

A stamp is a stamp  
except as mail art, 1D



Boys hoop  
stories, 1C

Holiday dessert:  
Buche de Noel, 1B

# Farmington Observer

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## 1 hurt in fight at Farmington High

By Casey Hans  
staff writer

Police and school officials are keeping a sharp watch on activities at Farmington High School after one student was assaulted in a fight Monday, and police broke up a gathering of 30-40 students Wednesday.

friends, then snowballed when one boy's friends interceded, said principal Gerry Potter.

"The incident was not precipitated by any ethnic problem," Potter said. "That's not what it's all about. We are dealing with a violation of school rules."

He said school officials are already taking action to hold staff, student and parent meetings to discuss not only last week's incident, but other rumors and concerns at the school.

Potter emphasized Monday's inci-

**'The incident was not precipitated by any ethnic problem. That's not what it's all about. We are dealing with a violation of school rules.'**

—Principal Gerry Potter

dent involved about half a dozen students and that many students in the school were not even aware of the altercation.

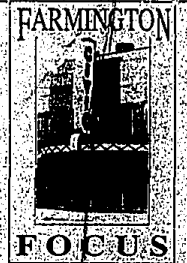
There was no fighting during the Wednesday incident, because students alerted school officials who contacted police before a fight broke

out, said assistant principal Clarence Shewbridge.

TWO 17-YEAR-OLD students and a juvenile — all Farmington High students — were arrested Nov. 26 after allegedly attacking another student during the lunch hour in the student parking lot. Commander Chuck Lee of the Farmington Public Safety Department said the victim, a 17-year-old, was thrown against a brick wall, injuring his eye.

The student required four stitches to his eye.

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FOCUS

**R**EMEMBER the "mock" election held among seniors in Farmington's three public high schools just before the real election on Nov. 6?

The student election will be the subject of a discussion for the December cable TV program "My Vote Counts" sponsored by the Farmington Hills Committee To Increase Voter Participation.

The program will be shown at 8 p.m. on Tuesdays, 9 p.m. on Thursdays and 7 p.m. on Fridays during December on cable Channel 11.

An in-studio interview with North Farmington government teacher William Brinker will be shown, as well as film from the election itself. John Akouri, a member of the Committee To Increase Voter Participation, will moderate the program.

Some 434 voters from North Farmington, Harrison and Farmington high schools participated voluntarily.

"This venture proved very successful," said a committee spokeswoman. "Hopefully, it will be repeated in the future through the cooperation of Farmington Hills City Clerk Kathryn Dorman and her office and the staff at the Farmington Public Schools."

In case anyone's forgotten . . . Gov. James J. Blanchard was the students' choice, even though he lost to Republican challenger John Engler in the real election, both statewide and in the Farmington area.

Some other student choices: U.S. Rep. William S. Broomfield, State Sen. Jack Faxon, State Rep. Jan Dolan and 47th District Judge Fred Harris.

**T**HEY'RE OUT for blood, those American Red Cross people, and they're coming to Farmington to get it.

The Red Cross Bloodmobile will come to the 10 Mile Community School, 23789 10 Mile Road, on Monday, Dec. 10, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. for more information or to make an appointment.

**T**IS THE SEASON to sing out at an old-fashioned Christmas caroling party . . . and residents can do just that on Thursday, Dec. 13.

The party begins at 6:15 p.m. at the Farmington Community Library, Farmington branch, 23500 Liberty. Participants should bring a flashlight and some cookies to share.

Register by calling 474-7770.

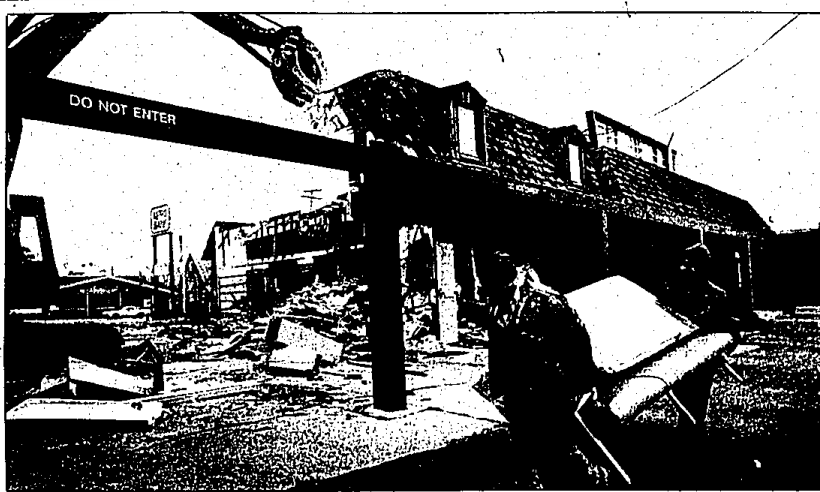
**M**EMORY LANE: From the Nov. 20, 1990 Farmington Enterprise.

City and township police were swamped with work after snow, sleet and icy roads caused many traffic accidents in the Farmington area. Many major roads, including 15 Mile, were closed due to the early winter storm.

Sleet silenced the siren at the fire department so that volunteer firefighters couldn't be summoned to a fire at 2147 Ortega. The fire, caused when a floor heater ignited nearby boxes, was out by the time the fire truck finally arrived.

Attractions at Farmington's Civic Theatre: "Unleash the Dragon" and "Lady Without a Passport."

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 21800 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336, or dropped off at the newspaper office.



SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

Harvey Merff (right) and Tony Kimbrough of Butler Trucking Company carry out unwanted furniture from the Metro Bank building in downtown Farmington as the structure is demolished.

ished. The workmen said they would use the furniture themselves or give it to friends.

## Walls finally tumble

### Down with old bank to make way for new

By Casey Hans  
staff writer

The walls came tumbling down — finally.

After months of delay due to removal of underground gasoline tanks and other unforeseen problems, demolition began Thursday on the old Metrobank building in downtown Farmington. The building housed a gasoline station and an auto dealership in earlier years, and served as the bank's headquarters and a branch office more recently.

It will be replaced with a smaller, more modern bank building designed to blend into the downtown landscape. The bank has had plans for the building for three

**'We've tried to design the building with the flavor of downtown. We looked all around, and fell . . . we really had the best spot.'**

—Robert Heinrich  
Metrobank president

years and is expected to spend more than half a million dollars for the new building, equipment and other capital items.

Renovation of the old building would have cost about \$750,000, bank officials said.

looking at other sites. "We looked all around, and fell . . . we really had the best spot."

ALTHOUGH ONE of the more visible projects downtown, the Metrobank project follows a number of other large renovations downtown and facade improvements, including major commercial renovations such as the Cook Building, the Focal Point Studio of Photography and the building at the southwest corner of Grand River and Farmington roads. Fellow financial institutions with branches downtown, First Federal of Michigan and National Bank of Detroit, also done renovations recently.

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## Busted

### 3 men arrested on heroine charges

Three Nigerian citizens were arrested around noon Saturday by U.S. Customs agents at the Muirwood apartments in south central Farmington Hills. Customs agents confiscated half a kilogram (1.1 pounds) of suspected heroin.

The three men were arrested on a federal complaint that alleges they imported and planned to distribute controlled substances. They were arraigned Sunday in U.S. District Court. If the men are convicted, they could be deported after serving their sentences.

A SECOND raid was conducted by customs agents at about 3 p.m. Saturday at the Knights Inn on Grand River, also in Farmington Hills. A hotel

spokesman said agents searched the room and kept the key. Agents confiscated 300 grams of suspected heroin from the room.

Customs said the heroin they confiscated has a street value of about \$1 million.

The Knights Inn room had been rented Saturday, for one day, by one of the men arrested. Customs agents could not be reached for comment. No one was available at the huge apartment complex Sunday who could provide information.

All three men were arrested without incident. According to customs agents, about 18 Nigerian citizens have been arrested in Michigan in the past six months for transporting heroin into the United States.

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