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Split feared in district over group

By Tom Beer Staff writer

Thanks for keeping the discussion well, if not courtly, at least courteous.

That's the message that Lewis Schulman, the superintendent of the Farmington Schools, would like to deliver to most of the people who unloaded their opinions at last Tuesday's well-attended school board meeting.

The reason for the crowd and the lively debate was the presence of Campus Life, a social group with religious overtones, around North Farmington High School the past couple of years.

To its supporters, Campus Life is a group which provides wholesome Christian activities for young people. In participating in Campus Life programs, supporters feel they are exercising their freedoms of religion and assembly.

Detractors believe that such activities, when carried out or promoted in public schools, violate the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, which provides for separation of church and state.

Schulman and the board heard views, both for and against Campus Life, for about an hour and a half at the board meeting.

"I was very pleased with the quality of the comments from both the students and parents," Schulman said. "I think I've said that publicly, and I really mean it."

BUT SCHULMAN also said he was concerned that the issue — basically a religious one — could "polarize the community," which has a sizable Jewish population.

"You're always worried when you have an explosive issue," he said. "You have religious issues all over the world, and people take sides. The fallout is damage to the schools, and I think North Farmington is an excellent high school rendering an excellent public service to the students and the community."

"And I want that to continue. But if there are practices which detract from it, then we want to stop them."

Schulman, who was ordered by the board to study the issue and come up with a recommendation in time for the Dec. 6 meeting, said that "the schools are not arenas where religion is dispensed. That is the policy of the school district."

Farmington's administrative staff — "myself, Mr. (Lynn) Nutter (an assistant superintendent) and others" in Schulman's words — will look into Campus Life's activities.

"I'm going to study it and I'm going

"The schools are not arenas where religion is dispensed. That is the policy of the school district."

— Lewis Schulman superintendent of schools

to talk to students about it," the superintendent said. "I want to talk to more than just parents. I want to make sure I get the feeling and first-hand experiences of the kids. Then I'll come back to the board with a recommendation."

ASKED IF he has discussed the problem with North Farmington Principal Clayton Graham — who some accuse of favoring Campus Life — Schulman said, "That's not germane. Let me say it this way: All administrators are aware of the district's policy."

Al Kuhnle, an ordained Protestant minister and an official in Youth for Christ which sponsors Campus Life, said the group would remain active around North Farmington and other schools.

"For many years, we've been attempting to do all we could to give young people a positive peer group at school and to try to make sure they're involved in things which will build a strong character and some basic morals which will make it possible for them to have the most exciting life possible," Kuhnle said.

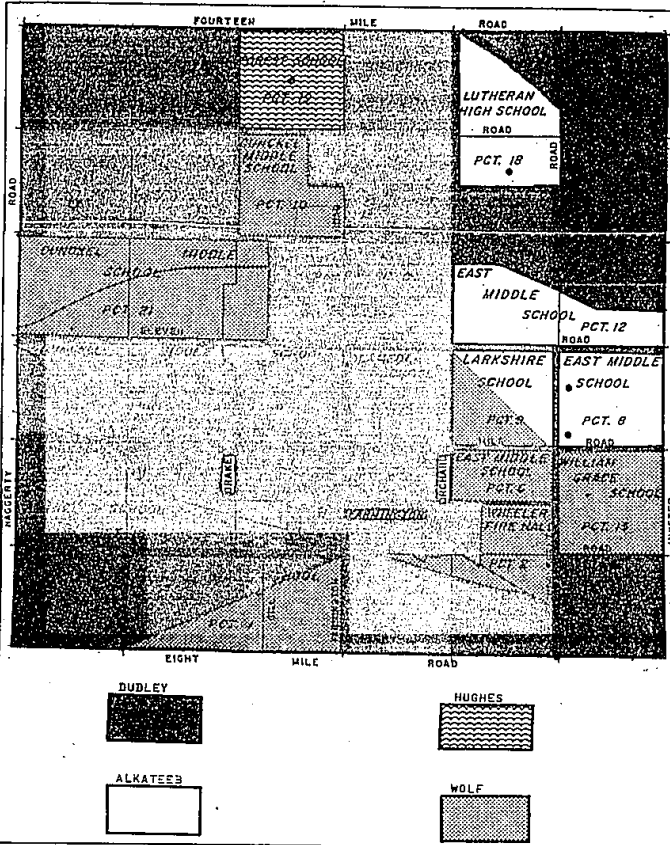
"Obviously, we're a Christian organization so that we do use the scriptures as a basis for a person's behaviour. However, everything is voluntary and there's nothing for them to join. We represent no individual church."

Asked how he hoped the issue would be resolved, Kuhnle, a Farmington Hills resident, replied, "I hope there'll be a clear understanding of what our purposes are in trying to help young people today."

"With all the pressures kids are under, there needs to be some kind of a positive influence in their lives, especially as it relates to their activities in school."

NOT EVERYONE in the large crowd at North Farmington last Tuesday was there because of the Campus Life controversy. One woman, a mother with children in North Farmington, was there for choir practice.

Informed of the Campus Life issue, she said, "Some people think that if you put Jesus into your life that means you won't have sex, dope and booze. Unh, Unh . . . that's not necessarily so."



Who placed first in which precincts was the name of the game in last week's Farmington Hills City Council election. Having friends in home lived. won. Note the only precinct in which Fred Hughes placed first was the one in which he lived.

Precinct holds key to victory

By Joanne Maliszewski Staff writer

If incumbent Mayor Fred Hughes had taken first place in more than just his home Precinct 19, he may have gained enough strength to serve a four-year term on the Farmington Hills City Council.

But third-place Joe Alkateeb forced Hughes into a two-year term. Alkateeb outstripped the mayor by 96 votes, taking the lead in his home base Precinct 8. Alkateeb carried 221 of the total 305 votes cast in that precinct in last week's election.

Voters strongly indicated their preference for Joan Dudley by giving her 264 votes more than second-place Donn Wolf, an avowed tax fighter. Throughout the election, Dudley remained uncommitted on the tax issue.

Voters drew fiercer battle lines for the incoming council by choosing Alkateeb, another tax fighter, and Hughes, who followed Dudley's pattern of avoiding commitment on taxes.

While Dudley captured 13 precincts throughout the city, the other three election victors dominated in and around their home bases. Dudley tied with Wolf in Precinct 1, both garnering 52.5 percent of the vote (52 votes out of a total 99). Wolf and Alkateeb tied in Precinct 2, capturing 32 out of 76 votes.

WOLF DOMINATED his home Precinct 6, carrying 81 percent of the total 74 votes cast. In Precinct 21, where only 84 votes were cast, Wolf took 55 to Dudley's 52 votes. He also took Precinct 10, where he received 128 out of the 339 votes. Dudley followed in that precinct with 127 votes.

Absentee ballots were a decisive force in the election's outcome, representing 49.8 percent of all votes cast. Total absentee votes for each of the seven candidates reflected their standing in the election.

Dudley overwhelmed the race with the help of her 2,121 votes out of the total 3,216 absentee ballots. Wolf carried 1,991 absentee votes, Alkateeb

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Pay raised for school leaders

By Tom Beer Staff writer

The members of Farmington's Board of Education can count on at least three more years of Superintendent Lewis Schulman — and that's just fine with them.

"He's been an excellent superin-

endent," said Board Treasurer Richard J. Wallace following the board's 7-0 vote last Tuesday to extend Schulman's contract to June 30, 1987.

The board also approved a two-year contract with the Farmington Association of School Administrators (FASA) by a 7-0 vote at the same meeting.

Schulman, now in his eighth year as Farmington's superintendent, makes \$68,250 a year. The contract extension calls for a five percent increase for the 1984-85 school year, bringing his salary to \$71,862.50.

"After that, there's a provision for re-openers," said Wallace, adding that Schulman's present contract would have run out next June 30, the close of the fiscal year.

"He's with us," said a happy Board President Helen Prutow following the unanimous vote.

The administrators' contract is retroactive to last July and provides for a five percent increase for each of the two years, according to Robert Coleman, the district's director of employee relations and personnel.

THE FASA's bargaining unit includes 40 members, according to Coleman.

"It's basically everybody from high school administrative assistants to high school principals," he said. "And it also includes directors like the director of vocational education and the director of athletics and health/physical education."

With the increase, a high school administrative assistant at the bottom of a six-level schedule would make \$37,772. A high school principal on the same level would be paid \$48,071. At the top of the schedule — usual-

ly after seven years in the district — an administrative assistant would earn \$47,772 and a high school principal would make \$51,071.

"The other important language changes concern provisions for sabbatical leave and transfer policy for administrators," Coleman said.

An administrator must be notified of a transfer by May 1 — "if possible," according to Coleman. If an administrator is granted a sabbatical leave, he or she will be allowed to return to the same position the following school year.

"They'll also have a retirement benefit of \$200 per year for each year of service to the district at the time of retirement," Coleman said.

"We had seven meetings to reach agreement," he added. "The contract will run through July of 1985."



Bewildered

Dan Wilson was more than just a little bewildered and, well, let's just say disgusted, after the tree in front of his house fell over on his brand new truck last Friday. He has been after

the city for months to come and take out the tree. But nature beat the bureaucracy on this one.

RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Park purchase is discussed

Farmington Hills City Council will discuss financing of the Speer property at tonight's council session which begins at 7:30 p.m.

The meeting will be in city hall at the corner of Orchard Lake and Eleven Mile.

To help pay for the 200 plus acres of property, the city has appealed to the state Rimmer commission for \$1.6 million. But during recent negotiations, the commission had made it known that it will come up with only \$1.2 million.

The city must decide whether to throw in another \$400,000 of local funds to acquire the property.

The property is located on the north side of 10 Mile, east of Farmington Road.

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