

Wall Street wizardry wins

Investors grapple with math

By LYNN ORR

Some O.E. Dunckel Junior High eighth-graders are boasting about triple increases on investments and rare high returns on dividends, which isn't surprising considering each math student had \$5,000 to invest.

Although the money and stocks lack authenticity, instructors John Pollak and Mark Gualdoni have discovered that students aim for accuracy when they're wheeling and dealing in the stock market.

"I've got to do a lot of figuring," says David Bembas, who tripled his investment. "I bought Trans Mag for \$20 a share and it's up to \$101," said David, who was cashing in his stock at the stock table and banking the earnings in the "Bank of Italy."

Five of Pollak's math classes were involved in the week-long Wall Street wizardry developed by Pollak and speech teacher Gualdoni.

"Mark developed the concept while student teaching, and we decided to try it in here," Pollak said.

Each student received \$5,000 to invest in one of two international banks or 15 companies. The banks offered daily interest rates plus loans and high interest time certificates.

THE STOCK MARKET offered high-low profits and losses, along with daily dividends, and the 15 simulated stock certificates used the name of Dunckel teachers and administrators.

Each student was responsible in developing an individual profit-loss statement and an income tax return.

"We move around a lot and learn about life," said David, who was enjoying totaling up his earnings. Mary Jo Benesh put most of her money in the bank and wasn't doing as well, financially, although her math computations looked accurate.

Mark Orzment was totaling up \$461,000 on his initial investment. "I put it all in the bank today, and I'm figuring out my interest," he said with a big grin.

Pollak expected a few problems to develop, and when some students were caught sneaking a peek at the next day's stock prices, a grand jury investigation was announced.

"Eight people had looked or received information, so we fined most of them and one student served a jail sentence instead of a fine."

"I worked it out with the principal so she walked around the school with a wastebasket and picked up paper," Pollak said. "I expect that I'd worry about students if everything went as planned."

ORIGINALLY A SHOP TEACHER, Pollak wants to make math practical for the students and entertaining when possible.

"A rigid, structured class is fine for some people, but not for me. I'd just as soon do different things."

He recently built a study area of two carpeted platforms with two beanbag chairs where students can work or relax if they've completed their assignments. And Bob Seger might be on the record player while the students are working out problems.

"As long as they're quiet and constructive, I like the class to be flexible," he says.

This spring, he's planning a career program where students will pick out a career and create math problems encountered in the particular field.

And some of his students are designing a geometric mural to coincide with a geometry unit to be studied shortly.

"The idea is to keep them moving."



Becky Bush uses a hand calculator to determine her weekly earnings.



Instructor John Pollak answers a question raised by student John McQuillan. (Staff photos by Harry Mauthe)



Dave Bembas (left) and Dave Pachan calculate their earnings with an overhead guide detailing interest computations.

Lack of interest motivates rejection of ecology team

By STEVE BARNABY
Farmington editor

Too few residents are interested enough in the ecology movement to justify a resource recovery commission in Farmington Hills, according to council members who defeated a motion to establish such a commission at this week's council session.

In a 3-3 split, the council failed to approve a request by Farmington Hills resident Nancy Kourtjian to institute the commission, which would handle glass and paper recycling duties.

Presently, the glass and paper recycling effort is handled by a local chapter of Earth Alive, of which Mrs. Kourtjian is the prime mover.

Voting against the proposal were councilmembers Robert Amor, Joan Dudley and Fred Lichtman. In favor were councilmembers Jan Dolan, Earl Oppenheimer and Joan Smith. Mayor Keith Deacon was absent.

Lichtman led the opposition to establishing the commission, while Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Dolan led the debate in favor.

"This is just another one of those items broadly categorized as hobbies that people get tired of and the city ends up paying for," said Lichtman.

The voluntary paper collection program has been a "dud," said Lichtman, and the city should be wary of establishing another commission which could end up hiring employees, he contended.

He derided past efforts of a volunteer ecology movement in which he said few volunteers turned out.

Under the proposal, the commission would have two goals:

•To plan and facilitate the transfer of the glass and paper recycling operation to the city by the fall of 1977.

•To study on a continuing basis the long-range solid waste management plans of Farmington Hills and Oakland County and to coordinate various federal Environmental Protection Agency grants that are available. The proposed commission also would meet to discuss and make suggestions regarding source separation, source reduction and resource recovery methods.

"We're already paying for services to pick up and dump trash. I just don't think that this is that important. If we want to live within our tax base, we should stick to it," said Lichtman.

MRS. SMITH DEFENDED the proposal, saying its intent only was to study the future of such a commission and was not to get the city to finance the program.

"Sometimes it's a little easier for residents of one community studying a project to get information from another city if they have a title. Where does it say they want to be funded?" she asked.

Lichtman disagreed, saying that to facilitate meant to make happen and if volunteers didn't make it happen, then the city would be financially obligated to make it happen.

He also objected to environmental activists studying the subject for the city, saying the results would be slanted.

Mrs. Dolan said the commission should be given a chance.

"Mrs. Kourtjian wants to study other programs such as in Southfield to see what can be done," she said.

But Lichtman also objected to that, saying that Southfield levied more mills and Farmington Hills couldn't afford a comparable program.

Arts commission seeks nominations

The Farmington Arts Commission's Annual Artist-in-Residence Tribute Program is again seeking nominations from the community for the 1977 Artist-in-Residence.

Nominees who are distinguished in the arts and residents of the Farmington community (both the City of Farmington and Farmington Hills) are eligible.

Deadline for the nominations is April 1, and nominations should be submitted to the Farmington Arts

Commission, 3184 Eleven Mile, Farmington Hills 48034, or the nomination can be addressed to any member of the Tribute Committee.

Committee members include: Bob Amor, Nancy Bates, Bill Hartstock, Dan Greenberg and Annie Lynch.

The committee plans a tribute similar to last year's tribute to Hillbilly Snapsheet Joe Clark who received a cash award and an exhibition of his work at a reception.

Boncher promoted

William R. Boncher, son of Mrs. Lawrence J. Boncher of Farmington Hills, has been promoted to cadet staff sergeant at Howe Military School, Howe, Ind. Cadet Boncher is a junior.



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