

# Farmington Observer

Volume 88 Number 29

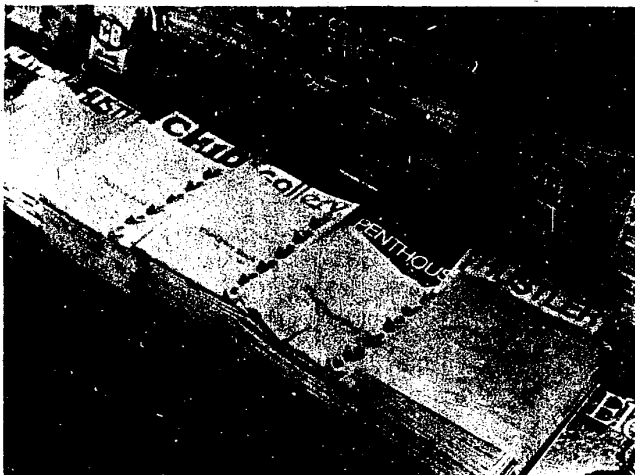
Thursday, March 3, 1977

Farmington, Michigan

32 Pages

Twenty-Five Cents

©1977 Suburban Communications Corporation. All Rights Reserved



Plain brown paper covers hide 'skin' mags from young eyes.

## Community forces porn under counter

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY  
and LYNN ORR

It's fairly easy to purchase a "Hustler" magazine in the Farmington area, although the magazine's publisher was recently sentenced to seven to 35 years in prison by a Cincinnati jury for "pandering obscenity."

However, if you want to cast your eyes on material considered obscene by local officials, you'll have to go to Detroit or Highland Park to do it.

Virtually no "adult" bookstores or movie houses exist in Farmington, and most residents want it that way; but the 1973 Supreme Court decision which allows local communities to set obscenity standards, paved the way for the Cincinnati decision, opening the door to local censorship.

Farmington pharmacies and bookstore, presently set their own guidelines for displaying and selling what is commonly referred to as "soft porn."

Godmar Rexall's on Grand River, for instance, sells skin magazines like "Hustler," "Playboy," and "Penthouse" under the counter, and pharmacist Harry Watson doesn't sell the magazines to persons under 18.

"I DON'T KNOW if it's a law or not, we just don't sell them to kids," he says. "We don't sell a large volume because we don't display them. People have to ask."

Ludington News, which distributes "Playboy," has asked the pharmacy to display the magazine with a cover, but Rexall's has declined.

Clerk Jean Charles also watches the paperback displays, and if a customer finds something he or she believes is offensive, Ms. Charles will put it under the counter.

"Ludington puts the more raunchy stuff on the top shelves anyway, but we try to keep an eye on what children are seeing."



Al Brown is owner of Classic Movie and Comic Center in downtown Farmington.

Jeanne Nielsen who's been managing the "Open Book" on Middlebelt at the corner of Eleven Mile for one year, keeps brown paper wrappings on the top issue of stacked skin magazines and requests customers to purchase an issue under the covered magazine. She also uses her own standards in refraining from selling skin magazines to persons under 18.

"We try to keep the customers happy," says Ms. Nielsen, who finds that most people are not offended by the presence of skin magazines on the rack.

"I have one chronic complainer who doesn't think they should be in the store at all, but that's about it."

With all the publicity surrounding "Hustler," she finds the magazine has

been doing a brisk business. "People want to see what all the fuss is about," she says.

AL BROWN, owner of Classic Movie and Comic Center on Grand River near Farmington Road, doesn't carry skin magazines nor paperback soft porn. But he gets a lot of calls from people wanting to buy stag films, since he does sell 8mm films.

"I tell them they have to go to Detroit or Highland Park," says Brown. "I don't stock X-rated films, and the only X-rated film I special order is 'Emmanuelle,' sort of a soft porn film. People selling X-rated films can make a lot of money," he says.

Brown is slightly disturbed by the recent court decision because he thinks the public has a right to purchase what they want.

"I think everybody should be able to sell everything they want, but the community should have the right to say it should be behind the counter and not on display."

One customer complaint Brown received recently involved the sale of a Farrah Fawcett-Majors poster to a pre-teenager. "The mother brought back the poster along with another poster of 'Charlie's Angels' fully clothed and said I shouldn't have sold them to her children."

"I returned her money, but I don't really think it's my business to declare Farrah behind-the-counter. I personally don't find the poster objectionable."

Bill Barker, who manages the science fiction business at the store, sells vintage editions of "Playboy" and "Penthouse" and has never received complaints. He purposely keeps the conservative covers in the front of the rack to avoid offending parents whose children browse through the store.

"I'd be astounded if anyone complained," he says.

## Pornography is scarce in Farmington stores

Community standards regulate the enforcement of obscenity ordinances, according to both Farmington police departments, and thus far, the sale of pornographic materials has not been a problem in the area.

"Pornography is not a big problem in Farmington," according to Lt. John Santamuro of the City of Farmington. "If you ask what's pornographic reading material, you'd have to ask what's the tolerance level of the community."

"If the community decides that 'Playboy' is pornographic, the police department has to enforce the law. What's tolerated in Detroit or Pontiac may very well not be tolerated in Farmington."

If a resident makes a formal complaint to the Farmington Hills police department concerning questionable reading or viewing material, police get a sample of the material and submit it to the city attorney.

"It's his decision as to the nature of the material," said a Farmington Hills police spokesman, although the Hills ordinance has never been tested.

**BOTH POLICE DEPARTMENTS**

have the job of enforcing obscenity ordinances rather than defining pornography.

"If there's a topless bar in Farmington, it would be against our disorderly conduct ordinance, as well as the Michigan liquor control ordinance," Santamuro said. "We have a local ordinance that prohibits mini-theatres and shows that feature pornographic movies as well as adult bookstores."

The City of Farmington is presently updating the entire ordinance book of the city, including those regulating obscenity. Farmington police have obtained a copy of Detroit's anti-porn zoning ordinance, upheld by the Supreme Court, according to Santamuro, and the City is also examining how Pontiac and Inkster cope with the situation.

"Our present ordinance deals with the licensing and operation of the business. It restricts, not prohibits, pornographic types of business," Santamuro explained.

"We're trying to enact an ordinance that's as stringent as possible, although the need for it doesn't appear

that strong. No one has tried to come into Farmington with this type of business."

Most people don't complain, according to acting Farmington Hills Police Chief Russell Conway. "The main objection is when pornography is available to kids," he said.

**SELLING SKIN MAGAZINES** under the counter is strictly a cooperative venture on the part of merchants. Most merchants cooperate with customers and police to avoid complaints about objectionable magazines on open racks, spokesmen confirmed.

## Farmington, schools left behind

## Farmington Hills splits from FARC

By STEVE BARNABY  
Farmington Editor

Farmington Hills will have its own parks and recreation division beginning July 1.

The city council, in a 6-1 vote Monday, supported a resolution made by Councilwoman Joan Dudley to establish a separate parks and recreation division.

Presently, Farmington Hills is participating in a cooperative commission venture with three other governmental bodies to provide recreational services for its residents. Other partic-

ipants of the Farmington Area Recreation Commission (FARC) are the City of Farmington, the Farmington School District, and the Clarenceville School District.

Voting against the proposal was Councilman Earl Oppertausser, who said the council should wait until conferring with the City of Farmington and school board officials before making the decision.

"I can't see why we must make this decision right now. Why throw down the gauntlet," said Oppertausser.

**OPPERTAUSER AGREED** that

Farmington Hills was ready to establish its own parks and recreation division, but dissented because of the timing.

"Many years ago, I objected to the representation on FARC. But two wrongs don't make a right," he continued.

Mayor Keith Deacon expressed similar sentiments, but he did support the proposal.

"If I had something crammed down my throat with a 30-foot ramrod, I don't think I would like it, either," he said.

"It would be wise to have a little bit of discussion for the sake of future cooperation with the schools and the City of Farmington," he said.

Mrs. Dudley defended her motion, saying further discussions with the City of Farmington should be conducted on how best to implement the program, rather than if the division should be formulated.

"We should be willing to take the lead. This is the right thing for Farmington Hills to do," she said.

Councilwoman Joanne Smith, who supported Dudley's motion, said it was important that cooperation be sought, but agreed the vote should be taken at this week's meeting. "I hope we would be positive about this matter. But if we don't pass this

it will appear as if we are asking for their permission," she said.

FARC Director Douglas Gaynor was optimistic about the vote and expressed hope that City of Farmington officials would see fit to cooperate with the new parks and recreation division.

Hills officials have talked of having the City of Farmington contract for recreation services with the Hills.

"We are following the Department of Natural Resources guidelines which said instituting our own parks and recreation division was the thing to do," he said.

Under the plan, Farmington Hills would pay the entire cost of the present FARC staff, which presently is financed by the governmental bodies participating in FARC.

"The biggest advantage to this new division is that parks and recreation will be governed by one political body, rather than four," he said.

"Now, Farmington Hills has a vehicle by which it can go after funding, land acquisition and development," he said.

Presently, Farmington Hills has only one park, Waldron, in the city's south end. City officials are looking at larger parcels around the area in hopes of developing a larger parks area.

## Brodhead aids business in tax-saving amendment

Michigan businesses might have been paying additional tax to the tune of \$18 million for the next two years had Congressman William Brodhead's (D-Detroit) amendment not won approval.

The federal emergency unemployment extension is an amendment on a law that would have required Michigan businesses to pay an additional 3 per cent tax on payrolls in 1978 and 5 per cent in 1979. The extra tax is levied on Michigan and 12 other jurisdictions (Alabama, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Illinois, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico and Rhode Island) which took out loans from the federal unemployment trust fund when their own unemployment funds became depleted.

Michigan borrowed \$326 million in 1975 and \$245 million in 1976. Current law requires the imposition of an additional 3 per cent cumulative tax on payrolls each year until the loan is repaid.

"I'm not arguing that the loan should not be repaid. However, the unemployment problem which caused Michigan to apply for the loans has not improved. It would be sheer folly for Congress to pass the President's

economic stimulus program, then turn right around and cancel it out with this new tax," Brodhead said.

"Michigan has been hit harder by unemployment than almost any other state, and I believe we must come up with a solution to the unemployment problem before we begin to repay the loans. My amendment will give us some breathing space to accomplish that end," he adds.

According to the Michigan Employment Security Commission, the taxable payroll in Michigan for 1977 will be \$12.2 billion. At the rate of 3 per cent, Michigan employers would have to pay an additional tax of \$36.6 million in 1978.

In 1978, the taxable payroll goes up to \$16.3 billion because the federal taxable wage base goes up from \$4,200 to \$6,000. At a rate of 5 per cent, this would cost Michigan employers \$101.4 million.

"This tax is aimed at jurisdictions where the unemployment is highest. The effect would be to drive industry out of Michigan and thus cause even greater unemployment," Brodhead says.

The bill now goes to the full Ways and Means Committee before it is reported to the House.



## Dejection

Dejection was the name of the game for the North Farmington Raiders this past weekend when they lost to Detroit's DeWitt High School in the first round of the Class A Basketball District Tournament. The final score was 83-57. To read about the whole story, turn to the sports section.

inside

**FURNITURE  
SOLD WITH  
ONE ADI**

Mrs. Harold Markos wanted no time when she wanted to sell her dining room set. She advertised in The Observer & Economic classified section and disposed of the furniture in no time. "Incredible! Unbelievable results," she told us after the successful sale.

**COMPLETE** Sixty dining room set, solid cherry cabinet, oval table, bench cabinet, dining room table with 4 leaves, chairs with leather www.41502.

**DIAL DIRECT  
644-1070**

Community Calendar	39
Editorial Opinion	14A
News	Section A
Sports	Section C
Suburban Life	Section B
Classifieds	Sections B, C