

OFFICIAL NOTICE
General Studies Program

Students who plan to Pre-Register for the Fall Semester in the General Studies Program are **URGED** to pick up a Pre-registration Form in Room 100 of Harrington Tower from Mar. 28 thru Apr. 15.



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Mock wedding brings home realities of marriage to teens

United Press International
WINCHENDON, Mass. — To the familiar strains of the Wedding March, the radiant bride strolled down the aisle toward the handsome groom. Flower girls tossed petals. Parents snapped pictures.

Perrish Kelly slipped a ring on Diane Desmond's finger. The young couple were pronounced husband and wife.

Two weeks and two "babies" later, the couple cheerfully reminded each other the wedding wasn't real, their offspring were literally raw eggs and the overwhelming responsibilities of marriage and parenthood could wait for now.

That's exactly the conclusion teacher Evelyn Honkala hoped for in initiating a "Marriage and Family" course heavily relying on role playing to dramatize the serious obligations the romantic ceremony incurs.

"Some think I'm negative about marriage," Mrs. Honkala said. "I'm not. I just want the students to understand through practical experience what they're getting into."

The course for Murdoch High School juniors and seniors has become so popular there's a waiting list.

"I never realized what was involved in organizing a wedding," said Lisa Clapp, in charge of the floral arrangements for the nuptials. "I thought it took a week and then you got married."

During the six weeks of pre-

paration, each female member of the class planned her own make-believe wedding, organized the mock ceremony, researched each detail from the cost of invitations, bridal showers, rings, photographs, a reception and rented formal wear for the trossseau.

The males were assigned the task of finding a hypothetical employer for a youth with only a high school diploma and itemizing a budget based on the husband's salary. The disillusioned teenagers found factory employment at low pay was all they would be able to obtain.

Since only about 40 percent of the high school graduating class goes on to college and there has been a tendency to marry young in the town, Mrs. Honkala views the course experiences as essential.

"It's not that women's lib passed us by," Mrs. Honkala said. "Young people need and want to discuss male-female relationships, regardless of when or if they marry."

"By the time the five-day-a-week course is over, they know exactly what they're getting into if they decide upon an early marriage," she said. "I tell them to continue their education or job training, to get out into the world and refrain from marriage until they are really ready."

"But nothing actually drives this message home" like the wedding and subsequent unit on infant care, Mrs. Honkala said.

The mock ceremony not only

captures the imaginations of the students but much of the middle-class community of 7,000.

The red roses carried by the 17-year-old bride are donated by a local store along with the petals for the flower girls and bouquets for the maid of honor and four bridesmaids.

Shopowners also contribute the satin bridal gown, tuxedos, refreshments and even a beauti-

she said, "I'm going to beauty school college. Marriage can wait."

"At first it started out like any other day," Perrish said. "Then I heard the Wedding March and got the jitters."

"I'm very relieved it was a mock wedding," said Perrish, who intends to enter the armed forces after graduation.

"I never realized how expensive a wedding is until I finished planning my own," said Wendy Wood, one of the bridesmaids.

"I guess we were all pretty itaive."

"But the ceremony made everything we've studied seem so relevant," she said, referring to the earlier class sessions on dating, standards for selecting a spouse and financial responsibilities.

Since all 35 students want to be in the wedding party, the 11 key spots are distributed at random by draw. The other youngsters, like Miss Clapp, are involved in the organizational aspects.

"The impact of the ceremony isn't just centered on the bride and groom," Mrs. Honkala said. "It affects them all."

There's no letdown afterwards, with the class immediately involved in parenthood preparation, prenatal care and birth in anticipation of the obligations soon to descend upon them.

"I wanted to come up with a way to make the responsibilities of parenthood real, not just academic," said Mrs. Honkala, a

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cian for the girl's hairdos while a mother of one of the participants bakes the tied wedding cake.

Marching from the home economics room to the school auditorium packed with parents, teachers and students, principal William Driscoll accompanied Diane down the aisle. A science teacher conducted the ceremony.

"It felt so real I was kind of nervous," Miss Desmond said afterwards. "I never wore a wedding gown before."

Emphasizing she has no plans of marriage after high school,



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Immigration recommends tennis star be denied asylum

United Press International
LOS ANGELES — The commissioner of the Immigration and Naturalization Service has recommended denying political asylum to 19-year-old tennis star Hu Na, but Attorney General William French Smith is expected to reverse the decision, it

was reported Wednesday.

However, a decision will not be announced until after House Speaker Thomas O'Neill and other congressional leaders end an official visit to China Sunday, the Los Angeles Times said.

The newspaper said Reagan administration officials have



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predicted the recommendation by Alan Nelson will be returned by Smith.

The Times said the official declined to be identified because of the "sensitivity" of the application.

Miss Hu defected to the United States during the Federation Cup Tournament in Clara, Calif., eight months ago. China has asked that she be returned, and the controversy put further strains on tense relations between Washington and Peking.

The officials said Nelson's negative recommendation reflects a clash between the immigration service and State Department over whether the department has to furnish reasons recommending that asylum be granted.

In Miss Hu's case, the Department first recommended last November she be allowed to remain as a political refugee, then simply reiterated that week, reportedly without responding to questions from son about the reasons for the recommendation.

Another department official contended that Nelson's recommendation for denial amounted to "having your cake and eating it too," in that the commission would be expressing his disapproval with the State Department without sending Hu Na back to China.

ANNOUNCING

the
Student Activities Office

is having an

OPEN HOUSE

Friday, April 1 9 a.m.-12 noon

at our new location in

The Pavilion

Please come by!...

STUDENT ACTIVITIES OFFICE
208 THE PAVILION 845-1133

Student Government
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A Workshop
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Special Guest Speaker:

Ms. Pam Schauer, Personnel Administrator for Texas Instruments in Austin, will speak on "Women in the Business World".

TOPICS

Future Issues for Women
Career/Family Relationships
Psychology of Women

Women in Business
Women's Self-Image
Assertiveness

Thursday, April 7, 8:30-3:30

\$7 Fee includes Luncheon

Register at the Student Activities Office
Before April 1

Student Activities Office
208 The Pavilion 845-1133