

O&E THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1991

NEWS

IN BRIEF

Nissan opens center

Nissan will officially open its \$80 million, 340,000-square-foot vehicle engineering, research and development center in northwest Farmington Hills at a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 10 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 7.

Nissan Motor Car Co. Ltd. President Yutaka Kume, Farmington Hills Mayor Aldo Vagnoti, Michigan Department of Commerce Director Arthur Ellis, Nissan Research & Development Inc. President Ryuhel Narita and senior Vice President for Vehicle Engineering Duane Miller will participate in the ceremony.

The center, 35001 Sunrise Drive in the 12 Mile/Haggerty area, is the new home of Nissan Inc., the company's North American research and development arm.

The facility will engineer vehicles designed specifically for North American consumers.

Bank branch opens

Madison National Bank, headquartered in Madison Heights, has opened a new branch at 31300 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills.

"The new branch in Farmington Hills will help us extend our influence in Oakland County, while keeping our identity as a bank with a personal touch for individual depositors and small businesses," said Ronald F. Kalso, senior vice president.

The new branch will offer complete banking services including checking and savings accounts, safe deposit boxes, night depository, travelers checks, savings bonds, as well as installment, commercial and mortgage loans, bank by mail and the Madison Silver Club for customers over 50 years of age.

Madison National Bank was established in 1953. In addition to the new branch, the bank has three locations in Madison Heights.

A new president

Dr. Stuart J. Bass, a podiatrist with a practice in Farmington Hills, has been elected president of the Michigan Podiatric Medical Association.

Since joining the organization in 1973, Bass has served the MFPA in numerous capacities. He has served on the board of directors, the peer review committee and as chairman of the ethics committee.

Bass lives in West Bloomfield Township. He is affiliated with Straith Hospital in Southfield and maintains practices in Farmington Hills and Grosse Pointe Farms.

Secretary saves choking student

By Casey Hane
staff writer

Ella Voigt took emergency medical class last year because she works in a school with more than 300 students, and because she is concerned about her own child at home.

Those new skills came in handy for the Farmington Hills resident and school secretary last week, when she saved a first grader at St. Fabian Elementary School from choking on part of her lunch.

The incident happened just after noon on Wednesday, Oct. 30, at the private school on 12 Mile between Farmington and Orchard Lake roads.

"I saw a mother running down the hall with a little girl," said Voigt. "She could not breathe — her face was red as a beet. I just turned her around and did what I had to do."

After performing the Heimlich maneuver twice, a piece of apple dislodged from Lauren Baker's throat. Then, she offered the little girl a drink

of water and made sure she was all right.

LAUREN WAS apparently running and laughing while eating an apple, when a piece became lodged in her throat.

"You always think you'll never had to use it, and I had to," Voigt said of her recent classes in cardiopulmonary resuscitation. And although she remained calm, Voigt said situations like that always shake a person up after they're over.

"I'm the type of person where there's an emergency, I'm calm," she explained. "But afterwards, you think 'oh my' and your hands start shaking. I'm just glad she's alright."

At the Baker house in Farmington Hills, mom Rosemary said her daughter broached the subject when she returned home from school that day by saying, "Oh, by the way, Mrs. Voigt saved my life today. She squeezed me and out popped this apple."



SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

Ella Voigt, receptionist at St. Fabian Elementary School, poses with first grader Lauren Baker. Voigt may have

saved the Lauren's life last week after the youngster choked on an apple during lunch hour.

Locals turn out to learn about China

By Aileen Wingblad
special writer

In a strong show of support and concern for Chinese human rights issues, close to 700 people from all over the metropolitan area and beyond turned out Friday to hear Professor Fang Li Zhi speak on "China in the Communist World."

Held at Mercy Center in Farmington Hills, the program — presented by the action group Human Rights for China (HRC) — drew a capacity crowd who shared insights and ideas relating to the current social and political climates in China.

Fang, internationally known author, scientist and rights activist, was frequently applauded during the evening as he promoted the "democratization" of China and doomed its present Communist rule to certain failure.

Accompanied by an interpreter, Fang

spoke mostly in Chinese, yet his message was nonetheless clear and apparently well-received by the audience, many of whom later claimed to be both intrigued and impressed by his cause.

"The lecture opened up and confirmed what I have already been thinking about the situation in China," said Farmington Hills resident Loretta Conway, adding that she recently vacationed in China and sensed an uneasiness among its citizens.

"Of course, we fell in love with the country and its people... what we actually saw of it was marvelous, but there was a lot we didn't see," she said.

INDEED, FANG said, the people of China are oppressed by an unwarranted and struggling communist rule — a "paper tiger" with severe internal weaknesses.

"In China, nobody really believes in communism anymore," he said, citing evi-

dence of a subtle yet very real movement there away from governmental loyalty and control. Change is slow but is occurring, said Fang, and can be influenced by an influx of information to the people of China from those on the outside.

"Information is the most powerful weapon, even more powerful than military weaponry," he said.

Robin Tsai, a Rochester Hills resident who attended the lecture with her husband Michael, said she too agreed with Fang's mission.

"I want to do anything I can to help bring information into China. Professor Fang makes the correct point on China's liberation and I think there has to be a congregational effort," says Tsai, a native Taiwanese.

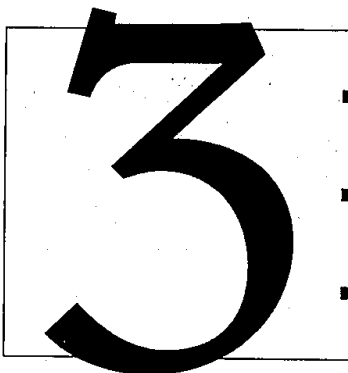
"And, just as he and others say, the Soviet Union of today is the model for China's tomorrow," she added.

ANOTHER OBSERVER, Andy Wong of Beverly Hills, called Fang's agenda "credible" and said he applauds him for "championing the non-violent democratization process." However, Wong said he believes that human rights issues should be separate from political issues.

"The political issues are something for China internally. Human rights are something for everyone. Human rights say people have a right not to have to suffer violence. If that is true, then the movement in China is worthy and I think they are on the right track," he said.

Also recognizing a need for action and change, Livonia resident Ellen Johnston said it was especially important to bring the issues to the forefront. "When you are talking about one fourth of the world's population, you certainly can't ignore what's going on," she said.

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