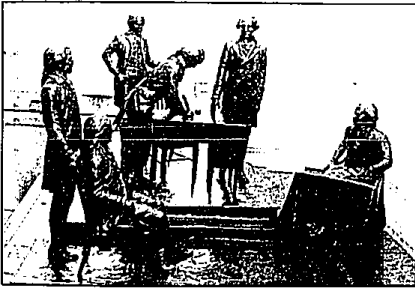


# At forum's mock trial, free speech is guilty



This bronze half-life-sized statue of the signing of the U.S. Constitution is at Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Co. of America. James Madison, one of the primary architects of the Constitution, is leaning over the table, signing the document. Constitutional Convention president George Washington is at the head of the table. To Washington's right is Alexander Hamilton. Seated at left is Benjamin Franklin. Behind him is Gouverneur Morris. Seated at right is James Wilson, who wrote the final document.

## Constitution is studied in its bicentennial year

The Rev. Walter Jergens, pastor at Northfield First Evangelical Church and leader of the Northfield Right to Life group, lost his appeal Sunday to place a poster in the city's bus.

Jurors for the "trial," held in the auditorium of the Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Co. of America in Farmington Hills, decided by a narrow margin that the city was within its constitutional rights when it forbade the poster.

The trial was the second community forum hosted by the Farmington Area Committee on the Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution. The series focuses on current controversial issues of wide public interest that are based on constitutional principles. It is written by the American Bar Association.

"THE RIGHTS of both free speech and religion were at stake in this controversy, according to Jergens' attorney, James Carter, played by Patrick Anderson of Alexander Hamilton.

"A few people's offended sensibilities and a few dollars of savings in bus fares do not create a compelling governmental interest that would justify restricting my client's rights," Carter said.

Evidence was presented to show the city had arbitrarily removed the poster without any pre-designed standards that would apply to all charity-organization ads.



But the city placed on the stand the mayor of Northfield (Jonathan South, portrayed by David Sinder of Farmington) who contended it was he who ordered the removal.

"It was offensive," South declared.

NOTED SOCIOLOGIST Michael Davis (Dean Cobb, North Farmington High telecommunications coordinator) gave surveys and statistics showing that 57 percent of the people in Northfield found the poster offensive.

Seven percent of those — "with 95 percent confidence factor" — found the poster offensive. They had never seen the poster. Davis described it to them. Seven percent of those, who now ride the bus, would stop riding because of the poster, Davis told the jury.

From the witness stand, Jergens denied his strongly held beliefs against abortion as murder and an un-Christian act. Bill Brinker, North



photos by THOMAS ARNETT/staff photographer

Prosecuting attorney James Carter (left), played by Patrick Anderson, economist with Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Co. of America, presents his case before Northfield County Judge

Farmington High social studies teacher, played the minister.

THE ROLE of Charlotte Rule, director of the city's transportation department, was enacted by Christy Hicks, a recent graduate of North Farmington.

She testified she had accepted the poster for display when Jergens brought it in, and that there were no irregularities in its application or in the procedure for acceptance.

"The idea was to raise extra money to keep bus fares down, but then we began to provide space for local charities and other non-profit groups," Rule said.

The council had never turned down a poster in the past, although a commercial ad for a horror movie had been refused, she said.

City attorney Jerome Abramski (Farmington Hills attorney Martin Krohn) contended the city did indeed have such power, and asked for a verdict.

THE JURY'S deliberations were lengthy, under the guidance of David Finney, foreman. Much time was devoted to discrimination items, and items of intent.

In general, the jury felt the poster was a form of speech, and as such entitled to freedom. But some jurors felt forums other than city buses are available for such speech.

That this was Jergens' religious belief, and entitled to such protection, was not debated. That the majority of the jury held pro-choice

views was apparent, although this was not an item of adjudication. The trial sequences will be shown on channels 10 and 12 during the next few months for those who could not attend Sunday's dramatization.

MEMBERS of the "jury" — the audience — were also able to sign a large facsimile of the Constitution that was suspended on the wall, as well as view an exhibit, "The Blessings of Liberty."

A bronze sculpture, "The Signing of the Constitution," was also on exhibit, commissioned by the Alexander Hamilton company from Dennis Smith. The sculpture included the figures of Washington, Franklin, Hamilton, James Wilson and Gouverneur Morris.

The 1776 Room was opened, and viewers were able to see a replica of the Hamilton dueling pistols. The pistol's did not stop to save Hamilton's life in 1804, when, on Weehawken Heights above the Hudson River, he was killed by a bullet from the pistol of Aaron Burr, vice president of the United States.

## Social security tax vote to affect schools' budget

By Casey Hans  
staff writer

Farmington schools is expected to beef up its budget surplus this year, because of expectations that the district will have to pay \$3.5 million annually in Social Security payments.

The state has paid the employer's share of teacher's Social Security for all Michigan districts since 1966.

But there is pressure from state legislators and the state Department of Education for shifting the financial burden from state to local coffers.

According to the district's chief financial administrator, Michael Flanagan, there's a 50 percent chance the state will pass the Social Security responsibility to many out-of-formula

districts. These districts get more than 80 percent of their operating money from local tax dollars.

Flanagan, deputy superintendent for the district, will ask trustees to allow a surplus of at least 10 percent in the 1988-89 budget, plus an additional \$1.4 million. Trustees are expected to begin their annual budget review process at the next regular meeting on May 3.

THE DISTRICT already has a 10 percent surplus, or an equity.

"In my opinion, it's just a matter of time," said Flanagan. "There is such strong support from the state Department of Education."

Adding to that is pressure from the recent appointment of Donald Bemis as state superintendent.

Bemis hails from Utica, an in-formula district, and has received support not only from state educators, but from Gov. James Blanchard as well.

Flanagan is asking for only one third of what would be the district's Social Security expense, because he feels any type of program will be expected to begin their annual budget review process at the next regular meeting on May 3.

Attention to the Social Security payments and other issues has arisen as legislators and educators discuss how to equalize state funding of public schools.

Flanagan has warned that "equity is coming" whether it is handled through the state Legislature, or mandated by the courts.

## Harrison, Warner to be 'open'

Both Harrison High School and Warner Middle School will be "open enrollment" schools this fall.

That announcement comes one week after Farmington school trustees approved a policy of open enrollment for any secondary school with low enrollment. The determination of which schools will have open enrollment is being left to top school administrators.

Under the new policy, any student living in the Farmington district can attend an open enrollment school but will have to provide his own transportation to and from school.

Interested persons should call principals at Harrison at 477-3311 or Warner at 851-3400.

## Symposium highlights critical care, computers

With constant advances in medical technology, even teaching has become more sophisticated. Today computer-training programs simulate actual patient treatment. And video programs increase comprehension and recall of complicated subjects.

These training tools are new to the medical profession. But they are essential to Botsford General Hospital's Cardiorespiratory Critical Care Symposium, scheduled to run Friday through Sunday.

The Farmington Hills hospital's symposium, the fifth in the annual Allen Ziegler Memorial Lecture Series, will focus on the evaluation, monitoring, management and problems encountered in the acute clinical setting. The Computer Learning Center is open to participants to underscore lecture material.

The Learning Center is equipped with 12 computers that allow participants to apply symposium knowledge and gain "hands-on" experience in cardiology, pulmonary medicine,

gastroenterology, anesthesia, intensive care medicine and surgery. Computer programs actually provide participants the chance to simulate treatment of patients.

In addition, audiovisual demonstrations will be given on Hemodynamic Monitoring and Atrial Pacing, and medical films will be shown. Computer specialists will also be available to answer questions and solve problems.

The Learning Center will be in the Administration and Education Building, adjacent to the Community Room, in classrooms A, B and C. Botsford General Hospital is an osteopathic teaching hospital, with post-graduate education in 14 specialties and subspecialties. More than 60 residents and 30 interns are at Botsford.

Physicians, resident physicians and critical care nurses may attend the Botsford Symposium. For more information, call Cheryl Voss at 471-8351.

## Calendar

M A Y						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				5	6	7
				12		
				19	20	21
				26		

## of events

Remember Mother's Day is Sunday, May 8.

Find gift ideas, fine fashions and new options for your home.

### BIRMINGHAM

THURSDAY, MAY 5  
11 a.m.-5 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 6  
11 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, MAY 12  
7 p.m.

THURSDAY, MAY 19  
7 p.m.

MAY 20 AND 21

### LIVONIA

FRIDAY, MAY 6  
Noon-7 p.m.

4-7 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 7  
9:30 a.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 20  
7 p.m.

THURSDAY, MAY 26  
7 p.m.

### ROCHESTER

THURSDAY, MAY 5  
7 p.m.

See our collection of Poolside and Patio shifts from Lingerie informally modeled.

Waterman Pen Demonstration of fine writing instruments, perfect gifts for graduation or Mother's Day.

Trousseau Fashion Show-lingerie, sportswear, dresses, suits for the bride. R.S.V.P., 644-6900, ext. 309.

Formal Fashion Show- See the latest in swimwear for summer days at the beach.

Fine Jewelry collection featuring Contours Remount and Renaissance Gems. 12-8 p.m., Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday. For your appointment, call 644-6900, ext. 249.

Informal modeling: summer patio shifts, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Louis Feraud's Fall/Winter International Designer fashions.

Waterman Pen demonstration of gift ideas for Mom and grad.

Mother-Daughter Spring Breakfast Show. \$3 per person. Reservations, call 591-7696, ext. 263.

Honeymoon Fashion Show for the happy pair...plus luggage packing demonstration. R.S.V.P. 591-7696, ext. 263.

Design Seminars begin...three Thursday evening learning sessions on home interiors. To enroll, call 591-7696, ext. 263.

Clairewood Summer Show of fashions for the fuller figure woman. For reservations, call 651-6000, ext. 217.

## Jacobson's

Shop until 9 p.m. on Thursday and Friday  
Until 6 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday