



Prince Dauntless the Drab (Jimmy Wolk) admires the girl of his dreams, Princess Winnifred the Woebegone (Lillian Wallach). Unfortunately the Prince's mom, Queen Aggravain, doesn't agree with his taste in women.

'Once Upon a Mattress' opens

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER

A tiny pea provides mountains of laughter in North Farmington High School's production of "Once Upon a Mattress," which opens March 27.

Co-director Sue Cobb explained the story line begins with an over-protective mother.

"In an attempt to keep Prince Dauntless the Drab single, his mother, Queen Aggravain, has decreed that no one else in the kingdom may marry until a true princess can pass the queen's marriage test," Cobb said. "Further, no one else may marry until Dauntless does."

Fortunately, the prince's ally Sir Harry finds Winnifred the Woebegone, and she instantly catches the attention of Prince Dauntless.

The queen, knowing that she needs a test that no one can pass,

places a pea under 20 mattresses to see whether Winnifred can sleep through the night.

Students playing the main characters include Lillian Wallach (Princess Winnifred), Megan Nestor (Lady Larken), Rob Feldman (King Sextimus the Silent/Specialty Dancer), Kristina Reese (Queen Aggravain), Jimmy Wolk (Prince Dauntless the Drab), Ben Ryberg (Sir Harry), and Jordan Goodwin (Wizard).

Cobb also wants people to be aware of a special person on staff, Farmington High social studies teacher Lucy Kovick.

Since August 2002, she has choreographed "Foolhouse" for the district/community musical, "My Fair Lady" for Farmington High, "Once Upon a Mattress" and "Nonsense" for the Farmington Players Barn, Cobb said.

For "Once Upon a Mattress," Kovick put together soft-shoe,

Soupy shuffle, waltz, and ballet numbers, Cobb said.

"Her work ethic, energy and sense of humor are shining in this fairy tale musical," Cobb said. "She has 60 high school students moving at the same time, on the same foot, extending the correct hand, jumping on the same beat, and turning in the same direction — all this while the girls wear huge dresses and the guys wear tights, not a small feat."

Kovick, who is affectionately called K-Dog by some of the students, does it all with a smile, a gracious gesture and a warm tone, Cobb said.

Tickets are \$8 for students and \$10 for adults; performances are at 7:30 p.m. March 27, 28 and 29 and at 2 p.m. March 29 and 30.

For more information, call the school at (248) 785-2005 or Cobb at (248) 785-2009.

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Plan would redevelop Orchard Lake corridor

BY PAUL R. PACE
STAFF WRITER

A group of residents and government officials may help to make one of the most heavily traveled thoroughfares in Oakland County a little more manageable.

The Orchard Lake Road Corridor Study Group has taken the initiative over the past three years to come up with a plan to make Orchard Lake Road, which travels through six communities, look better, travel easier and display consistent elements in roadways, signage and business designs.

Marcella Montante, chairwoman for the study group, spoke about the group's efforts at a recent Farmington Hills City Council meeting.

The cities of Farmington Hills, Keego Harbor, Sylvan Lake, the village of Orchard Lake and the townships of Bloomfield and West Bloomfield are all part of the study.

From busy traffic areas with strip malls and office units to tranquil settings, the mission is to make the corridor consistent in appearance, an easier place to travel and do business, and to promote pedestrian use.

"We want to have one complementary vision for the corridor," said Montante, who also serves as vice chairwoman of the West Bloomfield Planning Commission.

The report was not submitted as a

master plan, only to help city officials with future development ideas, she added.

Ed Gardiner, a Farmington Hills city planner, also served with the study group, which met once a month.

He said implementing a board and a business improvement district would be a positive next step.

"We realize businesses have to buy in (to the concept) or it won't happen," he said. "We also need consistent zoning standards."

According to the study report, the south Orchard District extends from just north of Maple Road to I-696.

A roundabout and boardwalk are proposed for the Orchard Lake/Bowers Road intersection. A boulevard would also separate two-way traffic leading to the roundabout, with setback parking.

Oakland County also has proposed roundabouts at 14 Mile and Maple, which will require the reconfiguration of those intersections.

"We're working with state representatives to lock into a business improvement district," Montante said.

She added the group plans to meet in the middle of April to discuss ways to implement the program.

Montante said Keego Harbor and Sylvan Lake already have projects in the works.

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Tyndale College plans for another semester

BY PAUL R. PACE
STAFF WRITER

William Tyndale College in Farmington Hills is making plans to offer a spring/summer semester while officials pursue options to merge with other another college or be taken over.

Provost Gary Oster said it's possible plans could change after May graduation, while officials debate the next move.

In an effort to keep the 58-year-old Christian-based college autonomous, 11 staff members put out a call to raise \$1 million by March 25.

So far, that effort raised about \$135,000, Oster said. The money will be returned if the school is merged or bought out, he added.

Tyndale's board of directors voted March 5 to close the school after May graduation unless a merger with a

similar college or a buyout agreement could be reached before then.

said Karen Mulligan, college spokeswoman.

While different schools have shown support, officials won't say which are interested in either merging with or buying out Tyndale, which has about 450 students.

Past fund-raising efforts and anticipated increases in enrollment failed to meet expectations in recent years, which led to increasing debt, Mulligan said.

On Wednesday, Oster said the board is open to searching for ways to keep the school open and officials should know about the college's future in about two weeks.

"We're working as hard as we can to do this correctly," he said.

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