

# Farmington Observer

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RANDY BORST/staff photographer

After graduating from Farmington High School in 1980, Craig Hane studied theater at Oakland Community College. He then returned to his alma mater to help students produce their own plays.

## Teachers reject student plea for help in play production

By Tom Baer  
staff writer

The show almost didn't go on at Farmington High School last fall. The drama department quite literally lacked direction.

Farmington's dramatists personae found themselves in deep trouble when Rita Pieron, an English teacher who had directed the school's plays for the past several years, decided to take a leave of absence from her dramatic duties.

The young actors and actresses scoured the school, placing a "help wanted" plea in every teacher's mailbox in an attempt to find another teacher-director.

The students found no takers . . . no response . . . not even an acknowledgement.

But, fortunately for the Farmington players, help was close at hand — right across the street, in fact.

Craig Hane, a 1980 graduate of Farmington who went on to study theater at Oakland Community College, volunteered to direct the school's plays — "The Matchmaker," presented last

fall, and "The Elephant Man," to be staged April 21-23 in the Farmington auditorium.

Among Hane's many qualifications: He lives on Prospect right across the street from Farmington High School.

"He must have done something right with 'The Matchmaker,' because most of the cast and all of the backstage crew came back to work with him on 'Elephant Man,'" said Kristyn Mahle, a Farmington senior who handles publicity for the play.

HANE, NOW 20, intends to continue his study of the theater at Central Michigan University next fall. Until then, he's happy to be gaining some on-the-job training at his alma mater.

"The kids took it upon themselves to do these plays," said Hane during a rehearsal last week. "They didn't let not having a teacher stop them. They deserve a heck of a lot of credit."

"It may sound corny, but it's that old Judy Garland thing: The show must go on."

Hane knows first hand what it's like to be put out of a school activity because of teacher disinterest. During his

junior year at Farmington, a production he was in had to be scrapped because no teacher-director could be found.

"I was real mad," Hane remembered. "I wrote a letter to the faculty. I even offered to direct it myself. But they told us we needed adult supervision."

"I said, 'Well, all you have to do is sit in the back of the auditorium and grade your papers. I'll do the work.' Still, no takers."

Senior Joe Panyard, a member of the cast, seemed to like the idea of not having a teacher in charge.

"This way, we feel like we're doing it all ourselves," he said, as he waited for his cue during a rehearsal. "I don't know . . . with a teacher there'd be more of a classroom atmosphere. We'd tend to let the teacher handle things."

BUT MAHLE SEES some advantages to having faculty help. "I think it would help school spirit if someone from school (directed) it," she said.

"Teachers are involved in everything else, sports and everything."

"More kids might be willing to get

involved in plays if they knew their favorite teachers were going to be running them."

Farmington will be only the second high school in Michigan to do "The Elephant Man" according to Hane. "We missed out on being the first by about two weeks. Bloomfield Hills' Lahser was the first."

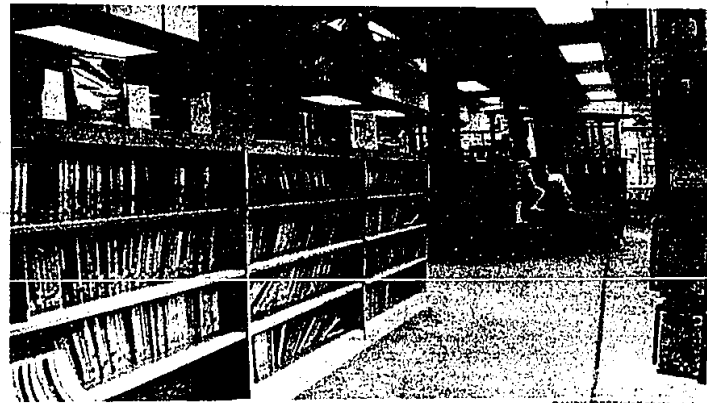
The play has an 8 p.m. curtain all three dates. The April 21 performance will be a benefit for the National Neurofibromatosis Foundation. In the play, the leading character suffers from that disease.

Farmington isn't the only area school to use volunteers to direct plays.

Farmington's Warner Middle School will present "Double Exposure" April 21-22, 28-28, using two non-faculty directors, Dorothy Collins and Sheila Handel.

"I'm excited about doing it," Collins said. "It gives the parents a chance to get involved. There seem to be fewer and fewer of those opportunities."

Farmington Harrison High School plans to use a volunteer director for its presentation of "You Can't Take It With You" May 20-21.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Farmington's two libraries have been attracting an increasing number of residents each year, now pushing circulation close to a half-million.

As book, utility and building costs soar, library officials remain frustrated with the widening gap between income and expenditures.

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## Library chief angered over stingy budgeting

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

With frustration coloring his speech, Farmington Community Library Director Gordon Lewis says the system's ranking as Oakland County's largest circulating library belies its growing

### I-696 crash snarls traffic

A Highland woman received a speeding ticket Wednesday morning after the subcompact car she was driving hit a semi-trailer truck on eastbound I-696 at Halesford Road in Farmington Hills.

No injuries resulted from the crash, but rush hour traffic on the busy Interstate was snarled for about 45 minutes, according to Michigan State Police who investigated the accident.

Susan Wangler, 22, was issued the ticket for "violation of the basic speed law," according to a State Trooper Duane Avery of the Northville post.

According to police, the Wangler auto and semi driven by Gary Roumaysky of West Bloomfield were traveling side by side on the Interstate. Wangler lost control of the car as she braked for slowing traffic, and it skidded under the trailer part of the semi.

"Luckily, it was the passenger side of the car which got all the damage," Avery said.

Wangler refused medical attention, police said.

"It wasn't that bad," Avery said. "It looked a lot worse than it was. It did snarl up rush hour traffic, however."

financial pinch. Even if library officials lose their second bid in five years to reorganize themselves as a financially independent authority, they still want more money in 1983-84 from Farmington and Farmington Hills — the library's two major funding sources.

"Appropriations have not kept up with the increase in inflation and use," said Lewis, an ardent supporter of the library reorganization bid.

Even if the cities grant the Farmington Community Library Board of Trustees its requested 5 percent revenue increase this year, the financial pinch would continue as inflation hovers at the 10 percent mark, shrinking the library's spendable dollars. While revenue declines, circulation has climbed to an annual half-million and building, employee and book costs soar, Lewis said.

"In other words, we're getting pinched both ways," Lewis said, indicating that the increased circulation means higher costs.

Faced with the same problem last year, library officials doubled book return fines and auditorium fees to help offset such growing operating costs as the purchase of new books. Prices have jumped from about \$19 each in 1977 to a current \$30.59 per book.

Those fines and fee increases added approximately \$50,000 to the library's coffers last year, Lewis said. But it's impossible to raise those fees this year, he said.

"NOW THEY are the very highest of the surrounding libraries," Lewis said.

Although the library's requested \$109,000 book budget could be decreased by cutting back on the 8,000 planned book purchases in 1983-84, the quality and number of books, magazines, newspapers and other reference materials attract residents to the li-

brary, Lewis said. He said, salaries and benefits for the system's 37.5 employees have failed to grow in proportion to other library systems because of Farmington's emphasis on the book budget.

"They (library board of trustees) have kept them (salaries) depressed in order to provide as much funds as possible for the book budget," Lewis added.

Of the 8,000 books library officials are hoping to purchase in 1983-84, about 1,600 are replacements in the reference library, such as updated almanacs and encyclopedias. Another 2,400 titles would be non-fiction and 4,000 — 2,000 in each of the system's two libraries — are "designed to meet current demand." But out of the 2,000 targeted for each building, about 600

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## Novice hopefuls flood ballot

By Tom Baer  
staff writer

Six candidates, all newcomers to elective politics, have decided to run for one vacancy on the Farmington Board of Education. The top vote getter in the June 13 election will serve a four-year term on the seven-member board.

Incumbent Michael Shpice, who served two terms on the board, is not seeking re-election.

The candidates are:

• Michael J. Barnard, a 25-year-old bachelor who lives on Minglewood in Farmington Hills, an account executive for American Bell, Barnard is ac-

tive in the Farmington Community Band as a musician (bass clarinet) and vice president of finances on the board of directors.

• Todd S. Bates, a 22-year-old student who resides on Dumas Court in Farmington Hills. Bates is a senior at the University of Michigan, Dearborn with majors in political science and psychology. He hopes to go on to law school after graduation.

• Clarence M. Gabel, 51, an attorney with his own practice in Farmington Hills. Gabel holds a master's of business administration as well as a law degree. Gabel and his wife Ruth have three children and reside on Gloucester Circle in Farmington Hills.

• Elizabeth A. Michelich, 35, the

only Farmington resident among the six candidates. Michelich, who is single, lives in an apartment on Freedom Road. A former English and creative writing teacher at Detroit's St. Hedwig High School, Michelich is a freelance writer and photographer.

• Susan C. Rennels, a 39-year-old assistant manager of the First Federal Savings and Loan Association branch in downtown Farmington. Rennels has been active in the League of Women Voters and Common Cause, a citizen-interest group. A divorced mother of two, she lives on Tuck Drive in Farmington Hills.

• Dr. Leonard M. Stein, 34, an opto-

metrist at the Woodland Medical Center in Novi. Stein has been involved in two Farmington Hills homeowner's groups: Kingspoint and Camelot Court. Steind and his wife Rita are the parents of a child. The Steins live on Mayfair in Farmington Hills.

THE CANDIDATES have until 4:30 p.m. today remove their names from the ballot. They wish to withdraw from the race.

"I don't expect any of them to do that," said Scott Bacon, administra-

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## Should teachers help student activities?

Recently students in the Farmington School District have been forced to seek outsiders to help them put on the school plays. At Farmington High School, students put a note in every teacher's mailbox requesting a director for their play. None of the teachers agreed to help out.

Students interested in other activities have also been forced to seek outside help.

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT TEACHERS LEAVING STUDENTS ON THEIR OWN TO PUT ON EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES? HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE THESE KIND OF ACTIVITIES HANDLED?

To answer the question call us at 477-5498. You have until 1 p.m. on Friday to answer. Look in Monday's Observer to see how your neighbors feel about this issue.

Today's Oral Quarrel question is:

### what's inside

- Classified ads . . . Section C, D
- Club Circuit . . . . . 2B
- Community Calendar . . . 4B
- Crossword puzzle . . . . . 5D
- Editorials . . . . . 18A
- Obituaries . . . . . 2A
- Recreation News . . . . . 6A
- Sports . . . . . Section C
- Suburban Life . . . . . Section B

featured in this issue...  
**HOME AND GARDEN**  
Special Section



## Burglary suspects nabbed at break-in

By Teri Banas  
staff writer

Area police have arrested three people suspected of being responsible for some 30 burglaries in Livonia and Farmington over the past six weeks.

Police have called those responsible for the burglaries the "pillow case bandits" because of their method of carrying out valuables. Most of the break-ins were into homes located on large lots adjoining wooded areas and parks.

A surveillance team from the Livonia Police Department and Farmington Hills Police arrested the two men and woman last week as they were leaving a home on Pillsbury near Ellet-

ten Miles Farmington Hills. The surveillance team had followed them from an attempted break-in of a home on Mayfield near Six Mile in Livonia earlier that day, said Livonia Det. St. Donald Vanderoost.

Thomas Guter, 30, his wife, Barbara, 27, and Michael Schoenfeld, 30, all of Detroit, were arraigned on charges of breaking and entering Friday before District Judge Margaret Schaeffer in Farmington Hills. Pleas of innocent were entered on their behalf. Unable to pay bond, they were sent to the Oakland County Jail to await a preliminary arraignment on the charges scheduled for Friday. Bond was set at \$15,000 each for

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