

# Students roll up sleeves

By Bob Sklar  
staff writer

**T**O HELP replenish depleted southeastern Michigan blood supplies, North Farmington High students rolled up their sleeves Tuesday.

The student council hoped to provide 100 units of the life-sustaining fluid during the American Red Cross Southeastern Michigan Chapter's 13th annual blood drive at North.

But 116 eligible donors gave to the tune of 108 units.

"That was great," said senior Cindy Sukockas, who chaired the blood-drive committee. "I didn't think we'd make our goal because it's flu season, and you can't give blood if you're sick."

At lunch hour, she said, the auditorium lobby was jammed.

Because blood donors must be at least 17 years old, eligibility was limited mainly to the 375 senior class members. So nearly one-third of the eligible students gave.

Sukockas volunteered to chair the blood drive committee because her sister, Stacy, now a Michigan State University sophomore, headed it two years ago. "It's also a lot of fun," she said. "It's out of the ordinary."

Unfortunately, she said, a bout

with bronchitis prevented her from giving this year.

SENIOR BRIAN Seifman, a first-time donor, said he gave because "there are always people who need blood." He said that if he ever needed blood, he'd hope "someone would have donated it for me."

Having a blood drive at school made it "a lot easier to donate," he said.

Some classmates who planned to donate blood "became scared about having a needle stuck into their arm and just walked away," he said.

But he described the experience as relatively pain free. "What you feel is just like a little sting."

Potential donors filled out a form about their general health and underwent a blood test. They

also had their blood pressure, pulse and temperature taken. After donating blood, they received refreshments.

The entire process takes about 30-45 minutes.

Last year, 120 North students donated 86 units of blood.

"There is never a time when blood is not needed. Donations are on their way to patients within 24 hours," said Noreen Peterson, Red Cross assistant director of public affairs.

"At this time, there is a special need for B-positive and B-negative blood, and type O is always in demand because O-positive is the most common and most frequently used."

Blood generally can be donated by anyone in good health between the ages of 17 and 70 who weighs at least 110 pounds.



photos by RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Cindy Sukockas (right), who chaired the blood drive, pours fruit juice for fellow senior Brian Seifman after he donated blood. At left is Red Cross volunteer Norman Petrak.



North senior Carolyn McBeth (right) undergoes a health screening test before donating blood.

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## To airport and back

The Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority has begun daily bus service between downtown Farmington and Detroit Metropolitan Airport. About 9,000 airline support personnel work at Metro. More than 8 million passengers board flights there. SEMTA hopes the new service eases airport traffic congestion and provides affordable transportation. The new route will operate on an hourly schedule, leaving downtown Farmington from Farmington Road and Grand River and arriving at the airport about 45 minutes later with intermediate stops. The route follows Grand River to Middlebelt to Smith Road, west to Merriman and south to the airport. At the airport, buses will make dropoffs and pickups at the airport employee shuttle stop near the international terminal before returning to Farmington. Fare for a one-way trip between Farmington and the airport is \$1.

# Meetings try to allay fears in wake of sexual attacks

By Alice Collins  
staff writer

People are worried "and they should be," said a Seaholm High School crisis counselor, helping to organize a community meeting in response to the Jan. 28 rape of a 17-year-old girl at her home in northwest Birmingham.

It was the eighth such attack in Birmingham-Bloomfield and surrounding communities since last April.

"There was concern on the part of the community, and we felt the school system should help," said crisis intervention counselor Dennis Rozema.

"I don't get the feeling of tremendous panic," Rozema said, "but yes the people are worried, and they should be."

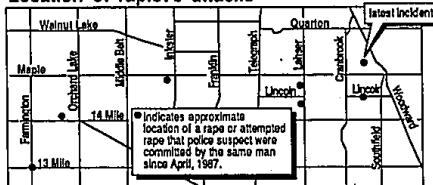
Students, parents and others worried about the continuing assaults attended a meeting Wednesday night at Seaholm High School to hear police and a clinical social worker talk about sexual offenders and how to avoid them.

**IN AN INTERVIEW** Tuesday, clinical social worker Leo Niffeler discussed the issues he planned to talk about at the community meeting.

There's an added concern for rape victims today when there is penetration because of the chance that the attacker has AIDS, said Niffeler. "In the past venereal disease was a possible complication for the victim, but now, with the threat of AIDS, it adds greatly to the problems."

Testing victims for the AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) virus would have to be done for 10 years. Niffeler said his intention is not to cause pain or distress for the victims, "but people have to be aware of this."

## Location of rapist's attacks



**NIFFELER SAID** he would advise women to take some self-defense training, "but that is a simple answer, and this type of situation doesn't lend itself to simple kinds of answers."

"The fact that he carries a weapon marks him as fairly dangerous," Niffeler said. "This makes it far more difficult for the intended victim to flee the setting. It also makes it more difficult to advise someone to use force or attempt to talk their way out."

The best way to avoid a sexual attack, he said, "is not to place yourself in a place or position to be victimized." But that isn't always possible, he added. "There are situations where there is very little the victim could do to avoid it."

In line with Niffeler's suggestion that women take self-defense training, The Community House is planning to schedule its second free program on self defense for women, probably as early as next week.

"Right now we're trying to get a date confirmed," said Gale Colwell, community house director. The Community House held a sim-

ilar workshop in May after two rapes in Bloomfield Township and an attempted rape in Birmingham.

"We had about 70 people attend. We've had some phone calls from worried people so we're trying to get it together again right away."

**AS FOR THE** status of the police investigation, Birmingham Capt. Millard Squire said, "No arrest has been made, there is nothing new. As soon as there is, we'll let you know."

Police say the series of assaults could have been committed by one person. There are common links such as the rapists physical description, the fact that he wears a ski mask and carries a knife. He apparently stalks his victims before assaulting them. He is believed to be white, about 5 feet 11 inches tall, with a thin to medium build. Most of the victims have also been robbed.

"We're still encouraging anybody with information to call us," said Bloomfield Township police Lt. Jeffrey Werner. "Investigators (from the departments involved) are continuing to meet" and share their findings.

Personal identification.

**PEOPLE WHO** have received commodities in the past should return their old USDA Surplus Commodity Food Registration Card at the time they re-register.

Seniors who regularly attend a senior center should contact that center for pickup dates and times. Homebound seniors should contact the senior center nearest their home to assure homebound delivery. Registration does not guarantee receipt of commodity food.

## Surplus food is available

Surplus commodity food will be given out from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 16, in St. Alexander's Church, 27835 Shiloh, Farmington Hills.

The food, distributed through the Oakland Livingston Human Services Agency, includes cheese, butter, flour, honey and rice.

Eligible Oakland County residents should bring the following information to register for the Surplus Commodity Food Program: Social Security card, proof of income for the past 90 days and per-

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