

# Sea

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school community - including faculty, students and parents.

But it was an ocean environment, presented inside a small, adjacent, darkened room no bigger than a closet, that made the biggest impact on youngsters.

Schneider prepared the kids for their excursion by leading a sing-a-long of "Down By The Bay." And then, with his enthusiastic explorers sitting on the floor in anticipation, he helped set the stage for them.

"You're going to imagine yourself in the water, aren't you?" said Schneider, who taught the environment of the ocean for three weeks.

The teacher asked the children to be respectful of the various items they would encounter inside the dark room. Thanks to paint and plastic, the walls and ceiling took on the blueish appearance of water.

Meanwhile, kindergartners, as well as teachers and parents, helped decorate the small room with everything from a paper canoe near the ceiling to colored paper (representing seaweed) on the floor. Black lights helped make everything else, sea creatures and even a construction-paper skeleton, come aglow.

Typical sounds of the sea were played on a nearby tape recorder, to really authenticate the underwater "excursion."

On the doorway leading into the darkened room was a sign, "Living Within the Ocean." In groups of three, youngsters from the classes of kindergarten teachers Barbara Humphries and Kathy Nicholas made their way inside. They wore eye goggles and makeshift air tanks, cobbled together from empty two-liter pop bottles.

Once inside, kindergartners were literally wowed by the experience. "I see a skeleton," said Anna Munaco, in an excited voice. "I see a whale."

"Chiming in was Gabbi Occhialini. "Whoa, look above us. There's a canoe!" Gabbi then turned toward LeAnne Mroek and told her she had some "coral reef" on her face. Looking all around her,



STAFF PHOTO BY ELIZABETH GRANOVSKA

**Splash: Jackson Balk "swims" deep in the ocean with the fish. The hull of a boat passes by on the surface above.**

**'They're using all of their senses, as a scientist does. And they are junior scientists. They've been gathering information and storing it up. Their minds are like sponges. They just absorb it.'**

*Terry Schneider*  
—Teacher

LeAnne couldn't help but be thrilled. "It's really cool in here!"

Back in the classroom, Schneider talked about kindergartners who spent several weeks learning about the ocean environment in a project that required them to employ all of their senses.

"They're using all of their senses, as a scientist does," Schneider said. "And they are junior scientists. They've been gathering information and storing it up. Their minds are like sponges. They just absorb it."

As the youngsters made their way out of the classroom, they waved good-bye to yet another skeleton, "Mr. Bones."

# Local

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and I think we need to sit down and talk about some of these issues. We need to stop talking at each other and start talking with each other."

Rackowski expressed frustration over misperceptions of House Bill 4777, which drew local officials to the state capitol last year in protest over what they saw as a direct assault on local control. Now dead in the water, the bill would have standardized some ordinances affecting businesses throughout the state.

"The bill very clearly tried to

# Plot

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Harris Friday, the taped conversation between a man and the undercover officer revealed someone who had "thought about" putting out a contract on her boyfriend for a half-year to stop someone she said was destroying her life.

The tape was enough to establish probable cause, Harris ruled, in binding McIntosh over to Oakland County Circuit Court on a felony charge of conspiracy to commit murder. If convicted, McIntosh could face up to life in prison.

After defense attorney Stephen Book cited McIntosh's lack of a previous criminal record, however, Harris reduced bond from the previously set \$1 million. The defendant was released into the custody of her parents, with stipulations that she remain electronically tethered, remain under her parents' supervision and check in every day at 36th District Court in Plymouth.

Any violation of those terms, Harris emphasized, would result in McIntosh being returned to Oakland County Jail on personal bond of \$100,000. Arraignment in Circuit Court was not yet scheduled.

Oakland County Assistant Prosecutor Greg Townsend said he was satisfied overall with the proceedings, although he added a "substantial cash bond" would have been preferable.

According to transcripts of the taped conversation, which took place about 2:45 p.m. Jan. 28 in

set one set of standards for business to operate on," Rackowski said. "It doesn't mean cities can't regulate themselves in other areas outside of the purview of that bill."

However, Farmington Mayor Bill Hartsock said his city feels strongly that the battle over local control isn't limited to one issue. While they haven't had a chance to talk about it yet, he's certain the council will seriously consider a petition drive designed to give voters a voice in what has become a contentious political issue.

The Michigan Municipal League has launched an effort to put protection of local control on a statewide ballot. Petitions are being circulated with the goal of gathering at least 303,000 signatures by July 10.

The measure would amend the state constitution to require a two-thirds vote of the Legislature - a so-called "super majority" - to approve any law that would override locally passed ordinances.

Home rule issues will likely be tossed around for months, and the discussion has already begun

to heat up the fall elections.

Rackowski's seat will be up for grabs, and former Hills Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi, a vocal supporter of local control, is expected to formally announce his candidacy soon.

"I'm not only fully supportive (of the petition drive), but in large part my campaign for state representative is based on trying to prevent the Legislature from interfering in strictly local ordinances," Vagnozzi said.

the north parking lot of the Farmington-Eight Mile road restaurant, the supposed hit man told the woman "once you put these wheels in motion (there) ain't no stopping."

The woman was heard to reply that she didn't want them to stop. She also didn't care how the boyfriend was killed, only that it be done within a week of the meeting and with no link back to her.

"I've thought about it for six months," the woman said. "It just keeps getting worse. My 12-year-old daughter ... he beats the hell out of her. He beats the hell out of me."

The woman on the tape also detailed how the intended target, known only as "Mike," threatened the safety of her 2-year-old girl. When she described one alleged household incident, she showed the "hit man" a photograph of her daughter.

"... See this little girl right here, man, if you want to know

(the reason why, he ... boiled solid bleach and put it in her bedroom and shut the ... door the other night while she (was) sleeping. He's trying to kill ... (her) daughter. She's everything I have in this world," said the woman in the profanity-laced transcripts.

Her face-to-face meeting with the undercover detective at Big Boy followed a brief introductory meeting about 12:30 p.m. the same day at a coney island restaurant where McIntosh works during the winter. Between those meetings were two subsequent telephone calls with the "hit man" to set up an appropriate meeting location.

McIntosh, 29, works as a waitress to supplement her seasonal tree-trimming business.

The undercover detective testified that Michigan State Police Detective Sgt. Charles Greenway - who had previously been contacted by an apparent friend of McIntosh known as "Buck" - telephoned him the previous day

to let him know about the murder-for-hire scenario.

"Buck," according to testimony, told detectives McIntosh gave him \$1,000 to "procure somebody to do something" to Mike. The total amount of the contract was \$2,000.

According to the tape transcripts, the woman told the undercover detective that Buck was procrastinating in finding a hit man. "Buck's been putting me off for like a month and a half. I don't know if he was trying to get a hold of you or not."

McIntosh allegedly told the "hit man" she wanted Mike to disappear in a way that the crime could not be traced back to her. She pointed out the intended victim's alleged record and that "he's a known drug dealer" with previous death threats made against him.

Making the 25-year-old boyfriend vanish would "make me a happy, very happy person," she said.

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# Values enrich public schools

**D**ona DeRossett could not teach her reading class at Goodrich Middle School in Genesee County without also teaching values.

"I value the children I teach far too much to give them knowledge without values," said DeRossett, a Michigan Education Association (MEA) member who has been teaching for 13 years. "Education is not only about what's on page 85 of the textbook. It's about using knowledge to make good choices and become responsible, caring, compassionate citizens."

Responsibility, respect, compassion and fairness are universal values that permeate the atmosphere at Goodrich. They anchor every class. They are built into every school event. They are discussed with parents. They are even displayed in an elaborate painting on the school parking lot.

There is no question that the 11- to 14-year-old students at Goodrich leave their public school with a solid character education.

"Character formation is a lifelong endeavor," DeRossett said. "I can tell you with certainty that those students are headed in the right direction."

## Lifting the silence

Recent polls clearly show that the overwhelming majority of Americans want children to learn values in the public schools. That's good news to public school employees like DeRossett, who have always believed that core democratic values are as basic to the

curriculum as reading, writing and arithmetic.

Controversy about whose values should be taught and the fine line between values and religion have too often kept public school employees from talking about the values they teach.

Not anymore.

Today, you can't miss values at work in Michigan's public schools. They are everywhere from mission statements to fight songs to the lessons used to prepare students for the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) social studies test.

## The home-school connection

Parents and peers still have the greatest influence on our youth. But today, public schools are working harder than ever to counter negative influences and enrich our children's lives.

If you don't think it is making a difference, talk to a teenager like Adrian Allen.

"I heard a lot about values at home when I was little," said Adrian, 14, a ninth-grader at Goodrich High School. "Then when I kept hearing it at school, it brought all those lessons from my parents back to me. It was a perfect connection."

Clearly, teaching values is one assignment we should all be doing together.



**Lu Battaglieri**  
MEA president

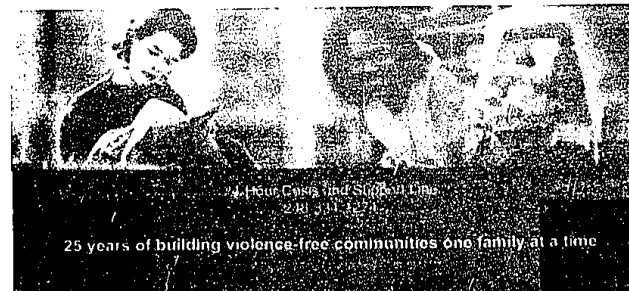


"HAVEN is fortunate to have such caring friends and neighbors in this community."  
**Hedy Nuriel, President and CEO of HAVEN**

Thanks to the overwhelming support from individuals, businesses, foundations, local groups and churches in the metro area, HAVEN was able to overcome the tragedy of the November 14, 1999 fire that closed the shelter doors for the first time in twenty-five years. We're happy to announce that on February 5, 2000, HAVEN opened its temporary facility and once again provides shelter for Oakland County victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse.

While the fire never stopped HAVEN from providing crisis support services, the generosity of the members of this community ensured that all our advocacy, counseling and education programs will not only continue, but will expand to help those in need.

Thanks to you, HAVEN will continue to save lives.



25 years of building violence-free communities one family at a time