Sex *from page 1A*

trying to get information out in a responsible way. We believe that.

"In the process of doing that, they stepped over lines that we as a district do not feel we have the right to step over."

Said Blue and White editor Jennifer Allen:"We didn't see it as endangering it (sex education) at all . . . We thought it would enhance it.

"We felt students would benefit from those articles going in to see this does happen to people their age and how they dealt with it."

White said they're working with the students to accomplish that objective, but keep it within the guidelines.

State mandates allow parents to take children out of programs on sex or health education. Any publication produced by the district must also match the curriculum, White said.

"We felt the survey taken by the students was outside the realm of our health curriculum," White said, "and the letters were very explicit in nature. We felt that it was walking on the edge of the school district potentially violating the laws involving sex ed and health ed."

The letter dealing with child molestation will be rewritten in the form of an article, Allen said. The anonymous letter on abortion is going to be scrapped altogether.

■ 'We didn't see it as endangering it (sex education) at all . . . We thought it would enhance it.'

Jennifer Allen
Blue and White editor

Officials review stories

"The administration felt it was a touchy subject," Allen said. "They didn't want anything to do with it."

Articles were given to administrators voluntarily to review prior to publication, because of their sensitive nature.

Health curriculum coordinator Estralee Michaelson and White met with students to explain Public Act 226 and district guidelines.

Such courtesy is not necessary.

According to a 1988 U.S. Supreme Court decision, school administrators have the right to review and censor student publications.

The ruling came out of an incident involving a high school *newspaper in St. Louis.*

A principal there removed two articles, one dealing with teen pregnancy and another with the effects of divorce on children.

Working with officials

Allen said she was aware of the Hazelwood ruling.

"We've learned the school is pretty lenient where we don't (usually) go under prior review," Allen said.

"They've been continually on our side and backed us up. We learned we have to go through them. If we do that, and work through the administration, then we get a lot further."

Though the Supreme Court ruling didn't have a direct impact in this instance, it had a role.

Student publications adviser Betty Martin said she's more cautious in the wake of the Hazelwood School District vs. Kuhlmeier decision.

Prior review is not a common practice in Farmington high schools, but Martin doesn't want it to become one, either. That was one of the reasons behind submitting these stories beforehand for approval, she said.

She sees such restrictions having a broader impact.

"*On one hand we get literature* from Quill & Scroll. They're telling us to tackle big topics; don't stick with the same high school topics like skipping class or whatever," Martin said. "They even say things like, 'How about something on teen sexuality.'

"Those are the messages they are getting . . . On the other hand, they feel stymied by the process we have to live with within here."

Added Allen: "You're stifling people's creativity and their freedom of expression where everyone else has it."

Pass the staple gun, please

SHARON LEMIEUX/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Roofing work: *Paul Cummings of Brewer Roofing in Novi lays shingles with his brother Steve in Botsford Continuing Health Center in Farmington Hills. He's standing on the peak of the roof, lowering the staple gun to Steve.*

Free Public Talk

GETTING A HANDLE ON HEADACHES

Presented by Mitchell L. Elkiss, D.O.

Dr. Elkiss is a Board Certified Neurologist. Assistant director of Gertrude Levin Pain Clinic at DMC. Board certified in Manual Medicine. Private practice - Associates in Neurology in Southfield and Novi. His presentation will include:

- What are headaches and what causes them
- Tools used in the diagnosis of headaches
- Classification of headaches
- Treatment of headaches - traditional and modern methods
- Questions and answers

Anyone who suffers from headaches, or who wants to learn more about them and what to do will be interested in this free talk.

Tuesday, March 1, 7:00-8:30 P.M.
Site: Providence Hospital Auditorium
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Light refreshments will be served. There is no charge for this community service presentation, which is handicap-accessible. Space is limited.

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