

Hooked on helping Trustee's husband runs one of biggest U.S. speech clinics

By Casey Hans
staff writer

A special sensitivity to helping people led Michael Rolnick to shift his college studies from one form of mass communication to another in the 1960s.

As a radio and television major at Wayne State, he produced a show involving the head of the university's speech and hearing clinic. He was soon hooked on the clinic's philosophy and decided to get involved.

"It was so intriguing. He invited me to see the clinic, and I changed majors," said the Farmington Hills resident, founder and director of the 20-year-old Speech and Language Pathology Department at William Beaumont Hospital.

"It was a time in the '60s when . . . helping people with problems intrigued me," the 48-year-old father of two said. "I gravitated towards a helping profession as opposed to a non-helping one."

Today, he and a staff including more than 40 speech pathologists run one of the largest departments in the country and coordinate a children's program that stands on its own nationally.

The department spreads from Rolnick's office and treatment center at the Royal Oak hospital to a Children's Services Division on Woodward Avenue just a block from the hospital to the Barnum Health Center in a renovated schoolhouse in Birmingham to a Beaumont satellite hospital in Troy.

In addition to caring for patients, Rolnick obviously has a caring relationship with his staff. Many greet him with smiles and gentle teasing as he tours the facilities he administers.

people

"I like people a lot," he said. "And I don't like conflict. I'm always trying to resolve conflict in cases where there is a lot of emotional trauma."

Rolnick and his staff deal with patient who must adjust to a variety of things that can entirely change a lifestyle: cancer of the throat or larynx, accident and strokes and other voice problems. His sensitivity makes him a firm believer in dealing with families as well as patients.

Rolnick is a family man himself. He married high school sweetheart, Janice. They recently celebrated their 24th wedding anniversary. Daughter Jessica attends North Farmington High School, and son Jason is a student at Western Michigan University.

Janice is usually the one being written up in the newspaper. She is a veteran trustee on the Farmington school board. "All of us have had to learn how to share her with her elected position," he said with pride. "We learned how to do the dishes and cook a few meals. It was hard at first."

The family has adjusted and settled into life in Farmington Hills where they have lived for the past 11 years. In his free time, Rolnick has dabbled in photography — some framed photos grace his office walls — and has spent the past several months of hot weather



THOMAS ARNETT/staff photographer

Dr. Michael Rolnick, founder and head of progress. Rolnick is a proponent of high tech speech and language pathology for William Beaumont Hospital, explaining how to make a progress voice print and use it to analyze a patient's

calling across Cass Lake.

As with most people, Rolnick integrates his career into the fabric of his life.

He has bachelor's, master's and doctor's degrees in speech pathology from Wayne State University, is a speech pathology consultant for a number of organizations — including the Visiting Nurse Association of Detroit — and is active in professional and civic organizations.

Most recently, he has been involved as an editor for a Speech and Language Pathology book series, which are designed to help in the treatment of people with speech impairments.

He also has a close association to the Lions and Lions clubs, which give \$50,000 a year to speech and language pathology programs at Beaumont.

"The Lions are really unsung heroes. There's a lot of work by a lot of caring people."

Drought survivor offers help

Ron Greenberg survived the drought of '88, and he'd like to do a little something to help Michigan farmers do the same.

So the Southfield resident is donating \$1 to a Michigan State University Cooperative Extension Service program from the sale of each of the specialty T-shirts he is selling. The program provides one-to-one assistance and education.

Extension service agents in the program work with farmers on such things as production problems, record keeping, business management, stress management and fami-

ly communication.

GREENBERG SAID he started J & L Promotions in his spare time as a way of "making myself a couple of bucks and helping the farmers. The majority of the money goes to raise money for the farmers."

The T-shirts are designed with a black constalk against a bright orange sun. They read, "I survived the drought of '88."

So far Greenberg, who works as a video distributor, has sold 600 of the

shirts, which come in yellow, blue and white.

T-shirts are available by mail order for \$10 plus \$2 for handling. Sizes are medium, large and extra-large. Write to J & L Promotions, c/o Drought 1988, 23675 Woodward, Pleasant Ridge 48069. Allow one-two weeks for delivery.

Shirts are also available at scattered retail outlets, which set their own prices.

Greenberg expects to continue selling the shirts until the end of October, about when Halloween makes us forget the drought.



Ron Greenberg

police/fire calls

Listed below are some of the Farmington-area police incidents, fire calls and court cases reported during the past week:

ARMED ROBBERY

A 19-year-old employee of a Farmington gas station was robbed of \$250 Aug. 31. An unknown weapon was used in the stickup.

According to a Farmington Department of Public Safety report:

Shortly before 11:30 p.m., two men pulled into the Clark station at 22145 Farmington Road and pumped gasoline into their car. One man told the attendant if she didn't give him his accomplice money, he would kill her. It appeared the man had a pistol in his pocket, the victim told police.

After taking money from a safe, the robbers left eastbound on M-102 in a mid-size, light-blue metallic car.

CAT BURGLAR

A cat burglar was scared off after he entered a unit at Greenhill Apartments Aug. 31.

According to a Farmington Hills police report, a man asleep in the living room of an apartment was awakened at 12:30 a.m. by a man who entered through an unlocked screen door. The resident chased the intruder but lost him in the field.

MAN CHARGED

A 33-year-old Plymouth man was charged with indecent exposure in an incident involving portable classrooms at Longacre Elementary School, 34850 Arundel.

According to a Farmington Department of Public Safety report, a Farmington resident saw a nude man standing near the classroom on Aug. 21 shortly before 2 p.m. She called police and was able to get the license number of the man's car as he left.

The defendant was arraigned on the misdemeanor charge Aug. 31 in 47th District Court in Farmington, then released on \$200 personal bond pending a preliminary exam. An innocent plea was entered in his behalf.

RIFLE FOUND

After shots were heard, a neighborhood youngster found a long rifle and a .22-caliber round in the commons area at Huntman and Drake Aug. 30, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

FIRE LAW VIOLATIONS

Four downtown Farmington stores were ticketed for fire violations Aug. 30 after an anonymous tip revealed storage problems in one of the stores.

Joanne Fabrics, Hit or Miss, Ter-

race Shoppe and Radio Shack were all cited by Farmington public safety officers.

The rear corridors to the stores, all in a strip shopping center on the former Federal's block, were found to have debris or stock stored improperly, in violation of fire laws, officers said.

ABDUCTION ATTEMPT

An 11-year-old Farmington boy was chased by a stranger Aug. 31 as he rode his bicycle along Grand River, near Drake, according to a Farmington Department of Public Safety report.

The boy told police he was on the south sidewalk when a car turned into a driveway, cutting him off. The driver then got out of the car and began chasing him on foot.

The boy eluded the man and rode his bicycle home, where he reported the incident.

TICKETS ISSUED

An 18-year-old Farmington Hills man was ticketed for prowling on Lorikay Aug. 27.

A 42-year-old Anchorville man was ticketed for violating the controlled substance act when marijuana was found in his car during a traffic stop at 12 Mile and Farmington Road Aug. 30.

A 23-year-old Farmington Hills man was ticketed for possessing marijuana during a traffic stop at 12 Mile and Rollercrest Aug. 30.

A 29-year-old Royal Oak man was ticketed for possessing marijuana during a traffic stop at Raleigh and Middlebelt Aug. 31.

DAMAGE REPORTED

Damage was estimated at \$2,000 when two cars parked at Jefferson near Independence were attacked by 15 club-wielding teenagers who had pulled up in a pickup truck Aug. 28.

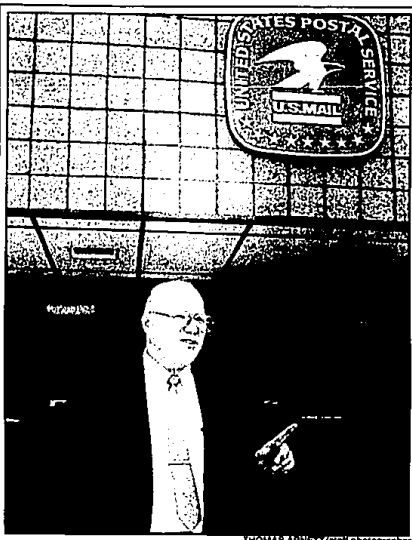
Damage was estimated at \$300 when a large firecracker was exploded on a window ledge at Wooddale Elementary School, 28600 Peppermill, Aug. 29.

THEFTS REPORTED

Lawn equipment and other tools valued at \$290 were reported stolen from a garage on Chapelweigh Aug. 15.

Jewelry and money were reported stolen from Greenhill Apartments Aug. 23-24.

A video system valued at \$5,000 was reported stolen from Medtronic; 32605 12 Mile, Aug. 26-29.



Farmington area postmaster Kenneth Harris discusses details of the return of Saturday morning window service.

Saturday hours back

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THOUGH THE postal service increased the price of stamps three cents to 25 cents earlier this year, Harris said "that had no bearing at all" on the decision to reopen Saturdays.

"When decisions were being made last winter as to how the postal service could attain the level of savings required . . . the decision to reduce window service was among the most difficult and distasteful," U.S. Postmaster General Anthony Frank said. "But prudent business judgment dictated a conservative approach to estimating savings in order to meet the absolute dollar limits of the budget act."

Harris said that he's glad to see

window service reopen Saturdays even though there were surprisingly few complaints. "I'm shocked at the relatively small amount of complaints. I really thought I would be swamped with them."

The Saturday closings did not result in layoffs but required shifting of some jobs. The reopenings will again result in job shifting. "We had no idea how long this was going to last," Harris said of Saturday closings.

Detroit Division postmaster John Horne said in February that savings would come from not filling vacant positions, reducing hours for part-time flexible employees, reducing travel and training costs and not updating computerized equipment.

Mail mixups rile man

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taken to ensure that mail bearing a particular street number is organized according to the correct street, Harris said.

"WHEN CASING approximately 1,500-2,000 pieces of mail per day, it (a mixup) can happen. But we do expect them to deliver the mail properly," Harris said.

Should a misdelivery problem continue, a check will be put on

mail for a particular address for 30-60 days, Harris said.

Duplicated street numbers stem from the days when Detroit Edison assigned street numbers. Now the city works with the post office to ensure that numbers are not duplicated on streets within a neighborhood, Harris said.

"With 400,000 pieces of mail delivered daily, if we had a 99 percent record, we're still talking about 4,000 pieces of mail that go astray," he added.

THE COMPLETE PETITE AT SAKS FIFTH AVENUE

Saks Fifth Avenue's Troy and Fairlane stores invite you to attend our exclusive wardrobe sessions designed especially for petites! To select the silhouettes best suited to you, our one-on-one attendants will be on hand to personally assist you. Plus, meet Petite Buyer, Gretchen Thomas.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH - TROY

Join us for a complimentary luncheon buffet from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and preview the latest petite styles for Autumn '88. Free delivery and other gratuities will also be provided. For a personal appointment, call 643-9000, ext. 217. Informal modeling, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Petite Collections, Second Floor.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH - FAIRLANE

Come see our newest selection of petite sportswear, coats, suits and dresses from 10 am to 9 pm, with complimentary refreshments served. For a personal appointment, call 336-3070, ext. 265 or 367. Informal modeling, 10:30 a.m.-8:30 p.m. Petite Collections, Lower Level.

Saks Fifth Avenue

Somerset Mall, Troy • Fairlane Town Center, Dearborn

Local Dems to hear U.S. rep

U.S. Rep. Sander Levin, D-Southfield, will be the keynote speaker at the Farmington Democratic Club's campaign kickoff breakfast at 8:30 a.m. Sat., Sept. 10.

The breakfast will be at club president Michael Brashgold's house, 30045 Mingwood, Farmington

Hills. Also expected to speak is Secretary of State Richard Austin and 18th district congressional candidate Gary Kohut, a Troy attorney.

Democratic candidates for county, state and federal offices are expected to be on hand at the free breakfast.

Joanne Fabrics, Hit or Miss, Ter-