

# inkwell

Inkwell provides information about primary and secondary education issues and students from the Farmington area. Send information to: Inkwell, The Farmington Observer, 21899 Farmington Road, Farmington, 48338 or fax information to 477-9722.

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**ESSAY WINNERS**

Three students from Power Middle School in Farmington Hills have been named winners in the 21st Annual America & Me Essay Contest, sponsored by Farm Bureau Insurance.

Tom Mondoux won first place, Tara Alcorde second place and Erica Gwynn Third. All three received certificates for their achievement.

As the school's first place winner, Mondoux's name will also be engraved on a plaque for permanent display in the school. His essay now

advances to state level competition, from which the top 10 essays in Michigan will be selected and announced in May. Winners will receive plaques and U.S. savings bonds valued from \$50 to \$1,000.

This year's essay theme was "How I Will Make A Difference In My Corner of America."

"Of the 13 years I've been on this earth, one of the many things I've learned is that life is a lot easier when you consider all your abilities, strengths, gifts and privileges," Mondoux said in his essay.

"Many of us, including myself, do not take enough time to discover how fortunate we are to lead the lives we do.

"It will be my intention to life to be kind to others, and to respect their feelings, to better watch over my home, the Earth, and to set aside more time to thank God for his greatest gift — life."

**SPELLING BEE**

Several fifth and sixth grade students from St. Fabian School in Farmington Hills recently partici-

pated in a spelling bee co-sponsored by Lawrence Technological University and the Detroit News.

Grade spelling bees were completed on Jan. 22 with Michelle Arcilla emerging as the fifth grade winner and C.J. Sinar capturing the sixth grade title. Michelle won the all-school spelling bee which was held on Jan. 22.

Michelle will receive a dictionary with her name imprinted in gold and will represent St. Fabian in an area spelling bee.

St. Fabian School is on 12 Mile Road between Farmington and Orchard Lake Roads and is affiliated with the Catholic church of the same name.

**TOP AWARDS**

Three Farmington-area high school students placed in the top 100 in the Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition, and will be part of a Feb. 29 awards program at Lawrence Technological University in Southfield.

This is the first time three students from the Farmington Public Schools have made it into the top 100.

Winners included Michal Brodsky of Farmington High School, and Avi Drissman and Morris Slutsky, both of Harrison High School.

"I'm very, very proud of the kids," said Ray Voss of the district's gifted services department. "We're strong in math all over the district."

The ceremony will include talks by two nationally known mathematicians and a banquet and awards ceremony in the evening. The competition is an activity of the Michigan Section of the Mathematical Association of America, and is sponsored locally through LTU.

# Trial begins in fireworks beating

Continued from Page 1

selection process, Pitts continued to mention race. "1992 isn't any different than 1984 is it?" he asked.

Could jurors remain impartial to the fact that a white woman was beaten allegedly by black women in Detroit? Pitts directed the question to a white prospective juror. He asked the same of the black prospective jurors.

"We, as blacks, are sometimes more critical of people of our own race," Pitts told the panel.

BACK AND forth Lindsey and Pitts removed prospective jurors. Lindsey excused two black men and three black women. Pitts, on the other hand, excused four white women and one white man.

After three hours, a jury of four whites and 10 blacks was chosen. Two of the 14 jurors will be excused before deliberations begin.

and Melina, and that that same group of women beat Was.

"The first blow was struck by her (Rutherford) group," Lindsey said, referring to Rutherford's statement to Detroit police Sgt. Erny Mlawski several days after the beating.

"She (Rutherford) never ever said a racial slur was hurled at them. This is Cassandra Rutherford's account of that night. This is her point of view," Lindsey continued, referring to the statement.

Allegations that the beating began with racial remarks from Was' group, which included her daughters and their friends, were "manufactured later," Lindsey said.

Was and her daughters were not in the courtroom Tuesday. They and other witnesses were sequestered from the public and the media in a room off Judge Massey-Jones' courtroom.

Only once did Was and her daughters enter the courtroom when Jones asked them to present themselves to prospective jurors.

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# Operation Teddy Bear gets boost

Frank's Nursery & Crafts has donated more than 200 decorated teddy bears to the Telephone Pioneers for their "Operation: Teddy Bear" program.

The program provides teddy bears to various police and fire departments within Southeast Michigan — including the Farmington Hills Police Department.

Police and fire officials use the bears donated by Frank's Nursery & Crafts to comfort youngsters in any traumatic situation. Over the years, teddy bears have proven to be very successful in calming children during stressful situations.

The bear becomes the child's friend. It is someone to talk to and hug. The bear gives the child a secure feeling in the midst of tragedy.

"We've passed out about 20 bears since we became involved in the Op-

eration: Teddy Bear program in 1989," said Farmington Hills police Lt. Norman Kilmer. "We carry bears in all of our marked cars and distribute them to young children who need comfort because of tragedy. The bears help the officers on scene build rapport with scared children."

The bears were created by Frank's Nursery & Crafts employees who eagerly donated their time and energy to individually handcraft each bear.

No two bears were alike, and each bear had its own personality and charm. Bears were dressed up in everything from a conservative business suit to a punk-rock costume to a flower costume — and everything in-between.

Telephone Pioneers is a service organization composed of Michigan Bell, Ameritech and AT & T employees and retirees. The organization was founded by Alexander Graham Bell and has over 800,000 volunteer members worldwide.

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<b>Beauty and the Beast (G)</b> 10:00 11:15 1:30 3:15 5:15 7:45 9:30 11:00	<b>RIVAL ANALYSIS (R)</b> 10:00 12:15 2:30 4:45 7:00 9:30 11:45
<b>PRINCE OF TIDES (R)</b> 10:00 11:00 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00	<b>GREAT MURDER DETECTIVE (G)</b> 10:00 11:15 1:30 3:15 5:15 7:45 9:30 11:00
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\*RATED R: PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED. \*\*RATED PG-13: PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED. \*\*\*RATED G: GENERAL AUDIENCE. \*\*\*\*RATED G: GENERAL AUDIENCE. \*\*\*\*\*RATED G: GENERAL AUDIENCE.

**BARGAIN MATINEES — MON-FRI. ALL SHOWS BEFORE 6 P.M. SAT-SUN. BEFORE 1:00 P.M.**

**LIFE TENDS TO GET SWALLOWED UP... DOESN'T IT...**

Sometimes we get so caught up in the day's activities, the week's agenda, the month's requirements, the year's routine, that we never stop to ask: "Where is it all leading? If I arrived where would I be?"

Where are your priorities? Who or what do you serve?

"Don't let that job, or that title, or getting that degree, or buying that house, or achieving that end swallow up the meaning of your life."

You're worth more than that. You're important. You count. You're loved.

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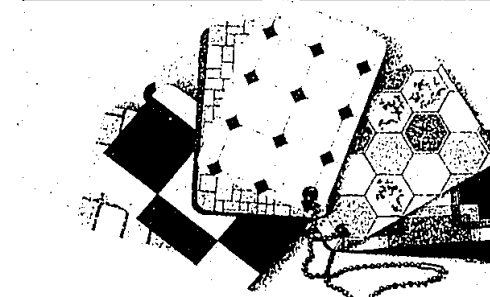
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