

Students gain self-awareness through counseling

By SUSAN AVERILL
FARMINGTON HILLS—It was really only a trial run, but if the students have anything to say about it, group counseling at Harrison High School will become entrenched. Ten students meet for two hours every Tuesday in the faculty library and help themselves and each other learn a little bit more about problems, fears and joys they all share. "It's been difficult, but you gain so much—it makes you more aware of yourself," said one brown-haired girl who credited the group with helping her overcome her painful shyness. "I feel I've learned a lot. When people talk now, I understand their meaning a lot better. "It's not just hearing them, it's listening, too," a senior boy explained. THE 18-WEEK pilot session was run by Gerald Sklare, a counselor at Harrison and a counseling teacher at Wayne State University. Sklare has conducted several similar groups at Wayne, but only recently decided to offer the same for Farmington students. "I had led groups at Wayne, but I didn't know whether it would be tough

with students than with adults," he said. As he sees it now, the results were well worth the effort. "They pleasantly surprised me. They know what should be done." Leading the sessions with him was Robert Hlickox, who said he was taking advantage of Sklare's knowledge and skill to gain counseling experience. "I have a masters in counseling, but not the experience Jerry has. I'm bringing my experience to the group, but I'm also using it as a model for additional experience," he said. HOWEVER, both are careful not to use the students as a sounding board for their personal difficulties. "This is not the place for a group leader to get his problems resolved," Hlickox said. But neither is it a mass counseling session or a rap group. "This is individual counseling in a group setting. It is NOT a rap group," Sklare emphasized, worried that some might misunderstand group counseling dynamics. What makes his group different is that it isn't an aimless meandering

from topic to topic with catharsis as the focal point in problem discussion. "You get more feedback this way than you ever could just talking to a counselor," one young man said. "It also gives you some satisfaction to help others solve their problems, especially if you have already had some experience with it yourself." And it might be hindsight that the counselor wouldn't have, he said. Behavior is judged by its effectiveness, rather than rated "good" or "bad." If it isn't effective, the group will point it out and help set corrective goals. "MAYBE a student will have a problem with shyness. If he says he wishes he would speak up more in class, he might set himself the goal of asking three questions the next class period. Someone in the group will later ask him how it turned out," Sklare explained. In recent written analyses of their opinions on the new method of coun-

seling, most students agreed that it helped them understand themselves. "I feel better about myself as a person, more in charge of my own world," read one comment. Another said he felt more confident, experienced many personal gains and would recommend the program to anyone. "Man controls his own destiny," an offended another person, who felt more responsible for his own actions than he had previously.

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Farmington plans hearing on budget, tax increase

FARMINGTON—The city council will hold a public hearing at 8 p.m. May 15 to consider the 1975-76 budget which will include a one-half mill increase. The \$1.5-million package must be approved by May 19. Councilmen have been studying the 46-page proposal since April 7. Copies of the document are available in the city manager's office. Councilmen and city officials have

been seeking residents' comments regarding the budget and the proposed tax increase but say there has been little response. The current inflation and economic slowdown means the city needs more operating funds. City Manager Robert Deadman said. "After three years of being able to offset the rising costs of providing city services within the same tax rate, we find that this year's anticipated revenues will not cover projected expenditures." INCREASED assessed valuation on real property has helped provide additional income, but other sources of revenue have not kept pace, he said. Fees from building permits have decreased because of the slump in construction. The city receives 35 per cent of its income from property taxes.



ALICE NICHOLS

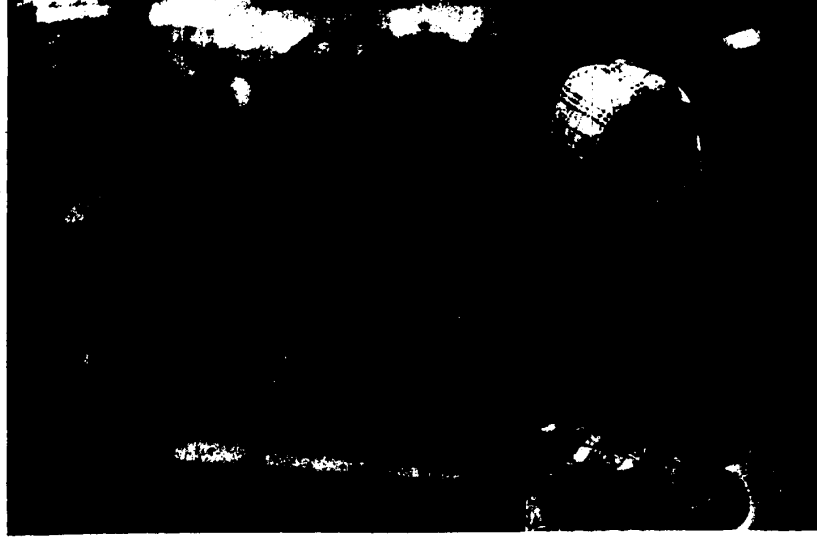
Farmington artist has solo show

FARMINGTON—Paintings by Alice Nichols will be on display in the quiet room of the Farmington Library on Twelve Mile, starting Saturday, May 10. The exhibit will continue through June 30. Mrs. Nichols, well known locally as an artist and active supporter of the arts in the community, said she would probably include prize-winning works of the past few years and those which have been in juried shows. As a member of the Farmington Artists Club, Mrs. Nichols has helped develop a program of painting with senior citizens and the Picture Lady art appreciation program in the schools. She recently did the costuming for a play produced by the University Hills Church. Mrs. Nichols has a bachelor's degree from Western Michigan University and a master's from the University of Michigan. In addition to the local club she is a member of the Mid-American College Art Association and Palette and Brush of Detroit. SHE HAS RECEIVED eight awards in shows sponsored by the Farmington Artists Club as well as from Palette and Brush and two shows at the Pontiac Mall. She has participated in many juried shows, had a one-woman show at the University Lidgett School of Grosse Pointe and at the Orchard Mall last year. She is an owner member of Galerie 12, a co-op gallery in Plymouth where her work is on display. Her philosophy is summed up in a few statements. "Art is everywhere and everything in my life. I paint and work in many medias because each subject is a new experience. I teach because I want others to know the experience of the creative process. I study because each new day brings new excitement." The artist is married. She and her husband, Donald, are the parents of Kevin, 12, and Tim, 10. The exhibits in the library are monthly one man shows for members of the Farmington Artists Club.

Grand River to receive facelift with new surface

FARMINGTON—The resurfacing of Grand River, shelved several times in the past due to a lack of funds, may soon become a reality. The city council received word Monday night that the department of state highways and transportation will spend \$780,000 for improvements to a 2.5-mile section of the city's main street from Drake Road east to 500 feet east of Helen Street. City Manager Robert Deadman said that the work could be completed during the 1975 construction season. The stretch to be improved is the second and third phase of plans to improve about four miles of Grand River. The first phase, a 1.06-mile section from Halsted to Drake, was set aside because of the need to acquire right-of-way to facilitate necessary widening. Estimate cost for that first phase is \$665,000. DEADMAN explained the plans for the improvements.

"The state highway department had previously considered this project, although funding was not available to finance it," he said. On March 25, at urging from state Rep. Wilbur V. Brotherton (R-Farmington), representatives of the state highway department met with city officials from Farmington and Farmington Hills to discuss the requested improvements. An on-site inspection was made of Grand River from Halsted to the Grand River Drive-In. Pot holes, broken pavement and deteriorating curbs were evident along some of the sections. At that time, the decision was made to divide the project into three phases. PHASE II is a 0.86-mile segment from Drake Road to Shiawassee. Plans call for lane widening with the addition of two 11-foot right turn lanes in accordance with the traffic and safety division recommendations. Deadman said. The construction of curb and gutter with enclosed drainage using existing drainage outlets is also planned. Phase III, a 2.22-mile segment from Shiawassee to Helen requires extensive curb replacement, patching and minor curb radius revisions and bituminous resurfacing.



Waiting
 A party store is not a place to have parties. Nor does it just supply food and drink for parties. It's a place to stop when you need most any food. But it lacks all the little goodies to keep a young person occupied while his parents go shopping. For party store pictures and story, turn to page 3. (Photo by Craig Newman)

inside "hot dogs"

The Websters of Garden City sell their dogs EASI through the Observer & Eccentric Classifieds. Their ad—

NORTH WEBSTER, ILL. A.C. Incorporated, well known, efficient. Excellent program. Mch. 21/67 Feb. 2, 75

brought immediate results. Frank Webster says that when they advertise in the Observer & Eccentric "we always get our dogs and we always get our price." You'll be satisfied too when you sell your dogs or any other setables in the Observer & Eccentric Want Ads! Call in today!

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