

# She's editor at mostly male LIT

By MARTHA MAHAN

**SOUTHFIELD**—When Barbara Miller entered nearly all-male Lawrence Institute of Technology, she wanted to meet people and make friends. So, despite the fact that she was a math and chemistry major, she went to the student newspaper office and asked for a job.

Now she's the first woman ever to become editor-in-chief of the paper. She'll take over in September as head of the weekly Tech News.

That's quite an accomplishment considering that LIT has a student body of 4,200 with only 200 women.

**BARBARA**, 19, and a junior, comes from a newspaper family. Her mother, Margaret Miller, is women's editor of the Observer & Eccentric's Wayne County division. Her father, Joe, is news editor of the Detroit Free Press.

And her older sister, Mary, is a journalism major at the University of Michigan.

The Millers live at 2374 Warner in Farmington.

Her folks get quite a kick out of Barbara's latest accomplishment.

"Sometimes we wonder where we went wrong," her dad joked.

"It's just a flame—we hope," her mother laughed. "It will burn out."

Barbara had two big references going for her when she first applied for a job on the Tech News as a freshman, her mother said. She had been co-editor of the Farmington Junior High School student newspaper. And

she could type. The latter was the more important, Mrs. Miller claimed.

**THE NEWSPAPER** work remains secondary for Barbara, who still concentrates on math and chemistry where she is an honor student.

"And it is only one of many activities," she recently was voted the most active LIT student by fellow Student Government members.

Besides being secretary of Student Government and assistant editor of the Tech News last year, she is a Girl Scout leader and Sunday School teacher.

This summer she is working in LIT's math department.

She is the second woman in the college's 63-year-old history to hold a top position on campus. Last year Patricia Wattenbarger was Student Government president.

**Wichtman leaves Farmington firm**

Floyd Wichtman, formerly district manager of Lee Real Estate Co. in Farmington Hills, has been appointed director of personnel and training for the company.

His new responsibilities will include the recruitment and training of sales personnel, and he will operate from Lee's corporate headquarters in Roseville.

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## Local cab service asks rate hike

The Farmington City Council tabled a proposal by a Livonia-based taxi company to hike cab fares by 33 per cent, pending proof from the owner that such an increase is warranted.

Vern Foster, owner of Suburban Checker Cab and Yellow and Red Cab Co., asked council to approve the increase, which would mean a 80 per cent increase in Farmington cab fares in two years.

**FOSTER ASKED** that the rates be raised to 80 cents for the first one mile, 10 cents for each additional 1/4

mile and 10 cents for each 45 seconds of waiting time.

The present rates are 50 cents for the first one-sixth mile, 10 cents for each additional one-sixth mile and 10 cents for each 45 seconds of waiting time.

City Manager Robert Deadman said that Foster said his cost of operation caused the rate increase request, but the cab company owner had failed to show proof of added expenditures.

"Although we are all aware of the effects of inflation on the operation of a motorized fleet, Mr. Foster at this

point in time has not furnished the city with any documents to support his need for this rate increase," wrote Deadman in a memo to the council.

"Since the Suburban Checker Cab and Yellow and Red Cab Co. have pretty well monopolized the taxi transportation system in southwest Oak-

land County and northwest Wayne County, we believe that city council should require some documentation which supports Mr. Foster's position that a rate increase is needed at this time."

Foster was not present at Monday's council meeting.

## Farmington youth charged in scheme

A 19-year-old man is being held on a charge of extorting \$10,000 from a Southfield doctor.

Lee Arthur Meloche of Farmington was arraigned Friday in Judge S. James Clark's 46th District Court. The suspect is awaiting an Aug. 5 examination in Oakland County Jail in lieu of posting a \$2,000 bond set by Clark.

Meloche's wife, Theresa, 19, was arrested and released.

Dr. Stuart Barak, 28150 Tavistock, Southfield, whose office is in Livonia,

told police he received a number of threatening phone calls between 5 p.m. and 10:45 p.m. Thursday.

Dr. Barak, who is married and has three children, said the caller threatened to kill his family unless he dropped \$10,000 in the Nine Mile-Beech roads area of Southfield.

**Assessor resigns and plans to move**

Farmington City Assessor Dorothy Poston has resigned from her post, and former assessing consultant Keith Palmer has agreed to fill her post for the next two years.

Mrs. Poston is resigning, effective Sept. 5, because she and her husband plan to move out of state. The city council Monday night appointed Palmer city assessor while it picks and trains a successor.

"Mrs. Poston has served the city long and well in her position as city assessor. She will certainly be missed by the city administration," City Manager Robert Deadman said.

**DEADMAN SAID** he anticipates difficulty filling the position immediately because of state requirements and present salary allotment.

"By state requirement, the city must have a level III city assessor. We believe it will be very difficult to hire someone who presently has a level III status within the salary structure established for this position by the city."

Deadman recommended the city council appoint Palmer as interim city assessor while the city places someone in training.

## Stock change announced

A stock transaction involving Observer & Eccentric Newspapers was announced this week.

Henry M. Hogan Jr., president and chief executive officer of the parent company, Suburban Communications Corp., said he has asked that his shares of stock be redeemed for long-term interest-bearing securities of the corporation.

Hogan, co-publisher of Observer & Eccentric newspapers, said he is exchanging his equity interest for an 18-year debenture program.

"The transaction is for personal reasons, Hogan said, and will not affect corporate management, operations or business philosophy."

"Length of the interest-bearing debenture program assures my continued interest in the growth and development of our company," Hogan said.

He added that he will continue to serve as co-publisher of the Observer & Eccentric and as president and chief executive officer of Suburban Communications Corp.

"My colleague, Philip H. Power, will also have unchanged responsibilities as co-publisher and as chairman of the board of Suburban Communications Corp."

## New kindergartners must register soon

Farmington elementary schools will open Aug. 4 to register new students for the 1975-76 school year. The offices in each school building will be open to register all kindergartners and new students.

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