

Playing mayor: Darius Gilvydis, a Harrison High student, directs the city council meeting from the mayor's chair.



A council of kids: The Farmington Hills City Council consists of seniors from Harrison and North Farm-ington High School.

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trict Judge Fred Harris.
"They have over 38,000 cases (a year)," Rosemberg said. "I hadn't realized how busy they were."

Rosemberg said that at first he felt somewhat intimidated by Harris, but found the judge to be very approachable and a good teacher. Harris, himself an MSU graduate, said the experience was a rare one for most young people.

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"It gives them an inside look at
the three branches of government
on the local level," Harris said.
"They know all about the three
branches on the state and federal
levels, but they don't get much
exposure at this one."

Betty Roy, a Harrison senior
who spent time as city clerk with

her counterpart Kathy Dornan, said although she is planning a business career, she was im-pressed by how her city govern-ment worked.

"It's interesting to see how the city council and mayor work," she

said.

The students toured the city complex, including the police station, the fire station on Drake and the department of public works and met as a council. They showed no hesitancy to take action, cutting police equipment and personnel to meet a tight budget.

budget.
"I was surprised at the size of
the police budget," said Sahar Oz,
who was city manager for a day.
"In fact, I had not realized how

extensive the city government is."
Oz, who is fluent in several langues and is an Israeli citizen,
plans to pursue a career in international marketing.

"It's fun, especially when you get bright kids like Sahar," said city manager Bill Costick. "It always gives us a chance to look at what we're doing and offers a different interpretation of how we operate."

Costick said the student gov-ernment day has special meaning for him.

"That's how I got started," he said, "I was a senior in St. Clair Shores and was selected to go, It got me interested in city govern-ment."

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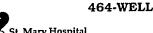
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