

# Lawmakers react to Blanchard's blueprint

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doesn't believe checkpoints will serve as an invitation for police to search autos or frisk drivers and occupants.

"They (police) are not going to try to antagonize the citizen who isn't drinking," he added.

Checkpoints can be effective when accomplished late at night, weekends in particular, and limited to perhaps a dozen areas that are considered trouble spots, Brotherton said.

Faxon, however, believes other methods can and should be used to address the problem of drunk driving. One such method would be to scrutinize stores, generally open 24 hours, that sell liquor throughout the night, he said.

One of Faxon's greatest concerns about Blanchard's proposal is the number of police needed to man the sobriety checkpoints. The question is whether the number of officers needed would justify the possible effectiveness of checkpoints in reducing drunk driving, Faxon said.

**THE ULTIMATE** tragedy and irony of the situation would occur when another serious crime was occurring while police "were standing in line" at the checkpoints, Faxon said.

For smaller police agencies, such as Farmington and Farmington Hills, the manpower that would be required for checkpoints — should local agencies be required to participate — could be a problem, Farmington Public Safety Director Frank Lauhoff said.

"It would be beyond the capability of small agencies," Lauhoff said, although supportive of the checkpoint plan.

Despite his support for the measure, Brotherton calls Blanchard's proposal "a no-win situation." Some people who are ferociously trying to eliminate

drunk driving consider the checkpoints to be a positive tool. Others "say it's an infringement." At the very least, it would make people aware of drunk driving, he added.

While Brotherton and Faxon disagree on Blanchard's checkpoints proposal, they offer similar opinions on the governor's guaranteed college tuition program.

Under Blanchard's proposal, parents would invest a certain sum annually, which the state would invest and not tax. Parents would then be guaranteed their children could afford college tuition at public colleges and universities.

"It's a very interesting plan. But it puts the state in the annuity business," Faxon said, adding he would like more details about the plan before giving it his blessing.

Also considering the plan interesting, Brotherton is just as skeptical about it as Faxon.

"That sounds alright on the surface, but it concerns me because it sounds gimmicky," Brotherton said. Parents who would use the state's tuition program most likely are those who would be inclined to save for their children's education.

"I just don't know frankly whether there is going to be a lot of takers," Brotherton said.

Both Faxon and Brotherton maintain there is a possibility that if tuition soars and the college tuition fund falls short of the financial need, the state will have to chip in to make up the difference.

"Can the state afford it?" Brotherton asked.

Faxon raises other questions about the proposal. What happens, for example, if parents invest in the tuition plan and their children are not admitted to

the public colleges and universities? What kind of return will parents get on their investment?

"The details need working out," Faxon said.

**BUT BOTH** lawmakers also expressed concern about the plan's potential to establish an attitude for colleges and universities to automatically increase tuition in coming years, knowing the plan will provide parents with a financial cushion.

"The idea of helping parents plan for their children's future is good. But it's not a good policy to pursue high tuition. I'm worried that it will be the sky's the limit to the schools," Faxon said.

Despite their questions and concerns, Faxon and Brotherton say the college tuition plan should be considered as long as the state will not be the financial loser.

At the local level, Farmington Acting Superintendent Graham Lewis supports the college tuition plan.

"(I would support) anything that is an imaginative way to get people to afford the increased costs of higher education."

Presently, the rising cost of higher education "tends to carve those out who have little," Lewis added.

**BLANCHARD'S REQUEST** to the Legislature to cut property taxes by \$150 million also drew support from Faxon and Brotherton.

"Everybody is talking about it," Faxon said. "I think it's an absolutely essential objective to address because of the enormity it represents to the people."

The greatest burden is property taxes. Both political parties are discussing "using one tax to soften the blow of another," Faxon said. But what concerns

him is that "there is always more of an attempt to address it during an election year." The problem with it is that both parties tend to want to each claim the successes and blame the other for the failures.

"I think there is room for adjustment there (in property taxes)," Brotherton

said. But Brotherton added that while it needs changing, he is unsure how to make the changes or what type to make.

The governor is pushing a budget based on a decrease in state income tax. That means "we won't have any

slack," Brotherton said. The state Legislature will be faced with either raising other taxes, or taking a cut in revenues. The question is: "How do you do that when, as some analysts predict, an economic downturn occurs again, he said."

## Widening of road nearer

Engineering survey work for the widening of Orchard Lake Road could begin late this year, if the Farmington Hills City Council approves a cost-sharing plan with Farmington.

Action would hasten the widening of the county road by at least a year, and possibly save money, city officials believe.

The Farmington City Council voted to approve the \$23,000, two-city project Monday, for which each government would pay half. The money would pay for county-hired engineers to do right-

of-way and topographical surveys of the road from Grand River to 500 feet north of 10 Mile Road, and about 500 feet in both directions from Orchard Lake on 10 Mile, according to a report to council by Farmington City Manager Robert Deadman.

"We can speed up the process if we are willing to expend some local funds," Deadman said in his report.

The Oakland County Road Commission, responsible for the road, plans to include the improvement project in its 1987 fiscal budget, he added.

Farmington will use a portion of \$30,556 owed to the city by the county for overcharges in the 1982 residential property valuations for this project. The balance will be held by the county and earmarked for future right-of-way purchases and other project costs, he said.

Farmington Hills is expected to discuss the matter at the next regular council meeting, according to Thomas Biswell, the city's director of public services.

## Singers set to perform

Four Farmington-area high school students will perform in the vocal scholarship competition grand finals at 7:30 p.m. Thursday (today) at Southfield-Lathrup High School.

Among the 14 finalists are Jennifer Dautermann of Farmington Harrison and Linda Abair, Gretchen Kramp and

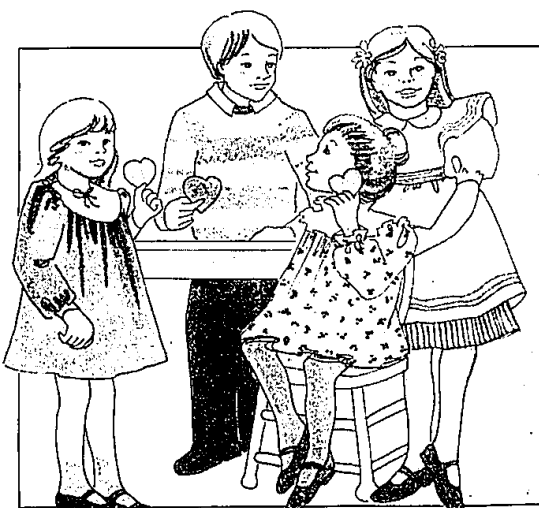
Laurie McKinnon of North Farmington.

The top five winners will receive scholarships to attend an in-state music camp of their choice.

Event co-sponsors are the Maceabees Mutual Life Insurance Co. and the Madrigal Choral of Southfield.



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