

the farmington

enterprise & observer

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

15¢ a Copy

Weekend of February 17, 1973

Round Table: Still Working?

"The students on the round table are constructively working to make the school system work."

--Kenneth Perrin

By STEVE BARNABY

Things have changed for concerned students in the Farmington School District.

Two years ago, high school students were confined to student councils to ponder over the date of the next prom or the school colors.

Today, students, elected by their peers, meet twice a month with administrators and board trustees to "lay it on the line" concerning curriculum, student concerns, needs and rights.

In contrast to past years when students were relatively unconcerned about the goals of education, Farmington's new breed has come to the student round table asking for

a more interesting curriculum, better teachers and more communication between staff and student.

FREE, OPEN debate is inherent in the meetings. Neither students, administrators, nor trustees are reluctant to express their views. Although sometimes heated, discussions never dip into illogical emotions.

Kenneth Perrin, board president, describes the meetings as exciting and constructive and sees the open communication as a way to improve educational atmosphere.

"The students on the round table are constructively working to make the school

system work. We, in turn, are showing them how to work through their local school administrators," said Perrin.

For students, the effectiveness and functioning of the two-year-old body have been a mixed bag.

Earlier in the school year, the six students - two from each high school - banded together and lobbied for additional funding of the Farmington High School Band. It worked; the board appropriated \$4,000.

BUT THE LINES aren't always drawn along student-adult opposition. Throughout the discussions, students and adults will intermingling alliances, depending on the issue.



BETH BYERLEIN, 17, a junior in North Farmington High School, voices her opinion to school administrators and trustees at a recent meeting of the student round table, as a quiet Trustee Aldo Vagnozzi listens. (Photo by Fran Evert)

Peter Kuisin, 18, a senior in Farmington High School, sees the round table as a medium for students to get their ideas across to the top administrators.

"This is a great way for student opinion to reach the board. Students are being more responsive. Before, they did a lot of screaming but didn't organize. The round table can initiate greater student interest," says Kuisin.

Farmington junior Lisa

Clarke, 16, thinks the round table is "really great."

"Trustees and administrators are really interested in what we are saying. The board is trying to do something about the things we bring to them," she says.

On the other side of the ledger is round table member Beth Byerlein, 17, a junior in North Farmington High School. She rates her experience on the round table as "frustrating."

"It's got possibilities, but I

wonder if they are really listening," says Miss Byerlein.

She claims many trustees and administrators seem to listen in order to look good, but really don't respond.

On the other hand, she sees the round table as a positive turn away from the past with some of the trustees and administrators responding favorably. She joins in praising the action taken by the board in garnering funds for the Farmington band.

today's hot line

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what's inside

Town Meeting

If you live in the triangle bounded by the Farmington city limits, Grand River and Eight Mile Road, a "town meeting" is planned to discuss ways to improve roads in the area. We have details inside.

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Charter Changes

The charter commission is re-drafting some sections of the proposed charter following legal advice and public scrutiny at the hearings.

Page 3A

On Abortion

Our religion columnist has some observations today on the recent Supreme Court decision regarding the controversial issue. You won't want to miss Religion Update in our Church Section.

Page 3A

Watch Those Scores!

Pins have really been flying in the Observersland area. For the hottest news from the area bowling centers, check today's In The Pocket.

Page 10B

Self-Starters

They'll be gathering soon in a new clinic to be sponsored by the Northwest YWCA in Redford Township. Get the details on our Observing Life page.

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Case Of Disappearing Burglars Is Cracked

By DAN MCCOSH

A quartet of would-be burglars apparently never spent an evening slogged up to a radio listening to "Yukon King," or they never would have tried to burglarize a Farmington apartment one snowy evening last week.

Unbeknownst to them, their troubles began when they were seen by Patrick Godfrey, Farmington, who saw them prowling around the Drakeshire Apartments, 3525 Drakeshire, and phoned the Farmington police.

POLICE ARRIVING on the scene discovered three suspects logging some stereo

equipment from a vacant apartment rented by Robert Thomas, who was away on his honeymoon.

Stephen G. Fugate, 33801 Cowan, Westland, was arrested on the spot, but two King," or they never would have tried to burglarize a Farmington apartment one snowy evening last week.

But every step they took toward freedom left a fresh footprint in the new-fallen snow, and Patrolman Anthony Gubick and Norman Madison took off in hot (cold?) pursuit.

The footprints led for nearly two miles, criss-crossing the heavily-brushed area behind the apartments, until one set of tracks disappeared near a tree.

Michael Mertz, Dearborn Heights, seeking sanctuary in an abandoned tree house,

climbed down and surrendered to police.

THE SECOND set of tracks, however, seemed to lead away from the tree and then abruptly stopped, as if the fugitive had suddenly learned to fly.

The tenacious trackers caught on to the trick, and discovered the second suspect had walked backwards through his own tracks back to the same tree.

He was discovered clinging to the branches in the very top.

Fugate and Mertz were released on \$5,000 bond set by Judge Michael Hand, when they pleaded innocent to

charges of breaking and entering. The juvenile was turned over to juvenile authorities.

Theodore Wurschmidt, registered as the owner and suspected as the driver of the getaway car, was later arrested at his Westland home and released on a \$500 bond set by Hand.

Capt. Dan Burns, of the Farmington Police, congratulated Godfrey for his perception and his two patrolman for their perseverance.

"You know," he said, "I've had tracking dogs out here about four times, and they never found anyone." Yukon King, take note.

Revenue Affected?

Forms Worry Township

Farmington Township residents who pay their share to Uncle Sam April 15, you may get a little of it back, at least indirectly, if you pay attention to the "Revenue Sharing" section on the Federal income tax form.

At least, that is the hope of the Farmington Township Board, which is launching a campaign to persuade township residents to fill out the form properly.

The government is using statistics from income tax forms to update census figures, which are used to compute the township's share of federal shared revenue.

BUT TOWNSHIP residents have a "Farmington" mailing address, or some a "Franklin" address.

Quakertown and Wood Creek Farms residents are included in the Farmington Township for purposes of the sharing program, according to Township Supervisor Robert McConnell.

While it was pointed out at a recent meeting of the township board that concern over the income tax form will probably bring national pressure to change the law, this year it appears it will stand.

THE BOARD approved spending approximately \$1,000 on mailing to residents to help clarify the form.

To fill out the form properly, a box must be checked on "line 33" on the long form 1040 to indicate you live in an unincorporated area. Then "Farmington" is written under the section labeled "township."

"It might prove to be a windfall for the city, if enough people make a mistake," Trustee Frederick Lichtenman commented. "Maybe then we could make a deal."

For IRS use only

Form 1040 (1972)

Other Dependents	(a) NAME	(b) Relationship	(c) Month lived in your home. If born or died during year, write B or D.	(d) Did dependent have income of \$750 or more?	(e) Amount YOU furnished for dependent's support. If 100% write ALL.	(f) Amount furnished by OTHERS including dependent.
Revenue Sharing	32 Total number of dependents listed in column (a). Enter here and on line 9					
	33 Print or type the location of your principal place of residence at end of year (not necessarily the same as your post office address): (a) State _____ (b) County _____ (c) Locality, if you lived inside the boundaries of an incorporated city, town, etc., enter its name; if not, check <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Farmington					
	34 Enter the number of persons included on line 10 who (1) are filing a return of their own or (2) did not live at your principal place of residence at the end of the year					

FOCUS: Suburbia



Is this the image you have of today's woman? "Woman's World" is a whole new thing - for proof read today's FOCUS: Suburbia!

Southfield Firm Hires Dr. Smith

Dr. Roderick Smith, former superintendent of Farmington School District, has been hired by the First American Securities Corp. in Southfield



DR. RODERICK SMITH

to serve as vice president and director of investment systems.

Smith, 52, who served as superintendent for six years, resigned Nov. 21 when the board voted 4 to 3 to accept his resignation. Marinus Van Amedey, former deputy superintendent, replaced Smith.

James Day, president of First American, says Smith's primary function is to focus on the development and implementation of financial planning systems for members of educational institutions on a national basis. Smith, who moved to Brighton shortly after his resignation, is presently in Atlantic City, N.J., attending a meeting of the American Assn. of School Administrators, of which he is an active member.

PART I.—Income other than Wages, Dividends, and Interest

35 Business income (or loss) (attach Schedule C) _____ federal shared revenue. _____

TAX FORMS must be filled out like this for Farmington Township to get its full share of federal shared revenue.