

SUSAN FINCHAM

A 25-year-old Inkster woman died as the result of a three-car crash on I-696 near Halsted in Farmington Hills Tuesday afternoon. The woman was a passenger in what's left of the white BMW just inside the median (above).

The brown (dark) car in the foreground struck the BMW head-on. A van (shown beyond the BMW) then struck the BMW on the passenger side, police said.

## Fatality

### 1 dead, 9 injured in smashup

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

A 25-year-old Inkster woman was killed and nine others were injured during rush hour Tuesday afternoon when a car crossed the median on I-696 near Halsted in Farmington Hills and collided with two other cars.

Taken to Botsford General Hospital, Farmington Hills, Teresa Yvonne Mustain died from multiple injuries, said Trooper Charles Schumacher of the Michigan State Police-Northville Post.

Some of the injured were toddlers. They were transferred to trauma centers at C.M. Mott Children's Hospital, Ann Arbor, and Children's Hospital of Michigan, Detroit.

The other injured people were taken to William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, Providence Hospital in Southfield and Novi and St. Mary's Hospital in Livonia, said Farmington Hills Deputy Fire Chief Peter Baldwin.

Mustain was a passenger in the eastbound BMW that apparently crossed the median and collided with two cars in the westbound lanes shortly before 5 p.m. Schumacher said.

THE BMW's driver, Carole Sophie Khalife, 25, of Southfield, was listed in fair condition in Beaumont Hospital Wednesday morning, Schumacher said.

"For some reason that we don't yet know, the car crossed the median and was struck head-on by a second car," Schumacher said. Police are continuing to investigate.

Though details are still sketchy, the eastbound BMW with seven occupants, most of whom were wearing seat belts, jumped the median, crossing into westbound I-696 rush-hour traffic, Schumacher said.

The BMW was struck head-on by a second car carrying two women occupants, both listed in fair condition as of Wednesday morning, Schumacher said.

The first impact caused the BMW to spin around. A third vehicle, a van with only one occupant, struck the passenger side of the BMW, he said.

"THE IMPACT was great," said Baldwin of the Farmington Hills Fire Department.

The jaws of life were used to free passengers in the BMW and the second car, he said.

"To my recollection, this probably is the first time that we have had

that many seriously injured people at one time," Baldwin said, adding that he was pleased with the performance of emergency personnel. "This is why we train for mass trauma incidents."

In addition to the Michigan State Police and the Farmington Hills Fire Department, the Farmington Hills Police Department and Community Emergency Medical Service also responded.

The collision caused tie-ups on I-696 for at least two hours, with many motorists trying to use the median to reach exits and surface streets, Baldwin said.

LACK OF ACCESS in the Halsted/I-696 area and rush-hour congestion caused some difficulty for emergency personnel. I-696 was closed at Orchard Lake Road because of the collision, Baldwin said.

With traffic trying to leave and avoid the collision area on I-696, Farmington Hills police were called to three or four minor accidents on city streets, said Sgt. Ray Cranston of the Farmington Hills police traffic division.

"That happens any time you get a major thoroughfare tied up," Cranston said.

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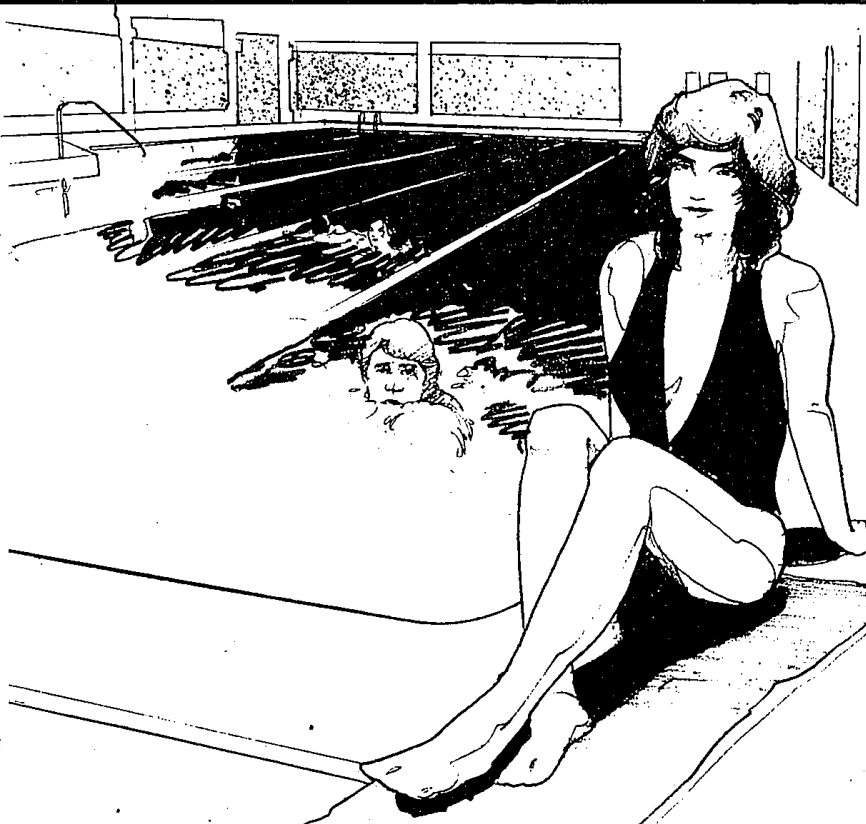
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