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High school wasted by student vandals

By C.J. RISAK

In a one-night spree, North Farmington High School students ravaged their school, causing more than \$3,300 worth of damage late Sunday night and early Monday morning.

The greatest extent of damage was caused by a fire set at a double door on the north side of the building. Both the

doors and the door frame will have to be replaced at a cost of \$2,700.

The group of students, estimated at between 60-200, rampaged through a neighborhood near the school and grabbed garbage that residents had left on the street for collection.

Trash, ranging from old tires to junked television sets, was strewn throughout the school. A TV set was

thrown through a window near the school's auditorium on the southwest end of the building.

The cost for cleaning up the garbage was \$300 for two dumpsters and \$150 for labor. The smashed auditorium window was an additional \$150, bringing the total to \$3,300. School lawns also were damaged. An estimate on those repairs has not yet been made.

Farmington Hills police arrested

four persons near the scene for possession of stolen property. All four were students at North and were issued misdemeanor tickets. Names and other information concerning the four were not available.

Although vandalism is somewhat

normal at high schools near graduation time, school officials concurred that this year's outbreak was especially malicious.

On Tuesday, May 27, students from North rounded up real estate signs from surrounding communities and

planted them around the school. No damage to the school was reported, however.

"It's been going on for several years," said North principal Clayton Graham. "But it seems to be getting worse every year."

North teachers rebel over school destruction

By C.J. RISAK

The latest outbreak of vandalism at North Farmington High School was the last straw for North's teachers — and they want the 1980 graduating class to make restitution.

In a bit of graduation celebrating, North students ran wild over the school late Sunday night and early Monday morning, causing \$3,300 worth of damage.

It wasn't the first such incident at North this year, but the teachers plan on making it the last.

In a meeting Tuesday afternoon with school Superintendent Lew Schulman and Assistant Superintendent Lynn Nutter, North teachers passed a motion to boycott all senior activities for the rest of the year unless restitution is made.

After discussing the situation with the superintendents, the faculty revised their position to insisting upon restitution.

"We didn't think we should punish the good with the bad," Schulman said in explanation to his opposition of cancellation of senior activities.

The major events that would be affected would be the senior prom, the honors assembly and commencement exercises. Boycotts of these events by the teachers will not necessarily cause cancellation.

But even though their demonstration may not stop the senior celebrations, the North faculty is angry, and they want the students to know it.

"It costs \$700 to run a full section of chemistry classes," North teacher Ken Dear said. "And here we blow \$3,300 in one night on this."

IT'S NOT A NEW situation for any high school to suffer through graduation celebrations. But the extent of damage inflicted upon North this year is worse than in the past.

"Kids try to outdo each other," said North principal Clayton Graham. "It's like a cancer — it keeps getting worse every year."

(Farmington Hills police) Chief (John) Nichols and the school superintendent (Schulman) both addressed the senior class board officers and told them anyone who is caught with stolen goods would be prosecuted.

"That was two weeks ago."

Apparently it had little effect on North's student body. Since that time, real estate signs were stolen from bordering neighborhoods and planted around North.

Student opinion on the vandalism ranges from apathy to aggression to anger.

"They're through with school, so they don't care what happens to it," said one junior. "They're going to tear it up. I think it's really stupid."

Others backed a prediction of continued destruction.

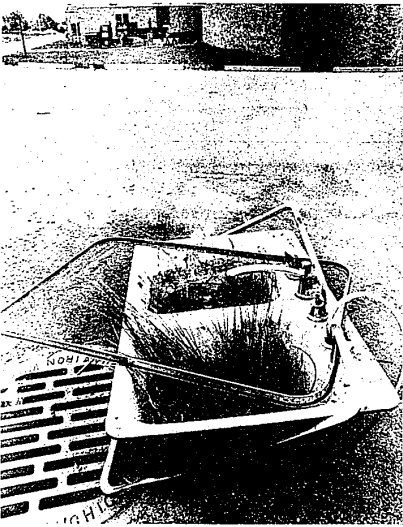
"Wait until we graduate," they said, inferring more destruction may be on the way.

An unknown student made his point by tacking a picture of Mickey Mouse making an obscene gesture on a declaration posted by the faculty stating their views on the vandalism.

DESPITE STUDENT REACTION, Schulman and Nutter opposed the first two plans presented to them. The first,



The greatest amount of damage was caused by a Farmington High. Total cost of repair — \$2,700. Fire lit outside double door on the north side of North. (Staff photos by Randy Borst)



Vandals collected all sorts of trash, including the kitchen sink, and dumped it at North.

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Board dumps mandatory humanities plans

By STEVE BARNABY
Farmington editor

The Farmington Board of Education has rejected the concept of humanities requirements in high school.

In two separate votes Tuesday, the board decided to stick with administrative recommendations that emphasize

a "variety of options" on which students and parents are to decide.

The first proposal, made by Trustee Emma Makinen, would have required students to take one year of either humanities or practical arts.

That was rejected by a 5-2 vote. Only Trustee Helen Prutow supported Mrs. Makinen's concept.

The second proposal, made by Board President Michael Spjacie, also was rejected in a 5-2 vote. Under his plan, students would have been required to take two semesters of humanities and two of practical arts.

His only support came from Trustee Janice Rolnick.

Teachers and administrators turned

out en masse to protest adoption of any humanities or practical arts requirements.

Although administrators excluded a recommendation for a humanities requirement, they emphasized concern that some parents could misunderstand its intent.

"OUR RECOMMENDATION doesn't indicate any lack of desire for humanities," said Superintendent Lewis Schulman.

"We think humanities are important. But we don't want to violate the spirit of options and choices," he said.

Many of those objecting to a humanities requirement said some students were in danger of being forced to take a course that they didn't need for college while missing others that would aid in their college education.

"I'd be upset if a practical arts requirement was passed," said Jerry Potter, Farmington High School principal.

He noted that if students wanted to take classes such as typing they could do it in summer school. More important courses, he said, should be left for the regular school year.

"You're enforcing your value system on other people," he told the board.

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State budget cuts slash local aid

By STEVE BARNABY
Farmington editor

Local government officials are scurrying to their calculators in attempts to figure out what the \$97 million state budget cut will do to their bottom line.

Gov. William Milliken recently announced the state was forcing to cut its budget because of declining state income tax revenues.

Those revenues fell 6 percent in April 1980 compared to April of last year.

The Michigan Constitution requires the state budget be balanced.

Under the plan, half the cuts would be made in aid to local government and schools.

Local governments will be cut by \$23 million. Schools, the hardest hit, will be cut by \$35 million.

Farmington School District will lose \$277,000 under the plan, according to

William Prisk, assistant superintendent for finance.

"We weren't expecting this cut from the state," said Prisk. "They just kept on telling us it would never happen."

Particularly disconcerting to Prisk is that the school year nearly is ended and the money is spent although it is yet to be received from the state.

"I have a real concern about cash flow in a situation like this," said Prisk. "If people pay their taxes early enough, we should be all right."

BUT THE DISTRICT'S money problems have been compounded by another estimated \$200,000 cut from the intermediate school district. Those funds were to be used for special education projects, said Prisk.

"We expected the cut from the intermediate district, but the state was a big surprise," he said.

To compensate for the revenue cuts,

the district will have to dip into equity fund of \$475,000.

"We'll have a zero balance," said Prisk, a situation which leaves little leeway for future emergencies.

Farmington Hills is more confident about its future, with officials saying they prepared for the possibility of such a cut.

"When trying to figure out a budget, you try to be conservative about these things," said Chuck Rosch, city finance director.

"Our only problem is that we didn't cut back quite enough," he said. Rosch estimates the Hills will fall short by about \$30,000. City officials had penciled in a \$1,925,000 figure for state shared revenue.

The Hills will rely on its unappropriated surplus to make up the difference. Farmington City Manager Bob Dearden estimates the city will lose approximately \$19,000. Some positive

factors have aided to offset the loss, he said.

"Court revenues are up, and we've kept expenditures in check," he said.

"We've had an awfully good winter which has helped us to reduce costs," he said.

Because of the light snowfall last winter the city spent less money than normal on overtime for snow removal, according to Dearden.

BUT WHAT THE state does in the future is more of a worry to local administrators than what all ready has happened.

If state revenues continue to decline, local governments will continue to be hit with budget cuts.

"The way we find out what's going on is by reading it in the newspaper," said Hills City Manager Larry Savage. And while the state already has cut its budget by \$97 million, it still is looking for another \$80 million.

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