## Schools from page 13A

seems we will just have to learn to live with losing academic stand-ards, while higher and higher standards of athletic excellence on boys sports teams won't be compromised by mere fairness and justice. The major problem with Ameri-can public education today is con-firmed mainly by one group of students, the academically gifted

Because today success in the pub-lic schools is measured by how well the average and below aver-age performers do, starting in the 1950s, American education was dumbed down, textbooks were made easier, requirements for coursee relaxed, and daily bome-work went out the window.

As a result, high school and many college diplomas became

meaningless to most employers.
While all these measures worked
as intended to help average and
below average students, they let
the gifted atudents deteriorate
without ever developing their po-

This will continue as long as we keep convincing ourselves that our schools are producing excellence and enshrining them in

America's young people will continue to discount excellence, put down success, and make a jake out of high scademic achieve-ment. While low standard setting has been popular in America's public schools for more than 30 years, for American business and

guidelines that make the lowest common denominator the academic standard of excellence.

the global economy these kinds of standards, based on the lowest common denominator, have been the kiss of death.

How, for example, will Detroit's auto industry make the Japanese people buy more American auto-mobiles? We can't even make 25

mental force is brought to bear on

the American consumer.

As long as we as a nation continue to teach our children that achievement will only be measured in average terms, it's only natural that mediocrity will continue to be the American educational outcome.

Eric Borregard is a Mission 2007 Committee member and a Farmington Hills resident.

## Local dancer lands intensive workshop, study program

Tracey Gies, 16, of Farmington Hills recently participated in the Midland/Joffrey Summer Dance Workshop in Midland.
More than 60 students took part in this workshop, an intensive three-week program for talented 12 to 19-year-old dancers. They were selected during suditions in Michigan, Ohio, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Illinois.

The workshop, in its second year, is sponsored by the Midland Music Society under the direction

of the Joffrey Ballet School of New York. The program is being coordinated by Music Society's Danacape director Louetta Grubam Hintt.

The program is an educational opportunity for pre-professional dancers to develop their technical and performing talents during the summer months in preparation for a potential career in the dance world.

The dance masters are associ-ated with the Joffrey Ballet

School and provide intensive daily instruction in the areas of ballet, modern dance and jaz dance.
Gies, the daughter of Tim and
Karlyn Gies, began her dance
training at 3. She studies with
Karen Milligan at Milligan
School of Ballet in Dearborn
Heights. Her experience includes
spending her summers studying
at the Central Pennsylvania
Youth Ballet and the North Carolina School of Arts.
After returning home from the

Joffrey School, Gies will study with Jefferson Baum as a scholar-ship student in the Blue Lake Ballet Ensemble. Last December Gies danced in

the Detroit Symphony's produc-tion of "The Nuterscher" at the

Fox Theatre. She is also a mem-ber of Children's Ballet Theatre of Dearborn Heights, where she has danced several lead roles. In addition to taking her ballet

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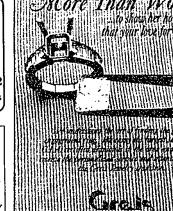
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