

Waiting for class to begin is a full-time occupation

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY
Empty hallways and silent classrooms belie the activity that still goes on in Farmington schools during the summer.

Stroll down the deserted hallways of Farmington High School. Never forgotten smells cleaning fluid and dusty boxes of books fresh from summer storage waft across the stillness. Brooms and boxes take up space in the corridors that will be crowded with students in a few weeks.

In the glass and wood enclosed school office, business goes on as usual. Secretaries and helpers shuffle through papers and supplies honing to establish order before the chaos of the first day of school.

Mrs. Nora Bartsch, school secretary confers with Farmington High School Principal Jerry Potter in his office. Papers are passed between Mrs. Bartsch and Potter. Both are gearing up for the school's college style class registration, Sept. 7. Classes begin Sept. 8. Until then, Potter's summer af-

terns are spent indoors overseeing maintenance work, interviewing pink-slipped teachers and seeing parents of new students.

CONTACTING NEW PARENTS is a special summer project.

"Moving in is a traumatic experience to some. We try to personalize the situation," explained Potter.

Somewhere down the hall, on the other side of the building Harold Dunlap is working on the school's swimming pool while Potter is surveying the situation in the front office. Dunlap takes care of checking the filters, cleaning the lockers, washing swim suits and laundering football uniforms.

During football season, life gets hectic for Dunlap as he works to keep up with the load of dirty uniforms the players give him to wash for the next day's game.

As the creaking of the janitor's mop fades away into another part of the building, a steady thump, thump of a basketball leaks into the hallway outside of the gym. Inside the noise of

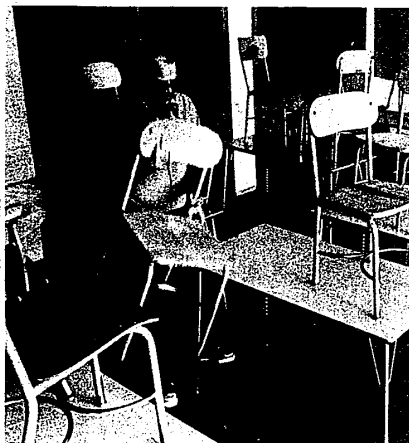
the practice game competes with the blare of taped rock music as the girls varsity team revs up for the coming year. Farmington High's gym looks too neat and shiny as the girls run through their paces.

Around the corner, the deserted cafeteria looks larger than it does during the school year. Its chairs and tables are stored in the adjacent corridor. A silent cash register stands in the corner, advertising that its total sales are zero.

Contrast that unusual stillness with the flurry of activity further down the hall where printing instructor Dennis Zaleski is finishing up the school's orders for stationery and forms.

IN HIS PRINT shop the instructor takes a vacation from his students and devotes about seven weeks of the summer to supplying the district with envelopes, stationery and short forms.

This summer he has about 120 jobs to complete. Preferring to take his vacation during the spring and winter, Zaleski admits that he enjoys being alone in the print shop. It helps to refresh him for another year of teaching students the trade.



School work

Assistant Principal Walter Scobie (top left) catches up on unpacking some library books while Harold Dunlap (far left) takes chairs off a newly polished classroom floor. It's part of the combined efforts of janitors and teachers to ready the building for another year of learning. (Staff photos by Harry Mauthe)



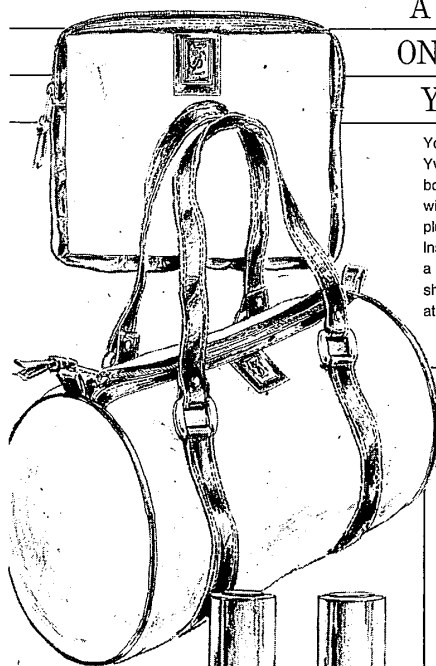
While students enjoy their summer vacation, life continues in the building. Dennis Zaleski (right) makes sure the district's printing is completed while (below) Farmington High School Principal Jerry Potter and secretary Mrs. Nora Bartsch confer about the coming year.



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