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Act from page A1

due to the construction and I'm sorry this is one of the things that have to be sacrificed." Brouillette, who promised there will be a "solid drama

experience in place next year" at Harrison, conceded that the situ-ation is a setback for students

ation is a sotback for students such as Steckhoff.

"But it's a small setback and we'll recover from it," Broullette said. "But I relate totally to it, because when I was in high school it (performing) was a real ion."

school it (performing, was a sea-joy," Mary Brown, assistant princi-pal at Harrison, sympathized with the plight of Steckloff and other students.

But Steckloff's suggestion that Harrison share stage facilities at either Farmington or North high schools during the construction period were not deemed feasible, despite serious consideration.

Off limita

'Students have had to make a lot of sacrifices due to the construction and I'm sorry this is one of the things that have to be sacrificed.'

Priscilla Brouillette, president
-Farmington Board of Education

Brown said there were logisti-cal issues to consider for any switch to a different building, including going elsewhere to build stage sets for several

weeks.

"It was those things that made "It was those things that made our drama people say, "Is this more than we can handlo for one year?" Brown said. "... It seemed pretty monumental to get all the kids to another school every day."

ny." Steckloff's letter addressed low school officials blamed the

Steckloff's letter addressed how school officials binned the situation on construction. She referred to how, in 1998-99, North's winter production was hold at Harrison while North was under construction. "Last year, both Farmington and North Farmington high schools experienced complete reconstruction of their facilities, yet both schools – committed to

excellence in the arts - managed to produce at least two plays each," the letter stated. "Yes, North Farmington used Harrison last winter, and this is exactly my point: There is no leadership from the Harrison High School staff to champion a drama club or a play. How sad."

Suggestion offered

Suggestion offered
Brown, who suggested
Brown, who suggested
Steekloff sign up with a community theater group such as the
Feanut Butter Players to help
fill the void, emphasized that
farama does have a fucture at
Harrison, probably as soon as
the 2000-01 school year.

"There's no one saying that
we're absolutely not going to do
a play next year." Brown said.
'It's not like the drama department has fallen apart at Harrison."

She said students are taking

that next year's onset of block scheduling should provide addi-tional opportunities in the fine

Marfield, who met Thursday with Horn about Stockloffs con-corns, concurred that the situa-tion is simply connected to the construction, which the superin-tendent said was up to 12 weeks behind in some areas of the

The fire marshal also wants to make sure there are adequate exits for auditorium seating before permitting any perfor-

mances.
"They knew this was going to be a dicey year with the auditorium out of commission," Maxfield said."... Every teacher is kind of stressed with having to work around all the commotion."

Market from page A1

Marketing Communications
Counsei, Inc. for the program. It
would work like this:

If the firm would design and
operate the MarketPlace;

Be The DDA offored to give
rebates of \$50 per month (\$600
for the full year) to the first 10
denormal in order for the program to move forward.
But, more than two months
later, only three had agreed to
participate — not enough, according to Ron Baker, chair of Marketing Communications Counsel.

Facts of life

"We still have to talk to the DDA board." Baker said Wednesday. "But we decided to withdraw the program at the moment because the majority of merchants here perhaps aren't ready to consider the Internet."

Baker met Thursday with Judy Downey, executive director of the DDA, to announce the firm's intentions to stop the pro-

Downey confirmed her Thursday meeting with Baker, but declined to comment until after the DDA board receives an

the DDA board receives an updated report from Baker. The report is expected to be discussed by the full board April 4. "Whatever the board decides to do after it gets the report from Mr. Baker regarding the program, then that's what we decide to do," Downey said.

Baker, who did say he would provide the DDA with a modified exammers plan for the April 4.

provide the DDA with a modified e-commerce plan for the April 4 meeting, lamented the lack of interest in Farmington.

"We're part of downtown Farmington and frankly, I wanted to see Farmington take the lead," Baker said. "But, I recognize the facts of life. If people

don't want to do it, that's OK."

It apparently didn't help the enrollment drive that merchants have been somewhat contentious lately about being required to pay a \$50 fee to display mer-chandise in front of their stores during the Farmington Area Family Fest, which is set for

Timing the culprit

Although Baker conceded the cost to sign up might have been prohibitive for some smaller businesses, he doesn't think it was the biggest reason for the disinterest.

disinterest.

"It was probably the inappropriate time to do this," he said.
I don't think it was the money (\$200 per month).... But timing and atmosphere" were issues.
Some businesses already have Web sites, he explained. Others simply are not yet reddy to join the technological business wave,

which continues to spike upward. According to Baker, Internet sales were about \$6.1 billion in 1999 and projected to

approach \$10 billion this year.

There is no doubt in my mind about the importance of (businesses) being on the Internet," Baker said. The businesses that did sign

up were the Farmington Center Florist, Three Oaks Furniture and Baker Street Draperies.

Baker reiterated that this unsuccessful attempt did not completely close the door on future tries, which could extend outside the DDA.

"I'm supremely optimistic about it," he said, "because it is the only direction to go."

The sign-up fees were to have been returned to the participat-ing businesses Thursday, Baker

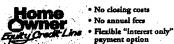
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