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well as almost shocking. "I had mixed emotions about going back to Tiger Stadium," said Scheatzle, who eventually culled a display of Billy Crystal-signed auction items as well as a home video and photo scrapbook of the three-day experience.

Insiders' glimpse

With the help of McCann, a jovial Detroit-area Teamster hired by Crystal to build sets, props and do other errands for the production, Scheatzle wound up becoming a film extra and was even given permission to record her video of behind-the-scenes activity.

The home video is one of more than 275 items which will be open for bidding at Steppingstone's "2001: Odyssey in Space" auction, scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. Saturday, April 7, at St. Mary's Cultural Center, at 18100 Merriman in Livonia.

It also will be shown Thursday, April 5, when students will use mock dollars and bid on less-extravagant items than those which will be available during the "official" auction.

Steppingstone Headmaster Kiyo Morse said the school hopes the April 7 auction will generate at least \$50,000 for classroom furniture, other items and to be put in an endowment fund.

The 67* items could bring in \$1,000, said Scheatzle, adding that she "thought it'd be really great if our students could be

part of what it's like to see a movie being made. So, if some of our students have an interest in photography and film and acting, they'll know what's involved."

'Can I take a look?'

McCann also helped collect the Crystal auction items. Those who attend the auction will have the chance to bid on Crystal-signed baseballs and other autographed items connected with the movie about the 1981 home run chase of Babe Ruth's record, eventually won by New York Yankee outfielder Roger Maris.

What Scheatzle saw while doing her own film was how crew members create an illusion for viewers. For example, the bronze Yankee Stadium "monument park" of legendary players was replicated for the movie, but the monuments used in the film were made of fiberglass.

The Tiger Stadium experience also was worthwhile for McCann, who recently was invited by Scheatzle to visit Steppingstone and talk about working with Crystal.

McCann recalled a particularly memorable exchange with the unassuming actor, who walked around the stadium field wearing T-shirt, shorts and cap most of the time.

Crew workers were filming a scene focusing on the extras in the rightfield stands, shooting from a crane that "looked like a

great big see-saw. They were up there 35 feet with this camera that runs a million bucks a piece," said McCann.

While that was going on, McCann spotted a monitor screen over by third base. He couldn't resist taking a peek at the images being captured by the camera.

"I walked over and took a look into the monitor," McCann said. "And I thought, 'This is awesome.' Then, I felt a tap on my shoulder."

He couldn't pull himself away from the monitor. Soon, there was a second tap.

"I turned around and figured it'd be a driver or something. It was Billy Crystal! And he said, 'Do you think I can take a look?'"

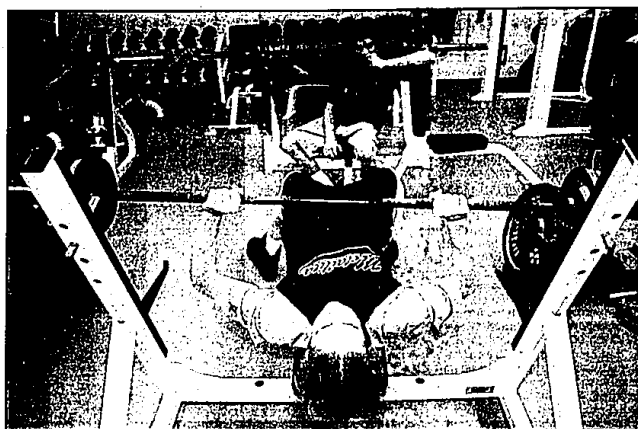
"Well, hey, it's his movie, right?"

"Then, he asked me what I thought, and I said 'I think it's a keeper, but I'm a truck driver. What do I know?'"

Enough that 61* and the Steppingstone auction both have a chance to be winning proposals, which would thrill Scheatzle to no end. That's because the 55-to-65 students at the school eventually will benefit.

"I can't say enough about what a great personal experience it was," Scheatzle said. "...And, I just think these things (auction items) will not only enrich the school financially but enrich the students emotionally."

Baseball can do that.



Fitness first: Brian Forgue bench presses while Tony Norris waits for his turn.

Program strives to keep kids fit

BY TIM SMITH
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Students in the Farmington school district have former President John F. Kennedy to thank, in part, for the ongoing transformation of physical education to physical "fitness" that can be incorporated into their lives long after graduation day.

Lending off a detailed progress report about changes to the physical education and health curriculum, on the first page, is a quote by Kennedy that indicates his gift for being an insightful visionary: "Physical fitness is the basis of all other forms of excellence."

That sage statement is at the core of the revamped physical

education program's mission, to "provide each student with a programmed sequence of experiences that will facilitate their physical, social and mental development, and equip them with the knowledge, skills and attitudes to engage in a lifetime of health-related physical activity."

During his presentation to the school board, Greg Ambrose, who chairs the district's physical education department, spoke about how the long-term goal is for students of all ages to become passionate about fitness and, through healthy living and exercise, diminish obesity and related cardiovascular diseases.

"What I don't want to see is one of our students, because we're negligent, collapsing

because of a heart problem," said Ambrose, choking back emotion at the podium. "We care enough about our kids that we (can) take preventative measures."

That being knowledge, disseminated through an ever-expanding physical education/health program, one where learning to ingrain good habits are more important than the discarded gym model of winning or losing a game.

"How many times you do a pull-up or how far you can throw a softball is not important any more," Ambrose said. "It's keeping up the cardiovascular rate."

Ambrose even told the board he would eventually like to see every student in a physical ed

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