

Land Down Under
is diver's delight, 1D



Gymnasts
lauded, 1G

There's something new
with senior meals, 3A

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HOW long?
In criticizing the long minutes of Farmington Hills City Council meetings, councilman Aldo Vagnozzi last week said, "It's getting to the point where these minutes make War & Peace look like a short story."

"At least the remarks you attribute to me can be left out ...," he jested.

THEY'RE invited.
Twenty-six Farmington High School students will visit the Soviet city of Minsk. The invitation is a direct result of a visit last year by residents of that city to metro Detroit.

The visit will be coordinated by Farmington High teacher Jerry Young, who arranged to have the Minsk delegation visit Oakland Community College Orchard Ridge Campus last year to share experiences with Farmington-area students.

ON trial.
Another "Constitutional Controversy" is slated as part of the Farmington Area Committee on the Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution celebration.

"The Trial of Rev. Jergens," spotlighting freedom of speech and religion, will be played out at 3 p.m. Sunday, April 24, at the Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Co. of America Auditorium, 12 Mile and Farmington Road, Farmington Hills. Admission is \$1.

FOOTNOTES: One year ago this week — Crime increased in Farmington Hills in 1986. But for the first time since the early 1980s, crime, especially serious offenses, increased at a much lower rate, according to the Farmington Hills Police Department 1986 annual report.

what's inside

Around Farmington . . . 4B
Business briefs . . . 3A
Classifieds . . . Secs. C,E,F
Index . . . 8E
Auto . . . B.C
Real estate . . . 1E
Employment . . . 8E
Creative living . . . Sec. E
Crossword puzzle . . . 2E
Entertainment . . . 5D
Obituaries . . . 4A
Police/fire calls . . . 2A
Sports . . . Sec. C
Taste . . . Sec. B
Street Scene . . . Sec. C

Health & Fitness

SPECIAL SECTION
IN TODAY'S ISSUE

Cops seek link in latest area rape

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

A Farmington Hills woman in her 30s may be the latest victim in a series of apparently related rapes or attempted rapes in several Oakland County suburbs since April 1987.

The man who raped and robbed the woman in her house in north central Farmington Hills Thursday night may be responsible for as many as 11 assaults in West Bloomfield, Bloomfield Township and Birmingham. The woman is the third Farmington Hills woman raped since area police began investigating similarities in the cases.

"The department is reviewing similar characteristics of that of the Oakland County rapist," said Lt. Richard Murphy of the Farmington Hills Police Department.

A task force of Oakland County police departments was expected to meet Friday to review the latest case, Murphy said.

"We're going to bring everyone up to speed on where we are with this," Murphy said, adding that as of Friday afternoon police did not have a suspect.

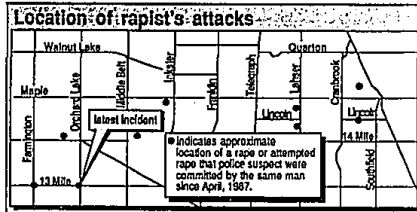
"IN MY OPINION the person who committed this latest incident is in all probability the same person who committed the (two Farmington Hills) assaults on Thanksgiving night," Farmington Hills Police Chief William Dwyer said. "And in all probability it's the same person who committed them (rapes and attempted rapes) in Oakland County."

In the latest incident, the Farmington Hills woman was raped at 9 p.m. by a knife-wielding man wearing a ski mask. The woman was treated and released at Boisdorff General Hospital late Thursday evening.

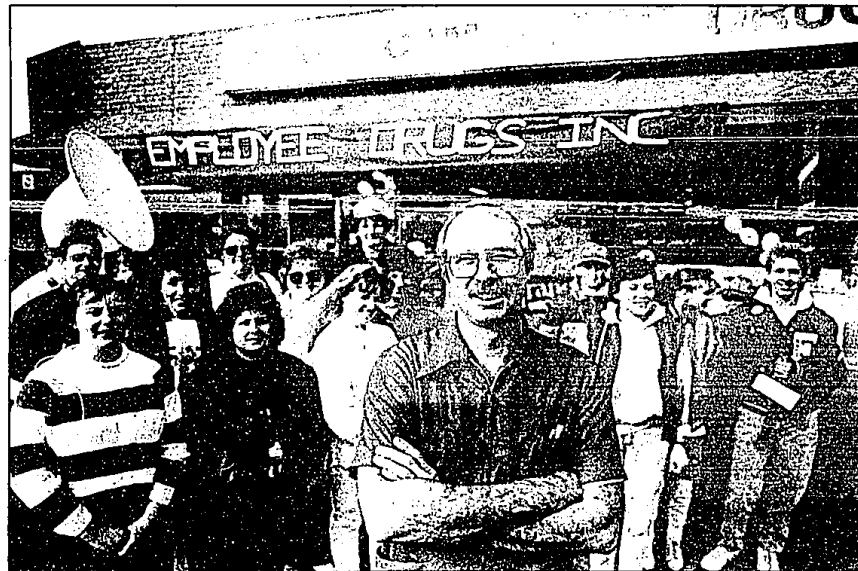
The woman was assaulted in her home near 13 Mile and Orchard Lake roads. The man was waiting for her in her home. He blindfolded her, sexually assaulted her and robbed her of a diamond ring. Before leaving on foot, the man took a stereo cassette recorder, Murphy said.

Physical evidence collected at the scene was sent to the Michigan State Police Crime Lab, Murphy said.

Please turn to Page 4



Police are investigating similarities between certain rapes or attempted rapes in Farmington Hills, West Bloomfield, Bloomfield Township and Birmingham since April 1987. Dots indicate approximate locations of the series of incidents.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

April Fool

Relatives, merchant-neighbors of Cambridge Drugs, some customers and the employees who surround Mary Zwiessler, owner of the store in Farmington Plaza, all conspired in the "employee takeover." Zwiessler arrived at work early Friday morning and found his place of business had been changed to Employee Drugs Inc. The balloons were waving in the breeze, the Grand Opening sign was up. Stock boys who were members of Farmington High's Marching Band led the parade of singing employees from Polyn's Bakery around the plaza before the marchers yelled "April Fool."

State pressed to release census funds

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Republican state legislators strongly doubt Gov. James Blanchard's claim that there's no money in the state budget to provide more aid for high growth communities such as Farmington Hills.

"These 38 communities are being held hostage by the administration because the governor has decided to impound \$5.1 million in (state shared) revenue funds," said Kendall

Growing towns like Hills would get more money

Wingrove, state House Republican press secretary.

"We are asking the governor to stop sitting on this bankroll and give it to the communities that need the help," Wingrove said.

A strongly worded press release issued by the legislators last week

didn't change Blanchard's position on cutting supplemental state aid payments to municipalities eligible because of documented population increases.

"He (Blanchard) is sympathetic. But cutting a budget isn't easy," Blanchard's press secretary Tom

Scott said. "Cutting it that way (supplemental payments) prevented across-the-board cuts in revenue sharing."

Farmington Hills is eligible to receive more than \$500,000 this year and a total \$1.3 million through the end of the decade for its documented 17.2 percent population increase since 1980.

THE CITY is among the 38 communities that initiated a mid-decade census last year to document population gains made since the federal

census in 1980. State-shared revenues are distributed based on municipalities' population.

Farmington Hills officials preferred not to comment on the latest turn of events in the long attempt to prompt the release of supplemental state aid payments.

The March 29 press release said Republican state legislators are aware of a \$5.1 million supplemental state aid allocation in the current state budget. The release refers to a

Please turn to Page 4

Her aim: decent standard for all

By Loraine McGillich
staff writer

If Marguerite Kowaleski had her way, every one who could work would have a job that paid enough to give them a decent standard of living. All those who were unable to work would be subsidized by the government sufficiently to allow them a decent standard of living.

Emphasis is on the word decent.
"In our two communities, there are 357 people living on SSI (Supplemental Security Income)," Kowaleski said. "That's 357 people who are living here on \$388 a month. There is another 630 supported entirely by AFDC (Aid to Families with Dependent Children) below the poverty line."

"Can you imagine how hard it is to be living like that amid all this affluence," she asked. "Psychologically, it is a killer. And if that alone doesn't kill the self-esteem, then the welfare system will do it with its paperwork and 'Catch 22s.'"

people

Kowaleski knows whereof she speaks. The Farmington resident won the Women of United Foundation's Heart of Gold Award in 1985 for her work as a volunteer advocate for welfare recipients. It's a job she still performs that puts her on a one-to-one basis with those who come to the Friends of Oakland County Welfare Rights Organization in Pontiac seeking help with the red tape.
She chairs the Michigan Department of Social Services Advisory Council, by appointment of the governor. And she was instrumental in preparing a report called "Meeting Basic Human Needs" for the League of Women Voters (LWV).

LWV'S WEST Bloomfield-Farmington Area Branch completed its study on basic human needs in February. When combined with the studies of 700 other local branches, a national picture will be painted of those who are not getting adequate help with income, food, housing and health care.

Despite the longest sustained period of economic growth in 20 years, 7 million more people are living in poverty in the United States today than eight years ago.

Of particular interest to Kowaleski are housing statistics.

"Of the \$37 billion given every year in federal housing subsidies, only 10 percent is distributed through federal low-income housing programs," she said. "The biggest percentage goes to upper-income homeowners in the form of homeowner mortgage deductions."

Please turn to Page 2



TOM ARNETT/staff photographer

Marguerite Kowaleski talks about meeting basic human needs in Farmington and Farmington Hills.