

Farmington Observer

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Goblins look to alternatives for treats

By Craig Pischura
staff writer

Few are willing to admit it, but recent events may have killed the Halloween tradition of trick or treating. Incidents such as the cyanide-lamp-ered "Tylenol" capsules which killed eight persons in the Chicago area give parents more reasons than ever to fear sabotaged candy this Sunday on Halloween.

"Personally, I'd like to see Halloween cut out entirely," said Sgt. Pete

Amato of the Farmington Police Department. "It's a shame but that'd eliminate these problems. That ought to make me an Uncle Scrooge with a lot of people."

Amato will be on duty Sunday afternoon and evening at the Farmington Police station testing children's candy with a metal detector. The device is being loaned to the department for Halloween — and the day after — by Science & Things, a science store in Farmington.

"People think about the best ways to

deceive the public so we have to get sophisticated at checking things out for the protection of all," said store manager Mike Rothenberg. "The metal detector should help take some of the worry out of Halloween but it's not foolproof."

Alternatives to door-to-door trick or treating are being planned in Farmington and Farmington Hills.

IN FARMINGTON residents in one neighborhood have received permission from city officials to block off their

street to hold a private block party for their youngsters.

In Farmington Hills two parties are planned Sunday for children — at Chuck Mue's Diggers restaurant and Tally Hall food mall — as alternatives to Halloween trick or treating.

The free party at Diggers runs from 2-5 p.m. Sunday and children 5-12 years of age are invited. There will be a free light meal, goodies and entertainment provided by a 15-year-old magician, Jeff Hovanecian.

From 5-8 p.m. the merchants of Tal-

ly Hall will sponsor a "Howl-o-Ween Party" featuring contests for pie eating, best costume and apple bobbing.

"Keep Halloween a safe night," said Tally Hall manager Joanne Smith. "We look forward to parents and children sharing supper and a party together."

Sgt. Richard Murphy, in charge of the juvenile division in the Farmington Hills Police Department, said many persons have called with questions about the holiday.

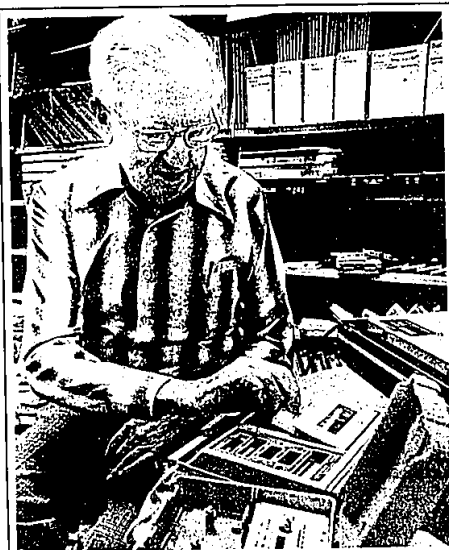
Some wonder which day Halloween will be celebrated locally. It's Sunday

in both Farmington and Farmington Hills; Saturday night in Plymouth and Plymouth Township.

City council members in Benton Harbor voted unanimously to urge parents to keep their children home on Halloween. A similar move is being contemplated by Detroit council president Erna Henderson.

Sgt. RICHARD MURPHY, in charge of the Farmington Hills juvenile division.

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Talking books

Western novels are George T. Abal's weakness. He's almost exhausted the supply of sagabush sagas recorded on cassette available at the Oakland County Library for the Blind and Handicapped in Farmington Hills. Turn to Page 3A of today's Observer for more on the service.

RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Anderson hopes for big upset as Faxon predicts a sure win

By M.B. Dillon Ward
staff writer

State Sen. Jack Faxon, (D-Detroit), sees "no possibility" of losing the Nov. 2 election to his opponent, Republican John Anderson.

The two are vying for state Senate in the 15th District which includes Farmington, Farmington Hills, Southfield, Lathrup Village, Novi, Northville, Wixom, Oak Park, Ferndale and Hazel Park.

"My door-to-door work has shown a strong Democratic attitude on the part of a lot of people who haven't paid a lot of attention to individuals. It seems there's more responsibility to parties," said Faxon, who moved to Southfield after reapportionment last spring.



"...when people are made aware of Jack's stand on three key issues, he loses 60 percent of his support."

—John Anderson



"After being around, you learn the way to get things done without running around like a chicken with its head cut off."

—Jack Faxon.

ANDERSON, a Farmington Hills attorney and former business executive, however, says recent polls prove he holds the edge.

"The (Farmington Hills-based Republican) phone center has made nearly 6,000 calls to registered voters, and their results are consistent with the pattern we've seen in the past," he said.

"They show 28 percent for me and 18 percent for Jack."

Undecided voters total 54 percent, according to the center.

"Another poll done about three weeks ago (by the Senate Republican Campaign Committee) showed a very interesting factor," Anderson said.

"He (Faxon) was leading me by eight

EXPERIENCE WILL make the difference in the Faxon-Anderson race, contends Faxon, who is president pro tem of the Senate.

"After being around you learn the way to get things done without running around like a chicken with its head cut off. I'm able to proceed in due course of time with the things that have to be done because I'm relaxed — I'm not about to have a stroke over it."

The main difference Anderson sees between Faxon and himself is that "Jack has become complacent. He's concerned about hanging on to the job he's had for the last 16 or 18 years. I just don't think he is filled with that sense of urgency about the need to turn this economy around."

"I AM willing to face up to the tough choices that have to be made in order to turn this economy around."

Anderson advocates "putting out the welcoming mat to business" in order to create jobs. That entails reforming the single business tax as well as unemployment and workers' compensation programs, he said.

Faxon calls education the key to curbing unemployment.

"I've maintained for many years now how important the elementary years are. We don't assign funds where the greatest impact is," he said.

"I've heard (Republican gubernatorial candidate Richard) Headlee echo my concerns."

The above-mentioned issues include Faxon's support of:

- the recent six-month state income tax increase;
- the non-resident Detroit commuter tax hike, and
- a Detroit subway.

Activist hopes to bring district into Dem's column

Aldo Vagnozzi gives it his all

By Steve Barnaby
editor

If Aldo Vagnozzi is elected as state representative in the newly-reapportioned 69th district it will be a "real shocker," admits the Democratic challenger.

But the 56-year-old labor journalist has spent many years as a minority Democrat in a Republican-dominated area. His mission — to offer alternative views on political issues.

This year's challenge is to face off against State Rep. Sandy Brotherton, R-Farmington, whose district includes Farmington, Farmington Hills and Southfield Township. Brotherton has served four terms in Lansing.

Although a life-long political activ-



Aldo Vagnozzi seems to meet a problem until it reaches a crisis stage. They (legislators) don't want to face up to it," he says.

Vagnozzi also objects to what he feels is an unfair advantage held by legislative incumbents during campaigns. He notes that a legislative update is sent out by many incumbents just weeks before the election containing "no information that hasn't been covered."

Legislators also are allowed too much free time to campaign, he says.

"They take a 3 1/2 months recess. If I want to campaign, I have to take my own time."

To narrow the incumbent's advantage, Vagnozzi would restrict legislators to a month's recess.

The editorial consultant also notes that his election would allow the district to have a legislator who belongs to the majority party, a significant factor when considering legislation, he says.

"Being a member of the majority, I would have more influence."

Although painted as a liberal, Vagnozzi says his years as a non-partisan

But incumbent says 'no way'

By Steve Barnaby
editor

If GOP gubernatorial candidate Richard Headlee wins next week's electoral sweepstakes, state government will go through a time of much-needed re-evaluation, according to State Rep. Sandy Brotherton, R-Farmington.

Although campaigning to retain his own seat, the four-term legislator, confident of re-election, has focused on a Lansing which, he says, will be dramatically changed by election results.

Brotherton is squaring off against labor Democrat Aldo Vagnozzi of Farmington Hills. The newly reapportioned 69th state representative district includes Farmington, Farmington Hills and Southfield Township — a Republican bastion.

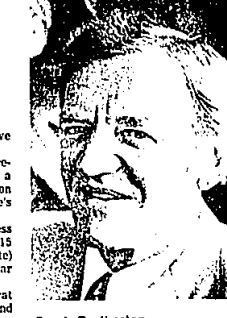
DESPITE A number of what Brotherton terms as campaign "goofts" by Headlee recently, he believes the Farmington Hills insurance executive will be a responsible governor.

"My impression is that he will be a pretty common sense guy," says the 60-year-old legislator. "He may talk about stirring up the pot, but he will find out it's tougher to change things when he gets here."

Although identified through the years as a moderate William Milliken-type Republican, Brotherton confesses to frustration with the lame-duck governor by many GOP legislators.

"There were occasions when we (GOP legislators) weren't being brought into the decision-making process," says Brotherton, of Milliken's political tactics.

HEADLEE, HE says, doesn't hold to the same type of alliances which lurked



Milliken away from GOP-legislative loyalists.

"Headlee will bring about a lot of re-evaluation. A lot of us feel if we had a pause, we could get a better grasp on things," he says, referring to the state's economic crisis.

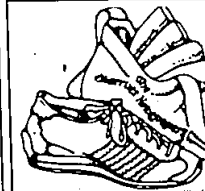
"We will have the time to reassess and mark time. You know, 10-15 years ago we had a lot fewer (state) employees. The state has grown far more than is justified."

He fears a victory for Democrat James Blanchard could bring "fast and dramatic" fixes which would "end us up in the same mess."

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Your Observer carrier will be stopping by this week to collect for the month. Please be ready and be sure to save your receipt. It's worth a \$1.00 discount on the next classified ad you place in your hometown newspaper.

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oral quarrel Ban the beggars; good or bad idea?

Even before the recent bombshell over tainted Tylenol and other sabotaged products made news there were annual incidents of foreign objects or poisons being placed in Halloween candy. Such occurrences, however remote, are causing many to urge an end to the American tradition of trick-or-treating door to door.

Last year a teen-ager in Farmington Hills turned in police a box of Milk Duds candy which contained a piece of

candy that had been skewered with a long straight pin. So it can happen here.

Today's Oral Quarrel Question is:

How do you feel about banning Halloween begging to protect children from tainted treats?

To answer the question call us at 477-5498 from Oct. 29 1 p.m. tomorrow, Friday Oct. 29. Responses will be printed in Monday's Observer.