

Farmington Observer

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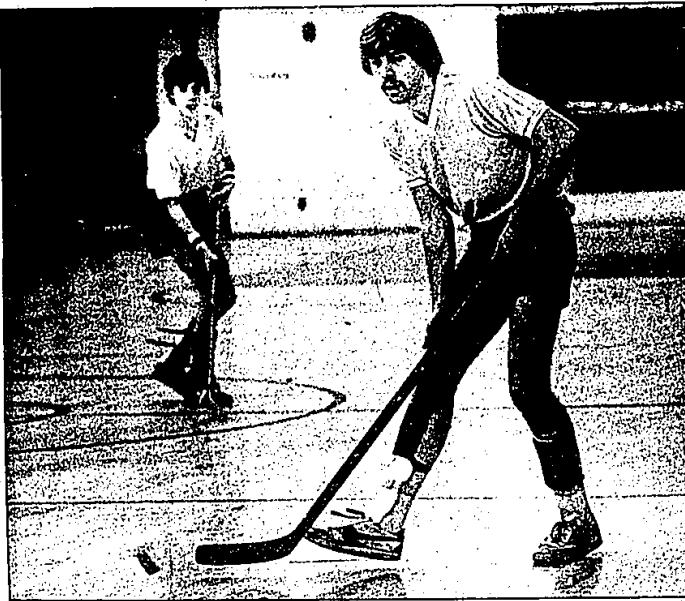
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Farmington, Michigan

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RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Stuart Stahl (right) and Todd Devitt are among the members of the Oakland All-Stars who've set their goals higher since the Farmington Training Center adopted a policy of competitive sports.

Aggressive hockey is back (at center for retarded)

By Craig Flechura
staff writer

Gaudy, hand-painted banners lined the hallway urging the school's hockey team to "Beat Jardon."

Nothing unusual about that until you learn the school in question is the Farmington Training Center for the mentally impaired. Competition was often considered a dirty word when it came to the retarded.

The long-held view was that competition would only frustrate persons with limited physical and intellectual capability and discourage the "losers" in a sports event.

"Students on the floor hockey team are doing something to the best of their ability instead of everyone being a winner," said Carol Wyman, teacher of physical education, personal growth, reading and community awareness at

the Farmington Training Institute (FTI).

"They've set their goals that much higher," she said. "They've lived up to their expectations and beyond because they're trying so hard to compete. Instead of thinking 'I'll do it and I'll get a medal' they work to win that medal."

The Oakland All-Stars, a floor hockey team comprised of 16 young men — eight from the FTI, two from the Oakland Training Institute (OTI) in the Lamphere School District and six from the Waterford Training Institute — took home the statewide Special Olympics trophy over the Dec. 2-3 weekend in Lansing.

THE FINAL SCORE of the final game in the tourney was 12-4 in a victory over the Jardon School of Hazel Park. Without any coaching, the Oakland All-Stars raised their index finger

in the air to show the world they're No. 1.

Even students at the school who are confined to wheelchairs got into the school spirit of having "their" team win the state championship.

Like students everywhere, a few of the stars on the sports squad developed an attitude exhibited by a brash, shoulders-back walk in the school hallway. They're now known as the school "jocks."

"We're getting back to our general educational concept," said coach Ed Wolf, physical education instructor at the school. "They're very much aware of the differences in this school and the so-called regular schools. Lately, we've noticed a definite school spirit, especially with the hockey program."

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Police deny charge

Cops are 'out to get us,' party store owners say

By M.B. Dillon Ward
staff writer

Owners of a Farmington Hills 7-Eleven food store say their latest bout with city police is just one more episode in a six-year history of harassment they've endured since opening the store.

Police say Nov's Ted and June Kopp "can use the term harassment if they want. We use the term special attention, and they can expect a lot of it."

A popular gathering spot for teenagers, the 15 Mile-Orchard Lake 7-Eleven franchise has been involved in numerous run-ins with police involving the sale of alcohol.

The most recent confrontation occurred at 1:45 a.m. Monday when Farmington Hills Officer Bertie Cook cited the store with a liquor violation and ticketed its clerk and two customers for the sale and possession of alcohol, respectively. Police said the two men were too young to purchase alcohol, and the clerk did not ask for identification.

Shortly before closing time, police said, the clerk, Robert Koss of Farmington Hills, sold a six-pack of beer to two West Bloomfield men, whose identification he said he checked earlier in the evening when the pair first entered the store to buy beer.

Koss, 27, said he recognized them and didn't ask to see identification upon their return.

Scheduled to appear in 47th District Court Dec. 27, Koss could be fined up to \$500 and imprisoned for a maximum of 90 days.

The Koppes, who have received two liquor violations in the past, could lose their license to sell alcohol if found guilty by the Michigan Liquor Control Commission.

FARMINGTON HILLS Sgt. John Kohls contends that the only pertinent points are whether identification was checked at 1:45 a.m. and the age of the customers, Michael Richards, 19, and John LaBelle, 20.

"I asked for ID (at 11:15) when they first came in, and this guy matched with the driver's license. I know the year (of the birthday) was 1950, and I'm pretty sure the month was July," Koss said.

"I feel I did my job the first time. They guy proved himself to me."

"If you already checked it once, why should you have to check it two, three or four times when you feel sure the guy is who he says he is? That's harassment, and it makes us look bad at the store," Koss said.

How frequently identification must be checked is a gray area under the

Michigan Liquor Control Act, according to John B. Carlin Jr., the Koppes' attorney, who works for a Southfield firm representing licensees.

"The act does say that as long as a minor will testify to the fact he presented identification earlier, this could be used as a defense (by the licensee) in an action. It's up to the hearing examiner to check the credibility of the documents he presented," said Jerry Norris of the Michigan Liquor Control Commission enforcement section.

Carlin has handled several other conflicts that have arisen between the Koppes and Farmington Hills police — the second-most recent occurring last fall.

The Koppes contested a report made by a Farmington Hills officer who issued a liquor violation charging a young woman, and not her male companion, with illegally purchasing beer. Police officials later upheld Koppes' contention and rescinded the violation.

"Farmington Hills police are being unfair," Carlin said.

"I think they're being overly aggressive in an attempt to get liquor violations. They're going beyond good police work in some cases and into an area you might call harassment."

Responded Kohls, "I'd say especially with the holidays approaching that if stores are selling to minors, particularly 7-Eleven, they could expect to be watched closely."

The Koppes "just don't realize" how the department operates, Kohls added. Officers are assigned areas and must methodically inspect businesses that sell alcohol monthly, he said.

"There are three or four establishments on that very corner that sell packaged liquor to go, and two or three restaurants that sell liquor. So that corner, as far as having liquor licenses, is the most populous."

"It's logical we'd be around there a lot. There are problems with them all, not just 7-Eleven," Kohls added.

Tuesday, "police for three hours were constantly going by slowly, and circling the lot," said Mrs. Kopp.

'I think they're being overly aggressive in an attempt to get liquor violations. They're going beyond good police work in some cases and into an area you might call harassment.'

— John Carlin,
attorney for 7-Eleven owners

"They just won't quit."

The Koppes said they would gladly sell the store to avoid future clashes with police but are having difficulties finding a buyer.

"It seems they're out there to get us — to put us out of business. I have that gut feeling. What other feeling could you have," asked Ted Kopp.

"No one would want to pick it up with all the problems. And I'm not the type of guy that would try and keep something like this from a new owner."

"I'm not going to give away headaches to someone else just to sell the store. I'm not out there to make a lot of money. We went into it blindly and soon found out what the problems were. We've been dealing with them for the last six years."



Research will begin

People — and especially young women — in increasing numbers are being afflicted by diseases that cause them to starve themselves to become thinner or to indulge in uncontrollable eating binges followed by vomiting. A Farmington Hills psychiatric clinic hopes to find out what causes the diseases through a series of experiments that will begin in January. Report by Craig Flechura has the story on Page 4A of today's Farmington Observer.

Livonia cooks: It's 'Hygrade's week'

This product is fresh and has been completely inspected for your protection and safety with ultra-sensitive metal detection systems.

HYGRADE FOOD PRODUCTS CORP.



After a razor blade scare in October, Hygrade rushed to install metal detectors in its plant, and the company has waged a massive advertising

Grand finale Tuesday

By Marie Chesney
staff writer

Livonians are coming off of a strange and crazy week.

A red, yellow, black and white flag with a picture of a hot dog on it has been flying over city hall. At banquets and lunch lines, gourmet wines have been served instead of roast beef. And city officials have kept track of each frank eaten in Livonia.

The police chief Tuesday night will be grilling hot dogs on the front steps of city hall — that's where a radio station broadcast rock music from on Friday.

There are few in Livonia who are not loving every doggone minute of the hot-dog mania which has hit the city.

One of those most excited and delighted, of course, is Hygrade Food Products Corp.

"The response has been incredible," said Hygrade president Charles Ledgerwood. "We had calls from New Orleans, San Francisco, Dallas. Business is great and we are pleased as we can be."

LIVONIA LOVES HYGRADE'S week is the city's response to the bad publicity which hit Hygrade's in late October when customers reported finding razor blades and other sharp objects in their hot dogs.

Before two of the four original

complainants admitted to police their complaints were hoaxes, the Livonia-based company shut down its plant and recalled thousands of pounds of franks for testing.

Company officials estimated they suffered as much as \$300,000 worth of out-of-pocket expenses during the hoax and an "immeasurable" loss of business.

"Livonia Loves Hygrade's" week is meant to correct all that. The organizers hope to see 104,731 hot dogs eaten in Livonia by Tuesday night. That would be one hot dog consumed by each of the city's 104,731 residents. A "thermometer" in front of city hall will chart the total as it climbs toward that goal.

THE HOT DOGS are being eaten in homes, businesses, bars, restaurants, schools, at city hall and just about everywhere else in the city. Along with franks priced at 25 or 35 cents, there are "Livonia Loves Hygrade's" banners, signs, and lapel buttons, all available at city hall by calling 522-2378.

Councilman Fernon Feenstra said the Livonia Economic Development Corporation is paying for the cost of the promotion.

Feenstra said the response to the promotion had been overwhelming. "I've had people call me to say they

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"WONDERFUL RESPONSE"

M. Proddy was pleased with the results of the Observer's Economic "APPLIANCES" classified ad and placed, "Wonderful response on dishwasher! Had 11 calls the first day with the first caller buying the item. Had similar experience with an automotive ad!"

Remember...

One call
does it all!



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