

Youthful sages eye Farmington

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

"Once I saw a time machine. I just had to find out how it felt so I went in and pushed a button. I got dizzy at first. Then somehow, I just got there. Everybody looked strange.

I thought they were some other kind of people from outer space. I decided to ask a man where I was when he told me I was amazed. He told me that I was in Farmington in the year 2000."

That's the way Lydia Cheuk begins her essay about Farmington 22 years in the future. She was among a group of area elementary students who matched their writing skills with their imaginations and indulged in some fortune telling for the city.

Transportation by souped-up automobiles, a return to four-footed dependability and houses made from cookies and books were seen in Farmington's future as the students attempted to peer into their own private crystal balls.

CRIME, pollution and shopping centers are other targets hit by youngsters peering into the cloudy future.

Ecology was a matter of concern for some of the young writers.

"In the year 2000 some people say that the City of Detroit and Farmington will have more pollution than it does now," wrote Sarkis Towyan.

"But that's not what I think. I think that Farmington and Detroit will find other ways to make automobiles in a different way and style. And they may even stop using raw materials because when we need them they may not be there because we used them all."

The Detroit Plaza could be made from a new building material in the year 2000, according to Towyan. The new miracle building material?

Why, cookies of, course. Or better yet, liquor bottles, Miller cans and bottle caps or books, the young writer suggests.

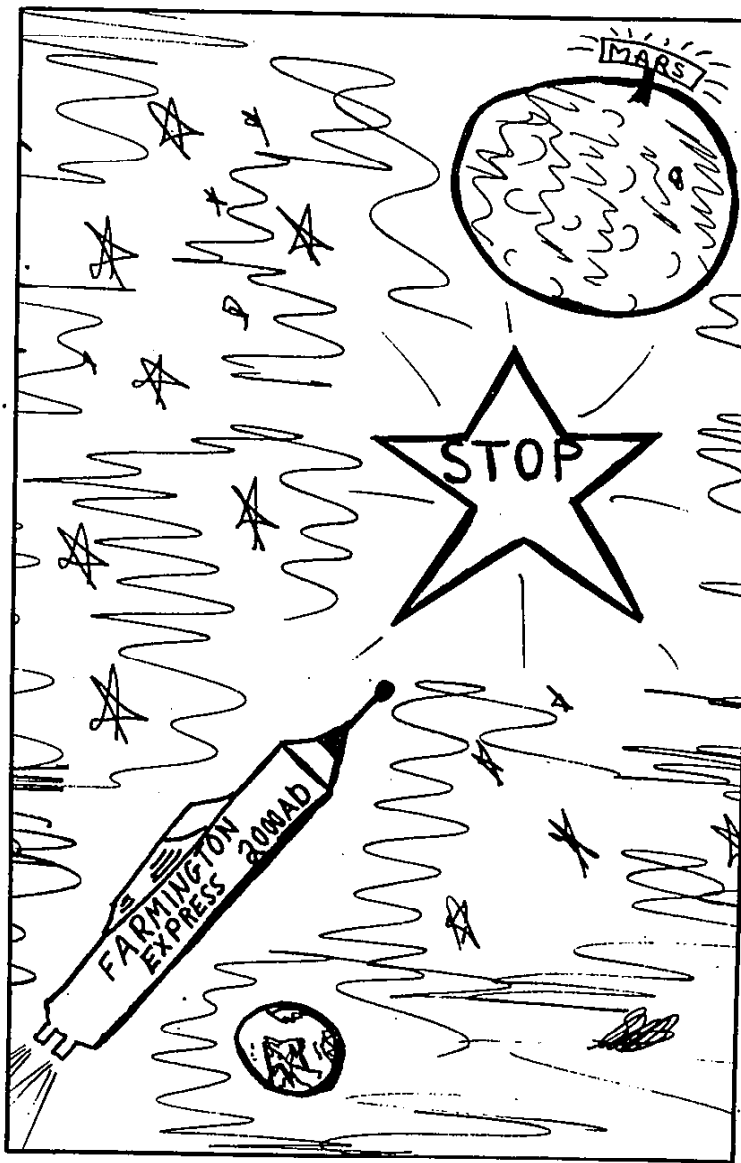
"Farmington may be made of toilet paper all wrapped up into a little ball," Towyan playfully suggests.

Brett Butler takes a more practical look at the next 22 years.

"The transportation will be much different, too. Because all of the cars won't be run by gas, they will be run by solar power. And there will be no such thing as a car. We will go to school on a jet powered subway," he predicted.

"IN THE YEAR 2000 Farmington Hills will not need any electricity because it will all be run by solar power," Butler wrote.

Economic concerns as well as ecological ones will sound the death knell for cars, according to Becky Pernaitis.



'In the year 2000, people will go from Earth to Mars. The traffic lights will be made of stars.'

-Mark Young

"People will be walking, jogging or even crawling before driving a car with the price of gas going up," she predicted.

Flying cars is another alternative proposed by Tim Geer.

"Kids will have jet packs to fly to school," he said.

Light will be the power source for some of these new vehicles according to David Everett.

"People will be riding in spaceships and in cars that run on light. They will be riding horses that will fly. We will be able to have jet-packs so we can fly.

"They strap on your stomach and they have controls on the handles," he suggested.

All of this flying traffic need some control. Flying fender-benders could be in the future, too without some practical measures.

"In the year 2000, people will go from earth to Mars. The traffic light will be made of stars," reported Mark Young.

That bit of galactic traffic control will be necessary if Young's prediction of remote control cars comes true.

THREE-WHEELED cars, two-wheeled cars with three doors might be the rage in the year 2000, according to Frank Orsini.

Maybe, they'll even have ejector seats, he hints.

Economic ups and downs are

sure to come along in the next 22 years. That thought led Suzy Mattoon to lament the passing of the five-cent gumball.

"Things will be very high priced. Like a gumball will be 25 cents or 15 cents. Diapers will be \$1.75," she darkly suggested.

The economy will have its affect on the way future Farmington residents dress, according to Lydia Cheuk.

"Some people rode on horses. They couldn't ride cars because the men who made the machines broke down. The girls who wore dresses had patches on them. They looked terrible. They had rips on their shirts and pants," she said.

Crime was on the mind of the youthful seers, too.

"I think that Farmington will be more conservative and cooperative and most of all clean in the year 2000," wrote Lisa Sullivan.

"But it will also be happy. The people in Farmington won't have to worry about not locking their doors or even coming home to a house that has been robbed of its goods or having the job problems we have today," she wrote.

ROBBERS WILL GET their just desserts in 2000. Mark Young foresees five-inch bars for the bad guys.

But home comforts also will include invisible beds, electric eyes that will read books and fishing without a hook, according to Young.

The Farmington landscape will change, too, according to the students.

New houses built where other buildings stand now are sure to be part of the landscape according to Greg Gaylos. He will also be different, foreseeing himself as a 33-year-old dentist.

"Maybe streets will be torn down and new ones will be built," speculates Cathy Godenow.

"Maybe the woods will be torn down and new houses will be built," she added.

Those concerns were repeated by Mickey Foster.

"Farmington Hills might not have as many forest parts centuries from now. I think there will be more buildings. There will be more places to live. Like there will be more subdivisions and apartment buildings," he wrote.

New shopping centers will continue to claim a part of the landscape, according to Sonquta Gandhi.

Her sketch of a future shopping mall includes five stores, three of which are fast food restaurants.

DIFFERENT fashions, bestsellers and even a new kind of elevator will be found by the shopper of the future, she said.