## Fireman Frank fights fires with words and wit

Frank Couttis steps away from the podium and starts jabbing fingers at his young audience.
"What do you do when you house is on fire?" he asks. "You get up and get mut the door.

out the door.
"If the door is hot or warm, don't, open it. Go the window and wait until the fire department arrives. But don't wait until you get hurt.
"And don't worry about the pets and Mom and Dad. Watch yourself."

Working around the group at Alex Manoogian School in Southfield, he Manoogian School in Southfield, he keeps asking questions and dishing out short, no-nonsense answers. A car salesmant-uncel-fireman, he seems to have found his calling and goes at it with an almost evangelistic zealent, began talking to groups about fire safety last year. Since then, he has logged more than 50 speaking engage-ments and now poses as "Fireman Prank" about once a week.

COUTTIS DOES ALL this without COUTTIS DICES ALL this without any pay from his employer, the South-field Fire Department, where he has worked for the past four years. He initiated the idea and continues to seek engagements, he says. to get out the word about saving lives.

"This is important," he tells a visitor while waiting to talk to a group of

100 students at the private Southfield school recently. "It's important to the lidits. They ask. What do I do in a fire?" I tell them. Maybe it'll help."
A stocky man with a mustache and a quick smile. Couttis began his career as Fireman Frank while giving tours of the Southfield Fire Station and tossing in tips on fire safety as he guided people through the station. Because he is also a paramedic with the department's Life Support Unit (LSU), he was able to add a few pointers about first aid and safety.
Now he finds himself talking to shorter, suppose of housewievs and business people. But it is in the schools where he often finds the need the greatest to delivery his message. "In surprased how enlightener kids." In went to school. Three kids in the classroom know all the answers, they need'th vorry. Fireman Frank has the answers to almost every question.

ON STAYING CALM during a fire:

ON STAYING CALM during a fire: "Listen to the adults. But if you're by-yourself. listen to yourself." On smoke detectors: "If you've got a smoke detector in your home, you want to sleep with your door open. You want to hear that BEEEEP."

On what to do if the doorway is blocked by fire or smoke: "Go to a



On dealing with limbs that have been severed: "Amputations. 1 hope you never see one. If you do, find the piece. Put it on ice."

ON DRUGS AND related problems: "I don't want to dwell on drugs. I'm not a cop. You're old enough, think for yourself. But I wish I could show you how bad a drug overdose looks."

On determining if a bone is broken: "If your arms at an angle, or if it's swollen, it's broken."

On babysitting and fire safety: "You're at somebody else's house. You have to know how to get you and that kid out of the house."

Fireman Frank launches into his safety talks with an almost evangelistic zeal. For the car salesman who became a fireman, the message is

simple—stay cool and stay alive. "Maybe it'll belp," he says of his lectures, which are done on his own time. (Staff photo by Gary Friedman)

Civic Theatre. does musical

The powerful musical "Man of La Mancha" will close the season for the Southfield Civic Theatre.

and the season for trying to collect taxes from a church. Cervantes bargains for his life in prison and takes the prisoners on a voyage through his life as a woebenekingth. Val Sisto, a veterand season for the season

Nelson. Quixote's nemesis. Sanson Carrasco is played by Lisa Helen Senal: the housekeeper is Annette Henrion and Nick Young is the padre. The innkeeper and his wife are played by William Daven port and Jeanne Johannes.

Johannes.

The play will run from May 18-21 with 8 p.m. performances at the South-field Civic Center.



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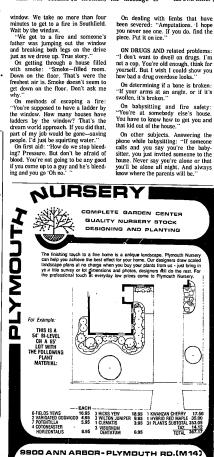
#### Pots displayed

Primitive-surfaced clay vessels by Guy Ademec are on exhibit at the Kingswood Art Gallery through May 14. The gallery is in Kingswood School, 885 Lone Pine. It in open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays. The artist, a Cranbrook Academy of Art alumnus, has work in the permanent collections of the Detroit Institute of Arts, Fünt Institute of Art, Cranbrook Academy and Knox College. He fires his unglazed pots only once. The exteriors are relatively calm, but the interiors hold unexpected objects.

#### Students listed to honor roll

A total of 571 students at Michigan State University achieved a 4.0 or straight A average during the winter term, including several Southfield residents.

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