



Raider royalty

North Farmington's Royal couple are Homecoming Queen Jodie Fennelly and King Robert Camaj.

BILL BRESLER / OBSERVER

MOVERS & SHAKERS

- **Transportation president**
Robert McFarland, a shareholder at Foster, Swift, Collins & Smith, P.C., in Farmington Hills, was recently elected president of the Transportation Lawyers Association, an independent organization of attorneys across North America serving the transportation industry.
- **Firm celebrates 100 years**
The Michigan law firm of Foster, Swift, Collins & Smith, P.C., will celebrate its 100th anniversary in June 2002. Foster, Swift is one of the 20 largest law firms in the State of Michigan, with offices in Farmington Hills and Lansing.
- **Board appointment**
Central Michigan University trustees have approved the reappointment of Martin Shoushanian of Farmington Hills to a four-year term on the A.G.B.U. Alex and Marie Manooogian School board of directors. Shoushanian will renew his

membership on the nine-member board that oversees the education of students enrolled at the school by setting policy.

■ **Bosch names new V.P.s**
Sheryl Welsh Hyman has been named vice president of sales planning for Robert Bosch Corporation in Farmington Hills and Stefan Zuendorf has been named vice president of finance and con-

trolling for the Powertrain Division at Bosch.

■ **New director at Nalco**
Danna Scigaj has joined the Nalco Group of Farmington Hills as Director of Corporate Communications, bringing with her 12 years of marketing experience. Her responsibilities include public relations, media development, and advertising management.

PTA surveys 37th candidates

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER

A multi-question survey, a first-time effort by the Farmington Area PTA Council to poll House of Representatives candidates found differences in philosophy about education between Aldo Vagnozzi, a Democrat, and Republican Valerie Knol.

"The PTA does not endorse any candidate," said Michael Bridges, legislative affairs representative, who organized the survey. "Our purpose was to educate the membership and the public. Public education is the number one issue. It's one of the hottest topics in the state of Michigan right now with all the campaign issues. The PTA has a vested interest in educational policy."

The group will follow up with the candidate elected an "hopefully have a voice with them," Bridges said.

Candidates responded to the PTA much as they have throughout the campaign, which ends with the Nov. 5 elections.

Vagnozzi, 77, is directly opposed to vouchers and adds "as are 70 percent of the residents of the 37th District." Knol, 32, said the purpose of vouchers is to help children who are "trapped in failing school districts."

He says charter schools have not met their promise and urges more accountability for

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them. Vagnozzi also believes the State of Michigan should meet its constitutional mandate under the Headlee amendment, to fully fund special education.

Knol wants to increase the number of charter schools and believes accountability is built in. If they don't perform well, they risk losing their contract with the authorizing agent, and dissatisfied parents can always pull their child out of a charter school.

Knol favors setting up a bipartisan Blue Ribbon committee to study the quality of special education and the costs associated with it, rather than embarking on another court battle.

The Farmington Public School District, like others, in the state, wants its fair share of money in connection with the Durant versus State of Michigan case.

The class action lawsuit, filed in 1980, claimed underfunding of programs and a violation of Section 29 of the state constitu-

tion known as the Headlee amendment. This amendment requires the state to fund certain mandated programs, including special education, at the same proportion of the state budget as when the amendment was adopted in 1978.

In July 1997, the Michigan Supreme Court ruled that districts were harmed by the underfunding and ordered payment for three of the 17 years claimed. On April 15, 1998, Farmington received \$9,496,233 related to this suit.

IMPORTANT ISSUES

This survey was a follow-up to the "Keep the Promise" campaign effort which polled all the candidates who ran in the primary election this year about the state's obligation to support special education.

"Because of that, we thought it would be good to poll the top two candidates for the 37th house district about their views on education issues in general," Bridges said.

It is important to keep the voters informed, and Bridges hopes to keep the communication channels open so there's no doubt politicians know the wishes of the district parents.

"We want candidates who support education," Bridges said. "The council really wants to be more proactive on education."

ATTENTION: WOMEN BETWEEN 18-35

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