

# Subs from page A1

monitors and parking lot attendants. For example, the hourly rate for a substitute secretary - as of Feb. 17 when the increases take effect - will increase from \$9.50 to \$9.75; a parking lot attendant will earn \$10.25 per hour, instead of \$10.04. The approval will increase current budget costs by a combined total of about \$70,860.

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Quietly: Josh White III when not in character, acts out the pitcher, batter and the catcher in a piece called "Base-ball."



STAFF PHOTOS BY BILL ECKELER

Look: The students easily follow "Buddha's" performance.

## Mime from page A1

"dying art form," and also about what makes a good story - particularly one worth enacting on stage.

"It seems that the central theme of education these days is creative writing," said White, after talking to fourth graders in teacher Steve Hoelter's classroom. "And I really can't think of anything more creative than to create a story for a mime."

White, a 16th-year mime from the University of Michigan, added that the key is for youngsters to "let their imaginations soar. Anything they imagine I can do."

In Hoelter's classroom, students enthusiastically worked in

four groups to develop potential stories.

"The kids wanted to work (on stories for the mime) as soon as they came back into the room," Hoelter said. "They came up with some pretty wild ideas, too."

Such as being an animal veterinarian and mistakenly injecting themselves instead of a cat or dog, Hoelter explained.

The day began with a school-wide assembly, where "Buddha" performed skits such as being trapped inside a cube or floating through space. Next, he randomly visited classes such as Hoelter's to chat with kids.

"Is it fun being a mime?"

asked one of the fourth graders.

"I have a blast," answered White, who had washed off the face paint before making rounds in the school. "I get to go to 160 different schools (a year) and introduce students like yourself to (the art form of) mime, in nine different states."

During lunch, White read the stories written by students, selected the ones he would perform during the afternoon assembly and then worked on his own performance.

There is a good reason to introduce mime to youngsters.

"Mime is a dying art form," White said. "The hope for the future is with our children."

Only about 20 percent of children he visits had ever previously seen a mime, he estimated.

Mime Josh White can be e-mailed at [buddhahemime@yahoo.com](mailto:buddhahemime@yahoo.com).

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