

Farmington Observer

Volume 93 Number 32

Monday, February 1, 1982

Farmington, Michigan

28 Pages

Twenty-five cents



Donna Fennimore hangs upside down from the oscillation bed while Ken George of Nu-Gravity Inc. makes an adjustment to the machine.

Back therapy with a new view

By Craig Piechura
staff writer

"It's got to be from California, right?" asks the phone repairman watching a newspaper reporter hang from his heels on a metal bar fastened to each side of a doorjamb.

Yes, it's from California, admits Ken George, 35, owner of Nu-Concept Gravity, Inc. of Farmington Hills, exclusive distributor in Michigan of the Gravity

Guidance System designed by Dr. Robert M. Martin of Pasadena, Calif.

Fending off a potential put-down, George tells the repairman, "California, sometimes I think they invented sex."

The California crack is a typical reaction to the idea of grown people hanging upside down for their health, George says. But he's quick to add that

Please turn to Page 4A

Where will money come from?

New Federalism sets off alarm

By M.B. Dillon
staff writer

Local officials are responding with mixed emotions to President Reagan's New Federalism proposals.

Most fear that shifting responsibility for 40 programs costing \$47 billion from the state and local governments will result in the elimination of programs or tax hikes.

Others wonder how it will affect Michigan's biggest problem — curbing the highest unemployment rate in the nation.

"I have some areas of concern that would have to be answered before I could support the transfer of some programs," said state Sen. Doug Ross, a Democrat whose district includes Farmington, Farmington Hills and Southfield.

"We have more than 600,000 people out of work and our first responsibility as elected officials is to work with Washington to get them back to work," it still is unclear how the president's plan will translate into jobs for Michigan, he added.

"I was disturbed to read the governor's economic projections that appear to assume that Reaganomics will not work for Michigan," Ross said.

Ross wonders whether the swap of programs would be fair. "We don't want a situation where someone offers to pay our newsboy in return for us paying their light bill," he said.

"We have to make sure it's not simply a shift of Washington's financial problems onto us."

RECESSION, HIGH interest rates, high unemployment and the gaping federal deficit merit top government priority, said U.S. Rep. William Brodehead, D-Detroit.

Fanatics raid another church

By Craig Piechura
staff writer

they try interrupting his church service or any other in the future.

A Methodist minister in Farmington Hills turned away the doorjambers of four religious zealots disrupted services at his church.

Three men and a woman interrupted a Sunday service at Nardin Park Methodist Church Jan. 10 by reciting the Ten Commandments and passages from the Bible. Four men had made a similar interruption the week before at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church in Farmington. At that time, the disrupters called parishioners "idolaters."

The Rev. William Ritter, senior minister at Nardin Park, who tracked the disrupters down and talked to them following the incident, said he was told the group's action was part of an effort directed by the Holy Spirit to "expose false prophets" such as himself.

"We're they to do it again, they should know there's at least one religious leader in this community who has taken this incident with a high degree of seriousness," Ritter said. "Since I've put in this much effort talking to them, understanding them, I'd be happy to assist someone else who wanted, possibly, to prosecute. Knowing that may make someone think twice."

The spokesman, or leader, of the informal group is a Farmington Hills man in his mid-40s, Ritter said. The others have roots in the Farmington area and are in their 20s, said Ritter.

The four left Nardin Park after making their point loudly, the minister said. At Our Lady of Sorrows, Farmington police were called but the persons interrupting left before police arrived.

After leaving the Nardin Park church, the four joined a man waiting in a car in the church parking lot. Someone jotted down the license plate number.

THE MEMBERS say they are Christian but denounce organized religion for becoming "worldly," "rich" and "fat," according to Ritter.

Ritter theorized that the men picked Our Lady of Sorrows and Nardin Park to disrupt because both churches are "local, large edifices (representing) systems they despise."

Ritter said he'd hoped to establish a "dialogue" with the group but the meetings weren't fruitful.

"This individual tended to want to lapse into sermons," said the minister. "He'd (the leader) make a judgment, make a claim — kind of a walking position paper. Push a button and the answer comes up."

Gov. William Milliken is projecting that by the end of 1983, unemployment in Michigan will still be over 12 percent with 530,000 people out of work, and that interest rates will remain above 15 percent, he added.

"I did a bit of arithmetic that alarmed me. If the federal government would pick up the full cost of Medicaid in return for the state paying the full bill for aid to dependent children and food stamps, the net result is an additional quarter of a billion dollar tax burden on Michigan," Ross said.

"New Federalism will have far-reaching ramifications, but is probably no more than a switch and a swap. We have bigger problems facing us that we should be focusing on," Brodehead said.

"One of the big problems I foresee with New Federalism is making gainers and losers of the various states," he added.

"Some states will be better off as a

Lauhoff named to police post

By Craig Piechura
staff writer

Please turn to Page 4A

A 30-year-old sergeant with seven years experience as a public safety officer in Farmington has been promoted to deputy director of police and fire operations in the city.



Lt. Frank Lauhoff

The second-in-command position, with the formal rank of lieutenant, makes Frank J. Lauhoff answerable to Director of Public Safety G. Robert Seifert.

Three sergeants in the department competed for the job opening when the former deputy director, Lt. John Santamuro, resigned Dec. 31 to become chief of police in Pittsfield Township, near Ann Arbor. The two other sergeants who competed for the job are Marvin Snider and Murray Switzer.

Lauhoff said he wasn't surprised but pleased with the promotion and doesn't expect to institute any big changes in the department.

"My philosophy about this position is I believe we have a well-run police department," Lauhoff said. "I believe this is a well-organized police department. My feeling is we can continue to have that high-caliber kind of officer here."

Please turn to Page 6A

Farmington man helps Polish couple find asylum

By Carol Carpenter
staff writer

Fear drove Chris and Yolanda Kossut from Poland to America, a country the couple knew only from the movies.

Aided by a Livonia businessman they met two years ago while on their honeymoon in Russia, Chris, 31, and Yolanda, 24, arrived in Farmington six months ago. They are now seeking political asylum.

Chris is now working at the Top of the Pontch restaurant and Yolanda is a bar waitress.

The Kossuts found it difficult to leave Poland, despite the conditions there. Kossut had to leave behind his parents, brother and sister. Mrs. Kossut's parents and other relatives also remain in Poland.

Kossut had to sell his cafe-bar for virtually worthless Polish dollars only 12 hours before he and his wife fled the country.

"They (Polish police) know I have contacts with Polish students in the underground," said Kossut. His business was a popular gathering place for the politically involved.

"They (police) try to blackmail me. They arrest my customers for no reason. They take me to the station and say, 'You have to cooperate if you want to have a business,'" Kossut said. "They say, 'Now that we are in power, you have to cooperate with us.'"

HE SAID that in Poland he and his wife had to spend hours waiting in line to get a piece of meat that was all fat and bone. "To prepare something to eat, you must really be a good cook," he added.

Chaos was the term he used to describe the Polish monetary and economic systems.

"Every day the price (of goods) was 10 or 20 percent more on the black market," he said. "Everyone is afraid of the Polish money and it can't buy anything. People prefer gold or diamonds and they're afraid to have money in the banks because the banks may close."

Their families probably won't be suffering any regressions, Kossut said, because "about 100,000 people immigrate and I'm not that important."

But he had to sell a business that had taken three years to build.

In Poland, they called me a capitalist," Kossut laughed.

The Kossuts, who said they hoped to continue their assistance to the Solidarity movement, had stories about how students in their native land showed their rebellion.

"The underground, for example, had to carry the political pamphlets in large grocery bags which were easy to spot on the street," Kossut said, so all the supporters started carrying shopping bags when they went out and the police could no longer easily identify the underground workers.



Chris Kossut



Yolanda Kossut



Chuck Gulkowski

here," Gulkowski said, telling how Kossut rode buses into America to find a job at the Top of the Pontch restaurant.

"Now we spend all holy days with them and talk every day on the phone."

Kossut works long hours and recently moved from Gulkowski's home to an apartment in Hamtramck.

"The Kossuts' big dream is to open a restaurant, perhaps in California," they said.

"It seems easier here," Kossut said. "In Poland to open something is so much trouble. You have to get a license for everything."

The America they expected isn't the America they've seen in the past six months, they said.

"Always in Poland," Kossut said, "we get ideas (about America) from the movies. Everything is big and colored so beautiful like Hollywood."

"But Farmington is so quiet and there are no big buildings. Life is so comfortable. You can just order things by phone."

After the recent installation of their phone, the Kossuts got a big surprise, a call from relatives in Detroit they didn't know were here.

GULKOWSKI became concerned about his friends when he started hearing about the trouble in Poland. So he wrote and invited them for a visit to his home in Farmington.

"I thought a long time about sponsoring them," Gulkowski said. "I could see how frightened they were about going back."

Gulkowski's wife Betty Ann and his two daughters Lynn and Beth Ann have also become attached to the Kossuts, he said.

"They'll both be a definite asset

what's inside

ALWAYS IN POLAND...

181-0360

PEOPLE ARE very brave in Poland, added the Warsaw-born Kossut, who at one point was hauled in for 48 hours of questioning. They talk openly against the government but there are spies. They (police) keep a list and when they call me in, they have photos of me and of every customer."

For the Kossuts, the meeting with their future American sponsor Chuck Gulkowski could have been a scene from a romantic Hollywood epic.

It occurred in September of 1979. Gulkowski, a Farmington resident and administrator of the Middlebelt Nurs-

LIFE in Poland became increasingly difficult and even for them, the Kossuts, who despite the danger continued to support the Solidarity movement.

"The stores in town were empty, but the warehouses were full of food," he said. "We all knew it was because of government polking."

"(The government) is two-faced. One face agreed with the Solidarity movement. The other face waited for the right time to move against Solidarity."

"They slowly prepared everything to stop the movement," Kossut commented. "Everyone is scared at this time. I'm afraid they'll really start a civil war. It's a bad time for all Europe."

"The real power is Russia. Many of the soldiers are not Polish people."

Kossut said he expects the martial law to end soon because it's too expensive to maintain. Even though it doesn't have weapons, the solidarity movement won't be broken. The Polish people will fight for reform no matter what the consequences are, he said.