

today's hot line

Vol. 82, No. 47 68 pages, 6 sections

what's inside

A Big Undertaking

High school students often complain about the difficulty in reading and understanding Shakespeare. Imagine the difficult responsibility high school students undertake when deciding to present "Midsummer Night's Dream." Here's a report on that undertaking by North Farmington High School. Page 3A

How To Cut Taxes

Farmington Township and Oakland County supervisors believe the way for taxes to be cut is for school districts to reduce their millage rates. But that's hard to do when faced with a deficit of more than \$500,000 says Richard Peters, president of the Farmington Board of Education. Page 7C

The Best

The all-Observerland high school basketball team and outstanding coach have been selected by our sports staff after talks with your local coaches. They're announced today in stories and pictures. Page 1B

58 Years

Maybe no candles to blow out, but plenty of other Girl Scout activities are on display in the Livonia Mall to make the Girl Scouts' birthday. Just a few are pictured in our Women's Section. Page 1C

Local Dems Gain

Suburban Democrats are gaining seats on the party's State Central Committee because of the new "one Democrat, one vote" reapportionment policy. But one district chairman says the powers in Lansing are trying to foist an illegal procedure on him. Dennis Pajot has the inside story. Page 12A

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Dream of a Bride...

A special feature of the Observer Newspapers
Look for it Sunday, March 22
and Wednesday, March 25

Township Forms Community Drug Coordinating Committee

Interim co-chairmen have been named by Farmington Township trustees to organize a blue ribbon committee to explore the drug abuse problem in the Farmington Area. Appointed by the township as interim co-chairmen were Tom Zoedes, an architect, and David Comfort, executive director of the Farmington Area YMCA. THE COMMITTEE will be known as the Farmington Coordinating Council on Drug Abuse. Suggestion to form such a committee was made Jan. 26 by Trustee Earl Oppertbauer. Since first proposing the com-

mittee, Oppertbauer has been talking with City of Farmington and Farmington School District officials and other community leaders involved in drug programs. Oppertbauer said he has had numerous talks with the Rev. Karl Kaltreider, pastor of Antioch Lutheran Church in Farmington and chairman of the drug abuse task force of the school district's Family Life Education (FLE) committee. Kaltreider reportedly told Oppertbauer that members of the drug abuse task force will be willing to serve on the coordinating committee once its

prime task (making recommendations on drug education) is out of the way. OPPERBAUSER SAID Zoedes and Comfort both voluntarily came to him and expressed a strong interest in helping on the committee. Oppertbauer added he recognized there were other endeavors in the community to tackle drug abuse, such as the Drug Rap Line started by a group of teens in north Farmington Township. He also made mention of Oakland County's plans to establish a department on the drug problem and implement special programs to help drug users kick the habit.

"I wish to emphasize my proposal is not to do away with existing endeavors or to duplicate them," Oppertbauer said, "but to establish a committee to supplement, aid and coordinate existing programs." Trustee Fred Lichtman said that if a coordinating committee was to be formed, it seemed the city and township should do so by a joint resolution instead of the township creating the committee by unilateral action. Oppertbauer said Zoedes and Comfort as interim chairmen will pick a nucleus of persons to form the committee

with members coming from both city and township. IN OTHER action, the board sold bonds for two sewer projects and a water project. A \$550,000 bond issue for sewers in Springland was awarded to First of Michigan Corp. A \$498,000 bond issue for sewers in Springbrook was also awarded to First of Michigan Corp. The interest rate for both bonds was 5.8188% for a total interest cost of about \$340,000. A \$22,000 bond issue was awarded to Michigan Bank for a water line along 9 Mile. Interest rate was 5.947% for a total interest cost of \$9,500. THE BOARD ALSO ap-

proved a new division of voting precincts which included creation of a new precinct, No. 18, in the northwest corner of the township. State law requires that no more than 1,200 voters be allowed for each precinct. In the last election, Nov. 4, two precincts had 1,500 voters. Liston Shepard was appointed as the Democratic member of the Board of Canvassers. He was the only person nominated for the position. A resolution was passed asking the Oakland County Drain Commission to establish a drain district for Franklin Forest and Franklin Fairway subdivisions.



Former Addict Reveals Escape From Slavery

By WYLIE GERDES A world no larger than the eye of a hypodermic needle and lasting only the short minutes of a narcotic fix was unveiled for Farmington Junior High School students Friday. A 19-year-old ex-heroin addict told the assembled students about his years "with a monkey on my back."

DESI MCHUGH of Philadelphia, said he was growing up in an upper middle-class area of northeast Philadelphia when he "escaped to the slavery" of drug addiction. "There isn't a drug in this country that I haven't stuck into my body sometime," McHugh said. Dressed in royal blue velvet flare-legged trousers and a matching tie, McHugh added he had even tried shooting peanut butter, mayonnaise and bananas into his arm.

McHugh said he smoked marijuana, took pills, drank cough syrup, sniffed glue and gasoline and shot "speed" or amphetamines before trying heroin. The young Philadelphiaan, just out of the Lexington, Ky., drug addict rehabilitation center and facing a five to 15-year jail sentence, vividly described his years addicted to the narcotic heroin. He said he started on heroin

at 15 with injections from part of a \$5 or "nickel" bag. Two years later, he said, he had to inject 15 bags each day to feel normal. "I would have had to shoot three or four bags just to stand up and talk like this," McHugh said.

THE TRIMLY dressed youth said he was forced to steal to pay for his habit. "You steal from everybody you come in contact with," he said, commenting that he once had stolen his father's paycheck. "I had to pay \$60 a day just to get up and see the sunrise and the grass," McHugh said. The image of a pusher lurking around schools tempting youngsters is false, McHugh said. Addicts start by getting drugs from their friends, who in turn get drugs from friends, with the chain finally leading to the Mafia, he added.

FINALLY, 11 months ago, the youth said he found himself living in an attic in a condemned building in Philadelphia, his only possessions the T-shirt and jeans he wore. He said he decided to go "cold turkey" — an abrupt stoppage of the use of narcotics. He paid "with 23 days of intense cramps, hot and cold flashes, vomiting and diarrhea."

"You just lay there in it because you're too sick to move," McHugh said. From there, McHugh said he went to the rehabilitation center in Lexington. Something less than 2% of those who enter the clinic stay off drugs for the rest of their lives, the youth added. The ex-addict said he took LSD over 80 times and "never got anything out of it." He described his trips under the drug as "not illusion, but reality." He said he would see faces — "one side bones and the other side's normal." Walls would melt, and he could see the notes coming out of a stereo in waves.

GLUE, LSD and amphetamines are the worst drugs used, McHugh claimed. "They screw up your central nervous system," McHugh said, "I'd rather have somebody shooting heroin than speed or acid because they eat away your brain cells." McHugh said God helped him kick his addiction. "The Cat look care of me," he commented.

"I don't know what's ahead, but it couldn't be worse than what's back there." Drugs do give takers a "kick," he commented, but there is also the kickback:

"They make you an animal." "You guys, take your girl down on the beach and watch the sunrise, and I'll guarantee you'll get higher than you ever did on drugs," he concluded. LARRY SMITH, a movie producer who organized the program, said he and McHugh are on tour of schools giving hour long or day long programs.

He said he is producing a movie called "Way Out" aimed at the drug problem in schools. Smith said: "The greatest reason kids turn on is conformity. You're running from one conformity to another, the conformity of non-conformity." Smith also spoke about sex and alcohol. "Many of us are not guided by what we know but how we feel," Smith said. A recent survey of 10,000 students showed 27% of ninth graders have drunk alcohol but the percentage increases to 48% by the time the group became seniors in high school. "You don't drop your troubles. They know how to swim," Smith said. He said teenagers are the victims of a society saturated by sex. Many teenagers don't know the difference between sex and love, he said.

THAT'S HOW IT IS — A Farmington Junior High student (foreground with hands raised) questions Desi McHugh, (right) about drugs. The 19-year-old McHugh, an ex-addict, spoke to the assembled junior high students and answered questions in the school's library after the program. (Evert photo)

Dems Tell Fears For Liberties

By ELIZABETH WISSMAN The Farmington Democratic Club is drafting a resolution to protest what it calls "the attempt of the Nixon Administration in the guise of patriotism and loyalty to subvert the spirit of the Constitution." Club members debated more than two hours Thursday night about an initial resolution prepared by their ex-chairman, Gerald Freedman. WHEN THE FINAL resolution is adopted by the club, it plans to make speakers available to explain the purpose and intent. As originally written by Freedman, a lawyer, the first portion contains statements protesting the "travesty of justice" involving the Chicago Seven and the Black Panthers.

Jack Burke, another member who is a lawyer, said: "As a member of this club, I do not condone this as written. I submit that if there has been a travesty of justice, under our system the proper place to handle this is in an appeals court and finally the Supreme Court. Then possibly the only action that would solve this matter would be a resolution like this." Freedman replied: "I may be over-reacting to the situation, but I do not notice where the U.S. government has burst into the headquarters of the Manifesto and they have as many guns and ammunition as the Black Panthers had. The difference is that the



STATE CHAMPS — Our Lady of Sorrows wrestling team captured the state title in Class C-D competition over the weekend. OLS is the first high school in Observerland to capture a state wrestling title. (See details on sports pages inside.) The trophy was presented by Coach

Doty and Barry Walsh to the Rev. Msgr. Thomas Beahan Monday during a pep assembly at the school. Walsh (center) has won 30 straight matches, won the state title in his weight division, and was a member of the All-Observer football team picked last fall. (Evert photo)