

Woman loses \$3,000 in con game

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

A Southfield woman is out of \$3,000, the victim of an age-old con game played on her in Farmington.

The scam is called the "pigeon drop." A person is approached by someone saying he just found a wallet, which appears to contain a lot of money.

The perpetrator usually gets the victim to contribute money to the pool as a good faith gesture and is eventually swindled. That's what happened to a woman Sept. 30 in front of NBD on Farmington Road.

More crime, 10A

"It still happens, unfortunately," Farmington Public Safety deputy director Mike Wiggins said.

The culprits are described as two black women, one in her 40s and the other in her 20s, according to police reports. One was driving a 1985 Ford LTD registered to a Detroit address.

The victim told police she met the pair while shopping at Target in Farmington Hills. A woman first approached her and asked if she had dropped a wallet. A sec-

ond woman appeared shortly after, asking what was going on. The first woman opened the billfold, which appeared to contain cash and a note.

After nixing a suggestion to turn it in at the store, she asked the victim and the other woman to accompany her to NBD, where she said she worked, to make sure the money was not counterfeit.

The woman went into the bank and returned, saying she spoke to a Mr. Goldberg. She said the bank manager told her he would need additional cash so he could compare serial numbers.

The second woman offered

\$8,000 she received from an auto insurance claim. Both women then asked the victim if she could get some money.

They drove to a Southfield bank where the victim withdrew the cash. After returning to the Farmington Downtown Center, one of the con artists took the money and went into the bank.

She returned to the car and told the victim to go inside and speak with Mr. Goldberg. The victim went inside where a bank employee told her a Mr. Goldberg didn't work at that branch.

When she went outside, the car was gone.

Student's karate skills help give would-be abductor boot

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

A Farmington High student managed to escape after a man tried to abduct her in Farmington City Park Monday afternoon.

The culprit is described as a 6-foot-8 white male between 40-50 years of age. He has a moustache and brown hair with a receding hairline.

He was wearing gray jogging pants, a navy sweatshirt and

white tennis shoes. He was also wearing glasses.

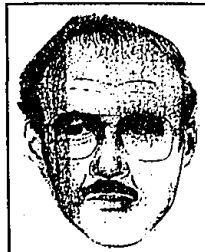
The girl was on her way home from school around 3 p.m. when the incident occurred, Farmington police said. She was walking on the bridge behind the Farmington Training Center when a man tried to grab her.

She kicked him twice and he fled into the woods. A Michigan State Police tracking dog was called in as authorities tried to find the man.

The girl reportedly has a red belt in karate.

"She's fine," Farmington Public Safety Director Mike Wiggins said. "She was able to cooperate with us and provide us with information. So, she is fine in that respect."

Since the man grabbed the girl with intent to go further, it's considered fourth-degree criminal sexual conduct, Wiggins said.



Sketch shows suspect

Feeling Depressed?

Common symptoms of Depression are sadness, loss of interest or pleasure, insomnia, poor appetite and weight loss, feeling tired, worthless or guilty, and difficulty thinking or concentrating. Some people also have suicidal thoughts, which can be a major risk if their Depression is left untreated.

Depression is among the most common psychiatric conditions. Approximately 10% of adults have at least one significant episode of Depression during their lifetimes. Women are affected twice as often as men, in spite of how common Depression is, it is treated adequately only 50% of the time.

Depression can occur in episodes, with normal times in between, or be continuous and persistent. Occasionally people who suffer from Depression have high or manic episodes as well. There are many psychological theories regarding the cause of Depression. Biological factors, including possible deficiencies of



Robert J. Rickard, M.D.

adrenaline-like neurotransmitter chemicals in the brain, diet, also potential causes. It is known that Depression tends to run in families, and evidence supports hereditary or genetic factors.

Several new antidepressant medications have recently been introduced. The incidence of side effects are lower with these newer medications, but some people still experience side effects such as agitation and sexual dysfunction. Also, antidepressants currently available must be taken over a period of weeks before they begin to work. Research is underway to develop additional antidepressants that will work faster, for more people, and have even fewer side effects.

The Mood Disorder Institute, 26105 Orchard Lake Rd., Ste. 301, Farmington Hills, is one of approximately 12 locations nationwide studying these new antidepressants. For additional information, or to see if you qualify for this FREE out-patient study, you may call 1-800-688-3900.

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