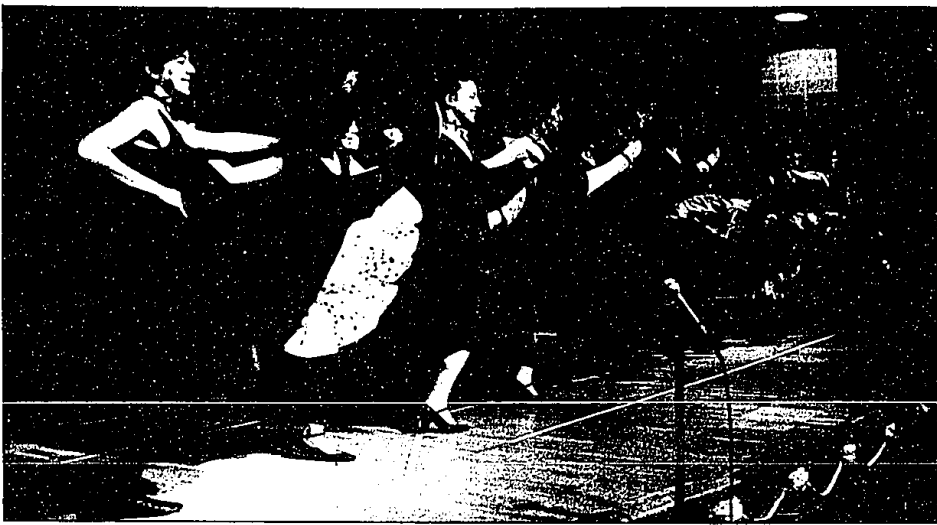




Pledges of the Mercy French Honor Society were in charge of entertainment. Here, several perform the French cancan dance.



Mercy French teacher and department head Joyce Smetanka visited Paris, which gave her the idea for an expanded French Cafe.



The Mercyaires singing group performed a selection from Les Misérables, a Broadway musical set in the time of the French Revolution.

French Cafe

Mercy High goes Gallic for annual event

By Casey Hens
staff writer

PASTRIES, hard-crusted bread, home-baked quiche and the 100-year-old Eiffel Tower each brought a little bit of Paris to Mercy High School this month.

Even the French dance, the cancan, made its local debut during the private high school's annual French Cafe, hosted by the French Honor Society.

A hard-working crew headed by French teacher Joyce Smetanka transformed the school's drama studio into a French street, which included cafe booths filled with fruits and vegetables, streetlights, artists and mimers as part of the festivities. On the stage was music and dancing with a French theme.

This was an extra special year for the school's French Cafe, as students studied the bicentennial of the French Revolution and passed their learn-

ing along to guests invited for lunch.

"THE THOUGHTS just came. It is really exciting," said Smetanka, also French department head at the Farmington Hills school, who has personally experienced the excitement of the French capital city.

"Once they get involved, they really enjoy it. The students really came through for me." Her love of Paris generated the idea. It took the better part of a month to transform the four walls into their dream.

"I always wanted to recreate Paris for them," she said. "I think we've done it."

VISITORS to the French Cafe included teachers and parents — some who also helped serve food — and 300 students from individual Mercy French classes. Also visiting were area eighth graders who were invited as special guests.

Handling entertainment for the French Cafe was a membership requirement for about 50 candidates for the French Honor Society. There are 30 students already inducted into the elite group, similar to the National Honor Society.

As special entertainment, members of the Mercyaires singing group performed selections from the Broadway musical Les Misérables.

Helping with the French Cafe were Mercy language teachers Elizabeth Hartjen and Vita Simutko. Eugene Chapp, the parent of one student, did all construction of the booths and street lights, and four French Honor Society officers also spent time helping. They included: Rebecca Herman, Stephanie Kramer, Julie Lautenheiser and Teresa Coletta.

Artwork in the cafe was done by Soula Gill, Melissa Mace, Jenni Castro and Amy Ha. Other language departments at Mercy also host annual cafes.

Trees, street lights and French-style booths helped set the cafe mood in the Mercy drama studio.



Condos' nature trail stirs safety concerns

Continued from Page 1

SMITH HAD voiced some concerns at a school board meeting early this year. He said he had given a list of suggested safety measures to the developer, including a flag man and stop signs to slow traffic. "If I don't see any extra safety precautions and concerns, we'll request an extra safety patrol," he added.

Milo, who plans to live in the new development upon completion, said he is pleased to be working closely with the district and school. He does not foresee any construction problems.

"It all really makes sense," said Milo. "We're not coming in and going to come blasting through. We're concerned with the kids."

"We're really going to end up being good neighbors."

In keeping with a good neighbor policy, Milo plans to meet with Longacre parents to discuss his project and alleviate any concerns about construction trucks and traffic, he said.

'I'm still concerned with safety issues, but want to work carefully and closely with them.'
— William Smith
Longacre principal

Fourteen condominiums, about 2,300-square-foot each, are planned; some will be detached, and others attached in the more traditional condominium style. They will range in price from \$180,000 to \$160,000, and sit in a heavily wooded and landscaped parcel between the Woodcroft subdivision in Farmington and the Beechwood Estates subdivision in Farmington Hills.

The Farmington Board of Education and Milo came to an agreement Feb. 28, which calls for the following terms:

- Milo will pay \$4,800 in cash for a piece of property on the Longacre grounds, encompassing about four tenths of an acre.
- Milo will develop the nature trail/walkway for use by the Farmington Public Schools.
- the developer's water retention

area will be fenced and landscaped. Milo stresses this will not be a pond, but an area to hold water briefly, until it can go into the city sewer system.

THE DISTRICT also discussed a property swap, in lieu of the purchase, which may be worked out at a future date, Milo said. If this were approved, Milo would own the retention property, and the school district would own the property that holds the nature walkway.

With this final hurdle behind him, Milo hopes to start construction on the units by the end of the month, he said.

The Feb. 28 school board decision wasn't the first step for Milo, who began his project more than one year ago. Because it is in two cities, he had to go through the planning and approval process with both municipalities, which has been time consuming.

He also faced a group of concerned parents and the former Longacre principal when he began the planning phase. Many voiced the same safety concerns which Smith is now highlighting.

All the special requirements and publicity haven't been bad for Milo. He said about half of his units are already sold.

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1:30 P.M. Sunday, March 26, 1989 (Easter)	Ringside (Rows 1-9)	3800	\$700	
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