

Junior high is giving kids a chance at drama

By MARTHA MAHAN

FARMINGTON — Some night later this season, a normally polite audience of Farmington young people is going to hiss the actors on the stage.

And the actors are going to love it.

The situation will be new in another way as well.

For the first time, junior high school students are going to present drama, just as the high school students do.

The young people, all ninth graders at Farmington Junior High, have been rehearsing since before the start of Christmas vacation for their big evening dubbed "A Night of One Acts."

The program will consist of three comedies: "I'll Never Leave You Lizzie," "Waiting for the Mail" and "Flora of the Flower Shop."

The latter is expected to draw the hisses and cheers. It's an oldtime melodrama complete with overdone mortgage, villain and quivering beautiful young girl.

Jim Quinn, who takes the role of the mustache twirling scoundrel, "makes a tremendous villain," according to Jean Young, English and drama teacher and overall director of the three plays.

The idea of staging the comedies grew out of a drama class offered at the junior high school for the first time this year.

About 45 young people auditioned. A cast of 22 was chosen plus a student director for each play, stage crew and manager and a publicity committee.

Each play has a senior high school director and a ninth grade assistant director.

One group rehearses once a week at Farmington High School where the "Night of One Acts" will be presented while the other two groups rehearse in classrooms at their junior high school.

Senior high directors are Sue Deadman, Kathy Berry and Beth McKee. Their junior high assistants are Julie Kawai, Tammie Durfee and Jan Jagielky.

Dunkel holds science fair

FARMINGTON — O.E. Dunkel Junior High School will hold its annual Science Fair, Feb. 15 and 16.

More than 200 seventh, eighth and ninth graders will have displays on exhibit.

Hours will be from 7 to 9 p.m. on Feb. 15 and from 10 to 11:30 a.m. on Feb. 16.

Prize ribbons will be awarded the top three projects in each grade, along

Beth Howder is chairman of publicity and Steve Kenner manages the stage crew.

Each play also has a teacher advisor. Serving in the roles are Mrs. Judy Foster and Miss Mary Shaw, both English teachers, and Mrs. Marge Kalec, a counselor. Teacher Art Lennox of the special education department is working with the stage crew.

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Lecture starts art series

FARMINGTON — A lecture entitled "A Painter's Journey Through Art" will be presented Thursday as part of the Farmington Community Center's "All About Art" series beginning at 8 p.m.

Veteran artist Constance Whidden, who teaches painting and drawing at the Cranbrook Academy of Art museum and at the Village

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Robbers hit restaurant

FARMINGTON — A gunman robbed Biffs restaurant at 12 Mile and Orchard Lake in Farmington Hills early Tuesday morning, according to Farmington Hills police.

Employees said a man armed with a small handgun robbed them of \$160.

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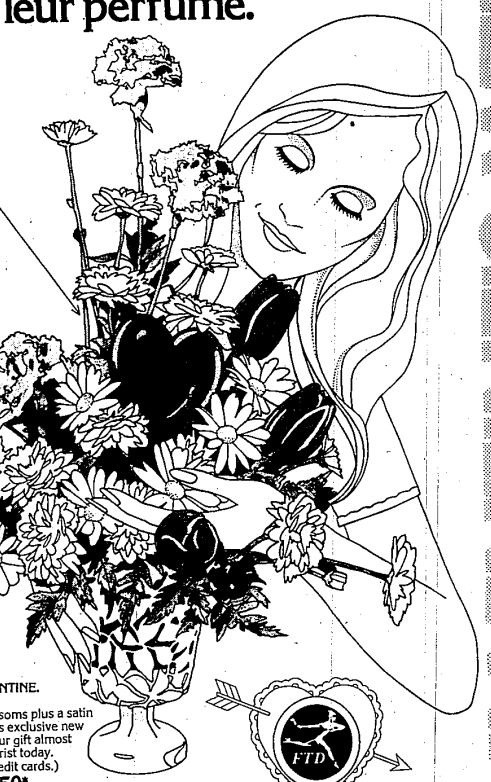
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