

Do away with sports?

Officials debate on best way to discipline kids

By CURTIS ABATT

If Oakland County Prosecutor Brooks Patterson thinks cancellation of sports programs in school districts would mean a lowered crime rate, City of Farmington Public Safety Director Dan Hyman would beg to differ.

"I must take exception—at least in this community," says Hyman.

"Sure, we have vandalism in the schools, but I really have serious doubts that it has anything to do with athletic events. Athletics give kids something to do and give spectators something to do."

"I just can't see taking away something constructive."

The gradual court takeover of the American educational system was the substance of a speech Patterson gave in Washington, D.C. recently.

Patterson also expressed concern over juvenile crime—everything from rape, robbery and assault to drug use and vandalism.

Along with suggestions of having young persons "work off" damage they have done, he suggested making parents more aware of problems.

"If all else fails, suspend sports for one season so that the cost of savings can be diverted into costs for school repair (the reason without football and you'll find that team joining your team)," he said.

Although he was not familiar with Patterson's speech, Fifth District Court Judge Michael Hand said he could agree with several of Patterson's suggestions.

Explaining that young people under 17 don't come under his jurisdiction, he said, "I regularly require restitution and a long period of probation."

He recalled the vandalism incidents of last summer when he required several of those apprehended to make restitution by working weekends cleaning up city parks.

"I haven't seen a lot of these cases lately. Apparently the word is around 15 sometimes feel the juvenile courts are extremely lax, but the judges there are so

overwhelmed with work, it's very hard. You see if a person doesn't make restitution, he hasn't learned anything. We must make them realize the gravity of the thing. It has to come right out of blood and bone."

PATTERSON'S DISPLEASURE

Gammaged from the Brown vs. Board of Education 1954 when the Supreme Court ruled attending school is a right of youth rather than the previously considered privilege.

It was this decision, Patterson contended, which has undermined the authority of the principal.

If education is a right instead of a privilege, according to the decision, then even time that right is denied for any reason the student is entitled to due process which he is told to cut his hair, take off an arm, hand or any other control which school authorities might place on his behavior.

Patterson then approached curbing juvenile crime, particularly in schools, with a three-pronged attack—by action on the part of the community, the school and the student body.

His suggestions for the community included a youth assistance program, a school police liaison officer and implementation of local ordinances. The Farmington district already has these first two.

Here could be accomplished if school administrators would establish closer communications with state legislators lobby make financial contributions and sponsor candidates that have a sympathetic viewpoint to school problems, he said.

He encouraged the principals to actively screen local judges on the ballot to see if they are willing to recognize the rights of the majority of minority students while

protecting the minority who are disaffected. Such judicial philosophy is fair game for inquiry.

NEED PARENT ignorance and parent indifference as one of the most appalling aspects of the vandalism problem.

Community involvement at various levels, he said, is new way to combat this kind of destruction.

The public must know the extent of vandalism and stealing in the schools.

Two suggestions were to form block associations to watch and protect the schools and trailer yards where residents move

their mobile homes into school grounds to watch the schools.

The school's responsibility in all this is to keep buildings well lighted, certain areas fenced and "school electronic detection systems" should be considered.

His final group of suggestions concerned students themselves—relate student rights and student responsibilities, encourage involvement such as having student bus monitors and letting them develop programs to open the law libraries to all students have a full student parent clean up program to work off vandalism damage.

Cops seeking robber of electronics store

The Farmington Public Safety Department is searching for a male suspect who stole \$250 in the Wednesday Feb. 25 armed robbery of Radio Shack, 2405 Orchard Lake Road.

A white male about 35 years old and weighing 160 pounds entered the store about 6:30 last Wednesday evening.

He wanted for another customer to leave before pushing a cart full of electronic items into the store at the time said Sgt. Norm Matheson of the Farmington Public Safety Department.

The suspect was following through the store looking at electronic equipment and computers, while Matheson was helping the other customers.

After Matheson finished with the customer, he walked back to the sales desk and was approached by the suspect.

The robber pulled out a small flashlight and when Matheson asked for his name to

put on the sales receipt, the suspect identified himself as C. H. Harn.

AFTER BUYING the flashlight, the suspect turned to leave the store. He stopped at the front window to check outside and returned to the service desk to ask the clerk if the store carried a certain type of battery. Sgt. Matheson said.

The employee checked for the battery and returned to help the suspect. The robber then placed some change on the counter which Matheson picked up to put into the cash register.

When Matheson looked up from the register, the suspect had pulled a gun out and

pointed it at the clerk, who had appeared to be a four-inch barrel.

The suspect told the employee to empty the cash register and ordered the salesman to lie on the floor until he left.

The thief escaped with the \$250 in cash. Matheson remained on the floor for about one minute before calling the police, the department spokesman said.

The suspect was described as having dark hair, medium build and a fair complexion. He wore a sweatshirt, blue jeans and a quarter length coat.

As of Friday night, Farmington police were most active in the robbery.



Kicking off the Farmington Community Fund drive are (from left) David McCabe, president of the center's board, and Farmington Hills Mayor Earl Oppenheimer. Funds garnered are used for maintenance of the center facility and continuation of its programs. (Staff photo)

Marie Long is recuperating

Marie Long, columnist for the old Farmington Enterprise & Observer and senior sequential queen, is back in Farmington Hills after suffering a stroke three weeks ago.

Mrs. Long is staying temporarily with her daughter Mrs. Helen J. Karp of Farmington Hills.

Mrs. Long reports that she is up and around and going regularly for physical therapy. While in St. Mary Hospital, she saw the renowned cards and flowers from hundreds of area friends.

Sanders IS AT...

7-MILE FARMINGTON CENTER

Harrison groups have busy month

The Harrison High School Concert and Symphonic bands will join with the women's chorus and concert choir in presenting an evening of music for everyone Thursday, March 4 at 8 p.m. in the Harrison High School auditorium, 2900 West 12 Mile.

Admission is 75 cents for students, \$1.25 for adults or \$3 for the entire family.

The symphonic band will participate in an all-day band festival at Roosevelt High School in Saturday, March 13.

The senior and school high school choirs on the Farmington School District will perform in the Farmington Area Festival Friday, March 19 at 8 p.m. in Harrison High School gymnasium. More than 100 students will participate.

Tickets may be obtained at the symposium adjacent to the auditorium on the evening of the performance. Student tickets cost 50 cents and adult admission is \$1.



Robert Young of Livonia recently took part in Utah State University's College of Business Advisory Council meeting. He is the executive vice-president of Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance, Farmington Hills. The one-day program discussed the type of university program preferred by business and industry. Young and his wife Gladys have two sons and three daughters.

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Newspaper pickup slated for Hills

For those newspapers and put them out with the trash.

Beginning March 1, Farmington Hills residents will have newspapers picked up during regular pickup days. The papers will be delivered.

Residents are asked to bundle the papers and tie them securely both lengthwise and side-wise.

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Checking it out

Janice Haron, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Haron, 28833 Randlewood, Farmington, an Eastern Michigan University senior family life major, tends an ornamental plant in the EMU greenhouse.

Coeds named to dean's list

Lorraine Mandfield of 2308 Frederick Street, Farmington, a sophomore education major, and Jane Andrew of 2500 E. 15th Street, Farmington Hills, a junior home economics major, were included in the Adrian College dean's list for the fall semester.

The coeds were among 300 students who were named to the list. An honor student must have a 3.25 average.

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