

Iacocca's firing for Liberty effort knocked

By Bob Sklar
staff writer

Leo Iacocca's ouster as head of the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Centennial Commission prompted a group of Mercy High School students to forgo enshrining proceeds from a fund-raising dance for Lady Liberty's restoration.

The dance sponsor, Farmington Hills Mercy's Michigan Young Democrats chapter, called it "a decision of conscience."

"We felt since Iacocca had done such an outstanding job for the Statue of Liberty thus far, it was rather unfair to take the chairmanship away

from him at this date," said Melissa Gessner of Detroit, a Mercy senior who chairs the school's Michigan Young Democrats chapter.

Focus: HOPE, a Detroit-based charitable organization that Gessner called "very worthwhile," now will receive all proceeds from the dance Friday night.

On Feb. 15, U.S. Department of Interior Secretary Donald Hodel fired Iacocca as chairman and as a member of the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Centennial Commission. The advisory commission recommends how money raised by the Statue of Liberty Foundation, an independent fund-raising group, should be spent.

HODEL CITED A potential conflict because Iacocca also chairs the Statue of Liberty Foundation. Since 1984, the group has raised more than \$225 million for an overhaul of the 27-acre island, where turn-of-the-century immigrants were housed. About \$65 million is ticketed for the statue.

Iacocca denied any shied of a conflict. He speculated that his firing was a political maneuver because he opposed a plan for commercial development on the historic site, which lies in New York Harbor.

Gessner said her 44-member school chapter decided to funnel all dance proceeds into Focus: HOPE "in light of the firing and because there's already enough money for the statue."

"We have no qualms about raising money for the island," she added, "but considering everything, we feel our efforts would be better if we concentrated on Focus: HOPE."

Thirty high schools from both Detroit and the suburbs have been invited to attend the Friday-night dance because, as Gessner put it, "hunger knows no boundaries."

The dance originally had the theme "Save the Lady ... Feed Her Children!"

LAST APRIL, Mercy students held a Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island dance that raised \$1,000. That dance was one of the school's most successful fund-raisers ever. Iacocca endorsed the dance through a letter he wrote, Gessner said.


This year's dance will run 8-11 p.m. Friday at Mercy High School, 29300 11 Mile. Matt Sarafian

will be the disc jockey. Forced Anger and Voices of Dissent, two local progressive music bands, will donate their services. Admission is \$3. McDonald's will provide refreshments.

Invited high schools include Bloomfield Hills Anderson, Redford Bishop Bergess, Birmingham Brother Rice, Detroit Cass Tech, Redford Catholic Central, Livonia Churchill, Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook, Beverly Hills Detroit Country Day.

Also Dearborn Divine Child, Royal Oak Doro, Detroit East Catholic, Livonia Franklin, Birmingham Groves, Farmington Harrison, Bloomfield Hills Kingswood, North Farmington, Bloomfield Hills Labser, Birmingham Marion, Orchard Lake St. Mary, Plymouth Canton, Plymouth Salem.

Others are Detroit Renaissance, Bloomfield Hills Roeper, Southfield, Southfield Lathrup, Redford St. Agatha, Birmingham Seaholm, Royal Oak Shrine, Livonia Stevenson and the University of Detroit.



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Hills OK's expenses

Farmington Hills City Council authorized several purchases Monday.

The council authorized the city manager to purchase:

- annual gravel supply from Suburban Transport, \$58,405.
- annual concrete supply from Claverton Concrete, \$38,520.
- annual culvert supply from Jensen Co., \$6,749.
- annual supply of aluminum sign blanks from Hall Manufacturing, \$5,761.
- annual supply of street and road sign posts from Hall Manufacturing, \$4,824.
- street sweeping services from G. M. Enterprises, \$16,350 per year for 1986 and 1987.
- catch basin and storm sewer cleaning services from Interstate Pipe, \$7,555 for 1986, \$7,374 for 1987.

The council also authorized changing the video production supervisor position in the Department of Special Services from part-time to full-time with a salary range of \$18,299 to \$20,598. Department Director Douglas Gaylor cited an increasing workload as a basis for the change.

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ADDITIONALLY, AVIOLI said, "all inactivity, including sleep, promotes bone resorption," or the leaching of calcium from the bone. "Taking the supplement before bedtime places it in the body when it is needed the most."

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