

Throwers catch sentence: Marshmallows for homeless

Most criminals would like such a choice: pay fines, or buy marshmallows for the homeless.

That is the offer given by a judge to two 18-year-old University of Michigan students, one from Livonia, the other from Farmington Hills.

Steven Earl Gaschler of Livonia and Richard Kenneth Gaul of Farmington Hills had been ticketed Oct. 8 by the university's public safety department.

Their crime? Tossing marshmallows during a football game against the Michigan State University Spartans.

Their actions violated a section

of the Regents' Ordinance that makes flinging objects during a sporting event a misdemeanor punishable by up to 60 days in jail.

Chief Judge Timothy P. Connors of the 15th District Court told Gaschler and Gaul he would dismiss their tickets if each bought a bag of marshmallows and donated them to the Shelter Association of Ann Arbor. Otherwise, the judge said, he would have to order them to pay fines and court costs.

Thirty minutes later, the students were back with the receipts.

"The wiser way to handle the marshmallow throwers would be to eject them from the stadium," Connors said. "Problem solved and not at taxpayers' expense."

Apparently the university agrees. The general counsel's office has completed a revision of the school's ordinance which decriminalizes several behaviors. It has to go through a review and public comment process before it can be approved by the Board of Regents.

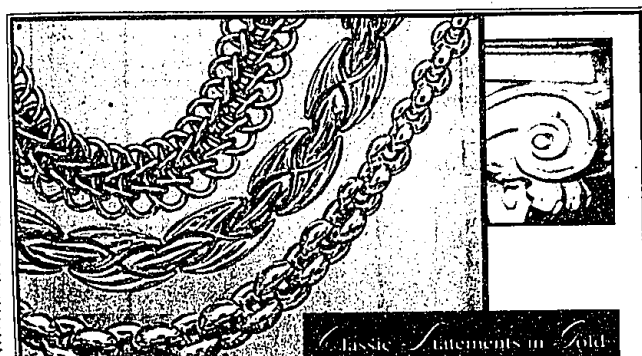
The Associated Press contributed to this story.

Man dies of heart attack after wreck

An 81-year-old Farmington Hills man, involved in an auto accident Tuesday, suffered a fatal heart attack while being transported to Botsford General Hospital.

Joseph Young appeared dazed and confused after suffering minor injuries in a head-on accident at Grand River and Drake at 12:26 p.m., Hills firefighters said. Firefighters and CEMS ambu-

lance medics began to transport Young to Botsford, but while on the way, the Hills resident suffered the heart attack and was pronounced dead on arrival.

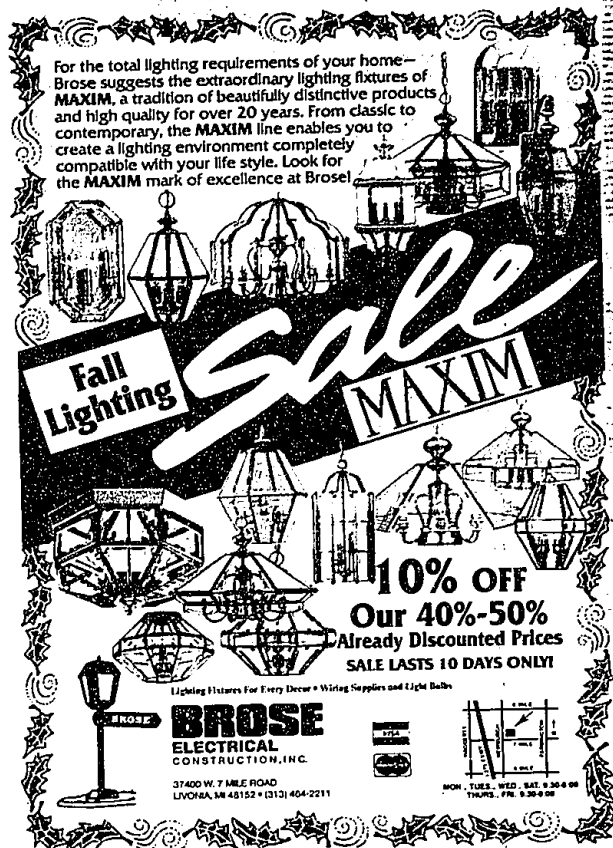


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