taken at studies other than Focal Point.
She didn't mention how many student tures were not included were contacte if they, in fact, were notified of non-incomposite.

Ker

We value area's

broad support!

To the editor:
One of the great pleasures of the holiday season is the opportunity to exchange greetings with those whose friendship and good will we value so highly. In this spirit, it is our pleasure to extend our sincere appreciation for the support and cooperation you have provided to Goodwill Industries of Greater Detroit.

Because of your special interest and encourage-ment, we have been able to better serve the metro-politan Detroit area in 1985. We served 24 percen-more persons this year, expanding to new areas of

Farmington readers' forum

Letters must be signed, orginal copies and include the address and telephone number of the writer. None can be returned. Names will be withheld from publication only for sufficient reason.

Letters should be limited to 300 words in most cases. We reserve the right to edit them. Send letters to Readers' Forum, Farming-ton Observer, 33203 Grand River Ave., Farmington 48024.

Privatization: what a lemon

To the editor:
"Privatization" of public transportation is one more bad idea we taxpayers cannot afford. Study after study of actual experience demonstrate that privatization has consistently provided poor service

after study of actual experience demonstrate that privatization has consistently provided poor service at exorbitant cost to lazpayers. Experience in New Jersey and many other states exemplifies the taxpayer gouging and inefficient service that inevitably result when private companies try to operate a mass transportation system, in the 1979s, New Jersey undertook perhaps the most comprehensive program of "privatization" of any state. But New Jerseyltes rudely discovered that the cost to taxpayers of subsidizing private companies — who cannot otherwise profitably operate mass transit — far exceeds the cost of publicly operating a transit system.

New Jersey's subsidiy akyrocketed one-hundred-fold in 10 years — from \$500,000 in 1656 to \$50 million in 1976. Further, the cost of operating its subsidized private system was as high or higher than that of publicly run systems and was increas; ing at a faster rate. Things got so bed but in 1976, the transportation committed the state's 10-year experience with privatization "a disaster that does not and cannot deliver quality bus service, despite requiring ever-increasing state funding. The taxpayers are picking up the tab. . ."

In Houston, private carriers charged \$150 per evenue hour of service for service that the public cuthority was later able to provide for about \$60 per hour.

Even worse, despite these enormous subsidies,

authority was fater and to provide for about apper hour.

Even worse, despite these enormous subsidies, private operators have generally performed poorly. Bus ridership in New Jersey plummeted an incrediship attonally rose 11 percent. Fares had to be raised repeatedly.

A Massachusetts company dangerously ceased most of its bus maintenance to "reduce costs" by \$100,000 — which was promptly pocketed as "profice" by the company's co-owners. In New Jersey, riders sweltered in summer because private carriers frequently turned off bus air conditioners to save money. As the New Jersey study concluded, the public interest in keeping fares low, coordinating and rationalizing service conflicts and providing

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quality service "conflicts at almost all times with the private economic interest of carriers." In contrast, SEMTA's on-time, safety and maintenance records far surpass those of its private predecessors — and in fact are among the best in the country. Moreover, it costs must less to run one regional transit agency than to pay the duplications with the sum antenance, payroll, purchasing and related functions of dozens of small companies. So, to those ambitious politicians pedding "privatization," we taxpayers say we know a lemon of an idea when we hear one.

Mark Steckloff, Farmington Hills

Thanks for a very memorable evening

To the editor.

The skits presented by the Farmington Players for the Botsford Inn 150th Anniversary Banquet Jan. 8 were splendid.

As a member, Hope Nahstoll was magnificent. The "apparations" appeared larger than life due to the skills of the scriptwriter, who exagin the feeling and the apirit of the anecdotes portrayed. The Henry Ford characterization, as well as those of the stagecoach will pand Ernic Blanchard, the township supervisor, were excellent portrayals. In fact, the whole stagecoach skill was outstanding. The Ernic Blanchard/Anhul/WCTJ skil was delightful. And I shall never forget Dave McCabe as Ed Freeman, the cattle buyer.

And Lou Benmert's singing once again of "Some Enchanted Evening" could not have been a more proportiate choice for a memorable 150th at Botsford.

His marvelous votes and shormmaship are every

appropriate choice for a memoranic issuit at 1805(ord.

His marvelous voice and showmanship are every
bit as effective in 1985 as when I first heard him in
"South Pacific" back at Botsford in a theater revivals several decades ago.

Thank you for your marvelous "Apparitions,"
which shall be re-embodied in memories.

The talent of the Farmington Players adds so
much to the community and helps keep Farmington
the extra-special place it has always been.

Jean Fox
Farmington Hills





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Gazebo was simply super

To the editor:

The Victorian Gagebo which graces the lawn at the Farmington Historical Museum looked positively magnificent in its holiday splendor.

Feative by day and giorious by night, its sparking Christmas tree was a breathtaking jewel in a beautiful setting, a truly speciacular addition to the stately Warner Mansion.

During all the months leading up to its completion we attempted to envision the countiess ways in which the gazebo might serve to enhance the grounds at the museum.

Your membership deserves the credit, however,

grounds at the miscum.

Your membership deserves the credit, however, for being the first to visualize it as the focal point for a community Christmas tree to be enjoyed by all

all.

Congratulations on your great inspiration and
many thanks to all those who assisted in providing
this beautiful gift to the community. Hopefully,
"The Christmas Tree in the Gazebo" will become an annual holiday tradition in downtown Farming-

Kathryne Blakeney, Margaret Walker, Co-chairs, Gazebo Project

Story sparks reader's ire

To the editor:
"Not all seniors get in senior-class picture," by
Ms. Casey Hans, is laced with half truths and in-

unendos.
She did not mention whether or not she checked for proof that Farmington High School or Focal Point Studio really did notify students or other studios to send Focal Point a negative so it could be included in the class composite. A check of this will be sent the furth.

included in the fruth.

In the 1985 FHS class composite picture, 292 student pictures were printed; 36 were left out.

She didn't mention whether she checked to see how many of the 292 students had their pictures

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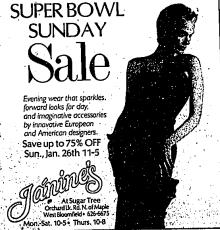
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Taxicab licenses gain OK

Kenneth Kemp, Farmington Hills

Three cab companies in idensed to operate in iterated to iterate in iterated to operate in iterated to iterate in iterated to iterate in iterated to operate in iterated in iterated to operate in iterated to operate in iterated in iterate

more persons this year, expanding to new areas of service.
Programs in northern Oakland County grew in their capacity and a Job Club was added to the placement operations. In Wayne County, we expanded services to include hearing-impaired mental health clients and we're currently developing services for the aged. We were able to add a new janitorial training program and other work opportunities in community settings.
Our retail store is in its second year of operation in Maccimb County, along with a new vocational services and workshop program. New and stronger curriculum and services have allowed us to provide work for 786 persons while placing 385 people in competitive community employment. Your part in all of these accomplishments gives us reason to celebrate.

ition and nan said.

Although the city has a complaints in the complaints in the city has a complaint in th curriculum and services have allowed us to provide work for 786 persons willed placing 385 people into competitive community employment. Your part in all of these accomplishments gives us reason to celebrate.

With your assistance, we are truly able to provide opportunities for persons to develop new lives through gainful employment and a better quality of life. Due to this help our clients, board and staff join in wishing you a prosperous New Year.

W. Del Wisecarver, president,

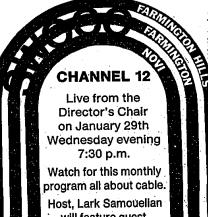
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