

# Youth protests state of Farmington education

Editor:

I have read with delight the several recent articles and letters to the editor responding to the deplorable condition of the music and general education programs in Farmington Public Schools. People in the community are finally waking up and taking action. I have waited hopefully and anxiously for sev-

eral years for the people of the communities affected by Farmington's schools to recognize serious deficiencies in the education system and to demand changes.

It is extremely important that the whole community recognize the problems that are glaring realities in the school system, and that the public apathy that is largely responsible for them not continue.

As a clarinet teacher and high school student, I have had to recognize the problems.

The common trend of young students being taught music incorrectly and knowing almost nothing after years of playing an instrument in Farmington's schools music programs is disheartening to say the least.

Farmington High School has had three instrumental music directors in three years. The music students generally feel beaten, pride in their art disappearing and many have given up getting rewarding experiences out of a system that seems to fight positive intentions.

The problem isn't limited, however, to Farmington High or music. All over the school system, teachers are teach-

ing music at grade levels out of their experience and knowledge realms while the system has forced other competent music teachers into classes about which they care or know far too little.

From those music students who face discouraging, and at times ridiculous education situations; to other students all over the system who must try to extract the most from a teacher out of his field; to the teachers who often find themselves teaching courses in which they have no experience or interest; it seems that too few people care enough to insist on improvement.

Those students who honestly concern themselves with the quality of their education may only prosper through self-inspiration, not through high school requirements.

The requirements for graduation from high school are at best incomplete and shameful. What incentive helps to motivate students to take schedules that enrich their educational background, when the school system bends over backwards to graduate students who could not care less about school and display it by not showing up for classes half of the time?

## from our readers

The system caters to the students who spend much of their time everywhere but in school.

Most of them will escape punishment, and those seniors that can pass three classes, along with study hall and senior excuse, will be in robes on graduation day.

Meanwhile, those students interested in their education must overlook this mockery of educational values and try to escape the mediocrity that graduation requirements outwardly promote and encourage.

I cannot avoid feeling that I am going to major in music in college in spite of my schooling, and many students must feel the same way.

A student majoring in math has to avoid wondering why Farmington High Schools require more time in physical education than in math.

A student with the slightest bit of ambition to take a well-rounded selec-

tion of courses mustn't ask too many other students what they are taking lest he be provoked to impolite laughter or sudden illness.

The system of giving students a great deal of academic freedom by offering the humanities, vocational classes and arts as electives is pleasant in theory but in practice is absurd.

It is human nature to take the easiest way out. Students deserve to be encouraged and pushed into a well-rounded education, and they don't have to lose their academic freedom in the process.

Not enough is expected of high school students and the community must do something while the issue is hot.

If anyone is yet unconvinced, I personally invite anyone interested to visit one of the three area high school parking lots to see just how much is expected of high school students.

Don't be alarmed, however. Parking lot 101 isn't yet on that list of high school requirements.

DAN LOCHRIE,  
Farmington High senior

## Deadline is extended for class enrollment

Persons interested in enrolling in the short courses for the academically talented at Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge campus have until April 26.

Orchard Ridge campus administration office.

## Correction

A story in the April 17 edition incorrectly spelled the name of Mark Gordon Griesemer, 18, who was arraigned last Saturday in 47th District Court in connection with a series of tire slashings at Greenhill apartments.

The campus is located between Orchard Lake and Farmington roads, south of 12 Mile in Farmington Hills. Those interested should contact the

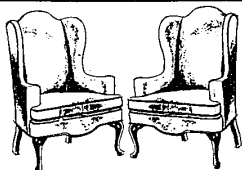
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