

# Farmington Observer

Volume 91 Number 1

Thursday, October 18, 1979

Farmington, Michigan

82 Pages

Twenty-five cents

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## Party incident results in two suspensions

By MARY GNIEWEK

Two Farmington police command officers received department suspensions without pay in the aftermath of an investigation into a fight between off-duty police and three teenagers in Farmington Hills Sept. 14.

Lt. John Santomauro and Sgt. Chip Snider were reprimanded for failure to report the incident, which occurred during a party at the home of Officer Chuck Lee, to their commanding officer, Public Safety Director Dan Byrnes.

The two officers also were cited for not contacting the Farmington Hills Police Department to assist in ejecting the three youths from the house.

The youths, John Williams, 19, his

sister Mary, 15, and Robert Cote, 19, all of Farmington Hills, claim they were punched, kicked and choked in an unprovoked attack when they entered Lee's home because they mistook it for another party in the area.

At least seven off-duty Farmington police officers were among 20 or 30 guests in attendance when the youths arrived around midnight. Neither the teenagers nor the party guests sought medical attention after the brawl, which started in the basement but moved to the front lawn.

Byrnes, who was notified of the incident by someone outside his department on Sept. 16, resigned from his job Oct. 12. He cited police officers' lack of cooperation into the investigation of

the actions taken at the party as a reason for his departure.

**CITY MANAGER** Bob Deadman reviewed Byrnes' full report of the incident Friday and announced the action against the command officers at a press conference Tuesday.

Although Deadman would not identify the officers by name, Santomauro confirmed his and Snider's suspensions in a telephone interview.

"As far as the incident is concerned, I felt it didn't deserve the notoriety it got," Santomauro said. "But as second in command of this department, I accept some of the responsibility for it."

The suspensions begin today (Thursday). Santomauro received a one-week suspension without pay and a loss of

one-week's personal leave time. Snider received a three-day, no-pay suspension, plus loss of personal leave time less than a week.

"This was a relatively serious infraction and we are dealing with it seriously," Deadman said, himself once a Farmington police officer.

Deadman said that civilians and off-duty police from Traverse City were also involved in the scuffle with the youths.

"The police department has been involved in an internal, not a criminal investigation," Deadman said. "No complaints have been signed by anyone."

During the investigation, Byrnes and Southfield attorney John Eidt interviewed the three youths, police officers, and civilians who were involved in the incident.

Because no complaints were filed, the investigation was limited to violation of department rules. No further action beyond the two suspensions will be taken, Deadman said.

**UNION STEWARDS** who represent both command and rank and file Farmington police officers filed grievances last week pertaining to the investigation. The grievances will take a considerable length of time to settle, according to Deadman.

Sgt. Murray Switzer, who represents the department's six command officers, charged Byrnes with violating the law of double jeopardy by reopening the investigation after the first one was closed.

Deadman claims he rejected Byrnes' first investigative report.

Officer Thomas Cox, steward for Farmington Police Officers Association Local 214, filed another grievance because he said the officers involved were not given a list of charges against them.

Deadman also denied that the party incident was the sole motive for his public safety director's resignation.

He said he accepted Byrnes' resignation because "This was not the first time we had discussions about the pressures of the job — most of which were unrelated to this incident."

Deadman, who is now the acting public safety director, said the new director will be hired from outside the Farmington police department.

"We hope to have the position filled in 90 days," he said.

## College's recruiters show heavenly results

By MARY GNIEWEK

One might wonder how the Detroit Bible College (DBC) has managed a 13 percent student enrollment hike this fall and is planning several expansion projects while other colleges are suffering from shrinking enrollments and financial woes.

It has to do with aggressive recruiting efforts and curricula which train students to work in fields where there are still an abundance of available jobs, according to administrators at the Farmington Hills college.

"Four hundred organizations in more than 120 countries are offering 20,000 Christian service jobs in 4,300 different classifications," said Gene Williams, vice president for development.

DBC students train for careers such as director of Christian education for programs in churches or overseas missions, and teacher of religious education in secular schools.

Williams said 95 percent of the school's almost 800 students are from the greater Detroit area.

One large building on Twelve Mile Road, west of Drake Road, houses all classes and school operations, but expansion plans include building a library, gymnasium, chapel, and two



DR. WENDELL JOHNSTON

dormitories, the first slated to open next fall, said Dr. Wendell Johnston, DBC president.



Lance Coyle practices a musical piece in the Detroit Bible College chapel.

**JOHNSTON, A FÖRMER minister** in Dallas, Texas, has served as DBC president for 12 years — since the school was located on Meyers Road in Detroit. The college moved to its present site a year ago after two years in Southfield.

Johnston said the reason DBC has fared well while other Bible colleges are experiencing enrollment declines is because of its aggressive recruiting effort, a job delegated to Williams.

"We are challenging young people to consider full-time service to the Lord as a vocation," Williams said.

Williams, a graduate of the University of Washington in Seattle, was once president of a management consulting firm in Minneapolis.

"In 1968, I made a personal commitment to help. I merged my company with another and went to help Christian organizations," he said.

After two years with the Fort Wayne, Indiana, Bible College, Williams came to DBC.

"We believe our students are here because God wants them to be here," he said.

Two of his daughters, Kathy and Karen, are enrolled in Bible studies at DBC.

The school is based on fundamentalism, a belief in the basic teachings of Bible scriptures. It draws Baptists, Presbyterians, Reformed, Methodists, Lutherans and non-denominational Christians.

"WE'RE NOT a Bible-thumping, finger-shaking, table-pounding organization," said Dr. Bob Woodburn, vice president for academics.

"There are different kinds of fundamentalism. Some have a negative approach. Some have a positive approach. We like to think of ours as positive. We're not against things so much as we are for them," he said.

Johnston compares the atmosphere of DBC to the early days at American educational institutions like Harvard, Yale and Princeton.

"Fundamentalism was a traditional part of the founding of those schools. Schools today are more dedicated to the state than to God. We're going back tradition," he said.

Besides a heavy emphasis on Bible studies, the school offers a range of liberal arts courses including psychology, sociology, history, foreign languages and music.

The college offers four-year, bachelor degree programs in religious education, theology and music. It also has a one-year Bible certificate program, a

(Continued on page 4A)



The student lounge provides a place for casual conversation and study. From left, Kathy Williams, Wayne Kurtyer, Ralph Brown and Debbie Morse. (Staff photos by Randy Borst)

## Residents' responses mixed over police-teen incident

A random poll of Farmington area residents reveals mixed feelings about future action resulting from an investigation of an off-duty police officer's party.

The department's recent internal investigation was aimed at determining if three teenagers who said they mistakenly walked into the party were assaulted by off-duty officers attending the party.

A few of the residents who discussed the incident in the poll said they didn't believe the teens' story. The teenagers claimed they were attempting to leave the party when police officers beat them.

"The way kids are these days — I don't know exactly about... (what they do) But all this stuff's been blown out of proportion," said one Farmington woman who wished to remain anonymous.

"I don't know as I believe the kids," said another Farmington Hills woman. "I wonder if the kids were telling the truth. I don't know why they bothered to investigate. The kids crashed the party. It's a waste of time and money."

Others were reserving judgement on the issue.

**KEN BAKER**, a former Farmington resident who now lives in Novi said

some good coming from an investigation of the incident.

"I was quite upset with the police chief's resignation. They (the department) would certainly have profited from an investigation," he said.

A West Bloomfield woman who works in Farmington Hills said that Public Safety Director Dan Byrnes' resignation was evidence of something amiss in the department. "Something must have preceded this," said Mrs. Irene Cairns who believes that Byrnes resigned on principle.

"If you have scruples, it must be a hard existence, day after day in such a place," she said of turmoil in the department.

Yet another resident backed away from saying whether the teens or the police were on the right side of the issue.

"I can't make a judgement on either party," said Margaret Kotting of Farmington.

"We're all human. We all have parties. I'm sure if the kids found a good party they would want to crash it. I'm sure our dear police are just like everyone else — they put their pants on one leg at a time. They're under a lot of pressure. They make mistakes just as we all do."

"Who knows what happened?"

## EMT refresher course scheduled for Madonna

Emergency Medical Technologists interested in renewing their skills or wanting a better understanding of the continuing role of EMT may enroll in a basic refresher course at Madonna College, Livonia. The sessions will meet from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Nov. 16, 30, Dec. 7 and 14.

The course follows the Michigan Department of Public Health guidelines. Enrollment fee is \$75. Twenty continu-

ing education points are given upon completion toward re-certification.

Since enrollment is limited, registration must be completed by Nov. 9 in the Registrar's Office in the Madonna College Administration Building, 3660 Schoolcraft near I-96. The office is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. For more information call the EMT department at 591-5074.

## Crash kills boy

Craig Andrew Singleton, 17, of Farmington Hills, died Tuesday at Botsford Hospital from head injuries suffered in a three vehicle collision at 12 Mile and Drake Roads Monday. He is the city's eighth traffic fatality this year.

Singleton, who was a student at North Farmington High School, was driving a 1976 GMC van northbound on Drake Road when he was struck by a semi-truck at the intersection of 12 Mile at 7:34 a.m.

According to Farmington Hills traffic safety officer Gerald Lynch, the truck driver, Walter J. Torola, 20, of Calumet, Mich., was traveling eastbound on 12 Mile, and apparently entered the intersection on a red light.

The truck skidded after hitting the

van, then hit a 1977 Cadillac driven by William Snow, 72, of Farmington Hills. Snow and Torola were treated and released from Botsford Hospital. Snow's passenger, his 61-year-old wife, remained in Botsford in satisfactory condition Wednesday.

Singleton's passenger, Mark L. Lavett, 18, of Farmington Hills, was treated for a foot injury at Botsford and released.

Officer Lynch said the truck was moving at or near the 50 mile per hour speed limit at the time of the accident. He said drinking or speeding were not factors. The accident is still under investigation.

Singleton was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert L. Singleton, 36650 Padfield.

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**Seminar planned**

All residents interested in learning how to get their news out to the public are invited to attend the Farmington Observer press seminar. Stated for Nov. 1 at 7:30 p.m. at the Twelve Mile Library, the seminar will feature presentations by the staff, questions and answers and a brand new slide presentation on today's community journalism. Be sure to fill out the coupon and bring a friend. It's free. Refreshments will be served.

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