



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BREKLER

Hot commodities: Farmington Hills firefighters Jeremy Dougherty and Jason Jolszewski were two of the evening's crowd-pleasers. Jean Gordanier successfully bid \$200 for Jeremy and \$500 for Jason.

Longacre auction raises nearly \$25,000

If you thought the auctioning of people ended with the Civil War, think again.

Five eligible bachelors — including two firefighters, a youth assistance director, a chamber of commerce employee and a service repair station employee were put on the auction block Sunday at the Longacre House auction, which raised just less than the \$25,000 goal. The nonprofit community activities house is located on Farmington Road between 10 and 11 Mile.

The highest bids of \$500 were for two of the bachelors. "Winners" received dates with the bachelors, which included movie tickets, dinner and flowers, said Terry Deichert, president of the

board of directors and interim executive director.

The money will be used to help pay off a \$50,000 debt, Deichert said. "We're looking for help with fund-raising," she said.

About 100 people attended the charity auction — a number that fell short of expectations, according to Deichert.

Other activities at the auction included a silent auction, live auction of various sports memorabilia items and a champagne raffle.

Donations to Longacre House may be sent to: Longacre House, 24705 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48333. For more information, call (248) 477-8404.



Masked: Bachelor Todd Lipa was unable to attend so Longacre board member Ray Okonski filled in. Bids for Lipa reached \$200.

Orchard Ridge prof's first play produced in NYC

By PAUL H. PACE
STAFF WRITER
ppacc@oh.homecomm.net

David James, English professor at the Farmington Hills Orchard Ridge campus of Oakland Community College, is thrilled about having his first play produced in New York City.

"It's exciting in that I talk about writing plays in my creative writing classes and here I get to be active in the genre," said the longtime college administrator and teacher. "I can now speak from experience."

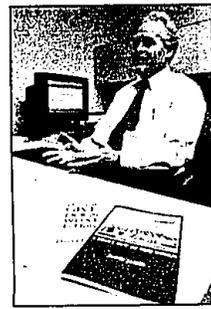
James has published numerous poems, essays and anthologies in his college administrative career. He even has two books of his poetry published, but this is his first play being produced.

The event is the Eighth Annual New York City 15 Minute Play Festival, being held April 15-27.

His play, "Finding the Muse," was one of 33 chosen among 350 submissions that highlight one-act plays running under 15 minutes.

"There's a certain exactness and focus when" the play is timed so closely, James said.

The event is being hosted by the Turnip Theatre Company and American Globe Theatre.



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Playwright: Dr. David James is the author of 10 one-act plays as well as books of prose and poetry.

plays will be shown each night.

A jury will then witness those selected as best, and members will make their choices for the "best of" awards, from playwright to actor to director.

The play involves a couple whose relationship falls apart because the man is always writing down what the woman says.

"She eventually says, 'It's the notebook or me,'" James said. "She thinks she's only there for the material." The play's about the conflict and how they resolve it."

James said he wrote the play in a few days while at a conference in Austin, Texas.

He said conferences are one of the few times in his busy life where he can find time to write after attending meetings all day.

If James wins best playwright at the festival, it won't make him rich, but it is an important stepping stone for future possibilities, he said.

"It's an opportunity to get noticed," he said.

The professor watched rehearsals of his play recently and was amazed.

"I was there for two hours and these people are saying my words and they mean it," he said with a smile.

What he loves

James started at OCC in 1986 as a dean. He said he took a teaching job almost a year ago because it's what he loves.

Leslie Roberts, chairwoman of the English Department at OCC, said James is a "fabulous addition to the faculty."

"Students love him," she said. "He's got wonderful ideas on how to improve our curriculum."

While having the play selected is an honor, it's not an all-expense paid trip, James noted.

A few weeks ago, he held a fund-raiser to get the production to New York. Thanks to family, friends and colleagues, he raised enough money help pay for the actors and the director and their accommodations in New York.

The 46-year-old, who lives in Linden with his wife and three children ages 22, 19 and 17, said while in the Big Apple, the audience will choose which play of the night is best. About four

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