the day before we got to Phoenix. My parents were very worried about me. As soon as we got to Phoenix I met a new vet and she was very nice. She said I picked up a virus from the rest stop. But I am all better

## By the time they got to Phoenix...

now. Mom and Dad are emptying boxes like crazy. Georgie Girl, Teddy Bear and I are helping. We love playing in all the packing paper. The best box for me to see opened was the one with my toys! That is very important to a puppy dog like me.

My Mom takes me for walks at 6:15 a.m. because it starts getting hot by 8 a.m. I have a new buddy to walk with. Her name is Molly and she is a cute 3-year-old Scotty dog. At night after the sun goes down, Mom and Dad take me for a walk and most nights I get to run and play in the park with other dogs.

Mom says hi to all our Farmington friends. She will write all about our trip when the house is livable.

Love, Marbles

Bev Cornell's e-mail address is: bristol\_dog@email.msn.com

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