

# Libraries refuse to ban book

Even while area bookstores were pulling "The Satanic Verses" off the shelf in the face of international death threats, Oakland County libraries were stocking the controversial book in the name of "intellectual freedom."

Interest in the book was sparse but increasing, according to a survey of librarians who steadfastly defended the public's right to read author Salman Rushdie's novel.

"We want to make information available and we don't put ourselves in the position to determine what ideas and information others have access to," said Douglas Zyskowski, Southfield city librarian.

"We feel all material should be available to people. This expresses ideas and ideas shouldn't be censored. We've been extremely fortunate and we've never had problems with censorship."

"We've ordered the book and it should be here in a week," he said.

INTEREST in Rushdie has prompted the Farmington Community Library to order one of its previous books, "Midnight's Children." The li-

brary was stocking "Satanic Verses" before the controversy began.

"We've had a number of requests not only for 'Satanic Verses' but for 'Midnight's Children,'" library director Beverly Pappal said.

She said she was dismayed with many bookstores in the country and Detroit metro area who pulled copies of Rushdie's novel. And she promises "Satanic Verses" will remain on library shelves.

"One of the tenets of the library is to preserve intellectual freedom," she said.

"NO INTIMIDATION whether it's from across the world or across the street is good," said Stephen Krushner, director of the Baldwin Public Library in Birmingham and the Bloomfield Township Public Library.

The two libraries each have three or four copies of "Satanic Verses," he said.

"We had already ordered the book before the Ayatollah made it such a cause celebre."

However, they did get a few extra copies to meet the increased demand.

West Bloomfield Library has two issues of the book, one free copy and one rental copy that costs users 10 cents daily. As of Friday, there were four reserve requests for the free copy, library director Gretchen Kuberger said.

"Interest in the book has been very light, especially compared to something by Danielle Steele or the like," she said.

THE TROY Public Library has one copy of the book, according to director CoraEllen DeVinney. "It's an intellectual freedom issue for us," she said. "The fact that the bookstores took it off the shelves makes it an issue."

Christine Hage, director of the Rochester Hills Public Library, agreed that the threats represented a censorship issue. The library is ordering the book in response to public requests.

"We try to represent all sides of issues," Hage said.

Staff writers Jackie Klein, Dave Varga, Janice Brunson, Tom Baer and Joanne Maliszewski contributed to this report.

# Book pits free speech, religious zeal

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point to overcome his country's failure to conquer Iraq.

Coppola said Rushdie, who comes from a prominent, elite family of intellectuals, moved to England as a Muslim who did not want to be as provincial as to live in a Muslim state such as Pakistan but who was unwilling to live as a minority in Hindu India.

"He is an extremely fine writer," said Coppola who added, however, that he does not feel "Verses" is his best book. He gives that honor to "Midnight Children," which he called "outrageously funny. So is 'Satanic Verses.'"

WAYNE STATE'S Rouchdy agrees that Rushdie is a very good writer but says the book is tedious and requires an understanding of Islam.

"I've read 150 pages — a few each night — there are 546 pages. It's difficult reading."

She called the Ayatollah's decree a form of intellectual terrorism.

"You can agree or disagree with the context of the book. But to

# Schoolman finds best of two worlds

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in educational leadership from Eastern Michigan, he began working at Farmington as an assistant business manager in the business department, then moved to the Huron Valley district where he was named assistant superintendent.

He returned to Farmington in 1985 as assistant superintendent for finance, and was promoted to his current post last year.

"I'm involved in everything from A to Z now," he said.

IN ADDITION to bringing technology to the classroom, Flanagan also wants to beef up recruiting practices, having an ongoing team visit universities so the district can continue to recruit the cream of the crop. He is also focusing on building a new elementary school and upgrading the media center at Farmington High School.

When looking at education in general, Flanagan views the rest of the century as a time of major change. "We're in that 20-year slice (of time)," he said. "That window when education is going to change dramatically. It has to. As a

threaten death to the author is terrorism," she said.

Terry Ahwal, spokeswoman for the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, sees the controversy as another basis for stirring up

stereotypes of Middle Easterners as botheaded fanatics. "The Ayatollah doesn't represent the Islamic religion," said Ahwal, of Livonia. "Muslim teaches tolerance. To some extent, Christian fundamentalists did the same thing last year with the film 'The Last Temptation of Christ.' In Paris, a theater showing the film was burned. Threats went out. But this is not a reflection of Christianity."

Critics have charged the book is blasphemous and boring. But now the Ayatollah is making millions of dollars for (Rushdie)."

Vincent Khapoy, who teaches international politics at Oakland University has his copy of "Satanic Verses" on order.

A Kenyan who specializes in South Africa, Khapoy cannot recall another book causing so much controversy.

"Muslims haven't had the challenge to orthodoxy that Christians have already gone through. Rushdie is not a devout Muslim. So now the criticism is coming from within. I've read some very unflattering things about Jesus. Our right of dissent is important. We advance knowledge and insight this way."

Staff writer Rich Periberg contributed to this story.

"we're not doing the job. We have to paint the clear picture and have everyone focus on that."

"I'm a futurist by hobby," he added. "You definitely create the future you envision — somehow we'll make that work out."

OF HIS own job, Flanagan said: "This has already worked out well. But I often wonder if I can do 30 years at the central office level. Most people are in a job like this maybe, 10 years. I got an early start."

Flanagan runs the district by day, and does an occasional workshop on weekends, which keeps the educational juices flowing and takes care of his yen for teaching — at least for now.

And during his free time, he enjoys time with his wife and children out of the city and suburbs, where he does some fun photography and a bit of home video.

"Having grown up in Brooklyn with eight kids, I will always live on acreage now," he added. "That's been a big part of my lifestyle."

# Officer cleared in fatal shooting

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The board of inquiry also reviewed the department psychologist's report of Farley and found the officer is not experiencing problems as a result of the shooting, Dwyer said.

Farley, standing outside his patrol car with shotgun in hand, three times ordered Wilson to surrender. The officer fired through the open driver's window of the Grand Am when he feared Wilson would drive alongside and either shoot him or pin him against his patrol car, police said.

Wilson's wife, Lois, said it's possible her husband, who battled depression and crack cocaine, decided to commit suicide by forcing the officer to shoot. Wilson rented the Grand Am from a Grand Rapids car dealership where a job had been waiting for him all week.

FARLEY NEVER saw Wilson brandish a gun. But he knew the robbery suspect could be armed and he saw the man reaching with his right hand toward the passenger seat, police said.

A loaded black pellet gun, identical in appearance to a 9mm semi-automatic pistol, was found on the passenger seat of Wilson's car, lying next to his outstretched right arm, police said.

Farley had followed Wilson onto Albion after learning that a car matching Wilson's had been chased but lost by Livonia police.

A Livonia officer, trying to stop Wilson for a traffic signal violation, determined the car and driver matched the descriptions of the getaway car and robber involved in at least seven armed robberies, including a gas station stickup in Livonia that morning.

# Blankets, food needed

Blankets and non-perishable food items are needed to help the tens of thousands of homeless people in the metropolitan Detroit area.

Darlene Feldman, a Farmington Hills resident, heads Detroit Cover-Up — a group formed in 1987 which takes blankets and goods to men, women and children on the streets. Items may be dropped off at radio station WNIC-FM in Dearborn or at

any of the five Little Caesars Family Fun Centers in the Detroit area, including Syrian Lake, Westland, Warren, Clawson and Southgate, throughout the winter months.

Financial donations to the Detroit Cover-Up may be sent to P.O. Box 35277, Detroit, MI 48235. To volunteer time or resources, or for further information, call the Homeless Hotline at 851-9027.

# Seniors offered discounts

Farmington-area seniors can take advantage of discounts offered by merchants throughout the United States.

Pictures to be laminated into plastic identification cards will be taken 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, March 17, at Farmington Senior Center at Mer-

cy Center, 28600 11 Mile, Farmington Hills.

Discounts are offered on a variety of items, from auto parts and rust-proofing to prescription drugs and eyeglasses.

Seniors must be at least 60 years old to qualify.

# Apply now for asthmatics camp

Camp Sun Deer, for kids with asthma, is accepting campership applications for its free week-long summer camp. Enrollment is limited to children ages 9-12.

The camp session runs from June 25 through July 1 at the Battle Creek Outdoor Education Center, 10 miles

north of Battle Creek.

For information, call the American Lung Association of Southeast Michigan, 559-5100.

Applications must be completed by parents (or legal guardians) and physicians and returned by May 5.

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