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Youth service funding may be illegal report from Hills attorney indicates

By DAN McCOSH

Only the Farmington Youth Advisory program survived a legal opinion delivered to the Farmington Hills council Monday. City attorney Joseph T. Brennan indicated most of the youth program financing now being undertaken by the Hills is illegal.

Affected are mainly the Farmington Area Advisory Council (FAAC), the Youth Employment Service (YES) and the Farmington Area Recreation Commission (FARC).

BRENNAN'S OPINION was one of a series the Hills council has received on the general issue of funding special projects.

So far, the ruling has resulted in the council denying funding to:

- The sesquicentennial committee.

- The Farmington Arts Council.

- Two grants approved by the Wood Creek Council before the Hills incorporation to the Farmington schools and the Sarah Fisher home were returned to the Hills council.

MONDAY, THE council appeared ready to eliminate funding for FAAC, YES and the FARC based in the same ruling.

The issue was first raised regarding youth programs when the Hills council was approached to send two representatives to a 21-man committee being formed to study youth program consolidation.

The City of Farmington, the Farmington School Board, Oakland County and a variety of other funding groups had already appointed delegates when the Hills council balked.

John Forbes, representing the consolidation effort, was questioned at length Monday by Councilman Frederick Lichtman on various aspects of the programs.

LICHTMAN took the position Brennan's ruling effectively prevented the council from funding anything but a portion of the FYA program.

Brennan said it was possible to fund the services provided by the programs either by contracting directly with the agencies, or by establishing a city agency to provide the services directly.

"Except where there is statutory authority, the city cannot contribute money to private organizations operating one or more of these programs," Brennan said. He added FYA appeared to have such authority.

The council directed Forbes to prepare a rebuttal to Brennan's opinion, and to bring a report to the council clarifying the programs being funded.



A homeowner flooded out

Looking over the mess in his side yard, William Rush views efforts of the fire department to pump him out. It is too late to save the foundation of his home, as the basement crumbled in on Saturday (below). Pieces of plywood forming a temporary dike are evidence of the struggle to save the house. Rush had to move out Saturday afternoon, after the foundation failed.

Photos by Ralph Evert

First streaker takes on OCC

By THOMAS RAE

It's the naked truth, "streaking" made its debut at Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge Campus last week.

Three male students dashed through the campus sub-plaza cafeteria in two separate incidents.

Enjoying a growing popularity on many college campuses, streakers run through a public place clothed only in tennis shoes and an optional face mask.

OCC's first "streak" occurred Thursday, March 7 when a 20-year-old sophomore, who asked to be known only as Jim, ran two laps around the sub-plaza level of the student center. He wore his moustache and two tattoos.

HE WAS VIEWED by about 80 students gathered in the cafeteria. Some applauded, while others did not even look.

After his jaunt, Jim vanished into the upper levels of the student center for an interview on WORB, the campus radio station, where he gave his reasons for "streaking."

He explained that he had offered two days previously on WORB, (where he is a disc-jockey), an official WORB T-Shirt to the first campus "streaker."

"Nobody took my offer, so I did it myself," he said. "Besides, I wanted to be the first streaker at Orchard Ridge."

He admitted to being "a bit nervous" before starting his stunt.

"But once I got out there," he added, "I enjoyed it, so I took two laps. I felt like a sun god."

Jim said that he was considering doing a "streak" around the entire campus when the weather gets warmer.

THE NEXT day two other sophomores, garbed in tennis shoes and face masks, repeated Jim's stunt, but with more publicity.

The "streakers," who wished to remain anonymous, jogged through the crowded noon-hour cafeteria in view of some 300 cheering students and a local TV news crew.

Afterwards, they arrived at the offices of the Recorder, the campus newspaper, for an interview.

While they also admitted to being scared before their "streak," they felt that they had an obligation to the people who had gathered to watch them "streak."

They gave four reasons for their stunt:

- To give recognition to Oakland Community College as being the first community college on record to have "streaking."

- To encourage President Nixon to have the facts on Watergate.

- To promote school spirit, which they felt was lacking on the Orchard Ridge Campus.

- Just for the fun of it.

One of the "streakers" spoke of his stunt from a philosophical viewpoint.

"It was like being in the womb before birth," he explained, "and being thrust into the world. I felt I was being reborn."

"You enter the world without clothes on," his partner added. They also remarked that they would like to see a physical education course at OCC whereby students could receive college credits for "streaking."

WHEN ASKED about the possibility of such a course at OCC, Roscoe Dann, assistant professor

(continued on 4A)



Plugged sewer, frustration leads to house collapsing

By CARL STODDARD

William Rush and his wife were forced to move out of their home Saturday. They took with them clothing and a few important papers. They left behind a home they can no longer live in.

Rush, 30, an employee at Spartan Concrete, and his wife moved in with friends over the weekend after their house on Waldron began to collapse from the surrounding water pressure.

The storm drain in the area has been blocked for seven years, Rush said. In the three years he has lived on Waldron, the rain has continually backed up, flooding his entire lawn.

"This is due to negligence on the city's part," Rush said Tuesday while staying with friends in Livonia. "I've been fighting with them (the city of Farmington Hills) since Jan. 27."

BUT DESPITE his repeated calls to the city, help was slow to come.

Finally, on Feb. 22, Rush said Roland Sentener from the department of public works and a man from the Oakland County Road Commission came out to look at his property.

Sentener called him later, Rush said, and told him that the city

would put in ditches and culverts because the storm drain could not be cleaned out.

The man from the county also called him and during the conversation admitted that the drains would probably never work because of the way they were designed, Rush said.

Six days later a crew from the county road commission came out and dug a ditch from the nearest corner to the front of Rush's drive.

"Then they picked up and left—all they did was make a bigger drainage into my lawn," Rush complained.

AGAIN RUSH called to complain, and on March 7, he said, the county came out and dug eight more feet of ditch and put in a culvert.

That weekend, following still more rains, the problem reached the critical point. Fire trucks from Farmington Hills came out to his home, and for 18 hours helped pump water from his lawn. During that time, he said, more than a million gallons was pumped out.

But the pumping came too late. "The ground was so saturated, there's so much pressure the walls caved in," Rush explained. "The house is completely shot."

When the basement wall caved in the water rose to more than two feet. It got into his furnace, water heater, washer and dryer. All utilities had to be shut off.

NEIGHBORS CAME to help him shore up the house with braces and supports, but Rush admits the house has suffered too much damage to be repaired.

Now he is working to get insurance money for his house, but he has run into difficulties. His home insurance does not include floods. Rush was going to talk to his lawyer Tuesday. Their strategy will be to convince the insurance company that the house was destroyed not by flooding but by faulty drains.

He is also checking to see if he can withhold his house payment for a period of time.

"I'm going to have to buy me another house," Rush said. He and his wife went looking Monday, but were unsuccessful.

Rush said he also called Sentener and told him of his recent plight. "All he could say was 'I'm sorry,'" Rush said.



Mr. and Mrs. William Rush

He said crews started digging ditches back from Grand River but were forced to stop. After the rains and the ground thawed, the crews went back to work.

The weekend Rush's house began to collapse, Magid said ditching crews were working Saturday and Sunday.

"We knew we had a problem down there," Magid said.

"We did start to do ditching in there, unfortunately the frost was in the ground and we couldn't get in there in time."