

# the farmington enterprise & observer

Weekend of November 20-21, 1971

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

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**today's  
hot line**

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**what's inside**

## Polluters, Beware

A \$100 a day fine or 90 days in jail may be the penalty imposed upon Farmington Township homeowners who still use septic tanks even though sanitary sewer service is available. This crackdown is being considered to curb pollution in streams, ponds and ditches.

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## Burglars In Trouble

Police are making progress in stopping residential burglaries in the Farmington area. Burglaries were down 32 per cent in October from the previous year in the City of Farmington. Farmington Township Police Dept. now is offering free identification service to label household items.

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## New GOP Chief

With Sheldon Smith moving up to Oakland County Republican chairman, a 19th District chairman had to be named, and the party's executive committee turned to a familiar face.

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## Coming Up

When is the all-Observerland high school football team going to be revealed? The announcement about the forthcoming selections is on the sports page today.

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## God On Gridiron?

There's something new in the feeling toward football at Notre Dame, says our religion columnist, the Rev. Lester Kinsolving. Find out what it is in today's Religion Update.

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# State Tests Reveal Pupils Continue High Achievements

By MARTHA MAHAN

State assessment tests given Farmington's fourth and seventh graders last January

showed no important difference in scholastic achievement from tests results of the prior year. However, attempts to measure educational attitude brought such erratic variances as to make that part of the quiz almost worthless, schoolmen said.

ACADEMIC ratings for Farmington's seventh graders were at the 85th percentile for "urban fringe" schools, compared with the 84th percentile last year, the first in which the test was administered.

The percentile ranking means that seventh graders in 85 per cent of the "urban fringe" schools ranked lower than their Farmington counterparts.

Significantly, while Farmington ranked at the 79th percentile in the amount spent per pupil in K-12 grades, students rated in the general range of the 85th percentile in basic achievement.

Fourth graders reached the 88th percentile this year among similar school systems, two percentile points up from last year's 77.

Local seventh graders were at the 88th percentile for the state as a whole, and fourth graders reached the 82nd percentile.

UNLIKE LAST year, the state this year has furnished local school districts with individual pupil scores on the achievement tests.

These will be added to each pupil's record file, along with results of tests administered locally, and are available for parent perusal.

Only change in the test was the addition this year of several new questions to the attitudes section. The first year's set of questions

numbered so few that educators questioned its

validity, according to Joseph Nicita, director of secondary education. And he called results even this year "puzzling."

For example, seventh graders raised their percentile status to 65 this year from last year's 50 among "urban fringe" schools in their attitude toward school. They climbed to the 78th percentile from last year's 61 in their feelings about the importance of school achievement. And they lifted their ranking in self-perception to the 88th percentile from last year's 66th.

Fourth graders, on the other hand, dropped to the 40th percentile from last year's 73rd in their regard for the importance of education and went down to the 70th percentile from last year's 73rd in feelings about their own self-perception. In sharp contrast, fourth graders leaped to the 45th percentile from last year's eighth in attitude toward school.

The measurement says where Farmington related in comparison with other schools but does not take in variables such as the home situation, the possible trauma of moving to a new community and new school, transferring from one school building to another, and the youngster's general attitude toward school on that particular day, commented Larry Freedman, director of elementary education.

IN COMPARISON with fourth graders throughout

Michigan, Farmington fourth graders were at the 60th percentile this year and the 51st last year in their regard for the importance of education.

They were at the 41st percentile this year against the 14th last year in attitude toward school and at the 80th percentile this year and the 33rd last year in self-perception.

Improvement in seventh grade attitudes this year has educators searching for the cause.

"We don't know whether it was something we did or the difference in the questions," Nicita said. "We've had a lot more student-parent involvement in curriculum projects and meetings with teachers."

"We might surmise that, as parents became more positive in their attitudes toward the school, there was a carryover to the youngsters."

THE ACADEMIC section of the test was designed to measure four classifications: vocabulary and word skills, which Nicita called "more a measure of potential than achievement;" reading achievement and comprehension; spelling, grammar and other expression skills; and mathematical achievement and problem solving. Among "urban fringe" schools, Farmington seventh graders showed these percentile ranks:

Continued on Page 2A



NEED DRESSES—The Farmington Goodfellows need more dresses to be given young girls of needy families in Farmington for Christmas. Persons who can donate dresses should contact Mrs. John Richardson or mail donations of money to Farmington Goodfellows, 34069 Alta Loma, Farmington 48024. From left: Dick Tupper, Farmington Exchange Club president and Goodfellow advisor; Robert Buttons, Goodfellows chairman; and Shirley Richardson, dress and doll chairman. (Evert photo)



NEW VOTER—Brad Stevens, a senior at North Farmington High School, registers to vote with assistance of Mrs. Jo Ann Reynolds of the Farmington Township clerk's office. The township sent employees to North Farmington High, Harrison High and the Orchard Ridge campus in a special effort to register 18-21 year-old voters. (Evert photo)



GREAT BOOKS—Farmington PTA leaders join in a discussion with students participating in the Junior Books Program. Students read and then discussed the fable "Short Story"

written by Tall Story. From left: Jo Elyn Markey; Laurie Carlo; Pat Nylm, PTA adult leader; Barbara Justice, PTA adult leader; Wendy Sharp; and Jenny Roberts. (Evert photo)

## Should Athletes Shorten Hair?

By MARTHA MAHAN

The question of a separate dress code for athletes, an emotional issue in the spring of 1970, will come before the Farmington Board of Education again on Dec. 7.

It appears in a new, updated "Athletic Primer," a handbook distributed by the school district to students who sign up for interscholastic athletics and their parents.

ACTION ON the primer was expected at the board's meeting Tuesday but was deferred pending further study.

Besides a change in appearance standards, the booklet adds drug use to the

already banned smoking and alcohol.

It drops restrictions on dating, riding in automobiles, and private weekend parties, as well as advice on good eating habits and regular sleep.

Also dropped is the requirement that trousers be worn above the hip and that athletes refrain from public displays of affection with girls.

"You can see how out-of-date the book had become," laughed Athletic Director Jack Cotton.

THE NEW version also recognizes the growth in girls athletics by changing the word "boy" or "man" to "student."

Key change, however, has to do with hair length for boys. The new regulation requires hair to be of "reasonable length and tapered; it should not extend below the collar or the eyes when combed."

Beards and goatees are out and sideburns may not extend below the ear lobe.

The previous regulation required hair to be "short on top, clean on the sides and back and no square cut in the rear."

That was the rule which led to a confrontation between the board and coaches in the spring of 1970, when a long-haired North Farmington

tennis player challenged the athletic code after being excluded from competition.

THE BOARD of education, apparently following the advice of legal counsel, voted at that time to support only one code for all students.

The coaching staff, supported by a large and noisy audience, appeared at the board's next meeting to ask for a rehearing but the board turned them down.

The board presently has no dress or grooming restrictions other than those required for health and safety.

Only protest against the proposed regulations was made Tuesday night by Ed Frankel, Harrison High student and son of former board member Richard Frankel.

Young Frankel termed the proposal "a propaganda sheet advocating short-haired conformity under the guise of governing the spirit of competition for the community."

Indications Tuesday night were that the board likely will accept the grooming limitations for athletes. Four new members have taken seats on the board since the vote to support a single grooming code for all students. They are Mrs. Betty Brennan, Ronald Emmitt, Mrs. Kay Stirling and Dr. Mervyn B. Ross.

## We'll Be Closed For The Holiday

All offices of Observer Newspapers Inc. will be closed Thursday, Nov. 25, for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Club secretaries will have to get their notices in to local editors a day earlier to make the weekend edition.

Deadline for display advertising and commercial classified accounts will also be a day earlier—at the close of business on Wednesday.

Deadline for individual classified ads will be the same—Friday at 10 a.m.

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