

# Teacher contract negotiations easy

Continued from Page 1

Some of these changes include the improvement in the base steps of the salary schedule and changing the amount of outside experience that can be credited under the district's salary schedule from five to 10 years, Alley said.

The contract also includes the district's proposal to ensure that coordinators, specialists and consultants have master's degrees and two years of experience. This new requirement includes positions such as elementary art, science, vocal music and family life education consultants. Other positions include reading specialist, bilingual, intellectually gifted and math/computer coordinators.

"We really attempted to bargain for the future of the district," Coleman said. "Both the association (FEA) and the board (of education) felt they had a commitment to the community to bargain a fair contract. We tried to plan ahead."

The new contract also calls for a "significant class-size reduction," Alley said. "We changed the way to do the formulas for elementary and secondary staffing. We made that ratio better so we ended up with more teachers."

Maximum class size will be reduced by one student in each year of the contract, Coleman said.

**ELEMENTARY CLASS** size maximums in 1985-86 will be 28 students in kindergarten through the third grade and 29 in fourth through sixth grades. The following year, the maximum size will be reduced further to 27 students in kindergarten through third grade and 28 in grades four through six.

Secondary class sizes in 1985-86 will be at a maximum of 32 students. The following year, the maximum number of students per class will be reduced to 31.

The contract also calls for a change in the ratio of students to teachers. Other changes reflected in the new contract are improvements in life and dental insurances, Alley said.

The new contract, Alley said, reflects good labor relations between the FEA and the district, "which is always good for both sides."

"We started with intensive bargaining a couple of years ago," Alley said. "This year, both sides met for 10 hours on April 1 to discuss each other's position. Then both groups met again and bargained for 36 hours straight until a contract was worked out, Alley added.

# INSIDE ANGLES

Know someone doing something notable? Let us know. Write Inside Angles, Farmington Observer, 33203 Grand River, Farmington 48024.

**FRANCES MIKA**, an English teacher at Mercy High School, has been awarded a fellowship by the National Endowment for the Humanities to participate in the 1985 program of Summer Seminars for Secondary School Teachers. Mika is one of 15 teachers nationwide selected for the seminar entitled "William Faulkner: The Regional and the Mythic" being held June 24 to Aug. 2 on the campus of Southeast Missouri State University.

**BETTY PENNER**, MI DuQuet and Carol Curtis of Farmington recently completed an intensified course in professional floral design. The course conducted by the Professional Florists Institute, a licensed private vocational school owned by Westley Berry Flowers.

**AIRMAN JANET LAATSCH**, daughter of Veronica and James Laatsch of Farmington Hills and a 1978 Northern Michigan University graduate, has completed the U.S. Air Force military indoctrination for medical service officers at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas. She is scheduled to serve at Pease Air Force Base, New Hampshire.

**RAJESH MANCULKAR**, of Farmington Hills, has been named Valedictorian of the 1985 graduating class of Detroit Catholic Central High School. Rajesh, who was honored by the Phi Beta Kappa Society at Ford Auditorium, is the recipient of the Presidential Award for Academics, a member of the National Honor Society, and a member of "Mensa," an organization for gifted individuals. He is the editor in chief of his high school newspaper, "Spectrum," and enjoys piano, computers and music. He also received a Regent's Alumni Scholarship to the University of Michigan, where he plans to begin this fall in the pre-med program.

**MICHAEL HOVEY**, of Farmington Hills and a 1978 graduate of North Farmington High School, announces the opening of his audio-video store at 12 Mile and Middlebelt in Rainbow Square. Grand opening is set for the month of May.

**JULIE SMITH**, daughter of Carol and Ralph Mortensen and a sophomore at Farmington High School, placed third in the Sales Speaking Division of the Michigan Interscholastic Forensic Association State Final Individual Events Tournament at the University of Michigan. This was the first time Farmington High School has placed in this event.

**JENNIFER ENGLE**, a graduate of North

Farmington High School, has been elected to the dean's honor list for the winter term at Michigan State University Chapter of the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi. To be elected to Phi Kappa Phi, a grade point average of 3.77 through the junior year must be attained.

**GREAT SCOTT SUPERMARKET**, 13 Mile and Orchard Lake Road, will hold a Great Scott Day for North Farmington High School Booster Club. Five percent of all proceeds will be given to the Booster Club. Come and join the fun.

**LAURA O'NEIL**, of Farmington, is one of 75 outstanding business students honored by Schoolcraft College Business Division for her academic achievement. Honors are given to students who have completed 49 credit hours with a minimum of 15 credit hours in their respective disciplines at a minimum grade point average of 3.25.

**STEPHEN PAUL**, son of Stephen and Diana Paul of Farmington, received his bachelor's degree in business management from Adrian College at commencement ceremonies April 28.

**SHERI CHERNOBY**, David Cutting, Denise Galorneau, John Kulka, Daniel Singer and Mark Kitchen, from the Farmington area, have been named to the dean's list at Schoolcraft College.

# School budget reserve builds

Continued from Page 1

As far as the increased fund equity, Prisk said, \$2.8 million is far below the level of equity a private business of the school district's financial size would have on hand.

The district's auditors suggest that the district's fund equity should be about 10 percent of the total budget, Prisk said.

"Ten-percent equity would be \$5 million (based on the preliminary \$49.7 million budget)," Prisk added.

Trustee Helen Prutow and Board President Jack Inch defended the district's fund equity.

"The bigger the better," Prutow said, reminding DeWard of the days when the district didn't have much, if any, equity.

While DeWard continued to take issue with some of the district's expenses, Trustee Richard Wallace, head of the board's finance committee, gave his opinion.

"Your view is a little more conservative than we read the constituency," Wallace said, about DeWard's comments regarding trimming expenses.

The district's preliminary 1985-86 budget, which is expected to be adopted May 21, represents a 4.9 percent in-

crease in expenditures, Prisk said. Even though school officials intend to levy less millage in 1985-86, the school district will generate more revenue than last year because the district's total state equalized valuation is expected to be more than \$1 billion. That's an approximately \$117 million increase with \$74 million of that in new construction, according to school officials.

Last week's Truth-in-Taxation public hearing was required because the district will generate more revenue in the coming year despite a reduced tax rate.

Based on the proposed 32.5 operating mills the district will generate additional revenue worth 1.2 mills.

The additional revenue generated through the increased SEV will help the district balance its proposed operating budget in 1985-86, said Superintendent Lewis Schulman.

Salary increases, capital projects and a general increase in district costs make it necessary to use the increased revenue rather than trim the tax rate down to generate the same amount as last year, Schulman said.

School officials expect an enrollment decline of 3 percent in 1985-86. That works out to about \$4,000 being spent

on each of the estimated 10,032 students. The cost per student also includes the higher cost of educating special education students.

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**COMBINATIONS OF DRUGS**

With the large choice of anti-arthritis medicines that are available today, you would think that taking a number of drugs at the same time would be commonplace if you had arthritis.

However, the prescribing of multiple drugs for arthritis is the exception rather than the rule.

One reason is that the drugs that are useful also have unwanted side effects. The stomach and liver are particularly sensitive and taking two anti-inflammatory drugs doubles the chance that these organs will be irritated.

Another problem is, that once absorbed in the bloodstream, arthritic drugs share a common transport carrier. One drug may take all the places available, then the second drug, having no place for attachment, will be eliminated from the body too quickly to be effective.

Finally, the use of drug combinations in arthritis has received little evaluation. With the exception of the experience gained in using multiple medications in treating rheumatoid arthritis, physicians have few answers to the questions of which drug combinations are best.

In sum, the use of more medications does not mean better or quicker results.

**Something To Think About**  
 BOB ROCK

**DIFFERENT STYLES OF MOURNING**

The impact of death on a family can vary widely. It depends on many factors including closeness of the family, age of the members, whether the death was expected or unexpected, individuals and families also have different styles and attitudes toward grief and mourning.

Therefore, it is important not to define too narrowly what funeral rites or behaviors are appropriate for the bereaved. To do so can lead to confusion, tension, or anguish on the part of the survivors. The modern funeral director takes the lead in acknowledging that there are such differences, and that the funeral service must be flexible enough to account for them.

Whether we like it or not, there is a changing social and intellectual environment in which death is experienced today. It is wrong for the funeral director, and the community at large, to insist that the bereaved display the traditional forms of grieving if this goes against their beliefs or feelings.

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