

High court ruling sparks mixed reaction

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be carefully reviewed and evaluated," he said.

"I don't look on it as any earth-shaking thing," Brotherton said. "Michigan has always been ahead of other states in promoting these kinds of things."

Some Farmington-area business and government officials would tend to agree. Of those asked, most say their particular businesses support women employees.

AT LITTLE Caesar's International

in Farmington Hills, for example, 56 percent of all store managers are women, said Lisa Hiltch, director of corporate communications.

"Our belief has always been . . . that women are excellent, excellent employees. They are committed, dedicated and hard workers," Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Co. of America is in a similar position, said Vernon Lunn, senior vice president of corporate services.

Forty percent of the insurance corporation's management staff — supervisors, managers, directors —

are women. "We have never had any problems whatsoever," Lunn said.

Jody Seconen, executive director of the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce, which represents 430 businesses, thinks the court ruling will have a greater effect on larger businesses that have more employees bidding for a job.

"I am not sure it will affect small business that much," she said.

DAVID WILLIAMS, vice president of marketing at H.R. Krueger Machine Tool Inc., doesn't expect to see much of a difference at the Farm-

ington company as a result of the ruling.

"Our whole business is changing so rapidly, we are not really viewed as a good place to go until the shakeout occurs," Williams said, referring to the company's move to computerize operations.

Because the company is in the process of changing the role of the classic engineer, Williams said, on-the-job experience is of greater demand than years of education.

Right now, a machine tool company, such as Krueger — which is in the process of changing how it does

business — is not a place for employment for many new people, either male or female.

"We're running at an unemployment rate of 25-30 percent," he said.

The company's purchasing director is a woman.

The personnel director for the city of Farmington Hills expects few changes or problems in light of the court ruling.

"To be honest, I don't think it will have an immediate impact on us," said Dana Whinnery, adding the ruling addresses employers with affirmative action plans in place. "It didn't mandate an affirmative action plan."

"It legitimizes what many employers are already doing," said Whinnery, who more than a year ago filled the vacancy left by a woman who held the job for many years.

Michael McDonald, president of the Washington Legal Foundation, a conservative-oriented, self-described public interest law firm, criticized the opinion.

"I THINK that what the court has done in the decision, quite simply, is to take a statute that was enacted by Congress, the Title 7 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, that was intended to achieve a discrimination-free society, and it's turned it on its head," McDonald said.

"What it's done is to read the statute in such a manner that we now are in a situation where employers are free to discriminate in the workplace on the basis of race and sex . . . I think the decision is an outrage."

Some disagree.

"It vindicates our historic position that sex discrimination, like race discrimination, can be remedied by the use of affirmative action measures," said Judith Lichtman, executive director of the Women's Legal Defense Fund.

Faxon agrees. Because women have traditionally been discriminated against in the professional world, they have not had great opportunities to expand their experience in particular employment areas, he said.

"Qualifications are used to discriminate," Faxon said. "Qualifications are often subjective and interpretive. You have to qualify the qualifications. If women have been discriminated against, they won't have the same experience. But that doesn't mean they are unable to function, to perform the job."

To those business officials who "are male chauvinists in their business, this (the court ruling) could be of some concern," Faxon said.

A conscious effort to open the doors of opportunities for women should be made, he added.

The Associated Press contributed to this story.

Drug recovery — focus of seminar

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cluded Farmington Public Schools and Farmington Families in Action.

In 95 percent of the cases, after intervention, the chemically dependent person, or C.D., enters treatment.

Intervention requires friends and family of the C.D. to undergo eight to nine hours of training to enable them, as a group, to do what no individual had been able to do — convince the C.D. to receive treatment.

"This is, in fact, an option," Genger said. "We can help them and we can give them options."

With intervention, the chemically dependent remain unaware that family members are secretly meeting to discuss their condition. When the day finally approaches, they are brought to the meeting place and confronted with family and friends' responses to the chemical dependency problem.

IT IS an opening for them, said Genger, and it is usually then that they decide that they have to do something.

Intervention can cost \$600 to \$700

for up to nine sessions. Treatment at Maple Grove, one of Henry Ford's outlets, can range from \$6,500 to \$7,000.

Once the C.D. has entered treatment, which requires 21 days of group interaction with 12 to 14 members in each group, there is a 71 percent success ratio that that person will be cured from chemical dependency, Genger said.

To emphasize the plight of families of chemically dependent people and to offer a discussion and answer session, Genger introduced a family who had successfully completed intervention and treatment.

RUSS, HIS wife, Shirley, their two sons and one daughter were on the verge of breaking up as a family when Shirley decided to participate in the intervention program in the fall of 1985.

"We were still close but we were going real slick," she told the audience.

"We were on the brink of being a lost family," Russ added. "I was still, at the time, a victim of the 'yets' — something was bound to happen but it hadn't happened yet."

After almost 15 months of sobriety, Russ told the crowd he was a lucky man.

"The disease itself is so insidious,

so progressive that even when you're strong enough emotionally, you're not physically or vice versa," he said.

Voc ed fair coming up

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Students submit their projects — anything from architectural drawings, electrical designs to machine-type products, printings, furniture and electrical devices — for scrutiny by judges who are in industry themselves. Students also are asked to submit a written paragraph explaining their work, Zaleski said.

"They (competition entries) are all student products and they compete with other schools," he said.

PARENTS and other interested residents are invited to see the student projects from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and 6:30-9 p.m. Friday, April 10, and 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 11.

Winning student products are awarded ribbons, first through fourth place, in the regional competition. Top award winners then go on to a state industrial arts fair — drawing students from 18 regions — scheduled for May 1-2 in Traverse City. The grand prize at the state competition is a U.S. sav-

ings bond and plaque, Zaleski said.

"There might be 8-10 of ours (Farmington Public Schools students) going to this every year," he said.

The industrial arts fair is "a kind of public relations for us," Zaleski said, adding that it shows what the district's program has to offer and what students learn within the program.

The district's program, Baumunk said, includes 3,000-4,000 students. Sixth graders, both boys and girls, are required to take an exploratory industrial arts class, which gives a taste of the many disciplines. In grades 8-12, industrial arts classes are electives. Some of the classes offered include machine tool technology, graphic arts, architectural technology, drafting technology, woodworking and auto mechanics.

The industrial arts program is designed to interest and expose students in developing specific skills that can lead into vocational education and "opens the door for entry-level employment," Baumunk said.

Discounts for seniors available

Farmington-area seniors at least 60 can take advantage of discounts offered by local merchants.

Pictures to be laminated for identification cards will be taken from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, April 10, at the Farmington Senior Center, Mercy Center, 29600 11 Mile.

Discounts range from 4 to 40 percent on a variety of items — auto parts, roofing, hair care, prescription drugs, eyeglasses.

The program is sponsored by the Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency.

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Certification protested

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bused in by fundamentalist Christian churches, which have waged an unsuccessful nine-year crusade to persuade the state to lift its certification requirement. Fundamentalists contend the state is trying to grab undue control over church and home schools.

"It's not simply that we won't give them our children. It's not simply that we won't give them our schools. It's not simply that we won't give them our teachers," said Rev. Rene Ouellette of the Bridgeport Baptist Academy in Saginaw. "It's that they are not ours to give."

"They do not belong to the state of

Michigan. They belong to God."

The protest merged messages of patriotism and religion.

State Sen. Harmon Cropsey, R-Deerfield, said his measure would give schools a smorgasbord of standards for determining teacher competence. Schools could give standardized tests to fourth-, seventh- and 10th-graders; let parents provide evidence their children are receiving "instruction appropriate to the child's age and ability;" hire certified teachers, or hire "qualified" teachers with a bachelor's degree, associate's degree or equivalent life experience.

Associated Press contributed to this report.

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