

# Farmington Observer

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**Purim**

Purim is a special kind of Jewish holiday, unlike any other, as is demonstrated by Rabbi Robert Abramson (above) of Hillel Day School. He led the entire school in the merriment by dressing as a clown. Meanwhile, Jason Biederman (right) plays his violin while dressed in a South American costume. Purim is based on a biblical story in the book of Esther in which the Jews thwart the evil king of Persia who attempts to annihilate them. The rabbi is unsure of how the costume custom was started, but the celebration certainly made for an enjoyable day at school, he admits. (Staff photos by Randy Bors)



## Left punches back at Moral Majority

By MARY RODRIQUE

New Right groups like the Moral Majority are getting an organized dose of opposition from a New Left group called the Voice of Reason.

The Voice of Reason, so named for its defense of natural science, has its roots in a cluster group at the Birmingham Temple of Farmington Hills.

Dr. Sherwin Wine, rabbi of the humanistic congregation, stresses that the Voice of Reason isn't a Jewish organization though some congregation members are active in its development.

Wine, its founder, was off on a week-long tour to major eastern cities Friday to spread its gospel.

"The group was established two months ago to defend three American values," Wine said.

They are separation of church and state, defense of civil liberties and freedom of censorship or restrictions on life, and to defend and educate the public against the new assault on natural science.

The seed was planted last October when Wine, attending a humanistic forum, found many other persons as appalled as himself by the power of the Moral Majority and other right-wing groups.

"Something needed to be done," he said.

The organization first incorporated in Libertyville, Ill. The first public rally was Feb. 27 in Highland Park, Ill. and Wine addressed the gathering.



SHERWIN WINE

every intention of making it a national organization.

After an article in a local newspaper, Silverberg was deluged with "hundreds of letters from people all over the country" who support the organization's philosophy.

Wine says there's been a small dose of hate mail — all unsigned. He has challenged dissenters to a full public debate.

"The response has been superb," Silverberg said. "People are saying they've been concerned for a long time, but didn't know where to align."

A year-old group in Alaska called Free Voice has aligned itself with them. Free Voice was successful in defeating Moral Majority members of the Anchorage School Board in its at-

tempt to manipulate textbooks used in the schools.

The Free Voice of Alaska has chapters in Anchorage and Fairbanks.

Michigan's Voice of Reason chapter is in the process of training leaders. Monday night sessions at the Birmingham Temple are widely attended, Wine reports.

Tonight, a panel of scientists from Wayne State University will discuss evolution and the framework of science now under attack by the Moral Majority.

PARTICULARLY FRIGHTENING to Voice of Reason members is recently passed legislation in Arkansas which requires equal time for the Biblical story of Creation in the teaching of evolution.

"The Scopes trial of the 1920s has been revived," Wine said. "To think that one half of a biology class has to be devoted to the story of Creation is appalling."

The Voice of Reason plans to monitor state legislatures and Congress and to help politicians targeted for defeat by the Moral Majority, whether Republican or Democrat.

Public rallies and material for use by radio and television stations is also being planned.

The Moral Majority's Jerry Falwell boasts a \$75 million budget, 324 TV stations and 50 million viewers and his own zip code.

A pamphlet to solicit funds and membership for the Voice of Reason says "Let's show them who is the real majority."

The Voice of Reason can be contacted at Box 16, Franklin, MI 48025.

## Lawmaker seeks big bite against rowdy canines

By MARY RODRIQUE

A Farmington legislator who has raised howls from animal protection groups over a proposed bill that would impose capital punishment on dogs without provocation, he said.

"Courts order the owner to remove the animal from the area or make sure it's restrained. They remove it for a short while but then it's back."

Brotherton says the key point in his bill is to destroy dogs that attack without provocation.

Yet the bill would also require judges to order the death of any dog that has shown vicious habits on public proper-

"In this case, the dog wasn't destroyed. The owners were told to make sure the animal was kept under proper patrol," Brotherton said.

"I found out later there were other similar cases where a dog attacked without provocation," he said.

"Courts order the owner to remove the animal from the area or make sure it's restrained. They remove it for a short while but then it's back."

Brotherton says the key point in his bill is to destroy dogs that attack without provocation.

Yet the bill would also require judges to order the death of any dog that has shown vicious habits on public proper-

ty, any dog running at large or habitually destroying private property.

Brotherton said the courts would have to decide what constitutes "vicious habits."

The legislator is soliciting comments from Michigan residents.

"If I don't find enough support, I won't press the bill," he said.

OPPOSITION IS WIDESPREAD. The Michigan Humane Society plans to fight it every step of the way.

"This bill mandates death without taking into account that there are sometimes extenuating circumstances," said Dave Wills, executive director of the humane society.

"If a two-year-old burns down a building, you don't call him an arsonist. Animals, like children, rely on people. If an animal is running loose, someone let him loose."

Under Michigan law, dogs running loose are quarantined in the pound for four days and for 10 days if the animal has bitten someone. If no one claims the animal, it's destroyed.

If the animal is claimed, the case goes to court and litigation.

"We are hardline believers in individual consideration," Wills said.

A stray dog hasn't been destroyed in Farmington for quite a while, according to Police Sgt. Murray Switzer.

Strays in Farmington are quarantined at the Farmington Dog and Cat Hospital.

## League focuses on emergency services

The League of Women Voters of the West Bloomfield-Farmington Area will conduct a telephone survey Thursday evening, March 26, to assess service provided by the Emergency Medical Service in Farmington.

This survey will be part of the updated study the Farmington Local Unit

has been conducting since last fall on the delivery of Emergency Medical Service in the Farmington Hills area.

Callers will try to reach Farmington Hills citizens who have actually availed themselves in the past year of the EMS provided for the community. Questions will deal with effectiveness

and type of service required.

The LWV would accept any first-hand experiences citizens of the area would be interested in sharing in the event they are not contacted March 26. The LWV may be called at 476-8462 (weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.) to answer the survey questions.

The first League study of Emergency Medical Service was done in 1975-76. Since then, community awareness and the sophistication of services available has increased in the Tri-County area. Consequently, it was necessary for the League to update its original materials.

The LWV of the West Bloomfield-Farmington area has the following positions on Emergency Medical Service:

- Supports legislation on the appropriate level which will set uniform standards for each aspect of the EMS delivery system. This would include standards for training personnel, specifications for vehicles with provision for their regular inspection and maintenance, requirements for equipment including communications systems and standards for hospital Emergency Rooms.
- Supports system of financing using all available sources, including local, county, state and federal.
- Supports legislation on all levels providing funds to finance planning and upgrading of EMS systems.
- Supports program of public education to show people how to recognize life threatening emergencies, gain access to the EMS system and upgrade their community system.
- Supports EMS planning and coordination on all levels by a coalition of con-

many interested groups as possible, such as: local government officials, fire, police, medical groups, hospitals, ambulance companies and citizens.

- Supports coordination of EMS capabilities on a county or regional level, whichever is most efficient.
- Supports concept of assigning first priority to quick stabilization treatment at the scene, second priority to transport from the scene to the hospital.
- Encourages institution of a central dispatch system for all emergencies (Police, Fire & EMS), using the national emergency telephone number "911".
- Supports eventual implementation of an optimum EMS system using paramedic personnel and sophisticated equipment. The term "paramedic" can include any personnel highly trained in emergency medicine.
- Supports system of EMS administered by whichever providers can do the best job at the least cost.
- The League said that in the Farmington area, the following criteria should be met in the delivery of emergency medical services:
  - At least two rescue personnel should respond to each call for treatment. If transport may be required, a third person should also respond to the call to serve as driver of the vehicle.
  - Quick response time (five minutes or less) is a very important consideration.
  - The training of all rescue personnel (those administering emergency medical treatment as the scene) should be upgraded to the level of EMT I. The training of dispatchers and drivers

should also be appropriately upgraded.

- Two-way radio communication capability between all components is essential.
- Safe vehicles, equipment and supplies appropriate to the level of care offered should be employed.
- Eventually hospital emergency room facilities in the area should be categorized, so that a variety of patients from least serious to most critical can be treated efficiently.
- The goal is the use of paramedics, backed by radio telemetry, etc., under medical supervision of an area hospital.

## Statement valid in murder case

Incriminating statements to police made 12 years ago by Dr. Daniel Boucher after the slaying of his ex-wife and child will be allowed as evidence in his upcoming first-degree murder trial.

Oakland County Circuit Court Judge Steven Andrews Friday ruled Boucher's statements were "an intelligent, voluntary relinquishment of his constitutional right to remain silent. Therefore the statements will be admitted in evidence," reported Court Clerk Sandy Glazier.

The jury is scheduled to be chosen today in Judge Andrews' court where Boucher is due to be tried for the Oct. 16, 1968, murder of Blanche Boucher in her West Bloomfield home.

Boucher, a former Birmingham orthodontist, took the stand for approximately 30 minutes during the three-day evidentiary hearing held last week. Police, psychiatrists and his former lawyer were called to testify about events on Oct. 16, 1968.

Police testified Boucher was read his constitutional rights to remain silent and summon counsel on six different occasions.

Birmingham psychiatrist Dr. Warren Goodwin testified that in his opinion Boucher could not comprehend the ramifications of waiving these rights, since he was suffering from a long-standing psychosis. But Dr. Goodwin also said that various psychiatrists have come up with different diagnoses in Boucher's case.

ON THE STAND, Boucher said he didn't understand the implications of statements made to police, according to the court clerk.

Boucher, 44, was convicted of the first-degree murder of his former wife in 1971. The conviction was overturned in 1978 by the State Court of Appeals which found a procedural error in Boucher's non-jury trial.

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