

# Farmington Observer

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## Christian leader raps humanists' ideology

By Gary M. Cates  
staff writer

If the trend toward humanism continues, Christians will be forced to disobey the government, said Dr. Francis Schaeffer.

Schaeffer, philosopher, theologian, author, speaker and founder of L'Abri Fellowship (a spiritual retreat) in Switzerland was the keynote speaker last Wednesday at the First General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC). The assembly was held in the Ward Presbyterian Church in Livonia.

"There comes a place where it is our duty to disobey the government," said Schaeffer, who traveled from Switzerland to address the new denomination, despite his battle with cancer.

"I still don't see Christians being stirred about what is going on," the gray-haired, goateed speaker said. Schaeffer's film series, "What Ever Happened to the Human Race?" deals with some of the issues he addressed including abortion, euthanasia, infanticide and the treatment of the elderly.

Recent U.S. Supreme Court deci-

sions and current practices at large hospitals reflect the trend toward humanism, according to Schaeffer, speaking to a crowd of more than 1,700, some of whom had to watch the speaker on closed circuit television.

"THE DECISION to have abortion on demand, and medical practices which allow 'undesirable' infants to die are humanistic decisions and practices, not biblically founded," said Schaeffer, who was received by the assembly with a standing ovation.

"Anyone who holds an office and goes against the law of God aggregates his authority. It is your responsibility to disobey someone who has aggregated his authority," said Schaeffer, who is a member of Reformed Presbyterian Evangelical Synod. He illustrated this by pointing to the recent departure from the United Presbyterian Church by many of the congregations now in the EPC, including Ward, which attracts many Farmington residents.

"God does not give us his laws to let us live. He gives us his laws out of his character that means that the law is for our good," he said.

"In this country, the battle for the next 10 to 15 years is going to be in law," Schaeffer said, because of the nature of law and current accepted beliefs.

SCHAEFFER contends law is based on moral judgments (murder is against the law because killing is bad, yet without God or the Bible there is no basis for moral judgments).

"Without it (the Bible) there is no basis for law. Modern man, who has turned away from the Bible, has found no basis for these things (law, beauty and ugliness, nature, cruelty or goodness and personal relationships)," Schaeffer said.

"The Bible is God's written communication to man, and tells us the solution to man's moral guilt. Without this communication, man would not have answers to the great questions of life. That is what this generation is finding out," Schaeffer said.

Schaeffer also said the Christian population has failed to educate its children about what the rest of the world believes. Something that is necessary if they are to communi-

cate with the rest of the world.

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Francis Schaeffer  
Ward speaker

## Group Ten is charged 2nd time

For the second time in four months Group Ten Mortgage Corp. of Farmington Hills has had its real estate license suspended by the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulation.

The firm specializes in writing second mortgages, also called "wrap-around mortgages" for customers seeking loans.

The license was first suspended by state officials on June 15 after mortgage customers were allegedly charged excessive interest rates causing some to lose their homes.

At the time, Luis Fernandez, assistant attorney general for the state, said the interest rates charged by Group Ten ranged from 14 to 25 percent, allegedly violating the Michigan Usury Law limit of 7 percent on second mortgages.

The attorney general's office also charged the firm failed to fulfill promises to pay off existing first mortgages and didn't disclose brokerage fees that reached as high as \$2,000. After a fine of \$30,000 was levied against the firm, the state agency reinstated Group Ten's real estate license June 23.

Last Thursday Silverenia Q. Kanoy, state licensing director, said new information reveals that Group Ten and four of its operators "appear to have continued the practices for which we originally suspended them."

Attempts to reach Group Ten President Francis LeBlanch for comment on the new charges were unsuccessful. Group Ten headquarters are 22821 Orchard Lake Road but the firm and its subsidiaries have offices in Midland and Grand Rapids. Related companies include Emil Coullidge Mortgage, Remvest Securities and Remvest Mutual Investment Trust.

A hearing on the latest charges is scheduled for Oct. 15.

## Jets fly in honor of Farmington airman

As four fighter jets approached First Presbyterian Church of Farmington Hills on Sept. 19, one jet left the formation and disappeared into a thick cloud cover overhead.

It was done as a tribute to pilot Douglas A. McMath, 27, formerly of Farmington, who died Sept. 16 from injuries suffered in a jet crash two days before in a farmer's field near Bad Axe.

McMath, a 1972 graduate of North Farmington High School, parachuted out of a T-33 training jet along with the plane's pilot, Major Tim Peterson, 40, of Anchorville.

Peterson suffered only minor injuries and has been released from the hospital, said Alice Errington, public affairs specialist at Selfridge Air Force Base. But McMath suffered a mortal wound to the head in the crash.

Air National Guard investigators are attempting to determine the cause of

the crash and explain what caused McMath's head injury.

"As far as we know both parachutes opened," Ms. Errington said. "There were reports from people on the scene that one parachute (Peterson's) opened before the other but the fact that one opened before the other did doesn't necessarily indicate something went wrong."

The pilot was conducting a series of aerial acrobatics as a training exercise prior to the crash, said Mrs. Margaret Norbeck of Farmington Hills, the deceased airman's aunt.

SHE SAID a nurse saw the crash and administered cardiopulmonary resuscitation to McMath at the scene. He was taken to Huron Memorial Hospital in Bad Axe and transferred the following day to St. Mary Hospital in Saginaw for neurological treatment. McMath died the next day.

He was a second lieutenant in the 107th Tactical Fighter Squadron based at Selfridge.

McMath's father, pilot Robert McMath, a retired Air National Guard general, recently had the honor of pinning wings on his son's uniform. The McMaths moved from Farmington

Hills to Scottsville, Ariz., nine years ago.

Officiating at the funeral was the Rev. George W. Ramsey. Burial will be in Colorado, where McMath lived prior to his military stint.

He is survived by his parents, Robert and Marjorie Ann McMath; brothers,

David, and Barry; sister, Nancy; and grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Andrew McMath of Detroit and Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Lawson of Nogales, Ariz.

Memorial tributes may be made to the Michigan Air Guard Historical Association, Selfridge Air Base, P.O. Box 745 Mount Clemens 48063.

## League listens

## Female magistrate reflects on career

By Mary Lou Callaway  
staff writer

When Oakland County Circuit Court Judge Hilda Gage grew up in the 1950s, her mother told her a woman had no career choices.

"Those were to be a teacher or a nurse because a woman could always get a job in those two fields."

So Gage became a teacher and she liked it.

"My husband got a law degree while I taught," she said.

Later, she had two daughters, studied nights and pursued her law degree. In 1978, she won the judicial post in Oakland County.

"Although I was elected with 15 in the race, I am opposed to the election of judges," she said of her tough campaign.

As a candidate, "you can't espouse an issue you might have to rule on."

Some judges have stated a preference on a certain subject, she said, only to disqualify themselves when a case came up they had taken that position on publicly.

Gage explained to about 50 members of the West Bloomfield-Farmington League of Women Voters and guests the workings of the circuit court.

She described her role adjustment from trial lawyer, an advocate, to that of sitting on the bench.

"It's a lonely position, isolation like a child quarantined looking out the window watching other children play. Lawyers laugh harder at your jokes that aren't funny," she said, but quickly added she likes her new role.

**'Every lawyer wants to be a judge, but few want to give up the big dollars.'**

— Oakland Circuit Judge Hilda Gage

"CASES SHOULD NOT be allowed to drag on and on. Lawyers working on contingency work faster than those paid by the hour, but they all want to do well by their clients."

"Every lawyer wants to be a judge, but few want to give up the big dollars," Gage said as the monetary sacrifice a lawyer makes to become a judge.

Each of the Oakland County Circuit Court judges handles between 1,600 and 1,800 cases per year.

"People are awful quick to run to court today, but the system cannot handle every dispute. Criminal and custody cases must be handled first."

"You can't pick a judge. Cases are assigned by blind draw. There is no hanky panky. There is an honest fear that lawyers prolong cases," she added. Many audience questions concerned court delays, inaccessible attorneys and litigants forced to wait to be heard.

"I'm on the bench at 8:30 every morning. It costs \$12 a minute to operate a courtroom. In Oakland County, we have very conservative juries. Civil cases mostly wait juries, but criminal cases wait judges alone," she said.

USING EXAMPLES to illustrate

## Hills posts agenda

Following is the City of Farmington Hills agenda to be held at 7:30 p.m., Monday September 28.

### PUBLIC HEARING:

- Necessity hearing for water improvement on Eldred between Middlebelt and Tuck. Resolution 3, 4 and 6.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Consideration of enactment of proposed zoning map amendment 62-261. Lots 67 thru 74 inclusive and lot 186 of Kemberton Park Subdivision. Proponent, Allen Ingle for Farmington Lodge 1983, Loyal Order of Moose.
- Consideration of enactment of proposed zoning map amendment C62-262. North side of Howard Road, west

of Halsted. Proponent, William Bowman.

- Consideration of amended bonding resolution for the various Howard Road projects.

### NEW BUSINESS:

- Consideration of request from Harrison High School for permit to hold Homecoming Parade.
- Appointments to Boards and Commissions.

### CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

- Recommendations acceptance of bids for vehicle purchases.
- Recommendations adjustment to existing reserves from the General Fund.

how and why mediation works led to questions about picking or getting rid of an attorney.

If you are dissatisfied, dismiss your lawyer, Gage advised. But first, it is wise to consult another lawyer.

Don't use the telephone yellow pages to find a lawyer, she says. A referral from a friend is the best method. "I think word of mouth is best."

Otherwise, the county or state bar association can be of help.

"You can have a consultation with a lawyer for \$15 for a half hour," she said to see if you and the attorney have a

rapport. She suggested asking questions about their experience, availability and charges.

Admitting jail overcrowding is affecting the judicial system, Gage said "the bottom line is punishment." She questions what deterrent jail is to rehabilitation.

A great majority of cases are settled by mediation by the time they get to trial, she said.

"It costs less to compromise. The system cries out for compromises," she concluded.

## Aging discussed at Mercy College

"How Golden Are the Later Years?" is the topic of a gerontology program seminar to be held at Mercy College of Detroit on Friday, Oct. 8, from 1:45-3:30 p.m. in the Health/Science Center Auditorium.

The discussion will help senior citizens and those who work with them to understand predictable life changes and stresses and will outline ways in which to deal with them.

Mary O'Brien of the University of Michigan Institute of Gerontology will discuss the validity of some myths

about aging and explain its physical, psychological and intellectual realities. A panel of senior citizens and older adults will respond to the presentation.

The seminar kicks off the Mercy College Senior Volunteer Assistant program, which is designed to prepare senior citizens to serve as volunteers in project agencies, health-care institutions and educational settings.

Through a structured program of instruction, field placement and supervision, they will be prepared to become involved in community service.

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**HOME IMPROVEMENT GUIDE**

**In today's paper!**



## A Farmington Beauty

Sandy Roa, 21, was named Miss Santa Monica at a recent beauty pageant in California. Roa is a 1978 graduate of Farmington High School. She will compete for the Miss California title in Lake Tahoe next January. She moved to California in 1980.