

# Farmington Observer Eccentric

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## FAAC case load triples during year

FARMINGTON HILLS—The Farmington Area Advisory Council, Inc. (FAAC) reported a marked increase in counseling cases.

In its quarterly report presented Monday night to the city council, Betty Arnold, administrative director for FAAC, said the majority of the counseling cases handled by the agency involved youths aged 13 to 16 years.

At the beginning of the quarter, Sept. 30, there were 24 cases. By Dec. 31, there were 70 cases.

GREGG YOUNG, program director, attributed the increase to recently gained credibility.

Young, who has been with FAAC since Dec. 1, is using a psychological approach to deal with clients. "I don't believe in the 'Levi's sandal approach' which was used in the past," he said.

Instead, Young has urged caseworkers to present themselves as professionals. He has met with police and school officials to urge them to make referrals.

THE COUNSELORS no longer use the "Let's be friends" approach, Young said. "We are looking upon ourselves as a traditional counseling

agency—not as a buddy anymore. "I wouldn't feel comfortable in the other role," Young said.

The agency counseled 70 persons in 23 sessions during the quarter. Sixty new clients were referred from the Farmington Hills police department, schools, parents, courts, the clinic and other sources.

Through an agreement with the police, FAAC will accept referrals of substance abuse offenders. If the offender does not want the therapy offered through the agency, the prosecution through legal channels is effected.

THE AGENCY makes periodic reports to the police on police-referred clients.

The new approach spills over into the Rap Line crisis intervention telephone service operation, Young said.

FAAC lost its federal grant which had been used to fund the free medical clinic, Mrs. Arnold said.

The loss of the grant, coupled with the expiration in April of the malpractice insurance policy, will make it impossible for the clinic to operate after April.

She said that FAAC has been actively seeking other sources of funding for the clinic but to date has been unsuccessful.

IT IS ESTIMATED that \$2,200 will be needed to complete the fiscal year.

In other action, the city council set a hearing of necessity for 7:30 p.m. March 17 for installation of sanitary sewers on Sundrydale, Collax and Lundy streets. The project, requested by 51 per cent of the property owners on those streets, is expected to cost \$118,110.

The council also scheduled a hearing of necessity for water main installation on Fendish Avenue.

Less than 31 percent of the property owners signed a petition for the project, but the homes are without bath-room facilities, said city clerk Floyd Cairns.

A HOME in the area burned recently, he said.

A hearing for the water installation will begin at 7:45 p.m. March 17.

A request for a dance permit and liquor license for the enclosure area of Drakeville, Lanes 1500 Grand River, was postponed.

The police department indicated reservations as to whether management could maintain order.

The request will be considered at the Feb. 24 council meeting.

## DASH riders decrease so services reduced

By MARY CONNELLY

WEST BLOOMFIELD—Fewer commuters and reduced routes is the one-year prognosis for the bus service which began between West Bloomfield and Dearborn on the heels of last year's energy crisis.

As the bus service nears its March 4 anniversary, there are fewer people riding, fewer buses running and higher fee schedules than at the start of the Orchard Lake Direct Access Shuttle (DASH) service. Sponsored by the Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority (SEMTA), the route carries commuters from the Orchard Mall to the Ford Motor Company in Dearborn.

Reduced ridership has produced route cutbacks which in turn have further whittled commuter volume during the last year.

Currently, a SEMTA spokesman said, automobile industry layoffs and a Ford Motor Company policy requesting that salaried employees utilize 1976 vacations in 1975 have further slaved bus loads.

In nearly 12 months operating in West Bloomfield, several changes in bus routes have been tried to boost bus use.

In March, 1974, the bus service carried about 30 riders daily on its main run, according to SEMTA passenger representative Linda Zenker. Ten stops were made at the Ford complex in the morning and evening to unload and board passengers.

A second bus followed roughly 30 minutes later, carrying usually four or five passengers. It made four stops in Dearborn.

NOW, THE second bus has been cancelled. In January, the remaining main run had roughly 18 or 17 riders in the morning and 15 to 16 in the evening.

Mrs. Zenker said the figures are an estimated average, not an official tabulation.

In the intervening months, the second bus service was expanded and cancelled and a combination run with the Birmingham and Southfield lines began and abandoned because of lack of commuters.

"I'm disappointed," said Ann Piken of Orchard Lake, a Ford Motor Company employee who is credited with organizing the DASH service in the area. "When people had to stand in line to get gas, we got riders. But it was only during the scarce period."

SEMTA STATISTICS indicate workers in the West Bloomfield area boarded the bus in peak numbers in March and April, 1974, the first months of operation. Observers say last year's energy crisis consciousness sparked some of the participation.



Friendly face

It's been a tough road for John Dean -- from the Nixon White House to the Watergate hearings to prison to Oakland University. Sucking by Dean during his trials was his wife, Maureen, who saw him speak Tuesday night at Oakland University. Story begins on next page. (Staff photo by Dick Kelley)

### Faces in the crowd

Not all the spectators at Harrison High's wrestling meet were fathers and their sons. In fact, there were a few ladies in the crowd. Among them, Sandy Pratt (the coach's wife)

brought her son Shane along, perhaps hoping for the day when Shane can don a wrestler's garb and give mom something to cheer about. (Staff photo)

## Coffees spread school facts

By SUSAN AVERILL

Ten women looked at the floor, looked at the walls, looked at anything but each other. The silence was broken by an embarrassed cough. "Do you all feel that we have such a good school system?" Lyla Young fully asked, glancing sharply at one after another of the women.

Some hesitated, then spoke up, mentioning her disappointment in the lack of advanced high school classes throughout the district.

These women were attending one of

the scores of coffees sponsored by hostesses who had been captained by volunteers from the Farmington PTA.

The coffees themselves were an attempt by the PTA to help the school board learn public knowledge and attitudes on the school system.

Invitations went to friends, friends of friends and anyone else who wanted to take part in the programs and discuss complaints, theories and strengths of the district.

IT TURNED out to be mostly a gripe session, but that was okay with captain and moderator Lyla Young. At least the women had a chance to learn about the system and show their interest, she said.

Of the 10 women at this coffee, seven had school-age children, one had children who had already passed through the system, and two had no children.

Mrs. Young served as moderator, devil's advocate and defender of the school system. She is the mother of eight and has lived in Farmington Hills for 19 years.

Tense at first, the atmosphere was softened by prods from the hostess, Mrs. Nancy Vandusen, and reassurances by Mrs. Young that the wrath of heaven and the school board would not descend upon those who

voiced real complaints about their schools.

Informative leaflets prepared by the PTA were passed around. But before the women could view the contents, they were asked to put them aside and take a test.

USING A scale of one to three, the women rated themselves on their knowledge of certain aspects of the school district.

One on the scale meant you knew nothing about the question at hand. Two meant you had some vague idea, and three meant you could explain the item to someone else.

The questions ranged from "How many unions must the school board negotiate with?" to "What do you know about teacher evaluations and tenure?"

A show of hands revealed that no one had done very well on the test, and many then turned to the leaflets, which listed the answers.

Quiet at first, with no one wanting to be first, the group finally warmed up to the lack of advanced courses.

Programs for English and history were praised for their diversity and breadth, and the vocational programs for their foresight and option-affording opportunities. COMPLAINTS WERE registered about counselors who didn't inform

students of high school requirements for specific college majors.

Central to the discussion was the non-existent emphasis on German, which, one said, is a requirement for certain medical degrees.

If the students had been forewarned, the mothers argued, they could have done sufficiently well in high school German to escape the requirements.

Not really there to defend, Mrs. Young nevertheless offered the rationale that counselors do indeed dispense such information, but that parents are usually not informed by their students.

Reading troubles were examined by the group, and many complained that reading problems went unnoticed, undiagnosed and untreated until they were so severe, special attention was required to correct them.

ONE SAID her son had been having trouble, which was only minimized when she brought it to the teacher's attention. By the time the problem was taken to a specialist, the boy was ten years behind in reading ability, she said.

Teacher tenure and evaluations started a flurry of discussion, most of it negative.

Most seemed to agree that teacher

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