

Science from page A6

Instead, it ran for nearly 25 hours.

"Apples were best and grapefruits were worst," Jonathan said. He explained his produce phenomenon: a natural electric current is caused due to the chemical reaction between metals and the acids found in fruits and vegetables.

Staying with the food theme, Max Bradley was hoping to find a new and improved way to cook a hot dog, via sunlight. As it turned out, his solar hot dog cooker was too slow to take over from grills and stoves.

Waiting and waiting

"It takes too long," Max said. "I found out that barbecued hot dogs are better than solar-heated hot dogs."

He fashioned his cooker by covering a shoe box with aluminum foil, and using part of a coat hanger for the hot dog turner. It took an hour or so for the frank to fire up. Don't blame him, though.

"I got the idea on the Internet," Max said. Actually, a number of students used the information superhighway to come up with project possibilities. Still,

they had to take things from there. They did the work at home, with little parental input.

"These projects are very student-generated," Koperski said. "They took pictures, proving they did them. And, because they can really explain their projects well, I know they did them themselves."

Concurring was Qualman, who said she was amazed at the level of creativity shown by the students.

"It (the fair) is better than ever," Qualman said. "There's a nice variety this year. And the presentations, the students really know what they're talking about."

Forest principal Lloyd Lewis said he was impressed with "the depth and breadth of students' understanding" of science, and agreed that projects are becoming more sophisticated every year.

Taking such an approach to learning about the subject is encouraged at Forest, Lewis added, because science is "a real life way to solve real life questions and problems."

Throughout the gym, visitors were able to learn about projects,

It takes too long. I found out that barbecued hot dogs are better than solar-heated hot dogs.

Max Bradley
—Student

either through cohesive explanations, demonstrations or a combination of both.

Science sights

■ Nicole Weissauer predicted that Sunny Delight would leave more vitamin C than red cabbage or juice, and proved her point in front of visitors.

■ Roma Rubel's project about "Beautiful Bridges" demonstrated that "the more support there is under the bridge, the more weight it will hold." He designed different types of miniature bridges to prove his hypothesis.

■ Sarah Burstein's "Miracle of Mucus" wasn't as uncouth as the title might suggest. In fact, it was pretty informative. She displayed evidence that

mucus is important to the digestive system, especially how it protects the stomach wall. The Internet helped her find out how to create fake mucus, out of corn syrup and unflavored gelatin. From there, she took two hot dogs — one dipped in the mucus, one not — and put them into a container of acid.

The mucus-coated hot dog did not dissolve; the other one did. ■ Samantha Kelman's quest was to test a toddler's memory. She enlisted her 2-year-old brother, Jack, for the project.

"My hypothesis was, by day five, he would have memorized 50 percent of the cards in one minute," Samantha said. "But it turned out he memorized all of them in 50 seconds."

Other days, however, it took between 35-60 seconds for Jack to match both halves of all eight animal cards; such as the top and bottom half of a lion.

Samantha had pictures and graphs to support her explanation that toddler memory is up and down, dependent on moods.

"I learned that toddlers can be unpredictable," she said. "I really didn't know that in the beginning."

Bus from page A1

sending 194 Farmington Schools employees.

Bus drivers, as well as the food and custodial workers, have a no-strike clause in their contracts, Zurvalec said.

Meanwhile, a four-year deal has been struck with district secretaries and paraprofessionals.

The 334 members of the Educational Support Personnel group have a new contract allowing for a 2-percent salary increase for each of the four years in the contract.

The length of the contract is one year longer than any previous agreement.

"I think it was a very fair agreement," according to

SCHOOL NEWS

Larry Lobert, Farmington Schools executive director for human resources.

Union executive director Zan Alley representing the Farmington Education Association; Farmington Custodial, Maintenance/Food Service Association; Farmington Transportation Association and the Farmington Education Support Personnel was unavailable for comment.

New chamber board announced

The Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce Nominating Committee presents the following slate of candidates for the board of directors. Candidates will each serve a two-year term, commencing Jan. 1, 1999.

■ Jess C. Elson, Brad's Ads

■ Andrew Haliw, Haliw, Siciliano & Mychalowich

■ Robert Smigielski, Midwest Guaranty Bank

■ James Stark, Northwest Gazette

■ Nurten Ural, Ural Interiors.

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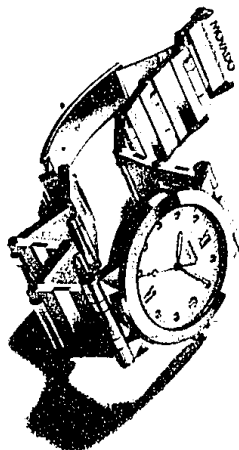
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