

## OU bargaining talks continue; wages big issue

BY PAT MURPHY  
STAFF WRITER

Eleventh-hour contract talks at Oakland University were expected to continue today as negotiators tried to reach an agreement that would enable classes to begin at 5 p.m. as scheduled.

The press spokesman for OU continued to voice optimism late Monday, but the recorded message from the university's chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) hinted that a strike is eminent.

Approximately 13,000 students are expected at OU this fall.

About 8:30 p.m. Monday, James D. Llewellyn relayed a message from OU's chief negotiator, Gary Rusal, vice president of academic affairs, that negotiations were continuing into the evening.

"I can't predict whether anything will happen tonight," Llewellyn said. "But we're proceeding with the expectation that classes will begin at 5 p.m. as scheduled."

But his counterpart for the OU chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) was less optimistic. "We're gearing up for a strike," AAUP spokesman Harvey Burdick said Friday, shortly after the AAUP filed an unfair labor practice accusing OU for not bargaining in good faith.

The AAUP was expected to stand by its policy of no contract, no work, said Burdick, a psychology professor.

Both sides expected marathon bargaining over the holiday after Thursday's session ended without significant agreement on a major stumbling block — wage hikes. At that session — before a mediator from the Michigan Employment Relations Commission (MERC) — AAUP proposed a 3.5 percent wage hike, while OU proposed increases of .25 percent for each year of a three-year contract.

Both wage proposals are on top of a 1.7 percent step increase scheduled to affect most if not all of AAUP's 440 members who are full- and part-time faculty members.

Other issues include the co-pay on health insurance; Medigap, or the cost of insurance to cover what Medicare doesn't cover; and additional money for faculty research.

Llewellyn said both sides were at the bargaining table at 10 a.m. Monday, and talks were expected to continue into the evening and, possibly, into early today. The MERC mediator was present for at least some of the talks, he said.

OU has established a hotline that will begin operating at 8 a.m. today to provide the up-to-date information. That number is (810) 370-2312.

The AAUP has a hotline of its own, (810) 370-2312. As of late Monday, that hotline featured the voice of chief negotiator David W. Schantz with a message recorded at 5 p.m. Sunday.

Talks Sunday focused on "the few non-money issues remaining," Schantz said. "The final push for a settlement before the strike deadline (today)" was to begin at 10 a.m. Monday.

Eleventh-hour contract talks are common at OU. Three years ago, for example, a strike was officially called, but negotiators reached agreement without classes being disrupted.

OU had three-day strikes in 1985 and 1976. In 1971, there was a 12-day strike.

## Parent tests exam numbers



BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

Confusion over test results has the Farmington Public School District recharging its calculator batteries as it refigures some achievement test results printed in its annual building and district reports.

The yearly reports, which are required by state law, include how well students did on achievement tests such as the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP).

Results reported from the Comprehensive Tests for Basic Skills,

though, are what piqued Warren Schroeder's curiosity. The test is given to third-, fifth-, and eighth-grade students districtwide.

Numbers in the 1993 reports didn't match those listed in the 1994 editions. Schroeder, a retired telephone company employee and number cruncher at heart, wondered why.

"It was enough to raise an antenna," said Schroeder, whose daughter goes to Hillside Elementary.

Schroeder did his own chart. CTBS figures from 1993 were lowered, in some cases by up to 20 percentile points, in this year's reports.

When placed next to 1994 results, they compare favorably. Actual 1993 results would seemingly tell a different story.

Results from 1993 were adjusted in order to make them comparable to this year's figures, a school official said. A difference in time when kids took the CTBS is the reason for the conversation.

Children in third and fifth grade took the test March 1 this year. In 1993, they were tested in January.

See NUMBERS, 2A

### In full flower in Farmington Hills



Taking its measure: Emily Sharbinski of Detroit helps McFarland Florist and Greenhouse's Lisa Cassidy measure a sunflower at the recent inaugural sunflower contest. For a story and more photos, see Page 4A.

AND HEALERS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## Timbercrest plan hits a stalemate

BY BILL COUTANT  
STAFF WRITER

A Farmington Hills City Council study session that was supposed to bring the two sides of a development dispute to a settlement looks more like a prelude to a labor strike — with neither side budging.

"If the two sides are this far apart, we should all stop playing baseball," said Councilman Terry Sever at Thursday night's four-hour-plus session in the City Council chambers.

After falling in a compromise pitch to developer Gary Jonna and a group of residents opposed to Jonna's Timbercrest development, Sever said he saw no hope for a successful resolution.

And he was not the only exasperated council member. Cheryl Oliveira

"If the two sides are this far apart, we should all stop playing baseball."

Terry Sever  
Councilman

said the two sides did not seem to understand the concept of give and take. "Somebody's gotta give or we'll never get anywhere," she said. "I'm going out of my mind."

Those comments and others seemed like a postmortem to hopes that the city could broker some kind of compromise to allow Jonna to develop 52 acres bordered by 12 Mile, Middlebelt, I-696 and the Greencastle subdivision, while preserving the residential integrity of the neighborhood.

But as in previous attempts, the questions of traffic, noise and "the wrong elements" coming in because of a proposed shopping center at the corner of Middlebelt and 12 Mile, were the sticking points.

See DEVELOPMENT, 2A

## DDA opens arms to psychics after all

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

Send in the psychics.

The Farmington Downtown Development Authority has decided a little clairvoyance won't take the luster off its annual Halloween Fest after all.

A Farmington business owner and psychic was upset when she heard they wouldn't be part of this year's event Oct. 29.

Diana St. Clair fired off a letter to city officials protesting the decision, saying she thought the exclusion violated the First Amendment regarding separation of church and state. She helped arrange clairvoyants for last year's event.

St. Clair received a letter dated Aug. 19 from DDA director Judy Downey, stating a separate psychic's tent would be allowed.

"Can you believe it?" said St. Clair, who lives in Farmington Hills. "I'm excited about it. It's Halloween after all."

Psychics were a popular attraction at last year's inaugural festival.

However, an unnamed area church complained to the DDA about the appropriateness of having clairvoyants at such a family-oriented event. The city manager's office also received two to three phone calls on the matter, Downey said.

"My first concern was that this was a family-fun type event and there looks like there was cause for concern," Downey said. "When she said she would be happy to have a separate tent over there . . . Then I asked my board members to reconsider it."

See PSYCHIC, 2A

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Get ready, Farmington Observer readers. On Thursday, Sept. 8, your hometown coverage of restaurants, music, movies, travel, theater and concerts will expand.

Let's Go! is a new section designed to make your entertainment planning convenient and fun. This colorful, contemporary section covers the suburban entertainment scene.

In the restaurant section you will read about local restaurants, and highlights of the upcoming Fall International Dinner Series. Read about new and old restaurants, bars, taverns and a new wine bar.

In the music section you will read about local and regional bands, and highlights of the upcoming Fall International Dinner Series. Read about new and old bands, bars, taverns and a new wine bar.

In the movie section you will read about local and regional theaters, and highlights of the upcoming Fall International Dinner Series. Read about new and old theaters, bars, taverns and a new wine bar.

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In the theater section you will read about local and regional theaters, and highlights of the upcoming Fall International Dinner Series. Read about new and old theaters, bars, taverns and a new wine bar.

In the concert section you will read about local and regional concert venues, and highlights of the upcoming Fall International Dinner Series. Read about new and old concert venues, bars, taverns and a new wine bar.

### Singers take note

The Farmington Community Chorus will hold auditions for its fall session at 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Sept. 6 and 13, in the band room of North Farmington High School on 12 Mile Road, just east of Farmington Road.

Farmington-area residents over 18 years old are welcome to audition. Music experience is helpful, but not necessary.

The 70-voice chorus performs two major shows — one during the holidays, the other in spring — as well as sessions at the Founders Festival and at Heritage Park. Sheet music and a practice tape are provided.

Registration will be the week following the auditions for those accepted. Fee is \$50. For more information, call Kathy Hall, chorus manager, at 471-4614.

### FARMINGTON FOCUS

#### Musicals opens season

For "Two," Farmington Musicals' opening concert, will be held at 12:15 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 7, Farmington Hills branch of the Community Library on 12 Mile Road, between Orchard Lake and Farmington roads.

Artists include: Emily Austin and Brenda Thalacker, violinists; Rita Fushman and Karen Parkinson, vocal duo; Auston and Jan Smith, violin and piano; Susan and James Nucholla, voice and piano; Wanda Dodsworth and Sharon Cardec.

cia, soft-shoe routine.

A tea will follow the music program. The event is open to the public at a small fee.

#### Memory Lane

From the Sept. 9, 1954 edition of the Farmington Enterprise:

The state Department of Conservation condemned 88 elm trees in Farmington Township because they were infected with Dutch elm disease.

An "emergency" polio drive conducted in the Farmington area by three teen-agers, Mary Oliver, Nancy Hodge and Sharon Bouthin, resulted in 2572.

An Oldsmobile 88 was advertised for \$2,088.62 at the Earl Vivier dealership at 33906 Grand River.