



High tech wonder: Farmington High students (from left) Jimm Benivegna, Amy Wehner and David White take a picture with the digital camera. Moments later, the image pops up on the computer screen.



The old way: Students Sarah Green (left) and Lindsey Piel use the old-fashioned method of putting out a publication.

## Program links newspapers and technology

By LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

Lou Grant and Captain James T. Kirk? Sarah Green doesn't look like either of them.

But the Farmington High School sophomore had to feel like both fictional characters. She was the editor and chief of the "The Baby Blue," the end result of a hands-on, 20-week pilot program at the school combining journalism and computer technology.

"Beyond the Basics: Publications and Processes" will be a reg-

ular class offering in the next school year. The pilot program was an eye-opening experience for the 48 students who took the class.

The deadline pressures of producing a publication quickly sank in, especially for Green, who had to oversee the project.

"You can't have a page with one blank spot on it," Green said. "I was real persistent . . ."

High-tech accessories made the job easier, though. Students wrote stories and de-

signed page layouts on computers. They also worked with digital photography, which involves taking photos on computer discs.

The elective class will be a prerequisite for Journalism II, which produces the school newspaper, Blue & White. Students receive one-half credit in English and one-half credit in technology education.

Advisors for the class, Dennis Zaleski and Betty Martin, said the idea is to combine writing skills with becoming knowl-

able in computers — both useful skills in today's job market.

The program also merged two divergent types of students: those interested in English and those intrigued by the production aspect.

Both charted new ground.

"You'd hear, 'This isn't a writing class.' You'll get that right from the get-go," said Zaleski, who teaches communications technology. "But in most jobs, communication skills are foremost."

" . . . If we had them cut and paste (an older method of production), we wouldn't be giving them a good idea of what the future is going to be like."

Likewise, those who like to write got an appreciation for the graphics and production end of it.

"We stressed both to them," said Martin, who teaches English and journalism. "Fifty percent is content, but if it's not well-packaged it's not going to sell."

Teachers had no trouble selling

the class to students. They were issued press passes and had use the telephones to work on stories.

Sophomore Lindsey Piel worked as both a reporter and a page designer. She tackled the hot talk show topic of Satanism.

"It's real touchy in school," Piel said. "I had to interview (assistant principals) Mr. Dean and Mr. Allison and ask them, 'Do you really think this is going on in the school?' . . . No one really wants to talk about it."

## Wolf elected to posts on county commission

County Commissioner Donn Wolf, R-19th District, was elected by his peers to three committees for 1992: vice chair, General Government Committee; Finance Committee; and chair of the Airport Committee.

The General Government Committee handles all board matters that involve state and federal legislation. Wolf has served on the committee prior to this year.

The Finance Committee deals with the funding of county operations, programs and personnel.

"Almost all committee resolutions and county legislation end up in the Finance Committee, so I am extremely pleased to serve on

it," Wolf said. "It is an integral part of county operations, programs and personnel."

As chairman of the Airport Committee, Wolf and his board members oversee the policies and finances of both the Pontiac and Troy airports.

The Pontiac Airport is the second busiest airport in Michigan, with over 250,000 takeoffs and landings per year. It is second only to Detroit Metro Airport. Oakland County airports are a key element in the county's economic development programs.

Wolf, now in his third term, also serves on the board's Job Evaluation Review Committee.



Donn Wolf

## Hills fills out review board, makes other appointments

Joan Lennis was named to fill a second board of review for Farmington Hills.

Lennis, who was recommended by city assessor Dean Babb, is a Realtor with Thompson Brown and had been on the board before. Her appointment allows the city to have two boards of review for tax assessment appeals.

The city council also approved other board and commission appointments at its Feb. 22 meeting:

■ Eileen Abbott, Joseph Derek, John Grissim, Joan MacFarland, Elele McKeown, Jeff Stewart and William Westberg for three-year

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terms on the beautification commission through Feb. 1, 1996; and Betty Pool and Sylvia Stockdale for two-year terms ending on Feb. 1, 1995.

■ Carl Gaiser and Jerry Neyer for two-year terms on the building authority through Feb. 1, 1995.

■ Joan Barber for a three-year term on the historic district commission ending on Feb. 1, 1996.

■ Judy Antishin and Paul Jacques for three-year terms on the parks and recreation commission ending on Feb. 1, 1996.

## Downtown promotion to bring luck of the Irish to charities

Farmington Downtown Development Authority is hoping to turn the emerald luster of St. Patrick's Day into some greenbacks for area charities.

"Giving o' the Green" takes place March 15-29.

The idea works like this: Shoppers mention the promotion at participating stores and receive a chit with the amount of their sale. They can then mail the chit to their favorite charity.

Those organizations then can redeem those chits for a 5-percent cash donation of the total amount of the sale from participating stores. This year, 30 stores in Farmington are participating.



MEET JUNIORS'

### SPORTSWEAR DESIGNER

SUSAN BESSIRE

Saturday, March 6  
10 a.m.-1 p.m., Birmingham  
2-5 p.m., Livonia  
Sunday, March 7  
1-4 p.m., Rochester

Meet the designer with an eye for detail and a flair for what's new. Witty and novelty trims are the hallmarks of her spring collection of denims and cotton knits. One size vest, \$39. Shorts, 3-11, \$48. Cap, \$30. All vintage denim with soda bottle cap trim. White ribknit top. Size 1-2, \$32. J Shop.

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