

Graduating seniors make magical shirts for magical night

BY TIM SMITH
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Sometime on Sunday night, Farmington High School graduating seniors will swap caps and gowns for T-shirts.

Those shirts, entitled "Magical Millennium," were recently designed and produced for the all-night party by students in the new tech wing at FHS.

Featured on the shirts is a wand-clutching wizard, with the words "FHS Class of 2000" in his open palm. Graduates have their future in his hand, so to speak. The illustration was drawn by senior Phil Lubliner, on computer software called Freehand.

But many other students in the visual imaging class taught by Dennis Zaleski played important roles in the production of the 185 shirts. Those shirts are being sold to grads for \$5, less than half of what a silk-screened T-shirt would cost if produced by a private company.

Zaleski, known as "Mr. Z.," said students in his class were, in effect, taking their final examination while performing graphic arts tasks in the modern facility. It is the only such facility in the district.

"We had a meeting, just like a corporation would, and each decided who wanted to be in charge," said Zaleski. "Each student has a task. What they're doing is their final exam, and they'll be graded by what the comments are (from classmates and FHS staff). So it's just like it is in real life."

Besides making "Magical Mil-



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BAZELER

Pressing on: From left, Brandon Nelson, Dan Schroeder and Jeff Frederick silk screen "Magical Millennium" T-shirts, which FHS grads will wear at the party.

lennium" T-shirts, students were printing 1,000 programs for the "Reflections" student awards presentation (which was held Friday, May 26) and another 3,000 for tonight's commencement, set for 8 p.m. at Compuware Sports Arena. The senior all-night party is scheduled at FHS, from 10:30 p.m. to 5 a.m.

Senior Katie Bosler was running off another stack of the "Reflections" programs, which

featured a mirror image of Farmington High School's facade.

Training ground

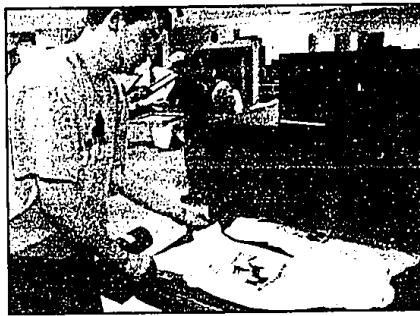
For the T-shirts and programs, students went through all the steps of production that will soon make them valuable employees somewhere.

"It was definitely a big job, but I'm proud of what I accomplished," Bosler said. "I'm sure

that in the future, when I start a job, I'll have the confidence to see it through" because of her work in Zaleski's class.

After Lubliner's design was created, the T-shirts had multiple steps to go through before being completed and ready to wear.

An eight-color screen needed to be assembled, with senior Brandon Nelson overseeing the tricky procedure. Each panel



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BAZELER

Almost ready: In the new tech wing at Farmington High School, William Bush feeds a freshly-printed shirt into the dryer.

FARMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

contains just the portion of the design featuring that particular color.

Those panels then must be perfectly lined up before going through the silk-screening cycle. It took Nelson two days to make sure everything was exact.

"I'm happy to be the first to ever do an eight-screen" at Farmington High, Nelson said. "It's been a lot of work, but a lot of frustration."

Another senior involved in the T-shirt project was Jeff Frederick. He said being in Zaleski's class was a valuable learning

experience. The class "is just seeing how different things in the world are designed, created," said Frederick. "You see what (people) go through. You see the processes that go along with everything."

"I can look at a T-shirt now and say, 'That's easy to make,' or 'Wow, that's a complicated process.'"

Frederick echoed other classmates when he talked about how they will undoubtedly benefit from the course.

"This was really a good final," he said.

Parties from page A1

Parents have been working since fall to raise funds, prepare elaborate activities, secure munchies and gifts for hundreds of excited 18-year-olds.

Activities will range from the odd, such as human bowling, to the high tech, such as music video producing. Party tickets cost \$40 to \$70.

Here's a breakdown of what the schools are doing:

Harrison High

The party lasts from 10:30 p.m. to 5 a.m. in the gym. Students will make videos, ride giant tricycles, Sumo wrestle and gamble.

Organizers expect 160 to 170 students out of a 270-student

class. Tickets were supposed to buy students in advance, but one will be turned away at the door.

"It gives students a safe and alternative way to celebrate graduation, as opposed to drinking alcohol and driving around," said party organizer Ed DeRose. For seniors, it's their last chance to be with their class and enjoy a fun night."

Farmington High

From 10:30 p.m. to 5 a.m., students will stroll the school, many for the last time. Organizers expect about 230 students out of a 255-student class for the Magical Millennium party.

"Our main mission is to provide a safe, fun and supervised

place after graduation so we can avoid teen-aged tragedies that sometimes happen around graduation time," said organizer Cathy Webb. "We want our kids to stay safe and have fun."

FHS parents raised more than \$25,000 so their children could enjoy a multitude of activities, including fire tricks, gladiator jousts, bungee runs and ultimate imaging. Students won't recognize the cafeteria, which will be transformed into a rain forest, complete with jungle sounds and a paper waterfall.

"We try to keep a mystique about it," Webb said. "Students never see an all-night party until their own. There are some things we don't tell students about beforehand."

North Farmington High

From 10 p.m. to 4:30 a.m., about 290 NFHS seniors will dash throughout the school for Splash 2000.

School walls will come alive with life-sized, paper cut-outs of students wearing beach hats and sunglasses.

Activities include starstruck video, Sumo wrestling, a bungee

run, Velcro obstacle course, gladiator joust, caricature artists and psychics. Athletes can play volleyball, table tennis and basketball.

"It's a fun, fun night for the kids to spend time together with friends," said organizer Kate Zald. "The goal for parents is to provide a place for kids to have lots of fun but to not be on the

streets partying and drinking."

While it's so much work, parents agree that it's more than worth it.

"I'd do it again," Zald said. "Regardless of the problems and all the work, I'd definitely do it again."

"It's worth it just to see the students having a wonderful time with their friends."

Bigger Dammans open for business

BY TRACEY BIRKENHAUER
STAFF WRITER

The next time you need a garden hose, toilet seat or faucet, Damman Hardware now has twice as many choices.

The hardware in the Downtown Farmington Center strip mall opened its new location full time, which is about twice the size of its former location two doors down.

The store will celebrate a grand opening on June 10.

"It's beautiful," said Helen Radke, assistant store manager. "They did an excellent job remodeling."

The biggest expansions are in seasonal merchandise and housewares, where the store stocks more selections of patio furniture, lawn ornaments, popcorn poppers and broilers. Damman has about 10 times

more candles, too.

A back entrance allows customers to enter off of Orchard Street, behind the store. Radke said this will be handy during the Farmington festival, since much of the front parking lot will be consumed with tents and festival-goers.

"We're all still learning where everything is," Radke said. "It will take us a couple months to get used to it."

New downtown store to offer healthy choices

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It didn't take long for a prime retail vacancy in downtown Farmington to be filled, with Living Health taking over the space formerly occupied by Sports Image.

Living Health co-owners Daniel and Snow Ko are anxiously awaiting the Sunday, June 4, grand opening of their business, at 33317 Grand River, about one block east of Farmington Road.

Last week, shelves were being moved into the store, with some of the inventory being shipped in as well. The store will provide customers with a variety of vitamins, herbs, health supplements and organic foods.

Daniel Ko said he and his wife looked at several locations for the store, but decided that downtown Farmington would be a nice, friendly place to do business.

Among those enthused about

Living Health joining the central business district is Judy Downey, executive director of the Farmington Downtown Development Authority.

"I'm very pleased because that will complement the mix of stores in downtown Farmington," Downey said. "We didn't have a store that offered vitamins and special nutrient needs."

"In today's society, people are really health conscious and want to have a wide selection of goods to choose from."

Gutted

On fire: The driver of a 1987 Toyota MR2 got an unpleasant surprise May 24 when another driver on eastbound I-696 got his attention to let him know his car was on fire. Farmington Hills Deputy Fire Chief Pete Baldwin said the car's engine was in the rear, and the fire appears to have started there. Valued at \$2,500, the vehicle was considered a total loss.

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