

Pulling strings

Puppets deliver safety message to children

By Joanne M. Gorman
staff writer

Farmington Hills juvenile and crime prevention officers are still learning the art of puppetry.

But if the enthusiasm of the first- and second-grade students at St. Fabian's Elementary School in Farmington Hills are any indication, the officers and their puppets made a hit.

"We're still learning. It just takes a lot of time," said officer Dennis Brilla while manipulating one of the police department's seven new puppet/marionettes.

The Farmington Hills safety program, highlighted by puppets and their tape-recorded voices, is a first in Oakland County. The seven puppets and tapes were purchased with the help of the Farmington-area Lions Club.

THE PUPPETS, manipulated from behind a curtain, help Farmington Hills officers explain, and teach children about, for example, bicycle and personal safety, vandalism and substance abuse.

Each of the programs is geared for a

particular age group. Brilla said "Stranger Danger," for example, was presented to the first- and second-grade students at St. Fabian's last Friday. The substance abuse program, on the other hand, is presented to older children.

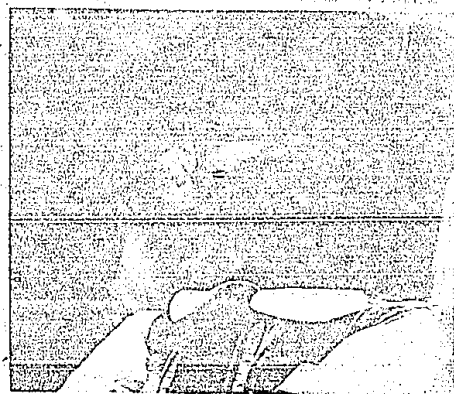
Used in the "Stranger Danger" presentation is Officer Ollie, a puppet dressed in police clothing who talks to the children about staying away from strangers.

"We try to hit them hard with some basic facts," Brilla said, referring to the short 15-30 minute program.

WHILE ONE of the Farmington Hills officers asks the children questions about what to do in case a stranger approaches, Officer Ollie reinforces the words of caution without scaring the children.

Meanwhile, a second puppet — Eddie, handled by Officer Paul Cavan — keeps the children's attention by acting out the words of caution, such as running away when a stranger approaches.

The puppet safety programs are provided to schools in the Farmington area at the school's request, Brilla said.



Joel Rupp seemed to enjoy a recent police puppet show at St. Fabian's Elementary School.



Staff photo by RANDY BOND/Staff photographer

Farmington Hills police officer Dennis Brilla (left) manipulates Ollie Officer. Police hope the puppet will deliver the safety message to children.

INSIDE ANGLES

Know someone doing something notable? Let us know. Write: Inside Angles, Farmington Observer, 23352 Farmington Road, Farmington 48024.

MAY 19-26 marks the 31st annual Michigan Week celebration. This year on Monday, May 21, the City of Farmington Hills will be exchanging with the City of Flushing. Mayor Charles Williams will spend the day touring the City of Flushing to become familiar with another community's way of providing services to its residents. The City of Farmington Hills will host Mayor William Jakway and council member Sylvia Rowe.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY invited to an ethnic extravaganza — the annual Farmington Schools multicultural, multilingual open house 6:30-9 p.m. Wednesday, May 23 in East Middle School, 15000 Middlebelt Road. Guest of honor will be Jesse M. Soriano, director for the Office of Bilingual Education and Minority in Washington, D.C.

EARLY REGISTRATION is required for Children's Leukemia Foundation's Moonlight Double Bowling Benefit Saturday, June 9 in Yorba Linda Lanes in Royal Oak. Advance tickets are \$25 a couple and includes three lines of bowling, pizza and entry into all contests. Reservations taken by calling the foundation at 553-8222.

CANDIDATES NIGHT for the Farmington School Board will be at 8 p.m. Thursday, May 31 in Dunckel Middle School, 12800 W. 12 Mile, sponsored by Farmington Branch American Association of University Women in cooperation with PTA Council.

FRANK J. SCHUMACHER III, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Schumacher of Farmington Hills and a 1980 graduate of Harrison High School, graduated from the United States Military Academy, West Point. The ceremonies will take place on May 23. He received a bachelor of science degree in engineering and was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the regular U.S. Army. Lt. Schumacher, who will serve in the artillery, is presently on leave and will report to Fort Sill, Okla., in June to begin his new assignment. During his West Point career, he played four years of hockey for West Point.

DO YOU WANT a summer job? If you wait until the summer, you may not find one. If you're 14-17 years old and meet the low-income guidelines, a summer job may be yours this spring. Don't wait. Southfield Community Placement sponsors free

placement assistance to low income, Oakland residents. For further details, contact their free service. Call 354-9187.

SCOTT BERT of Farmington Hills was one of 12 Cranbrook and Kingswood School students who recently placed first in Division II of the Oakland County Science Olympiad. He now has the opportunity to compete in the state finals, to be held at Oakland University.

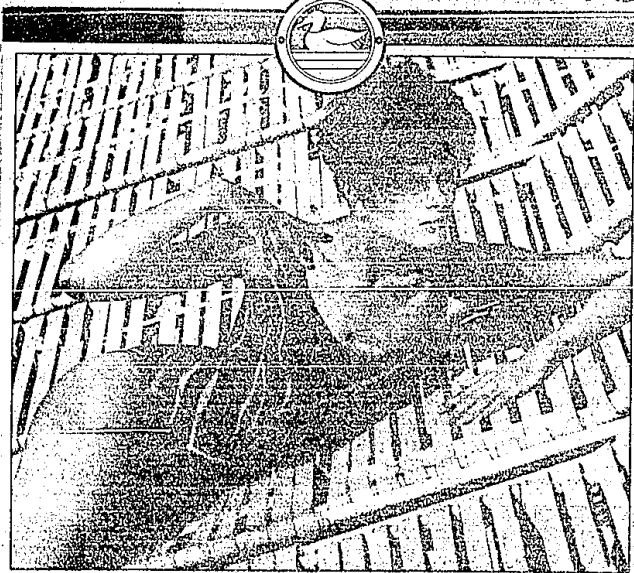
DELPHINE CREASON, Ann Howat and Gary Klawender have qualified to attend the American Investors Life Insurance Co.'s 1984 Sales Convention at Isla de Comuel. They are considered valuable members of the AILI team. They are also participants in the Agents' Stock Ownership Trust, a profit-sharing plan in which the company contributes to buy stock in the company providing retirement benefits to participating agents.

LEONARD NATHANSON, attorney, has been elected first vice president of the American Radio Relay League. He had been serving as the Great Lakes director of that organization until this time. He was recently in Washington, D.C. to meet with Sen. Barry Goldwater, and with Robert Fossamer, chief of the Private Radio Bureau of the Federal Communications Commission, to discuss a joint resolution of Congress regarding Federal pre-emption in the field of antenna regulation as applied to radio reception and transmission.

MATTHEW LOCKER of Farmington, a graduate of Catholic Central High School, was recently chosen the 1984 recipient of Henry Ford Community College's Karl Place Award. The award, honoring the memory of the esteemed former physics professor, is presented annually to the student who has demonstrated excellence in the study of physics. Matthew has maintained a perfect 4.0 average in physical science and holds a 3.87 cumulative average while preparing for a degree in electrical engineering. In addition to his studies, Matthew is employed fulltime as a certified trailer mechanic.

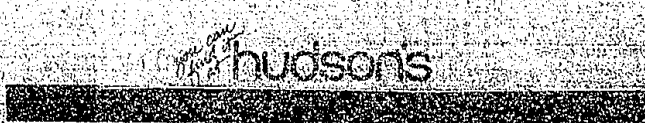
BARBARA STEVENS, a Farmington Hills resident, was recently inducted into the national honor society awarding undergraduates and graduate students for academic excellence in the field of psychology, recognizes both psychology majors and those who have at least 12 credits in the field. Barbara is enrolled in the Master's of Arts in Psychology and Alcohol and Drug Abuse program at Mercy College of Detroit.

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