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May Ask Discipline For Hedrick

To Name Review Board Monday

By HOWARD KOHN

John Hedrick, Farmington Township patrolman, may soon face five counts of police brutality before a civilian review board.

The new board, empowered as watchdog over the township police department, is expected to be appointed at next Monday's township board of trustees meeting.

analysis

Complaints alleging brutality against Hedrick have been filed by five separate persons (listed below). Hedrick is likely to be the first man questioned by the civilian board.

If approved as expected, the civilian board will have authority to investigate citizen complaints and recommend discipline to the trustees.

In Hedrick's case the board may be able to skip the investigation stage since both the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the township police have already completed probes.

THEIR FINDINGS have been given to the U.S. Justice Department and the Oakland County prosecutor's office, respectively.

Sources close to the situation report that Prosecutor Thomas Plunkett will soon start criminal proceedings against Hedrick on assault charges.

The Justice Department is contemplating a criminal civil rights case against Hedrick — who already has been named in a \$750,000 civil suit alleging violation of civil rights.

THE FIVE Farmington cases are: • Walter Vetowich of Farmington Township who

claims Hedrick beat him after arresting him for a traffic violation. Vetowich has filed the \$750,000 suit naming Hedrick, Supervisor Curtis Hall, Police Chief Irving Yakes and Farmington Township.

• Christopher Fears of Farmington Township who says he suffered head injuries from a Hedrick beating behind the police station.

• John Vonsouers of Farmington Township who suffered a punctured eardrum from an alleged black-jack beating by Hedrick.

• A Southfield man who says Hedrick shot him in the back during an arrest.

• Foster Maier of Farmington Township, who says he was whipped with handcuffs at the police station by Hedrick and Captain Peter Larrison. Informed sources say the county prosecutor may also seek a

criminal warrant against Larrison.

Hedrick is also still under investigation by the Michigan Civil Rights Commission for a February 1966 brutality case in Pontiac.

The complaints against Hedrick were uncovered in April during the appeal hearing of Det. Sgt. Earl Peoples, who was suspended by Hall and Yakes for talking to the prosecutor's office about the Maier case.

Peoples was reinstated in May by the appeal board, a five-man subcommittee of the township board of trustees.

But Hedrick and Larrison have remained on the force, and Hedrick has continued as president of the Farmington Police Officers Association.

could take action against both Hedrick and Larrison.

When the charges were first aired at the Peoples hearing, the trustees promised a separate investigation by a civilian board for curbing debate during the appeal.

Three months have passed since then. "The township board is not abrogating its responsibilities," Hall insists. "The civilian board will handle all complaints but the township board will handle discipline."

The civilian board will have five members, all expected to be named Monday.

"For those people who are afraid to come into the police station to file a complaint, the civilian board offers them a place to go," Hall says.

The board should start functioning by the end of this month.

today's hot line

Tax Extended

Observerland Congressmen split along party lines as the House Monday voted 237-170 to extend the 10 per cent income surtax until the end of the year.

Republicans Marvin Esch of the 2nd District and Jack McDonald of the 19th voted in favor of the extension. Democrat William Ford of Taylor voted against it. Backing the measure were 68 Democrats and 152 Republicans. Opposed were 144 Democrats and 26 Republicans.

The Senate had passed the surtax earlier and the bill now goes to President Nixon for his signature.

what's inside

Young Swimmers

Put two or three hundred young swimmers together and what have you got? A fiercely fought battle for the championship of the area's private swim clubs. For a look—with a camera—of two of Farmington's three young swim clubs see

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Citizens' Gripes

Citizen complaints got heard at the Farmington City Council meeting Monday night. Parking problems near an auto dealer and "smelly rabbits" both got some action from the city fathers.

Page 4A

Auto Specialties

Farmington's growing industrial community welcomed a new member this week—Kem Krst. The auto specialty firm has plans for some interesting new products.

Page 5A

1990 Plan OK'd

A 1990 transportation and land use plan for southeastern Michigan Tuesday won a unanimous vote approval from the TALUS advisory committee.

For Observerland, the preliminary plan will mean a rapid transit rail line out Schoolcraft Road, a Middle Belt corridor freeway and a Ford Road freeway through Garden City and Westland. For details, see Regional Affairs.

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Killings Connected?

There has been one arrest, but the Ann Arbor-Ypsilanti murder investigation—which touches Observerland, too—continues, with police seeing a possible tie-in to several California killings.

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"We couldn't be happier"

... we sold our pool right away, the response to our ad was fantastic," said Mrs. Roger Anderson. Use Observer Want Ads to buy, sell or trade.



POOL, 24 ft., used 2 seasons, filter, skimmer, 4 ft. ladder, vacuum cleaner \$150. Phone 000-0000.

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'We Are Ignoring Racism'

by HOWARD KOHN

An Episcopal cleric who ministered here for more than six years says Farmington is ignoring racism.

"Farmington residents somehow manage to escape recognition of racism — especially their own," reflects Rev. Joseph Pelham. "It's uncanny, I don't quite understand how, but Farmington has let time pass it by on social issues."

Pelham has resigned from Trinity Episcopal Church to accept a teaching position at Colgate Rochester Divinity School in Rochester, N.Y., effective Sept. 7.

Several members have said they're disappointed because he's leaving.

"Rev. Pelham is well-liked. He makes Christianity relevant," says one member. "And he's a heck of a nice guy."

THOUGH YOUNG and intense, Pelham does not conform to the fiery militant image. He's good-natured but reserved. He admires scholars rather than subversives.

And he does not indict Farmington's apathy without a patient study of its recent history. Pelham came to Farmington in January 1968, the first black minister of an all-white congregation in Episcopal history.

In 1963 Farmington was embroiled in a controversy over its newly-formed Human Relations Commission (HRC).

Homeowners associations were publicly and privately alarmed that HRC was the dupes of an NAACP plot to systematically desegregate each neighborhood.

"There was a lot of paranoia when I moved to Farmington," Pelham recalls. "People asked me if I was part of the plot to get a black on every block."

"There have been plenty of stares and whispers behind my back since. But no one has challenged me to get out of town."

Pelham was more concerned with the collapse of HRC less than two years later than with the petty harassments of him.

"Farmington doesn't seem able to maintain its consciousness of social issues," he says. "This argument was concerned with more than the New Farmington Committee, which phoned out of the ashes of Detroit's 1967 riot, crumbled under its own inertia less than a year later."

"Chatties exist because suburbia likes them," Pelham points out grimly. "But Pelham also admits to some degree of dismay at his own impotency as a minister in Farmington. "I guess there is only so much one minister or one congregation can do," he says.

"There are always other churches for people to flee through they won't get discomfited."

Several Trinity families quit to protest Pelham's hiring in 1963. "This was probably the most direct step in the face, though it was expected," he says.



REV. JOSEPH PELHAM

Pelham discounts the suggestion that his leaving means he's giving up on activating "Sunday-worship" Christians.

But he readily admits organized churchmen must reform itself before churchgoers will get excited about it.

PELHAM EMPHASIZES three major areas of reform:

(1) Updating Christian doctrine and terminology. "The three-decker system of heaven-up, earth-ere and hell-down is a little backward in the moon age. Christian faith has to be intelligible to modern man — who is highly secular."

(2) Discovering new forms of ministry. "Christianity can't be contained in a church. We have to get into industry, universities, etc."

(3) Relating to contemporary issues. "The Church should be an agent for change. Ideally the Church should look at issues with utmost seriousness and then take serious action ... but there is a definite reluctance to do this."

TO MANY observers, the Black Manifesto symbolizes black society's confrontation with the Church. Engineered by James Forman, an ex-SNCC leader, the Manifesto demands \$500 million reparations from the Church.

"The proper response to the Manifesto is something less than rejection," says Pelham. "But many church people have rejected it without even discussing it."

"This is extremely narrow-minded because there is some truth in the Manifesto. The Church has been an accomplice in the degradation of the Negro race. And pleas for restitution are completely valid according to Church doctrine."

"Christ said if a man has two cloaks he should give one to a man who has none. The Church's reaction to the Manifesto shows just how far it has gotten from Christ."

In a survey of the incoming freshman class at Colgate Rochester Divinity School, more than 50 per cent reported they're not committed to the institutional church.

"This is one of the main reasons Pelham is shifting his focus of attention from the pulpit to the classroom. He wants to make seminars more relevant."

Pelham remains, though, an establishment man who crusades within the system. He is a member of five Episcopal committees and a dean in the diocese.

STILL HE climb to a safe perch within the church hierarchy has not co-opted his personal fight against racism or apathy.

Pelham does not define racism in terms of roach scientists or nightstick police — maybe because he is a middle-class black with little background in the Southern small town or the Northern ghetto.

Instead Pelham calls it institutionalized racism.

Thanks Host For 'Building A Bridge'

By ELIZABETH WISSMAN

"A bridge" between her homeland and America — that's how Youth for Understanding exchange student Rity Bakker refers to the year she spent in Farmington.

Now back home in the Netherlands, Rity spent the year at Farmington High School and was hosted by the Charles Carvelis of 33906 State, Farmington.

UPON LEAVING, Rity said, "I won't say I fully understand your way of living now, and I cannot say you understand mine totally, but we have built up something — a bridge. I do believe in this. I do believe it helps to find a better world, which we need so much."

"Please let there be a bridge for others to come."

Describing her year at Farmington High, Rity said, "Although it was not an easy one, this year has been the most fantastic and worthwhile I have ever had."

She added, "There are no words to describe it, nor the feelings I had when I had to leave your country."

SHE RECALLED her arrival in this country on Aug. 24, 1968. "It was hot — in the 90's. About 100 of us flew over from Amsterdam to Detroit. Too much luggage, too many clothes on, terribly excited, but scared to death."

"My family, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Carvelis, Sue and Doug, met me at the airport. I kissed my new mother and had great trouble hiding tears. Waiting outside for the car, Mom said, 'I'm sure I'll work out, and I looked at her, wanting so much to believe it, but I didn't say anything.'"

REFLECTING on her year in Farmington, the Dutch girl said, "Your world differs in many more ways than you think from mine and it takes a little time and strong bridge to overcome this gap. My family built this bridge for me."

"They, in the first place, reached out their hands for a perfect stranger, ready to share all they had with her. It takes a special kind of people to do that and even more to finish the bridge they started in such a grand way."

She thanked the people of Farmington and her fellow FHS students with these words, "There are all the people in the Farmington Community and especially the kids from school who made our bridge stronger and more beautiful."

RITY SUMMED UP her experience as an exchange student this way: "As my program

Youth for Understanding, in- time, energy, money, commu- tation takes a lot of under- standing. It also takes a lot of will power, trust, willingness, everything."



A YEAR'S WORK NEARLY FINISHED — More than a year ago Farmington citizens began plans to convert the 20-room Longacre mansion into a community center. Last week Bob Beauchamp (left) and Augie Barbick of the Jaycees removed the drapes and scraped the walls for a new coat of paint. The center will officially open in September. (Evert photo)

How To File For Election

As of early Tuesday no one had yet filed for the charter commission election to be held November 4. The deadline is 4 p.m. Sept. 16.

To file, a candidate must have 20 signatures on a petition available at the city or township hall; he must be a qualified elector and have lived in the municipality three years prior to March 24, 1968.

The clerk of either the city or township must verify the signatures on the petition; officers or employees, elected or appointed, of the municipality may not run.

The charter commission will be elected to draw charter for a single city, combining the township, city, and two villages.