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Toxic waste? Threat or pananoia? 3A

Farmington Observer

Volume 100 Number 100

Monday, September 18, 1988

Farmington, Michigan

60 Pages

Fifty Cents

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SPECIAL farewell.
In announcing John J. Murphy's resignation from the Commission on Aging, Farmington Hills Mayor Terry Sever last week called the longtime city council watcher "a tremendous asset."
"We'll certainly miss his involvement," Sever said. Murphy resigned mainly for health reasons.

TIME to reflect.
The Farmington Hills City Council has proclaimed Sept. 17-23 as Constitution Week to commemorate the 202nd anniversary of the drafting of the U.S. Constitution.
Mayor Terry Sever urged "all citizens to study the Constitution, to express gratitude for the privilege of American citizenship functioning under the superb body of laws."

Memory lane

25 years ago.
This coming week marks the first anniversary of operations for city of Farmington officials in the modern municipal building on Liberty Street.

The Farmington Township board approved a \$200 a year pay raise for all police officers, effective Oct. 1, and also raised the starting pay for township police officers \$400 a year, from \$4,800 to \$5,200.

— Farmington Enterprise, Sept. 17, 1964

This week

FORMER students of the old Middlebelt Elementary in Farmington Hills will greet present occupants of the building, American House Retirement Residence residents, at a school reunion Wednesday night.

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Motorist shot on Hills highway

By Susan Buck staff writer

An exchange of insults preceded the shooting of a Northville man Thursday night in Farmington Hills, Michigan State Police said.

William Joseph Beller, 31, of Northville was shot in the arm while driving his pickup on M-102 near 10 Mile. The shooting ended a traffic altercation that began at Grand River and Middlebelt, said detective Sgt. Robert Silva of the Michigan State Police Northville post.
Apparently, the altercation began when a late-model maroon or burgundy four-door sedan containing two black men pulled up next to Beller's 1981 red Ford pickup. The

'It was a through-and-through wound.'
— Sgt. Robert Silva
Michigan State Police Northville post

men, thought to be in their 20s, began shouting obscene remarks to Beller's wife, Sandra, 33, who was a passenger, Silva said. The Bellers are white.
In turn, William Beller shouted a racial slur at the men. He then was shot, Silva said.

THE BELLERS told Silva in a police interview Friday morning they were returning home from a bar on

Telegraph when Beller was shot. Both cars were westbound on M-102 when the shooting occurred.

When Beller was shot, his wife took control of the steering wheel and drove her husband to Providence Hospital in Novi. He was transferred to Providence Hospital in Southfield, where he was treated in the emergency room and released at 8 a.m. Friday, police said.
Sandra Beller said she took over

driving because she was afraid her husband was becoming weak from the loss of blood, Silva said.

"It was a through-and-through wound," said Silva, who was not at the scene but is in charge of the investigation. Police received a call at 7:50 p.m. Thursday.

As late as Friday morning, state police were puzzled by Beller's conflicting reports, and they admitted details were sketchy. At first, police questioned where the shooting took place, said Silva.

Beller originally told police the shooting took place either on M-102, a freeway connector, between Orchard Lake Road and Drake, or on Grand River, between Orchard Lake

Road and Drake. M-102 forks away from westbound Grand River just east of the city of Farmington.

FIRST, BELLER said he was the passenger, then he said he was the driver, Silva said.

Police retrieved a bullet from inside Beller's truck but were unable to tell the type of weapon that was used.
Police observed blood both on the driver's side door and the floor of the truck, Silva said.

Insufficient evidence may hamper the case. "Unless something falls out of a tree, I won't be able to do much with it (the case)," Silva said.

State police would not release any information on whether anyone witnessed the shooting.

Ruling delayed in rape case

Judge to hear DNA expert

By Casey Hens staff writer

A ruling on whether DNA evidence can be used against 25-year-old Steven A. Szeman Jr., accused in a series of Oakland County rapes, has been delayed until October so a defense expert can testify.

Oakland County Circuit Judge Robert Tompkins' ruling will also affect two other cases, one involving Michael Sean Perkins, charged with committing a murder in Southfield.

The DNA ruling was expected Thursday, when Tompkins delayed his opinion until testimony from a North Carolina DNA expert can be heard. Prosecution witnesses have already

testified at the evidentiary hearing, which began last June.

A former West Bloomfield resident, Szeman is charged with a series of sexual assaults on female victims during 1987-88 in Farmington Hills, West Bloomfield, Birmingham, Bloomfield Township and Independence Township. Victims ranged in age from 12 to 61. He faces 49 felony counts related to the various assaults, including rape, robbery and burglary charges.

His trial has been delayed as prosecutors argue to have deoxyribonucleic acid, or DNA, testing used as evidence in the rape cases for which



Steven Szeman talks with his attorney, Lawrence Kaluzny, during Thursday's proceedings.

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Former U.S. Rep. Bella Abzug told area about her concerns Thursday night.

Rights fighter Bella Abzug worries about the White House

By Shirlee Rose Iden staff writer

"Our White House is being used as a pulpit for right-wing hoodlums," accused Bella Abzug, a woman known for the hats she wears and the heat she puts into struggles for justice, rights and choice.

Abzug spoke to more than 500 people at Congregational Adat Shalom in Farmington Hills at a Thursday evening open forum sponsored by Na'amat USA and the Labor Zionist Institute.

Internationally known for her leadership in feminist, peace and civil rights causes, Abzug is a former six-term U.S. Representative from New York City. A specialist in labor law, Abzug has worked on behalf of civil liberties litigants, women's rights and the peace movement.

Abzug's Guide to Political Power for American Women.

After more than an hour's delay, due to airline glitches, Abzug, skipping a civilized check-in at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Southfield, came directly to the Adat Shalom Social Hall, where was greeted with a standing ovation. In a taupe silk dress and jacket with black trim, and fashionable in black flat

shoes, she was weary but smiling. She gained force and vigor with the momentum of her talk. As ever, her outfit was topped with a round-brimmed straw hat with a black band.

ABZUG TALKED about her hats and the audience warmed over more. She recalled that when she came to Congress "they made a fuss over what was on my head rather than what was in it."

Hats became her trademark when, as a new lawyer, she was sometimes mistaken for a clerk when she went about legal work. "So I put on a hat and a pair of gloves and they they always knew I was there on business," she said.

Abzug's business at this forum was to remind the audience, men and women, that "We have to be prepared at all times to fight having our rights diminished, whether the right to be a Jew or to have a child."

'We have to be prepared at all times to fight having our rights diminished'
— Bella Abzug

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Schools hire consultant to lead search for chief

By Noroon Flack staff writer

An education management consultant team from Northbrook, Ill., will assist the Farmington school board in its national search for a new superintendent.

The school board voted unanimously Tuesday to appoint PNR Associates over five other consulting firms to lead the national hunt to find a qualified candidate for the 11,000-student district by July 1, 1990.

"We were pleased with the large number of contacts they had in a national network," said Helen Prutow, board president. "They were the most comprehensive of all the bidders."

PNR will solicit 450 candidates from a nationwide network mailing list coordinated by the consultants. The network includes administrators, teachers, placement officers, government officials, university officials and

board of education members.
The search began after former superintendent Graham Lewis resigned June 20.

Lewis, who earned a \$100,000 annual salary plus other benefits, served as school superintendent for three years. He will receive \$88,000 for the remaining year of his two-year contract.

Upon Lewis' resignation, deputy superintendent, Michael Flanagan, was named acting superintendent. Flanagan will return to the deputy superintendency when the new superintendent is hired, Prutow said.

Prutow guessed that the new superintendent would earn about what the acting superintendent is now paid. That salary is \$85,000.

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Observer sponsors publicity seminar

If you're in charge of publicizing club, sports, business, civic, municipal, entertainment or other types of community news, take note.

The Farmington Observer is a newspaper you should be familiar with. It's a ready way to reach 19,500 households in Farmington and Farmington Hills twice a week.

How do you submit information to the news staff in a way that's suitable for publication in the newspaper?

That's the precise question the Observer staff will try to answer as simply as possible at a public

relations seminar from 7:30-9 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 27, in the council chambers of Farmington City Hall, 23600 Liberty.

Come meet our staff and learn how to write and submit one of your group's most important tools: a press release.

The deadline to register for the seminar is Friday, Sept. 23.

If you're responsible for publicizing news about your community group, call Observer receptionist Rose Butler, at 477-5450, by Friday, Sept. 22. Leave your name and your group's name.

I hope to see you there!
— Bob Sklar, editor