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Fifteen Cents

Onifer examination opens with short day in court

By CORINNE ABATT

FARMINGTON HILLS—The pre-trial hearing on the slaying of 11-year-old Kelly Curley opened Friday, March 28, and will be continued at 10 a.m. Wednesday, April 2.

The purpose of the hearing before District Court Judge Michael Hand is to determine if there is sufficient evidence for trial.

George F. Onifer, 30, Jackson prison parolee, has been charged with the murder of the child whose body was recovered from the pond near Halstead Road between Twelve and Thirteen Mile, Thursday, March 20.

The hearing, set for 10 a.m., didn't get under way until after 11:30 a.m. After testimony from Oakland County College student Brian Buckler, 20, who with two friends found the body, and Mrs. Patricia Curley, the

child's mother, court was adjourned because of Good Friday.

Defense attorney George E. Michaels of East Detroit, expressed his displeasure with the initial delay and later in court protested the adjournment of the proceedings.

WHILE WAITING for the hearing to begin, Michaels said, "I question the court's judicial discretion in telling us they are going to close at noon."

Maintaining his client's innocence and calling the accusation, "a great travesty of justice," he said that because of pre-trial prejudging on the part of the media, "We will have to go contrary to tradition and prove his (Onifer's) innocence."

This, he explained, would require an investigation, which as long as On-

ifer is held without bond, would make such an investigation difficult to do.

"The conditions in the jail make conversation difficult." Using the phrase "small town syndrome" several times in his conversation, Michaels said, "By small town syndrome, I mean it's just like the days of the old West."

"They have a convenient suspect to close this case with—he is innocent—the killer is still out."

OAKLAND COUNTY Prosecuting Attorney Raymond L. Morrow announced at the hearing that he would call four witnesses. Among them, the ambulance driver who picked up the body, the child's mother and the man who found the body, Brian Buckler.

Buckler told the court it was a beautiful day and he and his friends decided to go for a walk along a path west of Halstead Road, north of Twelve Mile Road.

Describing the area and drawing the location on a chalk board, he said, "I walked up to the pond, looked south of me and thought I saw an image—a blue image—I thought it was a body."

He told the court he called his friends and together they went to a nearby nursery school and asked someone there to call the police.

In his cross-examination, defense attorney Michaels asked Buckler to describe the weather, the condition of Halstead road and the track to the path they were hiking. He replied the road surface was unpaved, damp and that he didn't see any fresh tire tracks.

Mrs. Patricia Curley, a dark-haired woman who works as a waitress at the Altrium restaurant, was composed until she was asked to describe the last time she saw her daughter alive.

It was Tuesday morning, March 19 when Kelly finished breakfast in bed for her mother about 9 a.m.

Mrs. Curley estimated that between 3 and 5:30 that same day, Kelly called her at work to ask if she could go to the store near their home, on Lahser, several blocks south of Six Mile Road.

"I told her where to find some change...she loved her candy and her little goodies...she was spoiled rotten," she said.

She said her daughter was wearing her favorite white pique dress with blue and red flowers, "a slip I had just hemmed for her," and a light weight blue jacket. Yes, she told Morrow, her daughter always wore underwear.

EXCEPT FOR underclothes, these were the clothes she was wearing when found.

Mrs. Curley said it was another daughter who told her when she arrived home from work late that night, that Kelly was spending the night with a girl friend.

The next time she saw her daughter was when she identified the body in the morgue.

Morrow handed her a small color photo asking, if she knew who it was.

"That's my baby," she said, wiping her eyes.

"Do you know that man in the orange shirt?" he said, pointing to the accused.

"No," she said, "I've never seen him."

Michaels asked the hearing be continued until it was completed.

"It is essential to our case to determine the facts so we can continue our investigation."

Judge Hand denied the request. Onifer will remain in jail until the hearing is completed sometime next Wednesday.



George Onifer was brought before Judge Michael Hand for pre-trial examination Friday. (Staff photo)

Chess checks aggressions

By SUSAN AVERILL

FARMINGTON—As a student looking for an interesting extracurricular activity, you find you're not at all enthralled by the prospect of having your body beat to a pulp by contact sports like football or wrestling. Still, you'd like to meet with friends and share a special interest.

That's why many students have joined the chess club, said Richard Carp, a science and sociology teacher at Duncel Junior High School.

"It's an intensely competitive game for those students who are not as competitive in other areas." He included himself when he said it might be regarded as a form of compensation.

"It's something everyone can do. There is no such thing as a beginner's luck because it's not a matter of a turn of a card."

Physical qualities aside, the attributes for a good chess player are much the same for those of an athlete: aggressiveness, competitiveness and stamina.

But to be successful, a chess player must develop another facet that most contact sports disregard: comprehensive thought patterns and logic.

"This will probably sound like a sexist statement, but I don't think girls are that aggressive."

"The game is interesting, but intensely competitive and a good chess player must be very aggressive. Girls tend to be more defensive in plays. You don't win by trying to defend yourself," he said.

An "attack" mind-set is what's necessary to make the game entertaining and challenging, a way most females aren't trained to think, he said.

"You must think several moves ahead, mentally programming the game in advance so that you can force your opponent into a defensive position."

Of the four girls who joined the club, only one is comfortable to attend meetings without the moral support of a female friend. Carp thinks girls might be attracted to the club more for its socializing value than for any other reason.

For many students, one advantage to the game is that it isn't verbal.

"It's very much related to mental processes. You might get a kid who hasn't a good command of English or social studies because he isn't good at expressing himself verbally. But he does well in logic and thought processes."

Chess players are likely to become emotionally involved with the game, whether or not prizes are offered.

"Kids react emotionally. I've seen them get so frustrated they cry and even scream. You submerge yourself in the game and become a part of it, particularly if you're well-matched and it's a close game. It can be a very tense situation."

Carp said it wouldn't take long—only 25-30 games—before you develop enough proficiency to enjoy the game and know what you are doing.

Having played a year or two before, most students are well into the game by the time they join. But beginners are welcome, too.

To even the odds, the game's point system is weighted to the skill of the player. If you're good, a defeat will cost you more points than it would a beginner.

And because the points are doled out like money at the beginning of the year, it's easier to handicap better chess players by giving them smaller bank accounts to begin with.

AS CONSTANT use strengthens and hardens muscles, minds are sharpened and shaped by one provoking game after another.

"It helps develop thought patterns and logic, something you can always use in other aspects of your life," Carp said.

The club began about three years ago at Duncel at several students' requests. Since then, he has posted notices every October to gather members. He supervised the group for an hour or two every Wednesday, before ending its activities for spring.

"In spring, even chess fanatics like to get out into the warm weather," he said.

Carp has played chess for nearly 22 years, ever since his junior high school days.

"I LIKE to play, but I'm not any great shakes at it," he said.

This year has seen a change in membership when four girls joined the club, a change Carp encourages.

"It's something new. We're trying to get girls interested, but we haven't been too successful."

"THE GUY ON TOP can't just sit back and snub, he's got to work to keep good."

Carp said he will handicap himself while playing chess with his 11-year-old son by giving the boy several extra chessmen.

"I want to help my game too. If I give him a handicap, then I have to do more to catch up to him than he has to do to me. A good chess player would prefer a handicap."

Millage election registration today

FARMINGTON—Monday, March 31, is the last day to register to vote in the April 29 special millage election. Anyone who will be 18 by April 29 may register by going to their city clerks.

Farmington Hills residents register at the Farmington Hills city offices at 25286 Eleven Mile Road, and Farmington city offices are at 22880 Liberty.

On the ballot are two millage propositions. The first proposition asks for four mills to bring the school district to the operational level maintained during the 1973-74 school year.

The second proposition, conditional upon the defeat of the first one, asks for two mills to keep the district at its present level throughout the 1975-76 school year.

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Seek offices, Griffiths says

By BARBARA UNDERWOOD

BLOOMFIELD HILLS—A career in law and politics was the farthest thing from Martha Griffiths' mind when she went to college.

In fact, she knew a girl in law school and thought that was the silliest thing "I ever heard of," Mrs. Griffiths told students at Anderson and Lahser high schools Monday.

She was the third speaker in the schools' Livemore series, part of the

district's career education program.

Although she has retired as a U.S. representative after 20 years, Mrs. Griffiths said she would accept a Supreme Court appointment and "yes, I am sure Congress would confirm it."

Of her long career in public service, she said, "I always enjoyed it. I was tremendously interested in what was being done and in what wasn't being done."

A CAREER IN politics takes effort.

Continued on Page 5A



Cathy Wandelich listens to WSU percussionists.

Hills man drums up interest

Music syncopates fidgets of kids

By SUSAN AVERILL

FARMINGTON—Ten-year-old Noel pulled one stubby leg toward the better to see what—besides his foot—was in his gym shoe. He had poked his finger through a small hole in the cloth, when his investigative endeavors were brought to a standstill by a thunderburst of drums and a rainfall of xylophone notes.

Most of the other students in the Forest Elementary School gym also held their hands tight to their ears. But you could tell by their bouncing excitement that they were enjoying the musical smorgasbord Wayne State

University instructor Salvatore Rabbio and his students were serving Rabbio, a Farmington Hills resident, and five of his percussion students merged a mini-concert with music lessons for Forest students Friday.

As youngsters will, the students squirmed and teased, mimicked and daydreamed, but protested when Rabbio teasingly suggested an end to the program and a return to classes.

Rabbio explained the difference in sound between the marimba and the xylophone. Both are made of bars of wood, but the xylophone is made from the center of the tree and has a hard,

sharp sound, while a marimba is fashioned from outside wood and produces a soft, mellowed tone.

He showed surprise when students accurately answered a question by chorusing that a shorter bar made a higher sound, while the longer one sounded deeper.

From there he explained that percussionists could play not only loudly, but beautifully, and slipped into an arrangement of Johann Sebastian Bach.

One minute later, Noel was scratching his toes in rhythm while his friend took a green rubber snail and anticipated the drumbeat up Noel's shoulder.

It's not that it wasn't interesting, but when you're young you just can't afford to spend all your attention in one place.

But when some of Forest's own sixth graders walked over to the instruments, the auditorium hushed with curiosity.

Christine Morris, Ruth Marcovitz, Evan Hughes, Anne Sheehy and Rabbio's son Frank commended all but the cymbals for their rendition of "Tom Little's lullaby."

"Sounding like Charles lives inimitable best, the young group looked uneasy as performers. The audience applauded for their efforts."

Observer Eccentric index

Section A	
News	10
Columns	10
Community calendar	12
Sports	15
Suburban life	11
Section B	
Classifieds	