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IN THE PAPER TODAY

Gas 'n' oll: The Farmington Hills City Council must deal with an issue that seems to be bubbling just below the surface. /2A

Question of procedure: The Hills City Council set procedure to select seventh council member. /6A

OPINION

Hashing it out: The Farmington Hills City Council, which has a vacancy to fill, could use some fresh faces and ideas. /10A

Write on! Many Observer readers are not at all shy about sharing their views on a variety of subjects. /10A

COMMUNITY LIFE

Holiday happenings: See the Community Life section for information about a shopping offer area women won't want to miss. /13A

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Curtain up! The Jewish Ensemble Theatre presents "Diary of Anne Frank." /1B

SPORTS

District hoops: The Mercy and Farmington girls basketball teams were in the semifinals of the district tournament Wednesday. /1C

AT HOME

Home gym: Exercise your arrangement options for a home gym that lets you stay in to work out. Section D

LOTTERY

The Lotto jackpot was worth at least \$2 million. The Michigan Lottery numbers for Wednesday, Nov. 15, 1995 are:

- DAILY 3: 130
- DAILY 4: 1939
- CASH 5: 4, 5, 13, 30, 36
- LOTTO: 7, 9, 11, 24, 26, 46

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FHS' Josh Burt
'You should be open-minded'

Teens debate diversity



BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Interracial dating, O.J. Simpson, and multiculturalism . . . If this sounds like fodder for a daytime talk show, better look beyond the TV litings.

In the hands of students, such volatile conversationjectives can be

discussed rationally and insightfully. Nine Farmington area high school students proved that in a panel discussion sponsored by the Farmington/Farmington Hills Multicultural/Multiracial Community Council Tuesday at the Farmington Training Center. The program will be broadcast on TV-12 throughout November.

"Students have a lot to say about diversity," said North Farmington High student Jaclyn Lossie, "and it is reflected throughout the school system."

The panel included students from Mercy, Harrison, Farmington, and North Farmington schools. Each gave a summation of what classmates think about multiculturalism and diversity.

From there, they peeped each other with discussion topics and fielded audience inquiries.

See DIVERSITY, 6A

A Cornucopia of charitable feeling



Big-time bidders: Boys and Girls Republic Executive Director Mary Jane Peck and Karl Dorn, board member, bid on dinner for eight prepared by Councilwoman Nancy Bates.

Inaugural ball produces horn of plenty

BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

There were times when the organizers of the first Cornucopia Ball and Auction wondered if they could make a success out of the event that benefits youth centers.

They and the many volunteers who pulled off the black-tie-optional ball at the Farmington Hills Activities Center Saturday are not only breathing a sigh of relief, but marv-

eling at how well it came off.

"I would have considered this a success if we'd have broken even for the first year," said event co-chairwoman Debbie Grant. "Our best guess is that we made about \$30,000."

The event attracted about 185 people, who paid \$100 each to wine, dine and dance while raising money for the Farmington Hills Community Fund that will fund a new pro-

gram that provides teens a place to enjoy wholesome activities.

Thanks to federal grant money matched with city money, a decentralized teen program will be funded for three years. Thanks to many contributors, and most especially Betsford General Hospital, the foundation will be able to provide continuing funding and the ball will likely become the social event of the season.

"It took an incredible effort to pull it off, especially in such a short time," said Margo Gorchow, a Betsford administrator for community relations.

Former Farmington Hills Mayor Joanne Smith said she is used to city residents supporting worthwhile causes, but was still surprised at the strong turnout.

See BALL, 2A

2 teens charged in 1994 sexual assault

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

After a year-and-a-half investigation, two teens have been charged in the rape of a 15-year-old Farmington girl during a house party in Meadows subdivision.

Jeremy Liszewski, 17, of Farmington Hills, and Anthony Palushaj, 18, of Novi, both pleaded not guilty to one count each of first-degree and third-degree criminal sexual conduct at their arraignment Nov. 7.

Preliminary exam is set for 8:30

a.m. Monday, Nov. 20, in 47th District Court. Both are free on \$10,000 personal bond and the stipulation they have no contact with the victim.

Farmington police waited more than a year for DNA test results to come back before presenting the case to the Oakland County prosecutor.

"I don't why the lab took so long," said Farmington Public Safety Deputy Director Mike Wiggins. "That's what held up the presentation of this case to the prosecutor was the DNA."

"I guess the biggest disappoint-

ment is the time it takes to get DNA results back."

The rape occurred May 13, 1994, police said.

The girl, who was baby-sitting two half-sisters, was forced to have oral sex and intercourse during a party, according to police reports.

The victim had been drinking and passed out in a bedroom when she was penetrated. She recalls being held down and someone pulling off her pants.

Earlier, a male teen forced her to

have oral sex in the basement, police reports said.

She had bruises on her right forearm and left cheek and was described by witnesses as intoxicated and crying. The rape was reported to police the following day.

Police found used condoms and other evidence at the scene. Five suspects were asked to take polygraph tests and give blood samples.

All but one cooperated. In that

See ASSAULT, 4A

A real traffic-stopper

Motorists take note! If your plans include a trip through Farmington Hills on Interstate 696 on Sunday morning . . . find another route.

A stretch of that freeway will be closed so that a pedestrian bridge along Farmington Road can be installed on Sunday, Nov. 19, beginning at about 7 a.m., weather permitting.

The bridge, which will connect north and south sections of the community along the Farmington Road safety path corridor, will be installed in two sections.

Eastbound traffic on I-696 will be stopped at about 7:30 a.m. for 15-20 minutes to allow a crane to lift half of the span into place from the abutment on the south side of the expressway to the center pier.

FARMINGTON FOCUS

After placement, the crane will be moved down the expressway to the Orchard Lake Road exit, turn back westbound on I-696, reposition itself and lift the second half of the bridge onto the north side abutment and center pier.

Westbound I-696 will be closed at about 9 a.m. for 15-20 minutes while the second section is being placed.

Observers are welcome but officials asked that they park in the Source One parking lot on the north side of the freeway. They should not park in the church parking lot south of the expressway or walk over the road bridge.

Farmington on the wall

You can have a date — 366 of them, actually — with the Farmington area if you obtain a "Farmington Historical Calendar" for 1996 from the Farmington Hills Historical Commission.

Submitted by David McRacher, a Dunckel Middle School student, as an entry to the 1995 Lee Peel Historical Research Contest, the calendar features photos of historic sites. Also, numerous area historical events are noted on the anniversary dates.

A limited number of the calendars are available for \$6 each at the Farmington Hills City Hall, the Farmington Historical Museum and Metro Bank branches. Proceeds from calendar sales will be

See FOCUS, 4A