

# Farmington Observer

Volume 99 Number 83

Thursday, August 2, 1979

Farmington, Michigan

78 Pages

Twenty-five cents

© 1979 Suburban Communications Corporation. All Rights Reserved.

## Media coverage blasted by new senior chief

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

As Dr. Joseph J. Gadbow assumes leadership of the Farmington Area Commission on Aging, one of his first priorities is to change the media's image of seniors.

While lobbying a few shots at the media, Gadbow, 62, stressed its importance in helping change the community's attitude toward housing for seniors

as well as the aging process.

"The media is not good to the elderly," said Gadbow, a doctor in internal medicine and geriatrics at Henry Ford Hospital in West Bloomfield.

Media portrayal of elderly persons reinforces the poor image others in the community may have of them. Such images only lend ammunition for anti-senior sentiment.

He cited the Farmington's Observ-

er's recent coverage of the plight of Howard and Ruth Eldrege as an example of the media continuing to present a poor image of the elderly.

"The story wasn't very good. It didn't put them in a good light," Gadbow said.

The Eldreges lost their Farmington Hills home and their possessions to a recent fire. The Observer reported that 80 cubic yards of junk material was removed from the couple's property

months before the fire. The story also contained a list of household and personal items the couple needed.

"SUCH COVERAGE doesn't help put the elderly in a good light," said Gadbow.

Instead, he said, the media should promote a good image of the elderly and of people in general. With a good image of seniors, the community could

be prompted to come to grips with the aging process.

Good newspaper coverage should help prompt the community to understand that they too will be old someday, Gadbow said.

With the acceptance of the aging process should come good feelings about being old.

"It's a pleasant experience," said Gadbow.

Acceptance of aging could also result in a different attitude toward senior housing.

"They're building it for themselves," said Gadbow about the younger generations' senior housing projects.

"With inflation, unless they make a hell of a lot of money, they're going to need it."

## Windy Energy battle waged in Hills backyard

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

Daniel Mullendore has cast his fate to the winds.

The 36-year-old Farmington Hills resident already has erected a tower to hold a Marcellus Jacobs wind generator 70 feet above the ground.

From its position above the treetops, the wind generator will catch the Michigan breezes and transform them into power which will light the Mullendore home.

Although the generator still sits on the ground waiting for the chance to catch the wind, the tower was set up last weekend by Mullendore and a corps of 120 helpful neighbors and friends. They were buoyed by the music of five banjos, one guitar, several piano players and a steady supply of beer and lemonade.

The crew worked from 11 a.m. until dark last Saturday and for three hours on Sunday.

"I had lots of help. If I had to do it by myself, it would have taken me a week of working steady," said Mullendore.

It's the enthusiasm and help of his neighbors which also allowed Mullendore to acquire a permit from Farmington Hills allowing him to set up a tower exceeding the city's zoning limits.

"They think it's a great idea," Mullendore said of his neighbors. "That was the main thing."

LAST WEEKEND'S tower raising was scheduled just before the permit issued last year expired.

Mullendore faces five more hours of work setting the generator in place atop the tower.

Within two to three months he hopes to have his home's lights hooked up to the generator instead of being powered by Edison. A dual system will be installed in his home which will allow him to choose between the two power sources. The system is planned to prevent both power sources from being turned on at the same time.

The wind generator is Mullendore's way of showing his backing for the alternate energy source of his choice.

He decided to transfer to the wind generator when he came to the conclusion that a real advocate ought to have a working system.

He considers himself a hybrid wind generator user.

"I have altruistic motives but not the self-discipline," he said.

Self-discipline would be needed to rule out some of the appliances a wind generator couldn't accommodate.

The system provides 500 kilowatt hours a month. In Michigan, the power supply breezes are slower than in the western states, averaging about 12 miles per hour.

"YOU'D END up doing without (Continued on page 4A)



Here comes the parade

Thousands of residents from both Oakland and Wayne counties crowded the curbs of Farmington this past weekend to watch the annual Farmington Founders' Festival parade. Here the Celtic Pipe

and Drum Corps, of Birmingham march down Grand River, with familiar landmarks in the background. To see more action parade photos, turn to the Suburban Life Section.

## Everything is so big here

### Music brings Belgians to America

By C.J. RISAK

Really, things aren't that much different between Antwerp, Belgium, and Detroit . . . except that everything here is bigger than it is there.

That was the impression of two visitors from the small European country, Beatrisj Vanuffelen, 19, and Greta Van Colen, 26, are members of the Youth and Music Orchestra of Antwerp, which performed at Farmington High School last Tuesday.

The group was visiting Farmington on the first stop of a two-week tour, which will also take them to Indiana and New York. It is all part of a program sponsored by Blue Lakes Fine Arts Camp, which gives high school students from the Midwest a chance to perform overseas and brings foreign groups here.

It was the first time in the country for both Greta and Beatrisj, but both spoke fluent English.

"You can't go far with Flemish," Beatrisj explained. "In school, we learn three languages usually — German, French, English or Flemish. About half our country speaks French, while the other half speaks Flemish."

A language barrier might be expect-



BEATRISJ VANUFFELEN



GRETA VAN COLEN

ed in a country the size of Belgium. It borders on the Netherlands, West Germany, Luxembourg and France, with approximately 90 miles of coastline on the North Sea.

Belgium is approximately 11,750 square miles in area. In comparison,

Michigan is 58,000 square miles, but is nearly one million short of the European country in population (9,680,000 to 8,675,000).

"EVERYTHING HERE IS very big," Beatrisj said, not surprisingly so.

"Your cars are big, and your streets are so wide.

"We have everything you have, but yours are all bigger."

Both Greta and Beatrisj noticed other differences between cultures, although they had been in Detroit for less than a day.

"Fuel is more expensive there than here," Greta said, figuring the cost in Belgium at about \$3 per gallon. Both were surprised to see the number of people driving in the States.

"Everyone walks or bicycles there, and everything is so close," Beatrisj said. Grocery shopping is done every day in Belgium because of the proximity of stores.

Both Greta and Beatrisj conversed easily about their experiences in this country, and both looked forward to what they would learn in the next two weeks. Before their concert Tuesday, they toured Greenfield Village and the Renaissance Center.

Both will have plenty of stories to tell when they get back to their homeland. Beatrisj is attending a public relations school in Antwerp. And Greta? She works at a J.C. Penney in Antwerp.

No wonder she speaks such good English.

## Passenger injured as Jeep overturns

A Westland man is in Botsford Hospital suffering from a fractured skull, broken leg and internal injuries after the Jeep CJ7 in which he was a passenger rolled over on Grand River north of Oakland street, Saturday night.

The Jeep was traveling east in the right turn lane of Grand River when it jumped over a curb, struck a steel light pole with its right front wheel and rolled over three times, according to Farmington Police.

The Jeep was equipped with a roll bar and a cloth top. As the car rolled over, passenger Timothy Lee Boroff, 22, was partially thrown from the Jeep.

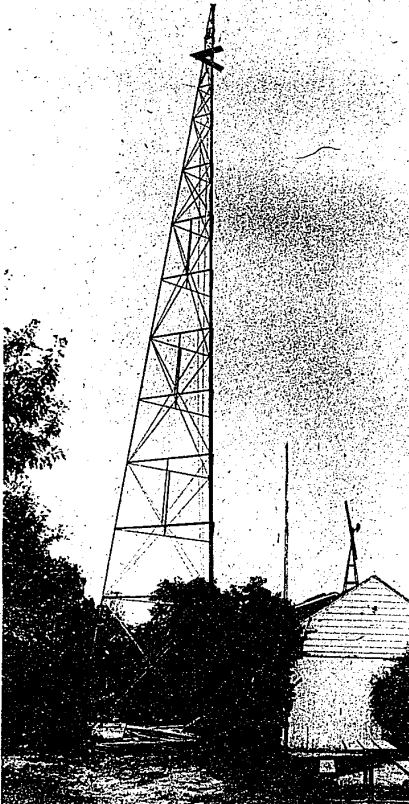
He was pinned under the vehicle from the chest down.

Passers-by lifted the Jeep off his chest before Farmington police arrived.

Neither Boroff nor driver Robert Lee Grimes, 22, of Westland were wearing a seat belt, according to police.

Boroff was treated at the scene and taken to Botsford Hospital in Farmington Hills. Grimes was treated for minor scrapes, bruises and cuts and released from Botsford.

Police have charged Grimes with reckless driving.



High above the treetops, the 70-foot tower awaits the wind generator which will provide light for the Mullendores' Farmington Hills home. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

inside

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE OUR CLASSIFIED PHONES ARE OPEN UNTIL 7:30 p.m. EACH MONDAY AND THURSDAY CALL TODAY! 644-1070

Business	7D
Club Circuit	5C
Community Calendar	3C
Inside Angles	3A
Editorials	14A
Engagements and Weddings	6C
Obituaries	2A
Sports	Section B
Suburban Life	Section C