

Table talk:
Sue Brooks
(left)
discusses di-
versity with
Margot
deNeil Line-
barger and
Ronaale
Bowman at a
Farmington
multicultural
workshop
Tuesday at
the Farmington
Training
Center.



AND HEALEY/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Workshop: Speak up, take bite out of bias

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER

Don't give stereotypes the sanc-
tion of silence.

That was just one idea presented at the Farmington Farmington Hills Multicultural/Multiracial Community Council Tuesday. The forum was called "The Characteristics of a Healthy, Diverse Community, Many Faces — One Community."

The three-hour workshop, held at the Farmington Training/Conference Center, identified the steps necessary to achieve that goal.

Some 50 area leaders, including school officials, attended. They broke into different small groups three separate times to informally

■ 'This will give us a more concrete plan.'

C. Robert Maxfield
Farmington schools superintendent

discuss diversity and how we learn to regard it.

"What I hear you saying is four things," said facilitator Michael Yocum, a social studies education consultant for the Oakland Intermediate School District. "That's respect for all individuals with a heightened awareness of cultures; take personal responsibility for our biases and take action to eliminate that bias; foster enlightened leadership and strive for free and equal opportunities and access."

Sometimes, promoting diversity

and eliminating bias can be as simple as saying "Excuse me, I don't appreciate that (statement)," some participants said.

Respect for others is a learned attribute and children should be allowed to get involved. Likewise, they should be encouraged to ask questions and have those questions answered, participants said.

The points raised will be fashioned into a written document.

"This will give us a more concrete plan," said Farmington schools Superintendent C. Robert

Maxfield.

Community leaders present at the forum stated that their high expectations should be secured by a commitment from citizens to break down barriers.

Ann-Therese O'Sullivan of Farmington Hills, who chairs the multicultural council said the group meets monthly.

Ike (Isaiah) McKinnon, chief of police in Detroit, will visit the next forum 8 a.m. Jan. 10.

McKinnon's speech, which will take place at the Farmington Training/Conference Center, will be on "Nurturing Diversity: A Law Enforcement Perspective."

"We need to learn to disagree agreeably," O'Sullivan said, summing up the forum.

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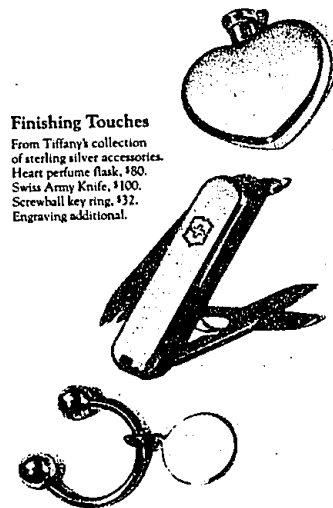
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