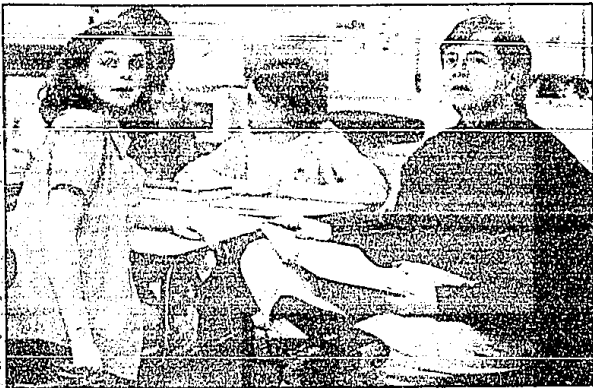
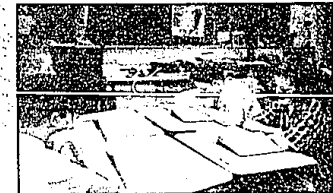


Parents pop in at O.E. Dunckel



Parent's view: Molly Brown brings her dad, Bob Brown, into her sixth-grade reading class at O.E. Dunckel and sits him down next to her.



Shy guy: Joseph Green, photo at right, follows along with the day's reading lesson. His mom, Carmen Green, said she surprised him by being at the open house. She chose a seat across the room from him. Above, John Carter's sixth-grade reading class students read paragraphs one by one from "The Treasure of Lemon Brown." Students are (clockwise): David Sherbrook, Nat Clark, Sean Ellis, Jake Petoskey.



Students challenge effectiveness of drug abuse education program

"It's not relevant."
"Two weeks later you don't even remember it."
"It doesn't help at all."

Those discouraging words were spoken by seventh graders at West Hills Middle School, a Bloomfield Hills school in West Bloomfield. Their target was the D.A.R.E. — Drug Abuse Resistance Education — program operated in the school in cooperation with the West Bloomfield police.

The Bloomfield Hills and West Bloomfield school districts, among other area school districts, participate in D.A.R.E., a \$700 million national program funded through donations and federal grants. Police officers visit fifth and sixth graders once a week for about 6 weeks to teach them about the threat of drugs and how to avoid them.

But for several years there have been murmurings from parents and educators that D.A.R.E. is a waste of time and money, that the kids aren't getting the message and drug use is going up.

Indeed, surveys of the area school districts show that students use drugs at a rate above the national average. And several of national surveys have indicated that D.A.R.E. has had either limited or no impact on deterrence.

But does that mean D.A.R.E. is a failure?
"It's real hard to measure," said Jerry Walker, Walpole Lake police chief. Three Walpole Lake police officers currently are doing 13 D.A.R.E. classes at Walpole Lake elementary schools and some parochial schools.

"We look at it as what if you didn't have this program? How much more of an increase (in drug use) would there be? It's easy to measure concrete numbers, he said. But it's hard to gauge what might have been.
"You have to believe in the

educational aspect of D.A.R.E.," he said.

However, for Justin Victor a seventh grader at West Hills, there is no ambiguity.

"The D.A.R.E. program is great when we were younger," he said. "Now that we're getting older, it doesn't help at all. The kids who do take it seriously wouldn't (use drugs) anyway."

Some kids "blow it off totally," said Brett Powell, another West Hills seventh grader. "They try to teach you that drugs are bad... but they don't tell you in a way that will stick in your head. Two weeks later you don't even remember it."

Seventh grader Arielle Berlin said the same text book was used in the fifth grade and sixth grade lessons. "They should teach different things every year," she said.

D.A.R.E. lessons focus on the different types of drugs and related issues, such as how stress can lead to substance abuse and the connection between drugs and violence and crimes such as shoplifting.

"Most of the time, it's boring," said Katie Kipp, another seventh grader.

Even worse, Arielle said, D.A.R.E. has taught kids what other types of drugs are available for them to try.

Much of what these 12 and 13 year olds said was reaffirmed by the 14 through 17 year olds at Walpole Lake Western High School.

The pressure of peers

"It works until people get to high school," said one 16-year-old, who asked not to be named. Many students interviewed for this story prefer to remain anonymous because they have had personal experience with drugs, said Janet Holland, student assistance coordinator for the schools.

In high school, peer pressure, becomes even more intense and drugs are readily available, said a 16-year-old.

"Peer pressure really does have an impact," said Kristy Daniels, a sophomore.

"And you have this immortal attitude," said Brooke Novak, a senior. Some teens say they will do drugs as long as they are in high school and will quit when they go to college.

It doesn't work out that way, said Laura Kaznecki, a junior. That's why she doesn't use drugs, she said.

"I choose not to do (drugs) because of my sport," said Kaznecki, who is on the swimming team. "I've seen people on the swim team who did drugs who were (ranked) on the national level. Now they're not. It can ruin everything," she said.

Many of the teens have personal drug horror stories to relate, such as broken families and siblings so spaced out they couldn't recognize other family members.

But the one thing they all had in common was that they went through the D.A.R.E. program. And none said it made much difference in their lives.

Your family and who you hang around with makes a lot more difference in your attitude toward drugs than D.A.R.E., Kaznecki said.

"I don't know what the answer is," said Gary Hamlin, the D.A.R.E. officer with the Wixom police department. "Do we just stop everything? I don't know."

Hamlin isn't the only D.A.R.E. officer concerned about the students' reaction.

"If it doesn't work I want to know why it doesn't work," said Bridget Ryan, D.A.R.E. officer with the West Bloomfield police.

But Ryan and Hamlin agree the kids are better off with D.A.R.E. than without it.

Farmington Festival of the Arts shoots for a twinkling evening

The Farmington Festival of the Arts will preview during "Starry Night," a gala presentation of music, art, refreshments and stars from 8-11 p.m. Saturday, April 25, at the William Costick Center.

The black-tie optional event, hosted by the Farmington Community Arts Council, will feature "Farmington Personalities" as a welcoming committee: Alyce

Fay of the Motor City Women of Comedy; Bill Gallagher of WJBK Channel 2; Trudi Daniels of WRIF-FM 101; Roger Weber of WDIV Channel 4 and Dave Varga of the Farmington Observer.

Music will be provided by The Matt Michaels Trio. Tickets are \$15 per person and \$25 per couple. Call 478-3256 for details or tickets.

THEODORE MOTRIUK

Theodore Motriuk, 73, died April 7 at his home in Farmington Hills.

Mr. Motriuk was an inspector in the tool & die industry and a World War II Navy veteran. He also enjoyed gardening.

He is survived by sons, George, Gregory and Theodore; and daughter, Dana (Karl). Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Friday, April 10, at McCabe Funeral Home in Farmington Hills. Visitation is scheduled 2-4 p.m. and 6-9 p.m. Thursday,

April 9, at the funeral home.

ROBERT JOSEPH LANNEN Robert Joseph Lannen, 79, of Farmington Hills, died April 2 at University Hospital in Ann Arbor.

Mr. Lannen had a lifelong devotion to aviation.

He is survived by wife, Mary; sons Joseph (Deborah), Thomas (Rose) and Mark; daughters Mary Lou (Howard) Bosworth, Bridget (Greig Spodarek) and Rosemary (James Langland); sisters Aileen Mueller, Kathleen Bartley, Sally Lannen (H.M.), Patricia Harmon and Jean Wholihan; and 10 grandchildren. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Monday, April 13, at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church in Farmington with Monsignor

Walker Hurley officiating.

Arrangements were made by Heeney-Sundquist Funeral Home in Farmington.

Memorial contributions may be sent to the Heart Care Program, U of M Medical Center, Development Office.

EVELYN L. PALINKO

Evelyn L. Palinko, 72, of Farmington died March 31 at Botsford Hospital in Farmington Hills.

Ms. Palinko worked as a private home child care giver and enjoyed gardening.

She is survived by sons Gary of Farmington and Mark (Susan) of Florida. Funeral services were April 4 at Thayer-Rock Funeral Home with the Rev. Larry Austin officiating.

Henrietta A. O'Rourke

Henrietta A. O'Rourke, 88, of Farmington died April 6 at Grace Hospital in Detroit.

Mrs. O'Rourke was a member of the Daughters of Isabella, St. Francis X. Cabrini 624 Circle and past president of the Auxiliary Detroit Postal Workers Union. She was also a Precious Blood Church Sacristan and a member of Our Lady of Sorrows, Altar Society.

She is survived by son, Thomas (Brenda) grandchildren, Marc and Kelly; and great-grandchild, Sam.

Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. today, April 9, at O'Brien Chapel/Ted C. Sullivan Funeral Home in Novi.

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