

Former Student Returns

Robin Williams visits

Country Day

by Todd Karr
DT Editor

To meet a celebrity is a dream many young people have. For the students of Detroit Country Day School that wish came true Friday, May 7, when Robin Williams suddenly appeared in the midst of the school day to revisit the college preparatory, which he attended from 1964 to 1968.

Williams, who performed two shows the previous Thursday night at the Royal Oak Music Theatre, personally telephoned the school that Friday morning to warn them of his impending visit. With no advance notice, the unsuspecting student body was predictably quite shocked to see the immediately-recognizable comedian coming down the hallway as they removed their books from their lockers.

The students were remarkably well-behaved despite fears by administration of the mob scene that could result from such an appearance. The youths were content with simply staring in awe at the superstar, whose credits include the phenomenally popular television series "Mork and Mindy" and the movie "Popeye," as well as the upcoming film "The World According to Garp," set for a July release.

Williams, patting students on the back and declining autographs with a diplomatic "I'm sorry," worked his way to the office of Headmaster Dr. Richard A. Schlegel, where he agreed to

present an impromptu assembly for the students. For ten minutes, Williams had faculty and students alike roaring in laughter with a non-stop barrage of one-liners about Country Day. Students especially liked his impressions of lunch: "Do they still serve that stuff that looks like roofing material? That's the meat ... don't look at it too long." A small Middle School student with a camera was dismissed as a staff member of the "Junior National Enquirer." He told of his experiences on the school's wrestling team: "Lose more weight? I'm only fourteen years old and I weigh a hundred pounds!" and, reflecting on running track, did an unmistakable impersonation of Country Day's longtime track coach George Browne.

Williams graciously thanked the thrilled audience and made a tour of the school's new gymnasium complex. Like the following children of the Pied Piper, students trailed behind the comedian, who delighted them with his endless off-the-wall comments.

Preparing to depart, Williams pleasantly posed for photographs, shook hands with the boys, and kissed the girls' cheeks. With a sincere smile and a wave of his hand, Robin Williams said a fond goodbye to his school, leaving students to wonder if they, too, could someday return to Country Day in such glory.



LIKE THE PIED PIPER that he can be, Robin attracted student attention wherever he went while at Country Day. He did find some quiet time, however, to meet with faculty and staff who "knew him when . . ."



AMAZED to be back "home" again, Robin seemed subdued as he first walked through the doors.



CAPTIVATING, at the very least, was Robin's collection before a jammed Learning Center audience of Upper and Middle School students, and some of which tried to snap photos of their own.

Photos by Tom Weber



LET ME GET THAT ONE DOWN is what Headmaster Schlegel seems to be saying as he notes a funny remark by Robin during his visit to DCDS. Dr. Schlegel escorted Robin on a tour of the facilities at Country Day, facilities which were quite different when Robin attended DCDS in the late 60's.



DROPPING into one of his many characterizations, Robin "Mork" Williams cracks another quip about Country Day and his stay here in the late 60's. Robin gave the Upper and Middle School students an impromptu collection during his visit to the campus.