

Phi Beta Kappa

FARMINGTON HILLS—Robert Davis, 2538 Old Franklin, was recently initiated into Phi Beta Kappa at University of Michigan.



KEVIN BUSH



LORNA LEROUX



BRIAN TUPPER

Teacher bleeds for class

FARMINGTON—Teachers often donate extra time and effort to their students' projects, but it's unusual for them to donate blood, too. When some of their students studying microbiology needed blood samples to continue their independent studies, Farmington High biology teacher

Jane Heckman had the school nurse withdraw 10 cc of her blood.

Microbiology students Lorna Leroux and Kevin Bush then suspended most of the blood in a liquid culture, which they will incubate for a week.

They didn't say what they expect to find, but if the tests are successful, Miss Heckman will be able to check her own blood chromosome count and see whether her cells are undergoing proper mitosis.

"We have to culture the blood, which breaks down the cell walls and affects the chromosomes," Kevin explained. "Then we have to find them."

Defined by the students, microbiology is the preparation of slides. It involves cutting cells, staining, imbedding and fixing them so that they can be viewed through a microscope.

Bush and Miss Leroux are two of several students who have exhausted Farmington High's curriculum of biology classes and have advanced past anything the school has to offer in the subject.

Both became interested in microbiology and spent their study halls researching the project under Ms. Heckman's direction.

Working with a centrifuge to separate different components in the blood, the students will prepare the slides, take pictures of them through a microscope camera, and record their findings in a log. The log is occasionally checked by Ms. Heckman, who initials the last entry and makes comments on the project's progress.

Although they would probably like to spend more time on their study project, both students have part-time jobs. They both intend to continue studies in the medical field at college.

BUSH AND MISS LEROUX aren't the only students doing independent study projects in Farmington High's science department. Brian Tupper and Scott Pitco are

partners conducting studies in animal behavior.

"We observe them under some degree of either sight, hearing, or whatever, and see how they react to the environment," Tupper said.

By "them," he referred to an odd assortment of hamsters, white mice and a pair of gerbils.

After defining the five senses they could test, the students generated experiments "based on what we could do to that sense."

"Our purpose is to see how they react differently under certain conditions. After we have tested them, we see whether they eat, what time, and questions like that," Tupper explained.

In one of their more recent tests they allowed the little animals to run through a maze of mirrors, while a strobe light flashed at various speeds above it. The students watched for variation in speed and completion of the maze, and noted whether the animals appeared to be frightened of their own reflection.

TO TUPPER behavior "seems a mystery," which is part of the reason he wanted to study it.

"We've always worked with dead things in biology classes, and never with live things," he explained, saying he was interested in the practical application of science.

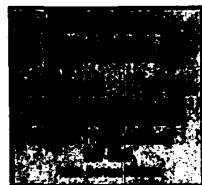
Sometimes experiments may take an unexpected tack, as they did when the animal behavior experiment expanded to include breeding.

"IT'S NOT PART of the experiment, but a sideline to help defray the costs," Tupper said. Even so, the students continue to take notes on animal behavior throughout the breeding.

Any animals not used in the experiments are sold to pet stores to help provide the laboratory animals with adequate food and bedding at minimal cost to the students.

Grace festival Friday night

FARMINGTON—On Friday, May 26, from 6:30-8:30 p.m., William Grace school will hold an ice cream festival on the school grounds. In addition to ice cream sundaes, there will be games, a moon walk and a concert by the school band.



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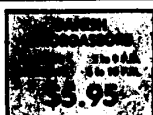
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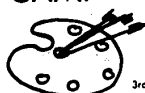


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Coalition takes county to task

The Coalition for Block Grant Compliance has filed a complaint against Oakland County for failing to estimate housing needs of lower income families in an application for federal funds.

The complaint was filed with the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in Washington by the National Committee Against Discrimination in Housing after the coalition added the county's application to a list of communities allegedly in violation of the Community Development Act.

According to the coalition, deficiencies in the Oakland County application include inadequate estimates of housing needs of persons expected to live in the county and inadequate goals for assisted housing, particularly for non-elderly families.

COALITION MEMBERS also claim the application lacks "maximum feasible priority for activities which aid

lower-income families or eliminate blight."

Other charges are lack of conformance with adopted Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) housing goals and lack of equal opportunity for housing assistance for nonresidents.

The coalition has removed its objection to community development block grant applications of Clanton Township, Rockwood and Waterford Townships.

"The agreement reached with officials of Waterford Township in Oakland County is an outstanding example of how a community can voluntarily respond to the basic purposes of the HUD Housing and Community Development Act," said Joe Guggenheim, coordinator of the coalition.

"The coalition will be using this agreement as a model in discussions with other municipalities on full compliance with the housing and civil rights requirements of the act."

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