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IN THE PAPER

TODAY

Exam delayed: A preliminary examination for seven men accused of conspiring to destroy property in connection with the Detroit newspaper strike has been delayed until March 1. /3A

Fish story: Farmington Hills chances at stopping waste water treatment plant effluent may depend on a small, minnow-like fish. /3A

Accidental bullet: Farmington Hills police are investigating an accidental shooting in a business. /10A

TASTE

Stinking rose Garlic is enjoying a popularity bordering on awe. /1B

MALLS & MAINSTREETS

Malls celebrate: Both Lakeside and Fairlane boast 20 years of retail history as they mark a special anniversary year in 1996. /8A

Retail report: Most local shopping centers report modest sales gains this holiday season, unlike the rest of the country. /8A

SPORTS

Hopes for New Year: Farmington and Harrison began the 1996 part of their basketball schedules Friday, looking for a Western Lakes victory. /1C

Ivy Leaguer: Brad Pawlowski, a Farmington Hills resident and North Farmington graduate, finished his college football career at Princeton University. /1C

Hoops revival: A pair of former Farmington High players are helping to resurrect the men's basketball program at St. Mary's College. /1C

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Man linked to 'net sex



Police are searching a man's belongings — including his computer files — to see if he was involved in luring young boys through the Internet. Meanwhile, he's charged with criminal sexual conduct.

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

A Farmington Hills man charged with molesting an 11-year-old was likely luring young boys on the Internet, Farmington Hills police believe. Farmington Hills police and Michigan State Police confiscated computer equipment as well as sexually ex-

PLICIT material involving young boys during a search of the suspect's apartment Thursday night.

Gregory Allen Gilbert, 30, was charged with second degree criminal sexual conduct Friday in a case involving a Bloomfield Hills boy. The boy, 11, was fondled in the genital area during the incident at the man's

Farmington Hills apartment in September, police say.

Gilbert pleaded not guilty at his Friday arraignment. Cash bond was set at \$250,000 by 47th District Court Judge Maria Parker — with the stipulation if posted that Gilbert not use a computer.

Preliminary exam will be at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 17.

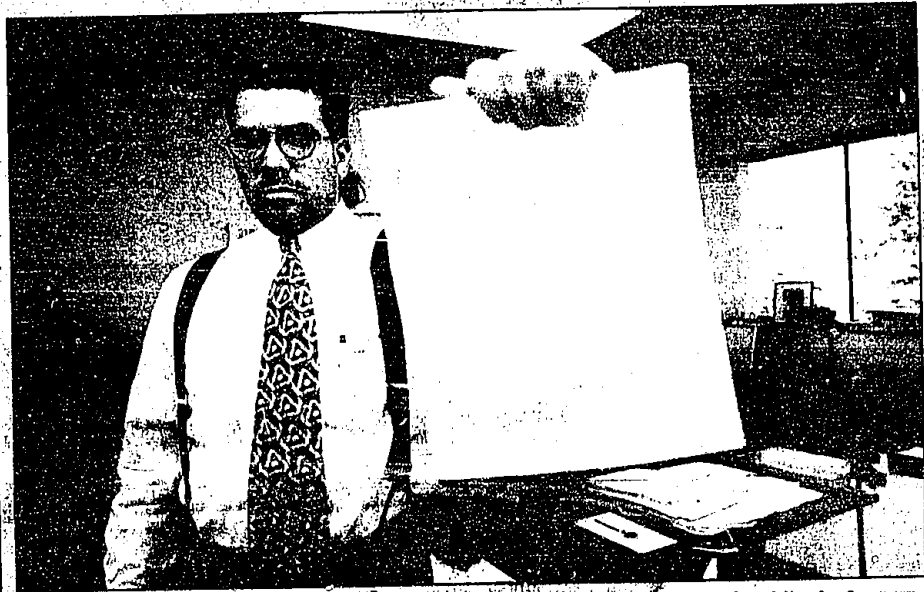
Gilbert rolled his eyes in disbelief as Oakland County Assistant Prosecutor Susan Chranowski said he was a threat to children and urged a

See INTERNET, 4A



Gregory Allen Gilbert

When the mail falls . . .



SHARON LEMMON/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Problems result: Documents concerning a divorce were lost in the mail, creating problems for Farmington Hills attorney Richard Moss (above) and his client.

Where's Mr. Postman and the letter for me?

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Some Farmington Hills residents who count on the mail say the U.S. Postal Service isn't delivering.

Marilyn Zucker is one of a number of senior citizens who live in Country Ridge Apartments in the 14 Mile and Halsted area. She says she hasn't received mail delivery four days out of the last 30.

And, she adds, when the postal

carrier does arrive, it's often around 6 p.m.

"By the time we realized we weren't getting it, (the post office) was closed and they wouldn't take calls, and on Saturday they don't take calls," Zucker said. "When I finally got hold of someone he said, 'Well the carrier has the flu' or something," she said. "You mean you don't have backup people?"

Exasperated, Zucker complained,

She eventually spoke with the Farmington Hills Acting Postmaster Don Hall, who was also, she said.

However, delivery problems persist. She and other residents contend they didn't receive mail Jan. 2.

"Some place, something has to be done," Zucker said. "The President is leaving. So I decided not to call him. I feel we deserve a reasonable service."

Farmington Hills attorney Richard Moss has a problem at the other end of the mail chain: He says his letters are not arriving at their intended address.

Moss uses the U.S. Mail to send court documents. One didn't arrive at Macomb County Circuit Court in November. As a result, a hearing in a divorce court was postponed.

See POST OFFICE, 3A

School reacts in shock to racial incident

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

North Farmington High students and staff expressed disbelief and outrage over death threats directed at African-Americans at the school.

They also vowed that what appear to be racially motivated incidents will galvanize the school community to fight against further incidents.

Farmington Hills police are investigating after notes were left in student lockers using racial slurs and threat-

ening African American students. Police have no suspects, but are hoping students will provide leads on the perpetrators.

"It is so upsetting and getting blown up because this is something that is just not expected here," said senior Jaclyn Lossia, who heads the school's multicultural and multiracial council.

School officials spent Friday meeting with students — including those who were targets of the threats — and

warding off the media. Staff members carried short-band radios, monitoring whereabouts of TV trucks and newspaper people outside.

Principal Deborah Clarke allowed media to interview a group of students in her presence.

Some African-American students said they are shocked. None have experienced any problems at the school before, they said.

"When it first happened, it didn't bother me," senior Richard Beal said.

"It wasn't directed specifically toward me."

"As it gets more serious . . . It makes me worry about this. I shouldn't have to worry."

"I'm also disappointed this happened. After four years, this is the first time something like this has happened."

Senior Yolanda Wilson commended school officials for how they've

See RACIAL INCIDENT, 3A

Help from HIM

Help for Impotent Men (HIM) will present a lecture and discussion on impotence with Professor General Hospital urologist Dr. Steven Roth at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 9, in Botaford General Hospital's East Pavilion, Conference Room 3-B, 28060 Grand River, Farmington Hills. The event will begin a series of monthly meetings. For more information call, Deana Rice at 477-6100.

Chautauque Express coming

Entertainer Guy Louis and his Chautauque Express will draw from popular American music for their performance at 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 13, at the Civic Theatre on Grand River in downtown Farmington.

FARMINGTON FOCUS

The show lasts about 45 minutes and is suitable for all ages. Admission is \$2 per person.

The event is part of the Winter Fun Series sponsored by the Farmington Downtown Development Authority. For more information about downtown activities, call the DDA's Hotline at 473-7283.

What's in store at Sears

A new Sears Hardware store, managed by Jim Baldukas, is open at 27770 Middlebelt near 12 Mile Road, Farmington Hills. Several promotions are planned:
 ■ Jan. 10-21 — Customers can register to win a

year's worth of Sears laundry detergent, as well as \$100, \$200 and \$300 shopping spree.

■ Jan. 13 — Demonstrations of wall stenciling, sponge painting and marbling will be held.

■ Jan. 14 — Transfers for decorating tiles, walls, furniture or any hard surface will be demonstrated.

■ Jan. 23 — A closet organizer workshop will be held.

■ Feb. 10 — A child ID program will be held in conjunction with crime prevention experts. Parents can have the children photographed and fingerprints taken at no charge. The Energizer Bunny will make an appearance.