

2 restaurants call it quits

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cess of selling it (to Lechner) at the time of the increase," Grzema said, "but I understand the previous owner was doing what Lechner told him to do."

Grzema, a 46-year-old Northville resident, also pointed to increased utility payments and insurance premiums as factors in the Wishing Well's downfall.

"Really, business wasn't that bad after the fire," he said. "It's just that expenses got so out of hand."

Grzema, who once employed 15 full- and part-time people, is now unemployed.

Bankruptcy hasn't officially been declared, "but we've been to a lawyer, and that's what's going to happen," he said.

SHOWBIZ PIZZA had become popular with area youngsters from toddlers on up since its opening last Feb. 21.

It was one of a nationwide chain of 133 "company owned" restaurants op-

erated by ShowBiz Pizza Place Inc. of Irving, Texas, a Dallas suburb. ShowBiz is owned by the Brock Hotel Corp. of Dallas.

A spokesman in the Texas office said that the company recently has closed 10 restaurants across the United States, including another one in the Detroit area on Opdyke Road in Pontiac.

"It (the Farmington Hills ShowBiz) was in an oversaturated area," said the spokesman, who did not wish to be identified. "There were just too many restaurants in that area, and it just wasn't doing the business we'd hoped for."

The Orchard Lake Road ShowBiz employed "about 40 to 45 people," mostly high schoolers, according to Dan Flattery, general manager for the entire length of the restaurant's operation.

"Some were transferred to other locations," said Flattery, who is now the general manager for the ShowBiz restaurant at Michigan and Telegraph in

Dearborn. "I have two working for me at this location."

"A lot of them are high school students, so they just can't pick up and go somewhere else. But they all received severance pay and letters of recommendation. I think they are all retrained rather well."

FLATTERY, WHO'S been with ShowBiz for two years, said the announcement of the closing just after New Year's came as a shock to him and most of the employees. The doors closed for good on Jan. 8.

"We found out about it a few days before it closed," he said. "Everybody was shocked. Nobody was expecting it."

Flattery, who said he did "primarily a weekend business," refused to comment on why the parent company decided to close the restaurant.

"I can't say anything about it," he said. "I'm still working for the company."

School chief hears comments

Continued from Page 1

cerned lest an increase in academics would lead to the diminution of out-of-class activities," he said.

Longer school days and years have been called for in some of the critical reports, but the Farmington parents did not support those views.

"Some parents expressed a desire that the high school day be organized in such a fashion that the able student would have the opportunity to attend more and varied classes."

Many parents said that writing and thinking skills are "inextricably connected," Schulman's report said.

"There were several comments stressing the necessity to reinforce the

literary background of students; more reading should be demanded at all levels," the report added.

Concerning foreign languages, Schulman's report said, "There was almost universal support on expanding the teaching of foreign languages. Many (parents) urged that exposure to foreign language should begin in elementary school. And, there was total support to expand the present program of Language Orientation in the middle schools to include actual foreign language instruction."

SOME SCHOOL districts, perhaps reacting to the criticism, have increased students' homework loads.

Most of the parents Schulman interviewed, however, said they liked the district's present homework policy, which does not spell out specific hours.

Parents also suggested better discipline and student demeanor in the schools. "One woman objected to the preppy talk of some of the students," Schulman said. "I thought that was an awesome comment."

Schulman stressed that his study was part of "an ongoing effort" to improve education in the school district.

Said Trustee Susan Rennals, "At PTA meetings, people should be given names of someone to contact if they want to ask questions."

Plan commission to rule on towers

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quests for an ordinance change, the ham radio operator's request "is not a one-person issue."

"THIS IS no different than a reconsideration. It is just four years later," said councilman Joe Alkateb, who voted against the ordinance change in 1979.

Although the ZBA has granted vari-

ances to erect the antennas, ham radio operators Monday argued that "there exists no uniformly applied standard by which applications for variance are judged."

Planning commission chairman James Ellis confirmed Gordon's argument, adding that "there is no consistency whatsoever in these variances."

But, he said, planning commissioners hold a public hearing and ask neighbors

of the amateur radio operator applicant for comments, including whether they have experienced any electrical interference because of the radio signals.

Responding to councilmembers' questions, city attorney Richard Poehlman said that if the council wants standardized criteria for erecting an antenna, then the ordinance should be changed.

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