

# Farmington Observer

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Jacque Adud tells of his friendship with Pete Reif, who was slain on June 16. The two had been friends and former business partners since immigrating from Romania 16 years ago. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

## An American tragedy

### Murder separates best friends

By MARY GNIEWEK

Jacque Adud looked Thursday afternoon like he had lost his best friend.

Huddled against the side of the Gulf station he owns on the northwest corner of Nine Mile Road and Middlebelt, he sheltered himself against a heavy rainstorm while filling a customer's gas tank.

Then he walked back into the station and put a "closed" sign in the window.

"He's the only friend I have here. Now I have no one," Adud said.

He was referring to his long-time friend and former business partner, Pincus "Pete" Reif, who was shot and killed last Monday afternoon in

an apparent robbery attempt in Farmington Hills.

Less than an hour before the crime occurred, Adud sat in his station and watched the couple suspected of murdering his friend walk by on their way to Reif's Shell station just across the street.

"They passed by here at 4 p.m.," Adud said.

"I'm curious. No one walks by. They all go by car. They came from the apartments. My neighbor saw them. They walked fast."

Adud paused for a minute. "Maybe one hour later, the police came. They asked me if I see two people."

REIF WAS SHOT while sitting in

his 1973 Cadillac when he took the couple for a test drive, after they apparently expressed interest in buying the car. His body was found a half-mile from his gas station. The car was abandoned in Detroit.

"It's such a tragedy," Adud said, shaking his head.

Both men emigrated together from Romania 16 years ago. For two years, they were partners in Reif's Shell station, cited by the Farmington Hills Beautification Commission in past years for its well-manicured appearance.

Adud branched out with his own station seven years ago. The two stations face each other across Middlebelt. Adud and Reif also lived in the same apartment complex.

Farmington Manor, a short walk from their respective businesses.

"My car was stolen six months ago. They broke the window here," he said, pointing to the glass garage door. "Then Pete had trouble. They broke the window there, too."

"Whenever I had a problem, I go to him."

Adud said Reif paid him a visit about 3 p.m. Monday, nothing out of the ordinary for the two friends.

"We work 16 or 18 hours a day to make a living. It is very hard. Now he's gone."

Reif is survived by his wife, two married daughters and four grandchildren.

Funeral services were held last Wednesday from the Ira Kaufman chapel in Southfield.

## Police probe Hills slaying of Pete Reif

By MARY GNIEWEK

Farmington Hills police are trying to piece together clues in the bizarre June 16 afternoon slaying of service station owner Pincus "Pete" Reif.

Reif, 65, a Rumanian immigrant who lived and worked in Farmington Hills for the past 16 years, was shot to death while sitting in his 1973 Cadillac just blocks from his service station at Middlebelt and Nine Mile Road.

The only motive police have ascertained is a possible robbery attempt, though Reif's wallet was not missing.

According to police, Reif, owner of Pete's Shell Service, took a man and woman for a test drive in the white Cadillac after they came into his station about 4 p.m. and expressed a desire to buy it. The car was not advertised for sale.

Police said the couple was seen talking to Reif about buying the car two days before the murder by residents of the Farmington Manor Apartments, where Reif lived.

The couple showed up at the station Monday, walking along Nine Mile from

the apartment complex to the gas station at the corner of Middlebelt.

Reif's body was left on Freshwell, a quiet residential street east of Middlebelt and south of Nine Mile, minutes after he left the station with the couple.

THE CAR was found abandoned in a west side Detroit neighborhood four hours later.

"It's a bizarre thing. It could've been an attempted robbery, altercation with shots, not followed through," said Police Lt. Norman Kilmer, one of seven officers working on the case, the first recorded homicide in Farmington Hills in two years.

Police also believe a third suspect may be involved. They are seeking one person for questioning.

"We think there's two males and one female involved," Kilmer said. "We're showing pictures of possible suspects to about 10 witnesses."

"We have a lot of information to run down. There's not a good description (of the suspects) — a black male and female. Their ages range from 22 to 40 from different witnesses."

## Library ponders future services after budget cut

By STEVE BARNABY

Farmington editor

Users of the Farmington library system will be facing a service reduction and fee increases in the near future.

That's the word from library chief Gordon Lewis.

Presently, the bi-city library board is going over its figures after learning that Farmington and Farmington Hills have cut \$30,000 from the library budget.

The cuts, said Lewis, were a surprise.

"We weren't invited to participate in the budget cut discussions said Lewis. "We had no chance to recommend or show to the two city councils what the cuts would mean."

Farmington Hills has cut \$25,000, with Farmington cutting the remainder.

"The problem we have is that the people don't always respond to the directives of the councils," he said. "Residents are using the library more and more."

Lewis estimates that library personnel come in contact with 2,500 persons a day either directly or over the telephone. In a month, the library handles 40,000 titles, Lewis said.

Combined, the two cities will contribute \$823,000 to the library system. The total budget is more than \$1 million.

OTHER MONEY is contributed by the state or raised through fees charged by the library, Lewis said.

"The budget we submitted was already a 16-percent reduction. The library board made a conservative approach to reflect the current economic situation."

A request by both cities that the li-

brary district maintain its budget to improve the book collection is unrealistic, said Lewis.

"The library has the largest buildings serving the community. A large part of our expenses are fixed in maintenance and utilities."

The library district has two buildings with a combined total of 57,000 square feet and five acres. It is second only to the Dearborn library system in the suburban Detroit area, Lewis said.

"We can re-examine the budget, but it still won't add up to \$30,000 no matter what."

A cut in book purchases, hours and staff are the only alternatives left to the library, he said.

The library has 15 professional librarians, 15 non-professionals and 30 students on staff.

Some of the alternatives to be examined by the library board will be to eliminate Sunday hours, charging for reserving books and increasing rental fees for the meeting rooms, he said.

SOME GROUPS, said Lewis, were rented the rooms free-of-charge, while businesses were charged \$50. All that will change now, he said.

"This violates the theory that a library provides free space for the exchange of ideas. It will prohibit some groups who just can't afford it, from gathering at the library."

The business rental fee, too, will more than likely be increased, he said.

In May 1979, a ballot proposal was rejected by voters in Farmington and Farmington Hills. That proposal would have allowed the library district to levy its own tax and to float bonds.

Legally, it would have made the library district a governmental entity.

## Contract settlement forged with Hills city employees

By MARY GNIEWEK

The Farmington Hills City Council has ratified a three-year pact with 50 city employees represented by Local 1456 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME).

Members include clerks, switchboard operators, police dispatchers, teleprocessors, account clerks, senior record clerks and zoning and building inspectors.

The contract, retroactive to July 1, 1979, represents an average annual 7 percent pay increase over three years. On the top of the pay hikes are clerk-typists. On the bottom end are inspectors.

Adoption of some recommendations made in a Michigan Department of Civil Service study requested by City Manager Lawrence Savage last year was taken into account in the settlement.

The report showed some of the employees underpaid in comparison to workers in similar jobs in surrounding cities. Although many of the starting pays were lower, there was a wider range within the scale in private industry.

A state mediator was called in last December to integrate the pay adjust-

ments into the settlement.

"The adjustment increase as of Jan. 1, 1980 ranged from 3.5 percent to 30 percent. The average was 14 percent," said Harry Todeschini, assistant steward and a member of the bargaining committee.

"THE WORKERS are satisfied but the city is not giving anything away," he said.

Members ratified the contract by more than a 6-to-1 margin: 59 yes to 6 no votes.

City Manager Savage called the settlement "absolutely justified."

"We utilized the study in making the settlements as of Jan. 1, 1980. We are much closer than we have ever been to equality (with other cities)," Savage said.

The contract also represents approximately two additional vacation days for most of the membership and an increase in life insurance coverage from a maximum of \$20,000 to a maximum of \$30,000.

The contract represents an average 10 percent pay increase the first year, a 4 percent hike across the board the second year, and an average 7 percent increase the third year.

Bargaining for the new contract began last July 1. The old contract was extended by mutual agreement.

The first six months of bargaining dealt with the language of the contract, with both sides waiting for the results

of the civil service study.

The new contract will expire June 30, 1982.



### Sorry about that

This' roughneck scene isn't as serious as it looks. Actually, that's John Osako (left), a seventh-degree black belt, giving a flip to student Tim Bean. Osako will be teaching judo at the Farmington area YMCA. For more information about taking a judo class, call 553-4020.

## Charges sought against driver in fatal bicycle-car accident

Farmington Hills police are seeking a warrant against the driver of a car that careened off of northbound Haggerty at Howard last Monday, plowing into two Novi teens on bicycles and killing one of the youths.

Thomas G. Hall, 15, a student at Novi High School, was killed in the accident which occurred at 8:50 p.m. His companion, Robert Munro, 15, was

fatal and released last Wednesday.

Lieutenant Ernest Miller of the Farmington Hills traffic division said a warrant should be obtained from the Oakland County Prosecutor's office this week against the driver, Richard Storch, 38, of West Bloomfield.

"The car passed in a no-passing zone, then came back into the northbound lane and went off the road," Miller said.

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OVERSEAS ADVENTURE
Although the Peace Corps enjoyed its most popular period in its early days, volunteers still are going to other countries to aid in the spirit of the New Frontier. To read about one Farmington area resident who did just that, turn to page 6A.