

# Farmington Observer

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## Abortion

### Society debates after a decade

By Mary Klemic  
staff writer

When the Supreme Court handed down its landmark abortion ruling, it sparked debate which, 10 years later, still can be heard.

In the ruling on Roe vs. Wade, made Jan. 22, 1973, the Court said a woman had the right, in consultation with her physician, to decide whether to terminate a pregnancy in its first three months.

The state may move to protect the fetus only during the final three months of pregnancy, the Court said.

Many religious officials in the area say their congregations have the same views on the subject today that they did 10 years ago.

"The Catholic Church still considers it (abortion) wrong," said Father Kean Cronin, pastor of Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Farmington. "Human life begins at conception, and to terminate a human life is wrong. It's very simple and clear."

"We consider it a violation of the Lord's commandment," said Bishop Timothy Negrepps of the Greek Orthodox Church. "Abortion is an action which hurts divine providence and hurts the procreation of human beings."

But not all officials spoke strongly against abortion. Sherwin Wine, rabbi of the Birmingham Temple in Farmington Hills, said the abortion ruling is "a proper affirmation of woman's dignity. And I hope it would be preserved," he said.

"Jews don't all agree on the abortion issue," Wine said. "The liberal rabbis on the whole are in favor of it."

"THE LUTHERAN CHURCH of America has continued to support the pro-choice stance," said the Rev. Gary Johnson, pastor of the Antioch Lutheran Church in Farmington. "The church does not promote or approve of abortion. It sees abortion as the taking of a life but sees the choice as having to be made in certain instances." He added that each congregation has a different viewpoint, as did Dr. Stanley B. Nicol, pastor of the North Farmington Baptist Church.

"Some feel very strongly in favor of the way the law stands now and some feel there should be an amendment so that abortion on demand would not be possible," Nicol said. "There is a variety of opinions."

While the arguments continue, the number of abortions continues to climb. "The fact that it's legal made it easier for teenagers to obtain abortions," said Debra Lipson, director of the adolescent health project for the tri-county area at United Community Services.

Lipson cited a national survey taken among metropolitan area women ages 15 to 19. The survey indicated that in 1971, 67 percent of teenage pregnancies ended in live births, while 23 percent ended in abortion and 10 percent in miscarriages. In 1979, 49 percent of the pregnancies ended in live births, 37 percent in abortions and 14 percent in miscarriages, according to the survey.

Lipson said one effect of the Roe vs. Wade decision has been favorable from a health standpoint.

"There has been dramatic improvement in maternal health, and a significant drop in deaths or complications due to illegal abortions," she said.

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### Food is distributed

Residents in need gathered at Farmington Hills City Hall Wednesday to pick up cheese being distributed at the parks and recreation offices. Another distribution will be from 10 a.m. to noon Tuesday. Identification, such as a driver's license, proof of income or, if unemployed, an unemployment card or food stamp card must be presented. The city distributed 100 five-pound cheese bricks and have another 370 to give away.

## Testing guidelines split staff and board

By M.B. Dillon Ward  
staff writer

Farmington school psychologists and administrators seeking to resolve a grievance concerning intelligence testing saw their hopes dashed Tuesday when the Farmington school board decided the matter should be handled by another forum.

The grievance hearing centers on the staff psychologists' contention that only personnel trained in psychology — not teachers, counselors and administrators — are qualified to administer intelligence testing.

By a 7-0 vote, school board members decided the grievance does not involve a violation of the contract, and that the board is an improper forum to settle the issue. After studying the matter, the Farmington Education Association may take it to arbitration. Legal action by the district's eight psychologists is another possibility.

The controversy stems from a district policy established in September that allows teachers to administer an intelligence screening test and use it to identify gifted students for placement in a special program.

The psychologists consider the policy a violation of state law, specifically Section 182, Act 358 of the Public Health Code, dealing with the practice of psychology.

"THE ESSENCE of our grievance

was primarily that the individualized administration and interpretation of an intelligence test . . . should be done by a psychologist, not by other personnel," said Lewis Smith, chairman of the district's psychology department.

Administrators, however, "this year . . . decided that the staff responsible for the intellectually gifted students would be giving the tests," explained Graham Lewis, assistant superintendent of special services.

"By definition, and according to the instructions on the tests, teachers, counselors and administrators in education do have the right to administer this instrument. The test is designed specifically to enable people who are not psychologists to administer the test."

Only certain tests are stipulated by the producer to be given by psychologists only, he added.

Though the psychologists oppose the administering of any intelligence test by personnel not specially trained, the dispute has centered on the Slosson intelligence test. Given orally and one-on-one, it lasts 15-25 minutes and indicates "an approximate range of verbal intelligence." Based on its results, Farmington students are included or excluded from a program for gifted students.

"WE FEEL that if someone is receiving services from a school and an assessment is being made concerning

intelligence, the person making that judgment should be trained in intelligence," said Jim Miner, a Farmington school psychologist.

Miner likens the situation to that of a person whose car is in need of repair. "If you take your car into a shop to be fixed, you'd hope it would be repaired by a trained mechanic, or someone supervised by a mechanic — not a person who simply picks up a wrench

and makes an attempt," he said.

The Slosson test is given by teachers, counselors and administrators to screen students and to "assess an estimate of IQ — estimate is the important word. It only tells you the range of the child's IQ," he added.

In a presentation made to the school board last week, the psychologists provided supportive opinions of psychology experts including the present and

past presidents of the Michigan Psychological Association (a body whose primary function is to establish ethical guidelines for the practice of psychology) and Dr. Don Hadley of Farmington, a psychologist who has a child in the gifted program.

"(THE DISTRICT'S) argument was that an intelligence test is not a psychological test. That was addressed by

(above-mentioned experts) and that argument was not acknowledged . . . as being valid," said Smith.

"We think there's a difference in expertise and training, and we think it can result in either (the detrimental) inclusion or exclusion of students from special programs."

"The key thing is that people be

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## Holiday Inn loses battle in video war

By M.B. Dillon Ward  
staff writer

A request denied by the Farmington Hills City Council Monday is likely to force the closing of the videogame room at the Farmington Hills Holiday Inn.

Attorney Fred Keywell pleaded the hotel's case before a largely unsympathetic council which decided, 4-2, that the Holiday Inn should not receive an exemption from the city's videogame ordinance.

The hotel, which annually pays more to secure the videogame room than it takes in from its 10 machines, would be obligated to pay an additional 5-7 percent of its videogame income under the ordinance.

The statute, enacted last fall, stipulates:

- a \$25 annual license fee;
- a \$200 non-refundable initial license application fee for operators with four or more devices;
- a \$75 annual license fee per device;
- a non-refundable initial license application fee of \$50 for operators with three or less devices, and application requirements including fingerprinting of the applicant and criminal information concerning felony convictions or "any crime involving moral turpitude."

Also required are at least five references from "reputable citizens" and the written recommendations of at least two citizens respecting the applicant's moral character.

Councilmembers Charlie Williams

and Jody Soronen were swayed by the arguments but were unable to change the minds of their colleagues.

KEYWELL BASED his arguments on the premise that unlike an arcade, the hotel's videogame room is inaccessible to the general public and is offered as an essential service now expected by guests.

He cited a recent public television special that highlighted the "absolute positive benefit in terms of education for school-age children who play videogames," and emphasized that the Holiday Inn's security renders Farmington Hills police protection unnecessary.

"A rule I learned in law school states that when a law ceases to have application to a certain situation, it shouldn't be a law," said Keywell.

"I have in the past been opposed to our ordinance, not from the standpoint of the fees involved, but specifically the fingerprinting and procedures applicants have to go through," said Williams.

REPUTABLE BUSINESS persons have found it "very onerous" to go through the licensing procedure, and find the high licensing fees burdensome as well, he said.

"It's hard to make exceptions, but enough businesses are affected negatively by this that perhaps the entire

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### oral quarrel

### Tell us how you feel about 'snitch' rule

Recently, the Reagan administration enacted a "snitch" rule requiring federally funded clinics to notify parents if teenagers under 18 years of age obtain birth control pills or devices.

Today's Oral Quarrel question is:

CIANS SQUEAL ON CHILDREN WHO USE BIRTH CONTROL DEVICES?

To tell us how you feel call 477-5498. You have until 1 p.m. Friday for your answer to be recorded. You will have 30 seconds to reply after you hear the tone.

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT MAKING PHYSI-

### what's inside

Classified ads. . . Section C,D  
Club Circuit. . . . . 3B  
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Suburban Life. . . . . Section B

Reminder...

Your Observer carrier will be stopping by this week to collect for the month. Please have the money ready and be sure to get your receipt.

It's worth a \$1.75 discount on the next classified advertisement you place in your hometown newspaper.

## Festival seeks new volunteers

Now is the time for all persons interested in saving the Farmington Founders' Festival to volunteer their skills and time.

To launch this year's annual event, a meeting will be conducted on Feb. 3 at 7:30 p.m. in the Farmington Community Center, Farmington Road just north of Ten Mile.

Persons interested in volunteering should call Jody Soronen at the Chamber of Commerce offices, 474-3440. Please call even if you are unable to

attend the Feb. 3 meeting. Whether you just want to volunteer a little time or a lot, you're sure to find something which interests you. All type of skills are needed.

"The meeting is especially critical to this year's effort," said Steve Barnaby, Festival reorganization chairman. "If action isn't taken now, Farmington just might see a tradition die in 1985."

Volunteers are needed at all levels, be stressed, from part-time to leadership.