Oriental health spa is focus of picketing

Since the raids, only one spa—Osaka Oriental Health Spa, 38499 10 Mile—has closed. "It's temporarily closed down. I'm speculating that it's due to a loss of clientele," Dwyer

OWNERS OF the buildings housing two of the spas on Orchard Lake Road — Sun Oriental and Tekyo Orlental — have responded to police request to prevent any illegal sexual activity. "They have already given notice that they intend on evicting. But at this time, their requests have not been honored by the (spajoperators. It might be easier to evictafier the trials," Dwyer said.

Although four spas remain open, business is down 70-75 percent, Dwyer said. Media attention and publicity about alleged sexual activity appears to be the cause for the trop in business, he added. They were the span another from West Bloomfield Township and one from Redford Township. The building owners do not operate the span.

The October raids were the result of a six-week police investigation that began with a letter of complaint from an unnamed Farming-ton Hills resident, Dwyer said. OWNERS OF the buildings hous-

THE LETTER stemmed from the resident's visit to the grand opening of Sapporo Kim's at 30332 Nine Mile.

'I think we have identified something that is a major concern across the

Wrote the resident:

"I came in the front door and had to walt in a small hallway until someone could buzz me in. A macrate in the front door after I did, and acted rather stranger box contains the last of place this was.

"I rang the buzzer and a man looking like an Oriental version of Dick the Bruiser answered. He told me this was not a regular health club, if was massages only, and cash only. He then proceeded to get into an argument about the eash with the massage lady, who was dressed in a tiny leopardskin bathing suit."

Of the 17 arrested and charged with misdemeanor ordinance violations, 14 are Korean citizens, one is a Japansee clitten and two are U.S. citizens.

a Japanese clitzen and two are U.S. citizens.
Although police officials notified to U.S. Department of Immigration and Naturalization, the Federal Business of the Commission of the Commission

FEDERAL AGENCIES are inves-FEDERAL AGENCIES are inves-tigating whether there's any connec-tion between the alleged prostitu-tion in Farmington Hills and an in-ternational organization, thought to be controlled by Koreans, that re-cruits U.S. servicemen to marry Ko-rean women and bring them into the

--- William Dwyer Farmington Hills police chief

country. Servicemen are paid an estimated \$5,000 to marry the women and another \$2,000-\$3,000 to divorce them once in the United States, Dwyer said.

Korean women are placed in spas to work and repay the money owed to the international organization for marriage and divorce proceedings. "We more has come down on an organized ring." Dwyer said. "It takes several monitally in which heatth spas — suspected of providing tite-gray services and the said of the spass — suspected of providing tite-gray with the pass — suspected of providing tite-gray with the pass — suspected sproviding tite-gray with the pass — suspected sproviding tite-gray with the pass — suspected sproviding tite-gray with the pass of the pass

across the state," Dwyer said.

In many cases, most of the women arrested in connection with suspected prostitution in health spas "are left to their own devices" and often do not appear in court when scheduled, Dwyer said. Dwyer believes media attention has put pressure on spa operators to prevail in the Farmington Hills cases.

"It appears the operators sumeone—are providing attorneys for the women. There is a lot of concern by the operators to take the initiative to hire attorneys for these females.

WHILE THE 17 suspects await court dates, Farmington Hills officials are putting together an ordinance — similar to one recently adopted in West Bloomfield Township — that would restrict "illegalship — that would restrict "il type health spas," Dwyer said.

"We hope to have an ordinance presented at the first of the year. It would be a better tool to enforce, and to monitor illegal activity. We're tooking to put more teeth into it than West Bloomfield (did)," he said.

The 17 arrested in the October po-lice raids were charged under city ordinance, which carries stiffer penalties than state law. Under city

ordinance, the maximum penalty upon conviction of aiding and abetting prostitution and accosting and soliciting — charges lodged against the 17 — is 90 days in jail and a \$500 fine, Dwyer said.

Besides being illegal, prostitution "brings a lot of undesirables into the community — people with emotional and psychological problems. These type of people have to turn to prostitutes to satisfy sexual desires," Dwyer said.

Prostitution also "brings in other criminal elements — robbery, purse snatching The customers do sometimes become victims of the criminal element, too," he said.

Group leader tries to rally support

Sharon Chilson considers a recent Oriental health spa closing a victory for her Citizens for a Decent Com-munity (CDC).

But despite the Farmington Hills-based group's efforts, businesses around the spas and churches in the area have not been supportive on the whole, Chikson said. The group protests alleged prostitution activi-ty in the storefront spas.

According to Farmington Hills Police, the Osaka Oriental Health Spa, 38499 10 Mile, closed recently for economic reasons.

for economic reasons.

Telephone lines at the business are disconnected. The closing left four spas operating in the city—two on Nine Mile Road and two on Orchard Lake Road.

"I'd like to think our efforts helped (in the spa closing). We have no doubt we are going to get rid of the rest of them," Chilson said.

SATURDAY'S PICKETING was an effort to generate community

support. More picketing is planned, Chilson said.

Businesses that aren't supportive of the group apparently "don't want to alicenate their clientele, some of whom patronize the spas. Some take a "do not care" attitude. They thought they'd have more to lose," Chilson said.

Chilson said. She and supporters.

thought they'd have more to lose," Chilson said. Chilson said is the and supporters have received obscene telephone calls since a December telephone calls since a December telephone to the control of t

THE RAIDS were the result of a

six-week police investigation stemming from residents' complaints of alleged prostitution and other sex-related offenses at the spas, police said.

Group members have coordinated surveillance, including logging license plate numbers at all spas, which, Chilison said, "really upsets" the cilents.

which, Chilson said, "really upsets" the clients.

"We've made a habit of driving up behind them (clients) and flashing our car lights at them," she said.

From surveillance, Chilson describes the average spa client as a young, while male, who looks "well-respected," dresses in a suit and top-respected," dresses and some businesses, Chilson added.

"THE PEOPLE living close by are the most concerned," said Chilson, who lives in the Nine Mileson, which was not the Nine Mileson, which was

Federal agencies continue to in-vestigate whether there's any con-nection between the people arrested and an international prostitution ring. Chief William Dwyer sald. Fourteen of 17 arrested for mis-demeaner violations during the po-lice raid were Korean citizens. "One Korean church elder called these "isolated incidences," "Chitson said. "We are concerned that if we close them (the spas) down, the women will still be caught up in ji (alleged prostitution)," she added.

(alleged prostitution), and aways.

THE CDC is trying to find a way to assist the women who work at the spas. Unless they're involved with alcohol or drugs, they can't be assisted through governmental programs, Chilson said.

Chilson said she moved from Detroit to Farmington Hills in 1730 "to live in a nicer community".

Farmington Hills is good for spa operators and customers, Chilson said, because of the low incidence of crime.

said, because of the low incidence of crime.
"We want to stop it (the alleged prostitution) before it gets out of hand," she said.

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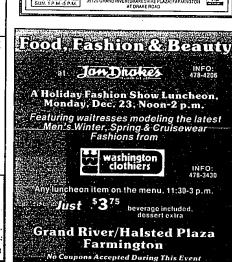
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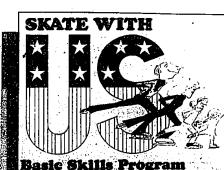
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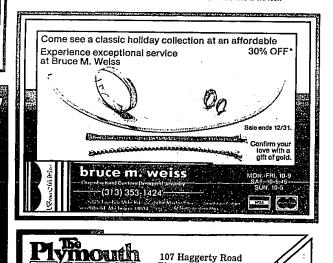
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