

# Racial Incident from page 1A

dealt with the incidents. "I'm angry with what's being done," Wilson said. "When it happened, I didn't think anything would be done. I think they're doing all they can do." Teachers read a letter to students from Clarke, saying such attacks would not be tolerated. The district also issued a statement, condemning the notes. Such acts violate the Student Code of Conduct, said Don Cowan, director of Kindergarten through Grade 12 Education. He said in a written statement those involved will be disciplined by school officials. They could also face ethnic intimidation charges, which is a felony. Also, no students were allowed in the hallways during class periods unless accompanied by a staff member. North Farmington students eating lunch at Burger King decried the incidents, some calling them cowardly. However, one student wondered if school officials were punishing all students because of the actions of a few.

"We think, basically, now the whole school is like a jail cell," said senior Jason Tack. "They won't let us go to the bathroom unless it's an emergency. I think it's ridiculous personally." "I think they're really going overboard on this. I think this deal is way out of control. Obviously, they had to do something but they didn't consult the students beforehand." Police officials urged caution about jumping to conclusions in regards to the incidents. Hills Police Chief Bill Dwyer noted that nothing like this has happened before at North Farmington High. "We take it very seriously," he said. "Allow us to investigate." Added Dwyer, "There's a possibility we could clear this whole thing up in the next few days." North Farmington High's population is overwhelming white, but includes more than 50 African Americans as well as other ethnic groups. Asked if anything positive could come out of this, Richard Beal said yes. "Us uniting," he said.



Serious discussion: North Farmington students (from left) Jaclyn Lossia, Jamie Lossia, Richard Beal, Yolanda Wilson and Eric Jones talk about the racial incident.



Jason Tack



Principal Deborah Clarke

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Lunch talk: North Farmington Heather Burcar and Brian Rajdl ponder the racial incident at their school over a fast-food lunch.

# Newspaper strikers' case delayed, new court date set

**A** preliminary examination for seven men accused of conspiring to cause malicious destruction of property over \$100 in connection with the Detroit newspaper strike has been delayed until March 1. Six of the men are members of the pressmen's union striking the Detroit Newspaper Agency, and the other is a striking Teamster. The charges stem from arrests made in early August near the Crestview Court distribution center in western Farmington Hills. Hills officers stopped a gray 1987 Dodge Aries that had driven past the center several

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times. Officer Mike Farley pulled over the car for speeding on Grand River and noticed a baseball bat in the car. Officers then heard a voice on the CB radio asking if the three men in the

car needed assistance. When a 1994 Chevy and a black Ford pickup came to the area, each with two passengers, police were waiting. Police found CB radios in each vehicle, another bat, "star" nails, roofing nails pushed through pieces of a card board and masks. Charged are Louis Piorflicke, 47, James David Earley, 36, William Brian Houston, 38, Michael James Keilly, 38, Michael Edmond Dicker, 50, Dean Earl Herron, 36 and Michael Raphael Walkuski, 38. If convicted, the men could face up to five years in prison.



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# Farmington, Hills' hopes rely on rare fish to stop drain flow

BY BILL COUTANT  
STAFF WRITER

**F**armington Hills chances at stopping a waste water treatment plant effluent may depend on a small, minnow-like fish. Oakland Circuit Judge Hilda Gage will rule on a suit on Jan. 10 filed by the city to stop the construction of an expanded waste water treatment plant in Commerce Township that would empty into the Seeley Drain, which runs through Farmington Hills and Farmington to the Rouge River. "There are other things we can do to solve other problems, such as the increased effluent's effect on the drain," said Tom Biasell, Hills director of public services. "But once the fish is gone, that can't be reinvented."

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Tom Biasell  
Hills public services.

The fish — the reidside dace — is considered a threatened species in Michigan. The plant currently discharges about 250,000 gallons of treated waste water into the drain. The plant already has a

licensed capacity for 5 million gallons a day and after Michigan Department of Natural Resources approval, is licensed to dump 8.5 million gallons. Farmington and Farmington Hills residents and officials have fought the proposals at DNR public hearings and through Lansing with no results so far. Residents of Commerce and White Lake Townships, where older, inadequate septic sewer systems are failing, have pushed for the improved plant for several years. Residents in these two communities have complained about the possible environmental problems if untreated waste escapes the plant or if water volumes are too much for the drain, which has residential property right up to it in many areas.