

## Suspect in rapes awaits sentence

By Bob Sklar  
staff writer

The former West Bloomfield resident accused of being Oakland County's ad-masked serial rapist is scheduled to be sentenced next month in Ohio for rape, robbery and assault.

Steven A. Szeman, Jr., 25, of Rocky River, Ohio, pleaded guilty Jan. 4 to four counts of rape, one count of aggravated robbery and one count of felonious assault involving a 24-year-old woman in North Olmsted, Ohio, Nov. 10.

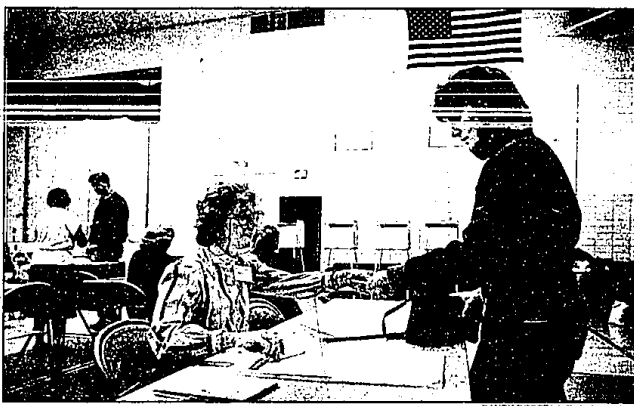
The trash hauling company salesman entered his plea before Judge James J. McMonagle of the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas in the Cleveland Justice Center.

Szeman is being held in the Cuyahoga County Jail in Cleveland in lieu of \$250,000 cash bond pending a pre-sentencing investigation report by the county probation department.

The Defiance, Ohio, native and Marietta College (Ohio) business management graduate faces up to 25 years in prison on each of the rape charges and the robbery charge. He faces up to 15 years in prison on the assault charge. Sentences could run concurrently or consecutively.

IN OAKLAND County, Szeman, who once held hourly jobs in Troy and Southfield, is charged with 49 criminal counts, including 38 counts of criminal sexual conduct and nine counts of armed robbery. He faces 24 counts of first-degree criminal sexual conduct.

He is charged with 10 attacks between April 1987 and March 1988: three rapes each in Farmington Hills and Bloomfield Township, an Independence Township rape, an attempted rape in Birmingham and an armed robbery in West Bloomfield. Victims ranged in age from 12 to 61. Many were assaulted at knifepoint.



Poll worker Marilyn Oldani (left) checks the registration rolls for voter Connie Buelow of Farmington Hills at Precinct 1 in the Farmington Training Center in Farmington Tuesday morning.

## Approval of bond issue is a 'vote of confidence'

Continued from Page 1

Tuesday's bond approval followed defeat last September of a larger, \$27.25 million bond issue, which included money for the new elementary school, an early childhood center, and renovations and safety improvements for all district buildings. Shortly after the defeat, trustees voted to try again, but included only money for the new elementary school.

Only 4.9 percent of voters turned out last fall, compared with the 8.6 percent turnout Tuesday.

"We attribute the kind of support we had to the hard work of the parents and citizens," said Pamela O'Malley, school/community relations director for Farmington Public Schools. "They pulled it together beautifully. The talents of the parents really came into play."

TINA JENSEN, a Farmington parent and chairwoman of the political action committee that worked to

pass the issue, said she was pleased with the turnout and support.

"I'm happy and thankful that the parents of this community have put the best interests of all our children first," she said. "Equality for all students is what public education is all about. Citizens who leave their homes, schools and community better than they found them is what makes Farmington a great place to live."

Meetings are scheduled this week to begin planning the new school, Lewis said. The district is not expected to plan attendance boundaries until at least this fall, when student counts will give a more accurate picture of the area's growth.

LEWIS ALSO said he is "not anticipating any return to bonding" for other projects in the district immediately. "Right now we have one thing to do — to get that building going," he said.

Cotton agreed, but said the concerns about building improvements

and safety issues still need to be considered soon. "I feel a lot of these problems are still with us," he said. "There's an awful lot that has to be done."

The district has already used money from the General Fund to replace lighting ballasts because of the threat of PCB contamination. They are continuing with mandated asbestos abatement in school buildings, which will continue into the summer.

Friends of Farmington Schools, Jensen's political action committee, had more than 200 active parents working to pass Tuesday's bond issue, and more who donated money for advertising toward that purpose. The district is hosting a reception for those parents on Thursday, Feb. 9 at 4 p.m. at the East Middle School cafeteria.

"This election demonstrated how effective it can be when school and community works together," Lewis added. "I have to give them (the community) all the credit."

## Renovations made possible by 100 classes

Continued from Page 1

"With one shovel, we turn it over for the past, and one shovel turn it over for the future," Potter added. "Our goal is to use this media center for all the students and community to fulfill their dreams and goals."

MEANWHILE, THE board of education is busy opening and awarding bid contracts for the project, which is expected to be completed in 1989.

Awarded Jan. 24 were contracts for demolition, site utilities, footings and foundations, steel, and the hydraulic elevator. All contracts were awarded to low bidders, which included:

- Demolition — \$70,800 from Commercial Concrete Breaking of Berkley. Seven companies bid.
- Site utilities — \$12,870 from

Summit Transport of Farmington Hills. Five companies bid.

- Footings and foundations — \$47,280 from Hagood Contracting of Troy. Three companies bid.

- Steel — \$141,000 from Metro Fabricators of Burton. Six companies bid.

- Hydraulic elevator — \$34,300 from General Elevator Co. of Taylor. Four companies bid.

The oldest school building in the district, Farmington High was constructed in 1953 and has many of the original furnishings and building parts.

School officials have said the district could save up to \$40,000 by centralizing new technologies at the upgraded center.



Ground breaking for the new Farmington High media center took place Monday in the courtyard. From left are Graham Lewis, superintendent of schools; Jerry Potter, principal; and Jack Cotton, school board president.

### Farmington Observer

(USPS 187-840)

Published every Monday and Thursday by Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 1225 Bowers, Birmingham, MI 48012. Second-class postage paid at Birmingham, MI 48012. Address all mail (subscription, change of address, form 3225) to P.O. Box 2423, Livonia, MI 48151. Telephone 591-0500.

#### SUBSCRIPTION RATES

(in Oakland County)  
One year — \$24.00  
(Elsewhere in Michigan)  
Newsstand — per copy, 25¢  
One year — \$40.00  
(Elsewhere in U.S.A.)

One year — \$60.00  
All advertising published in the Farmington Observer is subject to the conditions stated in the applicable rate card, copies of which are available from the advertising department, Farmington 33203 Grand River, Farmington, MI (313) 477-5450. The Farmington Observer reserves the right not to accept an advertiser's order. Observer & Eccentric advertisers have no authority to bind this newspaper and only publication of an advertisement shall constitute final acceptance of the advertiser's order.

## Counseling case to reveal names

Continued from Page 1

Southfield Counseling Center, at the advice of his attorney.

His preliminary examination was started in mid-November, continued last week, and has yet to be concluded. In addition to the criminal charges, there is also a civil suit pending against Bernstein as an investor.

EVIDENCE WAS introduced Friday from the Michigan Board of Psychology, the Michigan Board of Medicine and the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulation. The evidence indicated Bernstein had no license to practice medicine or psychology.

Other evidence subpoenaed and

brought by Brenda Damiani, administrative director for Woodcreek Counseling, showed that Bernstein had submitted a photocopy of a license when he was accepted into the practice.

Patient records show that he counseled and charged for his services as a therapist. Records also show he prepared billing paperwork for submitting claims to Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Michigan for insurance payment. The records showed the name of "Burton Valley Counseling," the corporate name for the Woodcreek clinic.

According to Damiani, Bernstein received a percentage monthly based on the billings from his therapy cases.

## BRIDAL FAIR



You are invited to an evening of special bridal events, Tuesday, February 7, beginning at 7 p.m., in our Birmingham Store for the Home. Preview contemporary as well as traditional gowns, plus fashions for bridesmaids and the mothers of the bride and groom. Receive expert advice on wedding etiquette, gift selections, invitations, and travel plans. For your convenience, please use parking lot entrance. R.S.V.P. 644-6900, ext. 554.

### Jacobson's



**5th Anniversary**  
Over 100,000 Fun Kid Visits

3610 W. Maple (at Lakes)  
Birmingham 540-5702

32875 Northwestern (S. of 14 Mile)  
Farmington Hills 737-5437

HOUSING: 12 P.M. to 2 P.M., 7th & 8th - 1st A.M.

"Quality, hourly drop-in child care WHERE KIDS CAN HAVE FUN!"

**THANK YOU!**

Save **\$3** limit one per visit per family expires 2-9-89

Plan your child's next Birthday Party at My Place "Just for Kids"

**MY PLACE**  
just for kids

**POLO PUB**

If You're Tired of the Chains and the High Priced Clubs...Get Back to Basics at a Good Ol' Fashioned Pub!

**ENJOY A TASTE OF IRELAND LIVE MUSIC & SONG**  
Wed. - Sun.  
9 P.M. to 2 A.M.

**PUB SPECIALS**  
Full Menu 'til 2 a.m.  
Saturday 11 A.M. to 5 P.M.  
**ALL THE PIZZA YOU CAN EAT!**  
\$2.95  
Sunday 1 P.M. to 6 P.M.  
**MEXICAN FIESTA ALL YOU CAN EAT!**  
\$3.95

644-9250  
11231 Southfield Rd. (at 15 Mile Rd.)  
Beverly Hills  
MC Sporting Goods Center

We welcome Jacobson's Charge, MasterCard, VISA, and American Express.  
Shop until 9 p.m. on Thursday and Friday. Until 6 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday.