

# Farmington Observer Eccentric

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Twenty Five Cents

## Mercy student's murder brings shock

By CRAIG PIECHURA,  
LOUISE OKRUSTSKY

had been abducted while babysitting New Year's Eve.

Shortly after the body was found, police issued a warrant for Gary William Pervinkler, 19, of 17323 Wadsworth. The two-count warrant for first degree murder and perpetrating a kidnapping was issued for Pervinkler Friday.

POLICE ISSUED a bulletin for a green 1972 Plymouth Satellite, license number MGV-735, which he was believed to be driving. Pervinkler was described as six feet, 155 pounds, with

green eyes and brown hair.

As police searched for the youth, Pervinkler's neighbors expressed shock that Pervinkler was the chief suspect. Pervinkler, who was described by neighbors as being "polite and respectful," lived just three houses northwest of the home of Mr. and Mrs. David Lauts where Miss Ferro was babysitting.

"That family has four of the finest boys I've ever seen," said the man who lives next door to the Pervinklers. "We'd see them in the driveway repairing used cars."

"I have to think there was someone else in this," said the man's wife. "He was polite, respectful and seemed to have a group of good boys for friends. I can't believe he's involved. There wasn't a thing I could see about him that wasn't likeable."

The neighbors, who preferred to remain anonymous, have lived next door to the Pervinklers for 19 years and said "although we didn't mix with them, when Gary was young he used to like to play in our backyard better than his own."

"There was never any loud shouting

from over there, never any quarreling, just fun things, and now we hear this," she said.

Gary Pervinkler is the youngest of the four boys including Tim, Mike, and Kip.

MISS FERRO'S FATHER, Tony Ferro, operator of Superior Casket Co. of Livonia, said that to his knowledge, Judy did not know Pervinkler.

"No, she didn't know the boy," said Ferro. "I can't imagine any motive for this. The police are trying to find that out. We're waiting to hear from them. But I can't talk about it any more."

Because Mercy High School was closed today (Monday), Judy's friends and teachers were able to attend the funeral.

Sr. Camille Kelly, principal of the high school, described Judy as a "bright, beautiful girl."

Judy would greet you with that sweet smile," she recalls. "She had no great ups and downs. She would always speak to you first, some students wouldn't bother, but Judy wouldn't pass you without saying something."

Even though there are 1,300 students at the school, Sr. Camille says Miss Ferro's friendliness attracted attention.

HER HIGH grades in Spanish enabled Judy to become a member of the Language Honor Society and the sister said, "Judy was also a very talented art student."

A number of pen and ink drawings done by Miss Ferro are hanging in the school. A very active student, Miss Ferro already had volunteered to run a booth at the school's annual spirit fair.

"Judy was a very sensitive student," said Sr. Camille. "She wrote a poem to one of her closest friends as a Christmas present."

The Saturday before her death, Miss Ferro, of 17001 Kinloch, had one of her first dates at the alumni ball of Our Lady of Mercy. She went with a neighborhood friend, and Sr. Camille says she seemed "especially happy that night."

Judy was described as con-

scientious, and an example of that trait was her decision to pass up a trip to Traverse City to visit a friend because she had promised the Lauts she would babysit for them.

The Lauts have two children, ages nine and four. Neither child was harmed.

POLICEMAN Sandy Rets said neither child can recall any other person being in the home and added neither heard a gun go off in the house, even though police found a spent .22 caliber cartridge in the ceiling of the Laut's home. There were no signs of forcible entry.

Police know the abduction took place after 12:30 a.m. and before 3:10 a.m. Thursday because Judy called her parents at 12:30 to wish them a happy New Year. At 3:10 a.m. the Lauts returned from a party and could not find their babysitter in the home.

When they tried to use the phone to find Miss Ferro, they discovered the telephone wires had been cut outside the house. Police were notified at 3:18 a.m.

THE COUNTY medical examiner's report reveals that Miss Ferro's body was dragged in the park and that her throat showed definite signs of strangulation. Mrs. Stephanie Warren of the examiner's office said there wasn't a bullet wound on the body. It hadn't been determined yet if she was sexually assaulted or if a rope or other tool was used in the strangulation.

In addition, the report said she was bruised in the chest and head.

Judy is survived by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Tony Ferro, and three brothers. The funeral was held at 10:30 this morning in Our Lady of Loretto Catholic Church with the Rev. Robert Ryan and Gerald Shirilla officiating. Arrangements were handled by the Fred Wood Funeral Home and burial was at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

"She was such a beautiful person," said Sr. Camille. "It strikes me that that's the tragedy of it all. Everyone who calls finds it hard to believe she's dead. It makes an impact on you. You don't take it lightly."



Which way do we go? That's the question many drivers find asking themselves as they approach the intersection at Shil-

wassee and Grand River in Farmington. The multitude of signs gives drivers a variety of choices. (Photo by Craig Newman)

## In Farmington Hills

### Police probe arson attempt

Farmington Hills Police are investigating an attempted arson at Suburban Aluminum Wholesale Builders Supply, Inc., 27400 Eight Mile Road in Farmington Hills, in which seven piles of paper with rope wicks near gasoline containers were found before being set off.

Police said that on Wednesday, Dec. 31, Lynn Marcus, owner of the company, checked over the shop and then prepared to close the night inside the building. He spent himself in a room with his two dogs and went to sleep.

Marcus, who is partially deaf, awoke about 2 a.m. and found the dogs roaming around the building. He brought the dogs back into the room and went back to sleep.

In the morning, Thursday, Jan. 1, when friends came to wake him up, they found that the building had been broken into and was primed to be set on fire.

Police said that Marcus heard nothing while he was inside the building and thought nothing of it when he awoke to find the dogs roaming around the building.

According to authorities, there were seven piles of crumpled newspapers spread around the building. Each pile had several matchbooks beneath the papers with a cotton or rope fuse leading to the pile. Several containers filled with gasoline were also near the piles.

The electrical wiring on a grinding machine in the shop also was found striped bare with a cotton string laid over the wires.

When Marcus checked the building before going to sleep, he said that he

moved a five-gallon container full of gasoline to the rear of the building. That container was empty the next day.

The arsonists forced their way into the building, possibly with a crowbar found at the scene, through a boarded up window on the southside of the building.

Police said that Marcus received no threats that the building would be set on fire.

Hills' detectives and crime lab still are searching the scene for clues and the investigation is continuing.

## 1975 elections bring surprises

Local elections were a big part of the story in Farmington and Farmington Hills during 1975, with some surprisingly low turnouts and upsets for some long-standing politicians. While voters seemed primarily concerned with money issues, they showed little interest in the city legislators who would be spending those funds.

Newcomer Michael Spiece, 18, won a surprising victory, beating out incumbent Ann Rodewig. He was able to win with a total of 502 votes. Only five per cent, or 1,640 voters, turned out for the school elections.

On the other hand, 69 per cent of Farmington School District voters turned out to support a raise of four mills to keep the school district running.

CITY ELECTIONS in both Farmington and Farmington Hills were low. Hills' voters showed the least enthusiasm with only 13 per cent taking the time to cast a ballot.

In the City of Farmington, only 22.5 per cent of those registered bothered to vote for their city legislators.

Hills' longtime politician Earl Oppenheimer had some uncomfortable moments on election night, as he came in fourth in a field of six candidates. Because of his low vote tally, Oppenheimer has to run for re-election in two years.

Oppenheimer ran into problems during the campaign for the November election when he proposed to put four advisory referendum questions on the ballot.

The first of the two questions asked voters what type of parks they preferred—large, small, a combination of the two, or no park expansion. Voters expressed a preference for small, neighborhood parks.

THE OTHER ADVISORY question concerned the concept of selling bonds to speed up the road paving program. Voters also approved that concept.

Roads being considered for paving are Orchard Lake, Middle Belt, 13 Mile, Eight Mile, Nine Mile, 11 Mile, 12 Mile, Drake and Halstead.

Councilman William Ortman ran into even worse luck as he met defeat. Tables were reversed for Ortman this election as voters gave overwhelming support to Joanne Smith, who was the top vote getter.

In the election two years earlier, Smith was beaten by Ortman. It was a good year for women in the Hills election as Jan Dolan placed second. Dolan was elected for the first time in this election after having been appointed to fill out a term vacated by Margaret Schaefer, who is now serving as a district judge.

Keith Deason rounded out those elected to the Hills council. He is an incumbent.

In the City of Farmington, incumbent William Hartstock was the high vote getter. Hartstock, 25, received 1,113 votes. Many local political watchers were surprised at the outcome because Councilman Ralph Yoder placed second behind Hartstock. Newcomer Alton Bennett rounded out the council.

## SPOT police unit nabs suspect

Farmington Hills Police arrested three male youths Tuesday, Dec. 30 after they allegedly broke into Harrison High School, 29925 W. Twelve Mile Road, and caused an estimated \$6,000 worth of damage.

Charged with breaking and entering are: Paul Edward Payne, 17, of 21151 W. Brandon St.; Richard Arnold Oberndorf, 17, of 22023 W. Brandon St.; and a juvenile, all of Farmington.

They stood mute at their Dec. 31 arraignment before District Judge Margaret Schaeffer. Bond was set at

\$5,000 each and an examination date has not been set.

Payne and Oberndorf remain in Hills' custody and the juvenile was turned over to Oakland County Juvenile authorities.

Ronald Holko, director of public safety, attributed the arrests to the Special Patrol Operational Team (SPOT). The arrests now bring the total number of apprehensions for the SPOT squad to 120 for 1975. Holko said while expressing a desire to enlarge the unit sometime during 1976.

## Jaycettes offering baby safety seats

The Farmington Area Jaycettes still have Infant Love Seats for rent at \$5 rental fee and \$5 returnable deposit. The club launched its "Buckle Up Babies" (BUBS) program last month as part of a national campaign to promote automotive safety, particularly focusing on young passengers.

Those interested in renting the seats should contact Mrs. William A. Reed, 22719 Brookdale, Farmington. The seats, marketed by General Motors, are similar in design to seats in racing cars. They are made from two polypropylene shells. The outer shell conforms to the auto seat; the inner is contoured to support the infant.

The seat is positioned to face the rear of the vehicle and offers special protection in event of a sudden stop or collision.

For older children, a larger seat accommodates up to 40 pounds.

The Jaycettes strongly recommend this seat, which can be used for as long as three years, for larger children. However, the group isn't renting these.

To promote the safety campaign, the Jaycettes donate an Infant Love Seat to the first area baby born at either Providence or Botsford general hospitals during BUBS Week, Jan. 5-11.

The mayors of both Farmington and Farmington Hills have officially proclaimed that week as BUBS Week, and the Jaycettes will sponsor activities to focus public attention on safety.

The Farmington Area Jaycettes can be reached by writing Box 33, Farm-



### A sweet booty

Farmington Hills Police Officer Al Haver checks over some of the stolen candy that was taken from Harrison High School. Police arrested three males Tuesday in connection with the breaking and entering. (Staff photo by Craig Newman)

## inside

News	Section A
Obituaries	2
Community Calendar	3
Sports	4
Columns	6
Scholarship Life	Section B
Classified	Sections D, C

### ARTS AND CRAFTS

The Farmington Community Education program is offering a wide variety of classes. To see how you can register and what choices you have turn to page 7A.