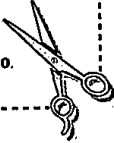


## Look for coupons today

- Cut your weekly grocery bill an average \$20 to \$30 a week clipping coupons that are inserted in today's issue of your home-delivered Observer newspaper.
- While you are clipping, check out the Taste section in Monday's paper for quick and easy recipes your family will enjoy.
- Don't miss out on the savings. To have the Observer delivered to your home, call 591-0500.



# District touchy on teen sex series



BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

Some Farmington High Journalism students received their first lesson in censorship.

They might have passed, but their stories did not.

A series on teen sexuality — in-

cluding a student poll and two letters describing personal experiences involved with being molested and having an abortion — were pulled from this month's edition of the school's newspaper, the Blue and White.

Administrators, who reviewed the four pages, deemed the package as vi-

olating a state public act and district standards regarding sex education. The questionable material is being revised and will appear at a later date.

### A censorship collage

Blue and White's February edition calls attention to the censorship issue.

Included on the cover is a collage with the Blue and White surrounded by the works of rap artists Ice Cube and Dr. Dre and Mark Twain's "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn."

Underneath are the words, "Parental discretion advised." Inside are several articles on censorship.

A teaching adviser said the teen sexuality series was done responsibly by students.

District officials agree, but still see it as encroaching on state and district guidelines on sex education.

"I don't think there is any question their motives were in the right place," said Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Judy White. "They were

See B2B, 8A

## Taxis get OK to hail higher fare

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

Seniors and people with handicaps are "fare" game under the new increase in taxicab rates.

Red and Yellow Cab Company and Suburban Checker Cab Company, the licensed carriers for the Farmington area, are boosting rates 25 percent to

### FARMINGTON

help offset a 90-percent increase in liability insurance.

Farmington City Council approved the increase at Monday's meeting. As of March 1, a three-mile cab ride will cost \$6 instead of \$4.50.

As a result, seniors and others eligible for the Dial-a-Ride program will pay \$2 for a three-mile ride and a \$1.50 a mile thereafter. At the present, they pay \$1.50 for the first three miles and \$1.20 for each mile over that.

Dial-a-Ride senior rates won't take effect until March 15.

A consortium, which includes Farmington Hills, Livonia, Northville and Plymouth, subsidizes senior cab fares. At present, \$3.30 of a \$4.50 fare is paid for in the program, which operates 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekdays.

The consortium plans to subsidize \$4 of what will be a \$6 fare for a three-mile ride when the new rates go into effect.

"This is (mostly) funded through the federal transportation program; there hasn't been any increases in several years," Farmington City Manager Frank Lauff said. "It's a concern."

Thomas Peterson, owner of both cab companies, estimates 50 percent of his business in Farmington comes through the Dial-a-Ride program.

The rate increases are attributable to the cost of doing business, he said. The last rate hike came in 1989.

Peterson cites having to pay worker's compensation as well as increased insurance rates as the reason for this rate hike.

Passenger liability is particularly costly. Cab drivers only carry personal liability and property damage (PLPD) insurance.

"Full coverage comes out of the back pocket," he said.

Taxicabs are considered a high insurance risk. The state Legislature created the Michigan Auto Placement Facility, which provides insurance to businesses unable to find it elsewhere.

Actuaries, who review rate increase requests from the Board of Governors of Michigan Auto Placement Facility, said the hike is justified. Detroit also recently approved a rate increase for taxicab rates.

"They just raised the (insurance) rates for the whole state," Peterson said. "The suburbs got hit harder."

See B10M, 9A

## IN THE PAPER

# TODAY

**Duke's future:** Duke the Dog, who was shot twice recently on a Detroit freeway, may make his recovery at a Farmington Hills radio station. /3A

**Kroger expansion:** The planned expansion of a Kroger supermarket at 11 Mile and Middlebelt has upset some merchants who are in the way. /11A

## COUNTY NEWS

**You're needed:** Oakland Community College will have several board of trustee seats to be filled in this year's election. If you've ever had the desire to serve, or know of someone who would make a good candidate, now's the time to file petitions. /13A

## OPINION

**2 Concerns:** Although we support Proposal A, we wonder why the people were never given the chance to vote on the elimination of the property tax. And why has there been so little local debate on this important issue? /14A

**Call New York:** Some county folks did just that, and the result was a neat promotion piece in the Wall Street Journal. /14A

## SUBURBAN LIFE

**Mingling angle:** Farmington Single Professionals give area singles options other than the typical bar scene to meet people. /1C

**Piecing it together:** Guest columnist Gerry Tobin highlights the importance of donating organs. /1C

## INDEX

- |                          |                           |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Building/Business 1F     | Creative Living . 1D      |
| Classifieds . . . D-G    | Crossword . . . 9E        |
| Auto . . . . . G         | Entertainment . . 5B      |
| Index . . . . . 8E, 11F  | Obituaries . . . . 9B     |
| Employment . . . F, G    | Opinion . . . . . 14-15A  |
| Real estate . . . . E, F | Police, fire calls . . 8A |
| Cable . . . . . 8F       | Personal Scene . . 8A     |

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## Skilling season still?



SHARON LAMBERT/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Winter break fun: Sarah Imer, a junior at Harrison High School, spent part of her winter break cross country skiing with classmate Marie Tripp in Heritage Park. The recent warm snap may have convinced them to put their skis away, but more snow was forecast for the middle of this week.

## Church sign blessed despite cross reaction

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

When it comes to signs, even those of a heavenly origin can draw the wrath of the Farmington ordinance makers.

Farmington City Council granted Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Parish a sign variance, which will allow the church an additional 39 square feet to put up a replacement sign facing Power Road.

The sign is part of a \$1.2 million

renovation of the parish and will be solid black granite with gold lettering and a statue of the Blessed Mother, which will be in a landscaped area and lighted at night. Cost is estimated at \$16,000.

The action didn't come without council intervention, though.

Councilman Richard Tupper protested the variance, noting the previous sign was 25 feet over the allowable square footage allowed under city code. The church was asking for

another 14 feet.

"You're asking for a variance on top of a variance," said Tupper, who was on the losing side of a 4-1 vote.

Leon Kohls, an architect involved with the Sorrows' renovation, said the sign will identify four buildings in the parish center. Since the sign would sit on the ground, 66 feet from the sidewalk, the entire 64 square feet is needed to give the marker promi-

See B10M, 9A

## Any deserving artists?

The Artist-in-Residence Committee of the Farmington Area Arts Commission seeks nominations for the 1994 Artist-in-Residence and Distinguished Service to the Arts awards.

Local artists in any medium may be nominated by submitting an application and resume of work to the committee before March 20. Applications may be obtained by calling Kathleen Bricker at 471-0660.

Anyone who would like to serve on the selection committee should call Bricker.

## FARMINGTON FOCUS

### The Arab/Chaldean Community

A community forum on "The Arab/Chaldean Community Among Us" will be held 8-9:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 8, at the Farmington Training/Conference Center, 33000 Thomas, Farmington.

Guest speakers will be Terry Ahwal, Wayne County executive assistant, and Joseph Kasab, vice president of the Chaldean Assyrian Foundation. Ahwal will discuss working together with the Arab community, and Kasab will talk about forming a coalition to bridge ethnic barriers in the Farmington area.

The monthly forums are sponsored by the Farmington/Farmington Hills Multicultural/Multiracial Community Council. The topic for the Tuesday, April 12, meeting will be "Building Bridges of Understanding in a Group Setting."

### Memory Lane

From the Feb. 25, 1964, edition of the Farmington Enterprise:

Survey work started on the proposed new parking lot on Thomas Street behind the business on the north side of Grand River, said Farmington city manager James Tennant. About 80 new parking spots would be provided.

About 400 people attended an open house for Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Lamb on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary.