

# Tennis bubble interests officials

Local athletic officials expressed unguarded optimism last week that a proposed tennis bubble for Birmingham's Eton Park would become a reality.

"I think that it's a good idea. I see no real drawbacks," said Birmingham parks and recreation superintendent Darrell Middlewood.

His sentiments were echoed by Birmingham high school athletic director Carl Lemle.

"I think that it's a great idea in view of the boom in tennis interest in this area," he said.

**THE PROPOSED BUBBLE**, which would be constructed by an outside company at no expense to the city, would cover four Eton Park courts from late September through April

each year giving area residents access to relatively inexpensive year-round tennis.

The vinyl structure would be taken down each April allowing the courts to be used as usual by the general public. Initial consumer cost for use of the bubble was projected at approximately \$6 per hour.

Action on the proposal will be taken at the 8 p.m. meeting Monday of the Birmingham City Commission at the Birmingham Municipal Building.

"I think that it's far better to have an outside company leasing the bubble than for the city to own it," Middlewood said.



Dana Pink—lady umpire in Junior Legion tourney

MIDDLEWOOD SAID that he did not think it practical for the city to operate a part-time structure.

"And I think that it's better to have the operation run by a businessman," he said.

The proposal brought by the company which would construct the bubble calls for the company to pay the city \$2,000 or five per cent of the gross on the venture, whichever was greater. Middlewood said that both of those figures would be negotiated further but he was optimistic that arrangements would be worked out.

Middlewood expressed some concern over potential vandalism to the structure.

"VANDALISM WOULD have to be a consideration, of course, but vandalism here is no worse than at other places," he said.

Middlewood said that an important part of the contract would be to establish that Birmingham would have no

liability in case of vandalism.

Athletic director Lemle was impressed enough with the proposal that he expressed a desire to explore the possibility of the Birmingham School District looking into a similar contract.

"If they will maintain the structure at their own expense I certainly feel that the school district should talk to them. From my standpoint, I would like to see if they could do something along the lines of having more than one facility," he said.

LEMLE SAID in the 20 years he has been connected with Birmingham schools, there has always been considerable interest in tennis. But he says that interest in the sport has "doubled or tripled" in the last few years.

"You can't get on our high school courts in the summertime any more. And even the tennis clubs (which charge approximately \$12 per hour) are jammed," he said.

## Female umpire handles tourney chores

Baseball players in a recent American Legion Junior tournament in Farmington may have been a bit more careful about what they said to the umpire.

Reason? One of the umpires was a young lady—Dana Pink, a 15-year-old with two years of umpiring experience behind her.

"She did real well," said Wally Christensen, who directed the four-team tournament. "I saw only one call that could have gone either way. Her biggest problem came when she got hit by a line drive while umpiring third base."

Miss Pink, who will be a junior at Farmington Harrison High, really had her skills tested in one game. Host Farmington edged Auburn Heights, 1-0, in 14 innings, and Miss Pink was the game's only umpire.

She worked third base in the championship in which Farmington defeated Auburn Heights, 3-1. That's the game where she got smacked by the line drive.

Miss Pink, who has umpired for two years in the Farmington Little League, attended a special school to attain that position.

"We have to go to school two days a week for five or six weeks," she said. "We go through all the rules and

then we have tests on them. Some of the school involves diamond work where somebody pitches and we call balls and strikes."

She takes very little razzing about being a girl umpire. "But sometimes all my calls seem to be going all one way—against a particular team. Sometimes people get on me then."

All things being equal, the fans get on the male variety of umpire, too.

## Gunman robs 2 cleaners

SOUTHFIELD—A lone gunman robbed two cleaning establishments last week, escaping with small amounts of cash.

Police are investigating the similarities in the robberies which may have been committed by the same man, said police Cpl. John Hood.

The Bob White Cleaners at the Tel Twelve Mall was robbed shortly after noon Thursday, and Harris Cleaners at 28735 Greenfield was robbed Wednesday afternoon.

In each case, Hood said, the gunman entered the establishment, used a small dark hand gun and ordered the employee to open the cash register.

He then took small amounts of cash from the register and fled. Descriptions of the thief were similar at both locations.



First class

Tom Benesh, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Benesh, of 2828 Kendellwood Drive, Farmington Hills, was recently awarded the honor of Drum Major First Class at Smith-Walbridge camp in Syracuse, Indiana. Tom was one of 14 persons out of 165 candidates to achieve first class status.

## Artists to participate in Lafayette Fair

Two Farmington area artists have been invited to participate in the Lafayette Park Art Fair, Sept. 7 and 8. The fair will be in the Shopping Plaza, Lafayette and Orleans in downtown Detroit.

Participating in the fair are jeweler Bruce Blyth, 2915 W. 13 Mile, Franklin, and potter Joan Pasman, 28270 Danvers Court, Farmington Hills.

Fair festivities will run from 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. both days. There will be an art auction at 3 p.m. on Saturday and at 2 p.m. on Sunday.

## On deans list

The University of Notre Dame has announced the names of 2,457 students who have been named to the college's dean's list for the spring semester. Among the students are seven from the Farmington area. They are:

Anthony Abowd, 29298 W. 12 Mile Road; James Abowd, of the same address; Carol Hackett, 34198 Gloucester Circle; James Landberg, 32554 Bonnet Hill; Anthony Monforton, 28273 Harwich Drive; Roger Monforton, of the same address; and Mary Setlock, 28334 Chapelweigh.

### Insurance FACTS

by Robert H. Bergstrom, CPCU

Social insurance developed out of the mutual benefit societies formed by groups of workmen in many countries, especially England, soon after the Industrial Revolution. In almost all countries, the earliest form of social insurance to be established by governmental enactment was that which provided financial compensation to workmen injured in the performance of their jobs. Sickness insurance was the next form of social insurance to be adopted by governments. How much do you benefit from these, and what could any other insurance do for you? Ask your insurance man.

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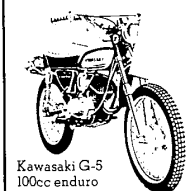
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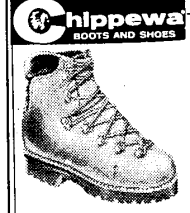
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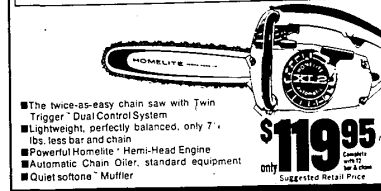


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