

# Farmington Observer

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## Music advocates stump for larger staff

By STEVE BARNABY

Farmington editor  
Five new music teachers and one administrative music coordinator are what's needed to improve music education in the Farmington School District. That's the word from Concerned People for Music (CPM) which made a two-hour presentation before the board Tuesday evening.  
The group, led by spokesman Dick Levinson, made its presentation after studying music programs in surrounding districts.  
In recent years, student interest has been falling off in music education. CPM claims it's due to poor staffing and teachers instructing in areas in

which they have little competency. "We have to be willing to roll the dice and subscribe to a healthy music program," said Levinson.  
"If we maintain the staff, within two or three years, the number of children participating will justify the staffing," he said.  
Levinson urged the board to abandon the traditional teacher-pupil ratio when teaching music.  
"You must deviate from the normal staffing when dealing with the fine arts," he said.  
CPM feels music education at the elementary level is lacking, which endangers the program later on in a child's education.

"It is increasingly difficult to get children interested as they grow older," he told the board.  
The group also noted that the "most talented" music students don't participate in school programs because of the lack of staffing and time given to teachers to instruct.  
"This is a great loss to our community. It is those students who excel who help others to move to their level.  
"But instrumental teachers don't have the time to work with or identify those students," he said.  
Helen Pickett, aiding Levinson in the presentation, noted that another district of similar socio-economic back-

ground transcended Farmington in music education.  
"This district is in the third of a five-year rebuilding program," Mrs. Pickett said.  
Participation, she said, has been as high as 95 percent among elementary students in that district.  
Mrs. Pickett also noted that Farmington district students were forced in some cases to choose between physical education and music when planning their schedules.  
Dave Markovitch, a Harrison senior, reinforced the concept that inequities existed between the music and athletic programs within the district. Marko-

vich is both a music student and athlete.  
"Football is successful because of adequate coaching and supplies. There are five coaches for 65 players at Harrison," he noted.  
In contrast, the band comprised of about the same number of students, has one teacher to give instruction, he said.  
"It's always music which takes a back seat to athletics."  
Dan Lochrie, a Farmington senior, said the music program has lost its excitement.  
"Everything has become a struggle," he said. "If the art is taught correctly, the excitement is visible at any level.

"We can have a stronger marching band if we use the same principles as sports."  
CPM would like a music coordinator who would guide the entire music program throughout the district.  
Presently, the district has a sports coordinator who fulfills a similar function for that discipline.  
While thanking CPM for its presentation, the board had few questions or comments.  
The music program was referred to the board committee on curriculum for further study.

## Tax amendment sought for compromise bill

State Rep. Sandy Brotherton, R-Farmington, has called for amendment of a tax plan fostered by Gov. William Milliken and legislative leaders.  
The plan would ease property taxes by \$800 million in exchange for a 1.5 percent increase in the state sales tax.  
Automatic increases in the personal income tax exemption and the property tax credit based on the inflation rate would result in a tax cut of more than \$500 million over the next five years, according to Brotherton, whose district

includes Farmington, Farmington Hills and part of Southfield.  
"The so-called indexing measure is a result of Republican pressure for the plan to include significant tax reduction for Michigan residents," said Brotherton.  
After 20 hours of negotiations, the idea of indexing the two exemptions figures were accepted by the House and Senate Democratic leaders and the governor," he said.  
Although generally favoring the plan, Brotherton wants to see it further

amended to provide more property tax relief.  
"In my opinion, it is a simple tax shift and as such won't receive enough support by the people to become part of the constitution," he said.  
IF THE PLAN is approved by a two-thirds majority of both houses, it will be placed on the November ballot for the voters to approve or reject.  
The proposal, if enacted, would mean an estimated \$350 average savings for Michigan homeowners. It would exempt \$6,500 from each homeowner's property tax valuation and increase the exemption annually at the same rate the statewide value of residential property, excluding construction, increases.  
It would grant a flat \$140 property tax credit for renters; raise the sales tax from 4 to 5.5 percent; pay back local governments for lost property tax; exempt utility bills from the sales tax increase and phase out the sales tax on utility bills over a four-year period.  
The four-year phase out of the sales tax on utilities will put some "decent progressivity" into the tax structure, says Brotherton.  
"Utilities prices have increased largely and any tax on those bills obviously makes a big difference in paying for a vital service," he said.

## Rabies found in Farmington

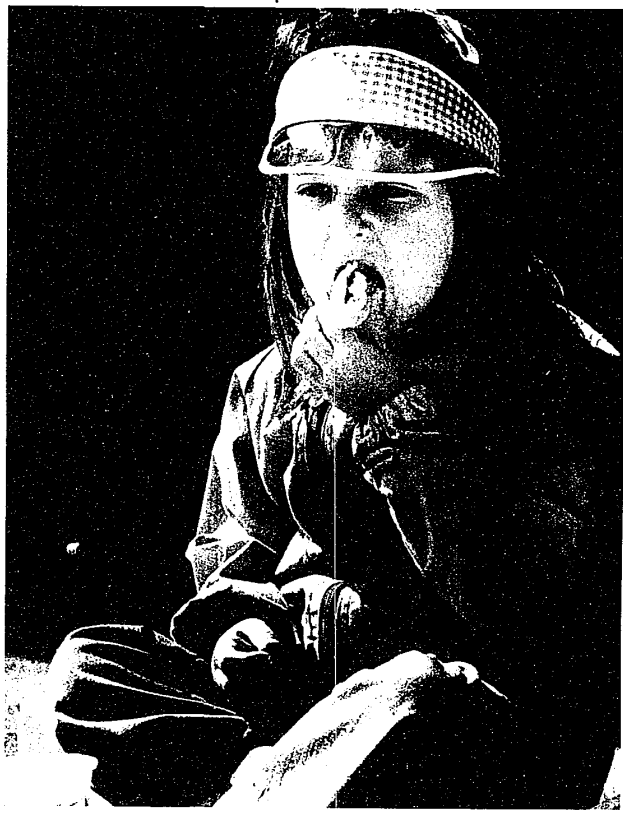
By C.J. RISAK

Since the 1950s, rabies has not been a problem in Oakland county.  
But the disease still exists and crops up locally every so often. Earlier this month, a Farmington resident's cat dragged home a bat that proved to be rabid.  
"There is no test for rabies," said John Richardson, DVM. "Once the symptoms develop, it's fatal to both man and animal."  
The incubation period of the disease, or the length of time it will take before symptoms begin to appear, can be as long as a year but usually occur within six months.  
Difficulty swallowing is one tell-tale sign of rabies. That is usually the cause of an animal foaming at the mouth. The disease is transmitted by the animal's saliva.  
"From the time they start showing the symptoms until they die is no longer than five days," Richardson said. The Farmington veterinarian pointed out that the virus doesn't show up in the animal's saliva until 10 days before it dies.  
Therefore, if a person is bitten by a stray dog and it is unknown as to whether or not the dog has had a rabies vaccination, the animal is quarantined for 10 days.  
Rabies, which, according to Brian Strohm of the Oakland County Health Department, was a problem in the '50s, has been rare in recent years. It is almost nonexistent in domesticated animals but is still prevalent in wild creatures.

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ease. Skunks and bats, Strohm said, are more common carriers, while smaller rodents like squirrels and chipmunks are not considered risks.  
There were no reported rabies cases in 1979 in Oakland county and just one in 1978 — a bat found in Walled Lake. The last prior rabid animal found in Farmington was a cat in 1971.  
Cats are more likely to catch the disease than dogs because the state requires all dogs to have rabies shots. Cats are not required by law, but Richardson thinks a cat should be if it's allowed to roam outdoors.  
To rid the area of rabies altogether, one would have to go to extremes comparable to those in England, where the disease doesn't exist. All animals brought into the country are quarantined for a six-month period to be certain they aren't carriers.  
Vaccination of all domesticated animals is Richardson's advice. Indications of rabies in a domesticated animal can be, according to Richardson, "any change in known behavior."  
"A dog pet may become more aggressive, while an active animal may become more calm," he said.  
Once the animal contracts the disease, it is fatal. In the Farmington incident with the cat that caught the infected bat, the cat wasn't vaccinated and had to be destroyed.

## Candidates to debate

A "Meet the Candidates" program, held in response to the upcoming Oakland Community College Board of Trustees election June 3, will be sponsored by the Oakland Community College Faculty Association May 29.  
The program will begin at 2 p.m. in the J-Building of the Orchard Ridge Campus, at 27055 Orchard Lake Road in Farmington Hills.  
Petitioners for the 1980 Board of Trustees election include Theodore Dziurman, Robert Filiatrault, Mariellen Greenbury, Margaret MacTavish, Richard Pappas, Veronica Sexton, Nancy Vangilder, John Vezman and incumbents David Hackett and Barbara Willing.



Time for a break

Every so often, a girl has to take time out for her favorite hamburger and soft drink. After all, watching a Memorial Day parade can be hard work. Cheering those high school bands takes a lot of energy and Andrea Duddles, 4, prepares for the event by

taking an oh-so-delicate bite out of her hamburger. To find out what Andrea and others saw Monday morning on Grand River in Farmington, turn to a page of Memorial Day parade pictures on page 3A. (Staff photo by Randy Borsot)

## Mercy tops in journalism honors

STROHM'S RECORDS, which date back to 1957, indicate that nine animals have been found carrying the dis-

### what's inside

- Club Circuit . . . . . 2C
- Community Calendar . . . 3C
- Editorials . . . . . 14A
- Inside Angles . . . . . 2A
- Sports . . . . . 1B
- Suburban Life . . . Section C

### MOWER MOVERS

Economy-conscious homeowners are always bargain hunting and Gerald White kept this in mind when he advertised his lawn mower in our classified pages: "Just one call, and the mower was sold! You can stretch the growth in your yard, too, whenever you buy and sell used lawn equipment in your hometown newspaper."

644-1070

Our Lady of Mercy High School lead the way among Farmington area high schools in the sixth annual Scholastic College Journalism competition.  
The all-girls Roman Catholic school walked away with nine awards at ceremonies May 22.  
North Farmington's Northern Side came away with four awards, while Farmington's Blue and White won one award.  
The Northern Star took a third place in the best newspaper competition.  
The paper was lauded for being a "good basic high school newspaper." It also was given high marks for its editorial pages.  
"The best part of this newspaper is its editorial page. It's always in the same place, always dealing with issues of interest to the students and always very readable," said the judges.  
Mercy's OLM Newsprint took away an honorable mention in the best newspaper category.  
"This is a fair newspaper that deserves recognition. Articles are well-written. Layout is good enough. It's clean and neat," said judges.

Farmington's John Kerr won an honorable mention for his sport's column. "Falcon gridders headed for conference title."  
Mercy's BEST SHOWING was put in by Kitty Kozlowski in the movie review category. She picked up a first-place award for her article "R' films fall."  
She also took an honorable mention in this category for her article "Rise to fame story entertains all."  
Judge Susan Stark, film critic for the Detroit News, was "impressed" with Ms. Kozlowski's effort.  
"In the last year, Ms. Kozlowski's writing has matured to the point where she now produces a professionally acceptable review. I applaud her progress and her talent," said Ms. Stark.  
"She writes forcefully and persuasively," she said.  
Mercy's Lisa Davidson garnered second place in the photography category for her pictures of cheerleaders.  
Winning a second place in the humorous feature category was Mercy's Margaret Stathos for her article,

"Thoughts on Euthanasia."  
"As pungent a piece of satire as I've seen in some time," said judge Tom Panzenhagen, copy editor for the Observer & Eccentric.  
"Miss Stathos' technique borders on being heavy-handed, but then it's a heavy duty subject which she has chosen to tackle," he said.  
North took a second place in the advertising category. Judges said advertising layout was good and effective, placement of ads was good as well as type selection.  
Mercy's Linda Quillen took a third place in the newswriting category for her article, "Salaries chief factor in tuition increase."  
"There is lots of good information in this entry about why school tuition is rising. The piece is also tightly written and goes right to the point. All facts in the story are carefully attributed to proper sources," said judges.  
In the page one typography category, Mercy took a third place and North won an honorable mention.  
An honorable mention in the general feature category went to Mercy's Ka-

thryn Ayala for her article, "Marillac Hall offers teens support."  
Honorable mention also was given to North student Mo Megerian for the feature "History teacher relives past."  
Mercy's Lori Baughman and Stephanie Tanguay also took an honorable mention in that category for their feature on Detroit Tiger star Al Kaline.  
The contest was conducted by Patrick Newman, Scholastic's student activities coordinator, and Doug Johnson, advisor to the Campus Globe, the college's student newspaper.  
Judges were Steve Barnaby, Sue Roisiek, Tom Panzenhagen and Dennis Rosenblum of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers; Molly Abraham, Nolan Finley and Susan Stark, the Detroit News; and Willie Gertes of the Detroit Free Press.  
Also judging were: Jack Hoffman and Jim Galbraith, Northville Record; W. Edward Wendover, Plymouth Community Center; Arthur Pepin, Ross Roy Advertising; Eric Geans, Associated Newspapers; and Cliff Worth, freelance cartoonist/illustrator.