

## Junk food dumped from school texts

By JUDITH BERNE

Two area women have won a drive to oust advertising and junk foods from a math series used in more of the nation's schools than any other.

Scott, Foresman & Co. has gone on record it will revise its text books "to avoid the use of the kinds of illustrations that have created concern in the past."

In a letter to State Superintendent of Schools John W. Porter, the company says these directives have been given to all its textbook editors:

- When food items are shown or mentioned in isolation, use only highly nutritious foods rather than foods with high sugar content or with questionable nutritional value.
- Visual or textual uses of specific brand names should be avoided.

"HOORAY FOR us. We got exactly what we asked for," said Janice Rolnick of Farmington Hills. The Farmington school board member and her friend, Elaine Miller of West Bloomfield, last fall formed the Committee Against Textbook Commercialization to combat illustrations and brand names in the math series, "Mathematics around Us."

Their children were doing math problems which involved such brand name products as Hostess Twinkies, Hershey's chocolate bars, Snaps Iced-riced, Jujyfruits candies and Coca-Cola. In addition to their objections of the nutritional quality of the products in the problems, the women were against free product advertising in educational materials used by the public schools.

Scott, Foresman maintained the objects were picked to follow up on teachers' advice that examples be familiar to children and relevant to everyday use.

THE WOMEN, their children and friends collected 1,500 signatures demanding "the state of Michigan discontinue the use of public textbooks,

educational materials and instructional systems as a medium for advertising and promoting junk food."

Signers deplored "depiction of commercial connections, candy, cakes, cookies and other junk foods as models in graphs in public school texts" which "effectively teach children dietary patterns that are harmful and hazardous to their health."

The committee claimed, "graphic portrayal of the high sugar, low nutritional items are not necessary and destructive as visual learning aids. They constitute free advertising promoted by the state directed toward a captive audience of children."

With Scott, Foresman's declaration, the women no longer feel it necessary to pursue that legislation, according to Mrs. Rolnick.

"Now we don't have to wait a year to get the legislature to act through a bill," she said. "If they're (Scott, Foresman) going to eliminate it, rest assured the others will too."

She said the committee will not disband. "We'll just be there" in case other instances arise.

BOTH WOMEN complimented the state superintendent for his support and action in the matter.

Porter backed their position, contacted Scott, Foresman and alerted other state superintendents to the matter. He further urged legislative action, if necessary, through amending the present school book code.

It was the women's first major consumer effort although both are active on the local scene. Mrs. Miller is currently running for a seat on the West Bloomfield school board.

"We are delighted and gratified that our goals were accomplished and consumer action was effective," she said.

They (Scott, Foresman) got many complaints. They really studied the issues. I am very pleased they were so responsive."



Sister Mary Ignatius, who has taught thousands of students the beauties of crafting art, will soon retire her post at Mercy High School, leaving it in charge of two of her former students. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

## Farewell

### Sister Ignatius prepares to retire

By MARY GNIEWEK

Some people call Sister Mary Ignatius the living symbol of Mercy High School.

It is a claim that would be hard to dispute. Sister Ignatius joined the Sisters of Mercy in 1922 and has since racked up 54 years as a school teacher, spending the last 30 years as art department chairwoman at Mercy.

She plans to step down from that post next month, leaving her award-winning department in the hands of three trusted instructors, who are all former students.

Her departure comes on doctor's orders: she suffered a flair-up of a leg injury and was told to stay off her feet. So she will lessen her workload that now includes five days of teaching, weekends preparing lessons and exhibits, and personal projects she does as an established sculptor, painter, mosaic-maker and calligrapher.

"I'll never get old," she says. "Don't put down that I'm retiring, because I'm not."

In September, she's moving down the road to Mercy Center, the senior citizen activities building adjacent to the school on Eleven Mile and Middlebelt, to teach art to adults. She's also been commissioned by the National Bank of Detroit to do a tile mosaic of the company logo for the lobby of its new headquarters. Sister Ignatius did the AAA insignia in mosaic at the Automotive Club's Dearborn center.

WATCHING HER IN action, it's hard to imagine Sister Ignatius in

retirement. This year, she breezed through the rigors of teaching 280 disciples of art. Besides classwork, she prepares for a constant stream of exhibits and competitions. Currently, 180 pieces of work are on display in the lobby of Detroit's Fisher Building. Mercy is the only high school that has exhibited at the prestigious city landmark.

"Teaching is my life. I love working with children, to prepare them to be successful artists. If they show an aptitude for teaching, I push them in that direction," she said.

"I'm a firm believer in basics. If you can master foundation, you can take on any craft. We stress creativity and strive to achieve excellence."

Students sign each work with discreetly placed initials "A.M.D.G." which is the Latin abbreviation for "All for the greater glory of God."

"Michelangelo used to make a small cross with his chisel on every piece he did. I've made it a habit to do something, too."

Sister Ignatius' mosaics hang in 11 churches, as well as hospitals and chapels across the state. At Mercy, 21 of her mosaics hang in the hallways. She also decorated the school chapel with wood-carved statues and a floor-to-ceiling mosaic behind the altar.

STUDENT PAINTINGS also hang throughout the school. The young artists have donated dozens of works to Mount Carmel Hospital and Focus: Hope in Detroit.

"We enter poster contests that help social causes, like alcohol pre-

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## Training center takes students on a road trip

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

Music, dance and theater skills are filtering into the curriculum for retarded students.

While performing skills remain a part of extra-curricular activities at the Farmington Training Center, the classes may become a part of the regular schedule, according to Frances Aron, a teacher at the school.

Recently her students performed in and handled backstage preparations for a play presented to the training center's students.

Her troupe will take the play, "The Speechless Princess" to other schools for the retarded such as Lamphere in Sterling Heights, Pontiac-Waterford Training Center and Wing Lake Center in Birmingham.

Each actor's part was geared to his capabilities. Deaf children or students with speech disabilities were given non-speaking roles. Other students danced, sang and recited lines.

Repeating lines and a simple plot made it easier for the children to participate.

BUT TEACHING THE script to the students followed a time honored procedure in the theater.

"You approach it as with any other person. Everyone has disabilities," said Theresa Seyforth, who teaches drama at the Friends of the Retarded Conservatory in Birmingham.

"The students interpret things in ways I wouldn't have thought," she said.

But she helps them relate the experi-

ences of the characters on stage to their own life experiences.

When a student was learning a monologue from "I Never Sang for My Father," she couldn't comprehend the action in the play.

"I related it to something he might have experienced in his own life," she said.

Learning a theater skill makes for a well-rounded student — a concept that has been missing in some programs for the retarded, according to Mrs. Aron.

Vocational skills and social adaptability are stressed in classes for the retarded. Eventually the students were given jobs in sheltered workshops or in outside industry, depending on their abilities.

Only a few made it into outside industry. Those who didn't were left

with a large portion of leisure time, according to Mrs. Aron.

"THEY SIT IN front of the television," she said.

Programs are gradually broadening to include some leisure skills such as dancing, arts, crafts and theater within the regular curriculum of social and vocational training.

Besides providing enjoyment to the student, these new leisure skills promote some of the lessons covered in the classroom.

Students practice working in a group, much as they will need to do when they graduate into a job. They learn to accomplish a task by following a sequence of actions. On stage they must know when to enter and exit.

Working in a group enhances a

student's self image of himself, she added.

Ms. Seyforth uses the play to reinforce students' confidence in themselves.

One student who had difficulty speaking clearly was given a speaking role in a play.

"It helps them learn confidence," she said.

Another good affect of the class is friendships that spring up between students.

"Many don't have the experience of friends," she said.

WHEN STUDENTS view the play, they are experiencing a feeling of identity with the actors. They know some of the actors.

"They think, if she can do it I can do it," said Mrs. Aron.

In addition to plays, Farmington Training Center is using puppetry and dance to teach students.

Both classes are aided by artists-in-residence financed through a Title I grant from federal, state and county agencies.

Puppetry teacher Raken Leaves works with the language teacher to aid students in learning to communicate.

Dance teacher Christopher King works with the gym instructor to teach children how to coordinate themselves and move their bodies.

"The students are learning things they should know in a fun way," said Mrs. Aron.

The Friends of the Retarded Conservatory and Farmington Training Center draw students from the Farmington, Southfield, Novi and Birmingham area.



Scott Scherrer walks from the Oakland County Sheriff's Department bus to his pre-trial hearing in Farmington Hills District court last week. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

## Date set this week

### Scherrer to face trial

Farmington Hills attorney P. Scott Scherrer was bound over for trial in Oakland County Circuit Court last Thursday on four counts of embezzlement.

A trial date is expected to be set this week, said Farmington Hills Detective John Hedrick.

Scherrer, 39, arrived for the pre-trial exam in Farmington Hills 47th District Court via bus from the Oakland County jail, where he is being held on \$100,000 bond.

Fifty warrants related to bogus bond sales and land investment deals have been issued against Scherrer since March.

District Judge Michael J. Hand presided at the pre-trial exam. Witnesses included Dr. Howard Stevens, a Toledo, Ohio anesthesiologist who said he paid Scherrer \$20,000 for land investments in Farmington Hills in September 1977.

Dr. Stevens testified that he thought he was investing in property located at Farmington Road and I-696 that was going to be developed for apartments.

The scheme was to be a \$1 million development in the guise of a partnership, formed in March 1978, Stevens

testified. Stevens said he signed a joint venture agreement in Scherrer's Farmington Hills office, but never received a copy of the contract.

The property is owned by the University Hills Church whose pastor, Dr. Jay Harold Ellens, testified that the land was not for sale.

SCHERRER was arraigned Friday morning in 46th District Court in

Southfield on three counts: taking money over \$100 under false pretenses, embezzlement and a securities violation.

The court set a \$3,000 personal bond on those charges. No pre-trial date was set.

Scherrer will appear in Farmington Hills District Court again today for a pre-trial exam on 37 counts related to other fraud schemes.

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LIBRARY ELECTION

Don't forget that Tuesday is the day to vote on the library question. Your vote will determine whether the library will be able to levy its own millage and have an independent ruling body.