

Marchers capture Flight III trophies

BY DIANE HANSON
SPECIAL WRITER

In their first competition of the 2001 season, the Farmington Harrison Marching Band captured the Flight III first-place trophy and caption awards for Best Music and Best General Effect at Novi High School's "Fanfare" on Sept. 15.

"I thought it was a really good performance," said a pleased Peggy Babcock, Harrison's new band director this year. She replaced Mark Phillips, who is now directing the West Bloomfield band.

Babcock served as Harrison's assistant director last year. Their innovative program of color, movement and music is called "A Day in the Life," Music from Divertimento-Roger-Cichy. "The concept for the show is a day in the life of a corporate office worker, which we had no idea was going to be as pertinent as it turned out to be," said Babcock. "It certainly makes the events of this week a bit more personal."

The Novi competition turned out to be one of the few bright spots in an otherwise bleak week due to the terrorist disasters on the East Coast just days earlier. The decision was made to continue with the event, which is months in the making

and includes more than 200 parents involved in the organizational process. "Our kids were polled and 100 percent were in favor of holding the competition," said Patty Hokett. She and husband Charlie Hokett served as this year's Novi band booster co-presidents. "All 25 bands were 100 percent behind coming, too," she added. "No one pulled out."

A moment of silence during the day-long competition was dedicated to the victims of the terrorist disaster and half of the school's proceeds from the 60-50 drawing was donated to the American Red Cross for relief efforts.

The combined Novi and Plymouth-Canton bands played the "Star-Spangled Banner" to a hushed 3,000-plus spectators at the end of the evenings' performances.

The 90-member Harrison band captured the Flight III top spot with a score of 84.5. Other Observer-area bands included: in Flight II-Livonia Franklin, eighth with a score of 69.50; in Flight I-John Glenn, Westland, seventh with a score of 47.65; West Bloomfield, fourth with a score of 55.15; and Plymouth-Canton, first with a score of 78.95.

"I think our band did great today," said Alex Sobolev, junior

percussionist. "We have a new director and an assistant director, so far, things have been working great. We have a full show this early in the season."

That's a plus Allison Hutton, sophomore also saxophonist, appreciates too. "This year the show is coming together a lot faster. We just had a few more pages of drill to add."

While freshman percussionist Lindsay Gluf has no other years to compare this one with, she already understands the value of the intense practice the band puts in. "It is hard work, but in the end it is really fun."

The practice started in February and now is every day for two-and-a-half hours after school and before competitions on Saturdays.

Babcock said the band was able to perform well many of the things they worked on in practice. They looked like they were in control," she added. "There weren't any major problems, no big surprises. They looked comfortable."

This was the first competition for new assistant band director Joel Yoder, who came from teaching middle and high school in California. "I'm impressed with how hard the kids are working and I'm looking forward to next week," he said.



Suited up: Members of the Harrison High marching band dressed in business-wear for the Bands of America Regional Championships in Ohio.

Harrison band dresses for success

BY DIANE HANSON
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The Harrison Marching Band had a surprise for the audience at the Bands of America Regional Championships at the University of Toledo Glass Bowl Stadium in Ohio on Sept. 22.

One wore the traditional uniforms worn at last week's Novi High School competition. In their place were what appeared to be business suits.

"All it is, is our concert uniforms with long ties instead of bow ties," said Harrison Band Director Peggy Babcock. "Our show is to portray a day in the life of a corporate office worker and we figured this would get the point across."

And it appeared to do just that, to the audience's delight. The Farmington Hills band was one of 25 top high school marching bands from five states to compete in the preliminary competition.

The Harrison marchers made it a full weekend by performing the next day at Compuware at Middlebelt Road and Northwestern Highway for the Farmington Hills Fire Department fund-raiser to support the clean-up in New York and Washington, D.C.

"It was a nice way for the kids to feel they were contributing to the relief efforts," said Babcock.

While the Harrison band didn't qualify for the finals nighttime show on Saturday, they did place sixth overall in Class AA.

The night competition top billing went to the Prospect High School Band from Mt. Prospect, Ill. Michigan bands placing in the finals performance were the Plymouth-Canton Marching Band, third; Jenison, fifth; Reeths-Puffer from Muskegon, sixth; Milford, eighth; and Novi, ninth.

"The rating sheets were very complimentary about the music," said a pleased Babcock of the judges' impressions of Harrison's show, "A Day in the Life." "I felt very good about this," she added. "There was a lot of energy there. The kids made a lot of improvements from last week to this week. I feel they come to another level at these (Bands of America) competitions."

And the students enjoyed performing. "This is good solid music that is enjoyable to play and listen to," said Tracy Byrne, senior clarinetist.

Jordan Steckloff is a junior and plays the base guitar. "It is fun adding the strings to the band. It is more common than it used to be, but I still turn heads," he admitted. "It is just fun being part of a group like this."

Sophomore clarinetist Ken Maisonneuve said, "We are doing a lot better with the music this year and the drill is more fun. We have our show finished, but we have a lot of work to do on it yet."

Still early in the competition season, there will be plenty of time for the Harrison marchers to polish their performance. And Assistant Director Joel Yoder is pleased with how far they have come already.

"I am very impressed with how much they have improved in just one week's time," he said. "Last week was a good start. To be able to improve this much in a week - I'm really, really happy with these guys."

The Harrison Marching Band and the Farmington Marching Band will both be performing in competition at Eastern Michigan University's Rynearson Stadium in the Fishing High School Invitational on Sunday, Sept. 30.

POLICE BRIEFS

SCHOOL INCIDENT

A 16-year-old Farmington High girl was handcuffed after she allegedly struck one Farmington High School administrator in the chest with a full, 20-ounce Fruitworks bottle and grabbed another administrator about 12:43 p.m. Sept. 24, according to a report filed by the school liaison officer.

The incident occurred in the hallways between classes. The girl was reportedly swearing and one administrator asked her to go to the office. The other administrator stopped her and asked her for the Fruitworks bottle because bottled drinks are not allowed in the halls.

The girl refused and began walking away. When asked to hand the bottle to the administrator, she allegedly threw at him and struck him in the chest, police said.

The other administrator asked

the girl to come to the office. A witness said she saw the girl hit that administrator. The girl also allegedly grabbed the administrator's wrist and bent it down, police said.

THEFT

About \$700 in women's clothing was reported stolen from a public storage building on Nine Mile Road Sept. 24.

PROPERTY DEPLETED

An Amoco gas station employee reported that someone wrote "Arab" on pump number six on Sept. 24.

"CLEVELAND" BURGLAR CHARGED

A Cleveland Indian jacket-wearing burglar suspected by Farmington Hills police in 23 burglaries or attempted burglaries was charged Sept. 26 in 47th District Court with attempted home invasion, second degree. Thomas Reynolds, 46, of Livonia, was arraigned before Magis-

trate James Brady on the felony charge, which carries a maximum sentence of 7 1/2 years in prison. Police said Reynolds is wanted as a parole absconder for prior break-ins.

POWER TOOLS TAKEN

An Oxford Street homeowner told Farmington Hills police Sept. 26 that power tools including a circular saw, miter box and compressor were taken from his unlocked garage. The homeowner told police the tools were last seen in the garage Sept. 23. He reported the tools were valued at more than \$2,000.

HEAVY HEIST

A tool box weighing more than 300 pounds was reported missing Sept. 26 from a home under renovation in Farmington Hills. According to the incident report, thieves got in the house by breaking a bedroom window.

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Who's Really Making the Big Money on the Internet?

Hold onto your mouse: It's probably the kid who mows your lawn

13 Year Old Florida Boy Rakes in 1.5 Million in a Year

By Don Parnell
SEATTLE - Who wants to be a millionaire? You don't need Regis these days to rake in the big dollars. It seems that all that's required is a computer and a little know-how. Internet use is doubling every 100 days according to USA Today. That means that every three months, a whole new audience is discovering the amazing power of the Internet. This global marketplace has exploded into a \$3 trillion marketing phenomenon. But who, you may ask, is making all of the money? Big corporations? Internet gurus? Well, you'd be surprised.

When Matt King, Orlando, was 13 years old, his buddies were just discovering the profit potential of having a paper route. Matt saw a trend in the Apple Computer market and took advantage of it - on the Internet! According to the Orlando Sentinel, Matt did \$1.5 million worth of business his first year. His friends have quit their paper routes and now call Matt by another name: Boss.

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