

# Co-owner: Theater to stay

The rumor mill says The Birmingham Theatre will be leaving Birmingham.

Theater co-owner Harry Nederlander completely denies it.

"Our lease is not up until 1996," Nederlander said. "Is there going to be an earthquake tomorrow? Who knows? We have really no intention of doing anything but carry on."

Nederlander had heard the rumor too.

"I can't look beyond five years. Our lease runs to the end of 1996. I

don't know anybody who can predict beyond that length of time," Nederlander said.

Ted Fuller, who owns Central Park Properties that leases the building, noted that the lease is structured to have a time period "in which (Nederlander) had an option to renew. Either side has the ability to terminate at that juncture."

Fuller said it was the theater owners' decision. "It's really going to have to be an economic decision the Nederlanders will have to

make," Fuller said.

The theater has been a mainstay of downtown Birmingham for years, with the Nederlander family owning it for 13 years.

Questioned about how his business is weathering the economic times, Nederlander said, "We're still here. Still paying all our bills, promptly."

Robert DeLaura, city commissioner and owner of R. DeLaura clothing across Woodward from the theater, had also heard the rumor.



SHARON LEMMON/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Explosion site: Inspector Paul Cusac of the Farmington Hills police looks over the location of an explosion at a car wash Friday.

# Gunman robs contractor in Hills bar parking lot

A New Baltimore resident, who was locking his truck in the parking lot of the Pony Express Bar on Eight Mile about 1:50 p.m. Friday, found himself looking at a 2-inch blue steel revolver, according to Farmington Hills Chief William Dwyer.

The man, an electrical contractor, said a 1974 or 1976 Buick Electra four-door sedan with a loud muffler pulled up next to him and a voice asked if he did wiring of houses,

Dwyer said.

When he turned around, he saw a man sitting in the car with a weapon pointed out the window at him. The driver demanded the man's money and then fled with \$95.

"The citizen was uninjured," Dwyer said.

Police are looking for two black men ages 35-38. One is described as about 6 feet tall, the other as 5-foot-9 and about 165 pounds, police said.

## POLICE/FIRE

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

**THEFTS REPORTED**

A tape deck, microphone and miscellaneous cables valued at \$634 were reported stolen from Farmington High School, 32000 Shawwassee between June 26 and July 8.

**DAMAGE REPORTED**

Damage was estimated at \$60 when the tire of a vehicle parked on Laurelwood was punctured July 14-15.

# Pipe bomb explodes at car wash

No one was injured Friday morning when a pipe bomb exploded at the Farmington Auto Wash, a coin-operated car wash at 28402 W. Eight Mile in Farmington Hills.

According to Farmington Hills police, a three-inch bomb exploded at a coin box in the wall and blew out a portion of the wall of the adjoining stall. Police believe those re-

sponsible were attempting to steal money from the box.

No one was in custody late Friday.

The incident occurred at about 10:10 a.m. Because of the rainy weather, there were no customers using the car wash at the time.

Lewis Berger, who lives a few

doors away, said he heard the noise when the explosion occurred. "I thought I was a compressor that blew up," he said. "It sounded like an M-100." Berger said his wife looked out of the house and saw smoke after the explosion.

The car wash is located between Middlebelt and Inkster roads.

## Day from page 1A

■ An optional "zero hour" to be offered to students on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, effectively allowing them to take an extra academic class. No bus service will be offered for this optional program; the same classes will be offered later in the day for students who do not use the option.

The changes were proposed after a two-year study spearheaded by North Farmington staff as part of their North Central evaluation process which each high school faces every seven years in order to be accredited. Many of the suggestions for the plan were taken from a recent, districtwide "secondary education study."

Although many secondary schools in the district are piloting smaller programs, North Farmington is the first school in the district to attempt an all-school restructuring of this kind.

"We believe it is an important step," said Superintendent Michael

Flanagan. "This has been tried successfully in a number of school districts."

"We probably, in the long run, are going to have very different looking high schools in the future."

School officials say 95 percent of the staff agree with the concept and plan to participate in the Wednesday planning session, although under the teacher's collective bargaining contract it cannot be mandated. School employee relations director Sue Zurvalic said staff members not wishing to participate would be assigned other duties during that block of time, such as monitoring a study hall or handling other activities.

"There are not 100 percent of people in any occupation who do what's expected of them 100 percent of the time," said board treasurer Helen Ditzhazy. "If 97 percent participate, it isn't long before they are pulled in."

Principal Debbie Clarke, who has worked with her staff in proposing the change, said last week she was "ecstatic" about the decision.

"We've built a process with this proposal," she said. "We wanted to be as encompassing as we could be."

A straw poll of students taken before summer recess showed about 150 students might be interested in taking an extra class during the zero hour, Clarke said. Now that the pilot program is approved, North Farmington parents and students will get letters detailing the change and offering the early morning schedule to those who are interested.

The staff at North is prepared for the change, Clarke added. They worked on alternative scheduling for the 1992-93 school year, so they could either retain current scheduling practices or change, depending on the school board's decision.

## CLARIFICATION

The name under the photograph in the July 13 issue of the Observer incorrectly identified candidate in the 47th District Court judicial race as "James Poehlman." His name is Richard Poehlman.

In the July 16 issue of the Observer, a story about Wooddale School parking lot safety should have said that the daughter of Wooddale parent Becky Thomas was almost hit by a car three years ago near the school. A friend of the little girl was hit.

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*10 PM, 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 6:55, 9:10, 11:25	*10 PM, 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 6:55, 9:10, 11:25
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If either the large vessels or major nerve roots are pinched at some site in the axilla, then you can undergo the experiences described above. What arm problems you encounter depends on whether the nerve, artery, or vein is the structure impinged upon, or if more than one site of pressure exists.

You may be told by a friend you have carpal tunnel syndrome. However, do not be surprised if your physician sends you to a vascular specialist to test blood flow through the arm, or to a neurologist to assess if the nerves in your axilla are intact.

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