



Goodfellows help needy

Farmington Goodfellows raise money to give gifts to needy area residents at Christmas by selling newspapers. If you know someone who needs the help of the Goodfellows, send their

name, address, telephone number, and number and ages of children, to Post Office Box 15, Farmington, Mich. 48024.

Rock star's one-day concert means trouble for reporters

(ED. NOTE: Ken Schiff is sports editor of the Southfield High School newspaper, the Jay.)

Would you believe a personal interview with Elton John?

More than 100 student journalists representing some 35 high schools received the next best thing Friday at

the Shawwassee Hotel in Southfield—a 40-minute press conference with the rock superstar.

"This was good hassle than setting up President Johnson's first visit to Detroit after Kennedy's assassination," said a security man who was involved in both unique events.

That man had no idea of the hassle we went through to get the story. Camille Olson and myself, both reporters for Southfield High School's newspaper, the Jay, decided to attempt breaking through the Magnin Line that characteristically guards a rock 'n' roller of Elton John's stature.

"NO WAY," said MCA records, Elton's record label, when the request was first put to them.

"But sir," I replied, "most of his fans that buy his records attend high schools in the area and don't you think—"

"Listen kid, Elton John thanks his fans by putting out hit records all the time. There'll be no interviews."

Camille, being the persistent girl she is, said to call back. I called CKLW radio instead, where Elton was going to be "El DJ" for a few hours but they said no one was going to be allowed near the building.

Next call was to Olympia, the site of his concerts.

"You want press passes, right?" "No sir, we were just wondering if you could help us get an interview with Elton John," I said.

He said he didn't have anything to do with Elton's people and apparently could not believe that we would take up any of his time with such an outrageous idea.

WE CALLED all the concert reviewers next, hoping to sit in on one of their interviews. Bob Talbert of the Free Press sounded like I woke him up. He tried to get rid of me as quickly as he could. Others said that they wouldn't even get to talk to Elton.

I was beginning to feel thankful for not shelling out a minimum \$36 to see this dude who apparently looked himself up in a hotel between concerts.

Camille dragged me across the hall to WSHJ, our student radio station, to ask for suggestions.

Big help they were.

"The only way you'll get an interview with Elton John is to run

through his hotel suite with no clothes on," was one of the more printable comments.

Our last resort was to call Detroit News columnist Charley Manos.

I really did not expect all the sincerity he gave us. He said he'd see what he could do, told us not to give up and asked us how to spell our names. (He still managed to spell Camille's last name wrong.)

A few days later an item appeared in his column about us and subsequent items requested others interested in interviewing Elton to write him and maybe some sort of arrangements could be made.

He pressed the matter with Elton's advance man, and at his arrival reception, Manos asked Elton himself.

"LET'S DO IT," he said, making him an instant nice guy.

From then on everything became secret. Camille and I received the details of the conference through Mrs. Karen Nelson, our newspaper's advisor.

"If you tell anybody about this I'll flunk you," she threatened.

"DETROIT'S an industrial city and in industrial cities all over the world audiences are hungrier," the madman from across the water said.

Charley Manos seemed little amazed that everything went off so well and spoke of forming a metro high school press club with more conferences.

"Maybe we'll have Governor Milliken," he said. The reply was, "Can you get us George Harris?"

Nothing is impossible, Charley.

Auto purchase is discussed

In today's inflationary economy, getting the most mileage from your money is particularly important.

Harvey Bronstein, professor in the business administration department of Oakland Community College, will help solve the puzzle of purchasing a car, probably a person's second most expensive investment. Bronstein, who is currently preparing an article on the topic to be published by Eblit, Rinehart, & Winston, Inc., will explore the important points to be considered when buying a car in a discussion at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 26, room A-106 of the Orchard Ridge Campus.

After a brief presentation, participants will be able to ask questions. This class will be open to the public and admission is free.

Mall excursion is planned

Buses to take senior citizens to the Tel-Twelve Mall will leave from the Farmington police station 11 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 23. They will pick them up at 2 p.m. from the mall.

The next senior mall excursion is scheduled for Dec. 21. The mall has not yet been chosen.

City gambles against layoffs

FARMINGTON—The City of Farmington has decided to take the chance that it won't lay off employees rather than participate in an insurance-type program for public employees.

A new state law makes political subdivisions subject to unemployment reorganizations just as other employers.

City Manager Robert Deadman said the new law gives cities three options. The city can pay contributions on wages (in effect an insurance system), establish its own system or reimburse the Michigan Employment Security Commission for any benefits paid.

THE CITY COUNCIL recently agreed with Deadman's recommendation to reimburse the commission for possible benefits.

Deadman said it is "beyond the means" of the city to develop its own system and that the insurance method would cost at least \$8,000 a year.

The third option, reimbursing the commission for benefits paid, is attractive because the city has never laid off any of its employees.

"Historically this city has not been involved in the layoff of any of its employees. If this pattern continues, the cost to the city would be very minimal," Deadman said.

He added that if the city plans to lay off employees in the future it could join the insurance-type plan.

City employees hired under federal grants would not be eligible for benefits, Deadman said, until Dec. 31, 1976. By that time, the city will have decided whether to add the employees to the regular payroll or lay them off.

Deadman said all other city employees except elected officials and members of city boards and commissions are eligible for unemployment benefits.

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ROCHESTER—Oakland University has an architect for its proposed \$6,600,000 Classroom Office Building II (COB-II) and a contractor for a South-east Loop Road Project following Board of Trustee action Monday.

The board also approved a 1975-76 long-range capital plan request that includes \$48 million for construction of six new buildings and an addition to an existing one.

Named architect for COB-II at a fee of \$316,000 was the Bloomfield Hills-based firm of Terapat-McMahon-Paulsen Associates, Inc. The W. Almas and Son, Inc. company of Lake Orion received the road construction contract with a low bid of \$11,450.

The road will begin south of Varner Hall and Commuter Lot S, run east behind Varner Hall and then north to connect with an existing road at the northeast corner of the hall.

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