

Farmington Observer

Volume 88 Number 51

Thursday, April 14, 1977

Farmington, Michigan

56 Pages

Twenty-Five Cents

Blaze sweeps Muirwood Apartment unit

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY
and STEVE BARNABY

Nine construction workers narrowly escaped yesterday from a fire which devastated a 30 unit housing unit at the Muirwood Apartment Complex on Drake, north of Grand River, Farmington Hills.

All fire fighting units from the cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills responded to the blaze which began at approximately 1:45 p.m. The fire started, according to witnesses, when a tank on a truck loaded with drywall exploded. The fire quickly spread to the complex which burnt to the ground in fifteen minutes.

The building, worth \$465,000, was the last of 42 buildings in the complex to be completed. The complex was to be open at the end of May, according to Walt Kutchins, an executive officer at Bestak Land Developing Company, of Southfield, which owns the apartment buildings.

A Farmington Hills firefighter was taken from the scene and treated for smoke inhalation. The blaze was extinguished by 3 p.m.

Lawrence Forsyth, of Clarkston, a construction worker, who was in the building at the time of the fire, said the building burnt down within minutes after the workers got out. "Someone started to shout fire and we all thought it was a little fire in the corner. But, before we knew it the whole building was gone," he said.

Workers outside the building said the fire was so hot that shingles on adjoining buildings melted.

Fire fighters were hampered in combating the fire by a southwest wind which spread the flames across Drake to an empty field.

Fire officials feared the wind could have shifted to a more northerly direction threatening the Independence Commons Subdivision which is populated with homes worth more than \$100,000.

Upon arriving the fire personnel doused two trailer tanks loaded with propane gas to avoid any further fire hazards. Officials from utility companies also were present in case 30,000 volt power lines were severed by the flames and brought to the ground.



Apartment complex gutted

City of Farmington public safety officers Joe Schornack and Jim Madigan joined in the futile attempt to save the 30-unit building at

Muirwood Apartments. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

Bartman leads drive

By LYNN ORR

As the "Title IX conscience of the district," it's Dr. LeRoy Bartman's job to make sure staff, students and parents are aware of the federal prohibition against sex discrimination in education, to discover any cases of non-compliance, and to process grievances based on Title IX regulations.

As Title IX coordinator, Bartman believes a recent self-valuation of the district indicates Farmington School District is shaping up in the 10 months since the statute went into effect.

"We believe our district is far ahead of most others," he says, and he's pleased with the survey results in most areas.

Evaluation of the district centered on the distribution of classes that were typically male or female oriented in the past, the number of programs offered, counseling materials, labeling of courses, and student handbooks.

Title IX, he says, prohibits sex discrimination and segregation in education in publicly funded schools. "No person in the U.S. shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any educational program or activity receiving federal assistance," reads the law.

When districts are found to be in violation of Title IX, the federal government can withdraw all federal funds from the offending district, although

the government has given districts some leeway in correcting problems on their own.

"We examined classes that are disproportionate, that is classes with above 75-80 per cent of one sex; and although there are classes like that, we found that we didn't do anything to affect that situation," Bartman explains.

Typing, shorthand, auto mechanics, electronics, home economics and drafting programs are typical of classes in which disproportionate numbers of either sex dominate the class, he says.

But the evaluation showed that the district's scheduling wasn't influencing the imbalance.

"We checked the number of programs offered to see that we didn't make it prohibitive to take classes by offering them simultaneously," says Bartman.

"We couldn't find any instances where we offered auto shop and home economics at the same time or any other classes that are usually male or female oriented."

In examining counseling materials, the district wrote to publishers asking for their assurance that tests and other materials weren't in violation of Title IX.

"Most of the publishers are working to get in step with the law," says Bartman, including one publishing house which issues the Kuder Aptitude test used in Farmington schools. They wrote to Bartman explaining they were in the process of correcting the tests for sexual bias.

While examining the labeling of courses, Bartman discovered that there were still a few courses such as men's and women's chess, which are violation of the segregation aspect of the law. That's out for next year," he says.

Textbooks, however, are excluded from the act, and athletic departments have three years from last July to establish parity between male and female athletic programs.

Bartman believes the district is ahead of the federal timetable. "Female coaches are paid on a parity with male coaches, and there is equal opportunity for competitive sports," he says.

Another aspect of Bartman's job is to publish a procedure by which students or parents can file a grievance against the school district, a procedure that accompanies an explanation of Title IX.

"The Title IX coordinator has to be willing to ride herd on the district and hear complaints," he says.

One disturbing disparity for Bartman is the lack of women in administrative positions, although well over

the majority of district employees are women.

Only two women hold administrative jobs in the Farmington School District, as elementary principals, in comparison to an elementary staff of about 60 per cent women.

Junior and senior high staff totals about 50 per cent women, although all secondary administrative positions are held by men.

The distribution of jobs coincides with the national average, says Bar-

tmann, but administration jobs have been scarce in the last few years.

"We've absorbed the cuts we've made, and we haven't done any hiring in administration," he explains. "If you are a growing system and hiring, the government would probably say something, and rightly so, about the lack of promotions for females."

However, with the lack of hiring in Farmington, he doesn't expect to have a chance to do much about the situation.

O & E, OU offer course by newspaper

Observer & Eccentric Newspapers and Oakland University will join forces to offer a "Courses by Newspaper" probing series on modern morality.

Beginning Thursday, April 28, this newspaper will publish a 16-part series entitled "Moral Choices in Contemporary Society," exploring the complex and controversial moral dilemmas confronting Americans.

Oakland University, using the newspaper articles as a text, will offer two consecutive eight-week courses Saturdays at 9:30 a.m. beginning April 30. Classes will meet in the Birmingham Center for Continuing Education, 748 Purdy.

Each eight-week course is worth two undergraduate credits toward general education requirements.

TOPICS WILL include abortion; political, business and science ethics; sexual conduct; the family and moral education.

Eleven outstanding scholars at American institutions wrote the 16 articles, which will be of interest to even the general newspaper readers.

Authors are: Daniel J. Callahan, founder and director of the Institute of Society, Ethics and the Life Sciences; Kenneth B. Clark, professor emeritus in psychology at City University of New York and research director of the Northside Center for Child Development.

Lon Fuller, the Carter professor of general jurisprudence (emeritus) at Harvard University; Hans Jonas, the Alvin Johnson professor of philosophy at the New School for Social Research.

Philip Rieff, the Benjamin Franklin professor of sociology at the University of Pennsylvania; Christopher

Lasch, professor of history at the University of Rochester.

Jean Lipman-Blumen, director of the Women's Research project at the National Institute of Education; Martin E. Marty, professor of the history of modern Christianity and dean of the divinity school, University of Chicago.

John P. Sisk, professor of English literature, Gonzaga University; Robert W. Tucker, professor of political science at Johns Hopkins University.

And Ernest van den Haag, psychoanalyst and adjunct professor of social philosophy at New York University and a lecturer at the New School for Social Research.

FOR REGISTRATION information or answers to questions, contact Linda Markman at OU's Center for General and Career Studies, 377-2198, by April 27.

Registration also will be held the first morning of class, April 30. Tuition and fees are \$71 per course.

Courses by Newspaper was developed in 1973 by university extension of the University of California, San Diego. It is funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

"Moral Choices in Contemporary Society" is the sixth in a continuing series of timely educational features prepared by Courses by Newspaper.

Previous courses have been offered by more than 500 newspapers with a combined circulation of some 30 million readers. An estimated 20,000 newspaper readers have earned valuable college credit through the program offered by more than 250 educational institutions.

Although metropolitan daily papers have offered Courses by Newspaper in this area, this is the Observer & Eccentric's and Oakland University's first venture into the program.

Seniors laud house drive

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

Senior citizens are supporting a move toward providing elderly housing. They also are putting thumbs down on highrises which would force them to use elevators or stairs.

The seniors' support comes in the midst of an agonized debate in Farmington Hills over the feasibility of creating special zoning for elderly housing and building for them federally-funded apartments.

While some of the seniors questioned during an informal survey admitted they were inclined to stay in their present homes, all agreed that subsidized elderly housing is needed in the Farmington area.

"I want senior citizens housing and I want it near a shopping area," said Martha Turner, Farmington Hills.

"In Scotland, the seniors are well catered to. We've failed, in Farmington and Farmington Hills, to cater to seniors. We've forgotten that we'll grow old, too," she said.

"I've lived in Farmington Hills for 48 years. There are few of us who can say we're the originals. Most of the seniors are from Detroit. I'd say we'd need a complex with 300 apartments or more," Mrs. Turner said.

She is looking for an economic, comfortable place to stay. "I have a four-bedroom home. It seems so stupid. It's a place for young people. The only time it's full is when the children come home, and then the house rocks," she said.

Mrs. Helen Kudla, Farmington, agreed with Mrs. Turner. "I'd like to see senior citizens' housing. I'd want them to put it near a doctor," she said.

Although Andree Averill of Farmington would like to remain in her present apartment, she could foresee a time when she possibly would consider moving into a senior housing residence.

"You need it when you're alone or can't take care of your home," she said. "There might come a time when it would be harder for me to get around. You're always thinking along those lines. If you live on a fixed income, you hope that prices don't go up."

Another woman considered herself lucky to own her own trailer and afford her rent.

"An awful lot of people can't pay these high rents. Senior citizen housing would be a good idea," said Minnie McGarrigle, Farmington Hills.



Safety and comfort were two prevalent reasons for the seniors' insistence that a housing complex should be built two stories high.

"I'D LIKE IT ALL ONE floor," said Mrs. McGarrigle. "It's better if all are on the same floor. You can have a nice backyard and a patio to sit. And it's better than climbing stairs and using an escalator."

"In case of a fire, everyone can get out quickly," she said.

"A senior home would be good for older people, who are about 70 or 80 years old," said Emily Keenonen of Farmington. "But I don't think I'd want it to be high-rise. I want it to be a lower building."

Another senior opted for low-rise on the basis of aesthetics.

"I don't like the looks of a tower but I can see where it would be more economical. I like a lower floor," said Mrs. Averill.

Many of the seniors are already living on the ground floors of their complexes.

Hazel Farrell, Farmington, prefers her ground-floor apartment because she doesn't like elevators.

Lugging groceries up a flight of stairs was one inconvenience found in mid-rises and high-rises that aren't any stores nearby," she said.

Mrs. Leola Rammel named "There shouldn't be high-rises for seniors," she said.

She did support the idea of building a senior citizen apartment.

It would be wonderful if it were near the stores. I live where there aren't any stores nearby," she said.

In addition to supporting a low-rise apartment building, Mrs. Turner favors apartments with separate kitchens, bathrooms, dining areas and bedrooms.

"When we can't get around, we don't mind being enclosed. But while we're able, we want to be free. We don't want one large dining room," she said.

(Continued on page 6A)

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