

Observer honored

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server took third place for its editorial pages. It took second for use of color.

WORKING ALONGSIDE Sklar and McClish on the Observer staff are reporters Casey Huns and Joanne Maliszewski, photographer Randy Borst and receptionist Rose Butler.

"We're delighted to win these awards, not only for ourselves but for the community that we serve day in and day out," Sklar said.

"We hope the awards are a reflection of our commitment to providing community journalism at its best in Farmington and Farmington Hills."

In all, the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers won 12 awards, including three out of four for general excellence.

The Birmingham-Bloomfield Eccentric took first place for general excellence and the West Bloomfield Eccentric second in addition to the Farmington Observer's honorable

mention. (Third place went to the News-Herald Newspapers, Southgate.)

O&E papers also took three of four top awards for the Suburban Life sections. In addition to the Farmington Observer's first place, the Birmingham-Bloomfield Eccentric placed second and the Southfield Eccentric won honorable mention.

The Birmingham-Bloomfield Eccentric took honorable mention for its editorial pages. The West Bloomfield Eccentric took first place for the use of color.

The Birmingham-Bloomfield Eccentric placed second for its graphics.

The Michigan Press Association judging was done by the Arkansas Press Association. The contest covered the period April 1, 1988, to March 31, 1989.

Announcement of the winners is made in conjunction with National Newspaper Week, Oct. 8-14. Theme of the 1989 observance is "A Free Press: Democracy's Forum."

Drug czar lauds effort

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Reisig noted that Proposal A, which, if passed in November, would earmark \$10 million for drug education. Part of this money would be designated for the statewide Michigan Model health curriculum program, which addresses drug abuse. Farmington Public Schools adopted the program last year.

Reisig also said the entire anti-drug effort of more than 20 years may have to be started from scratch, to be successful.

"We must be prepared to cut our losses... when we scrap a program of yesterday," he said. "We have to recognize when we've failed and go on from there."

Also at Wednesday's launch, the community offered a standing ovation to Farmington Hills resident Betty Nicolay, founder of the FFIA movement in the early 1980s, who was credited with planting seeds for the anti-drug sentiment and movement in the Farmington area.

She received both state and local kudos from Farmington Hills Mayor Terry Sever and state Rep. Jan Dolan, R-Farmington Hills. Dolan said Nicolay became involved with substance abuse education "when it was just a buzz word."

Sever echoed his pleasure with Nicolay's grass-roots movement.


"It's amazing how one person can grow into a few, which can grow into many, which can grow into hundreds," he said. "It's our responsibility to see that it grows into thousands."

OTHER ACTIVITIES during the month of October include:

• **Drug-free T-Shirt Day**, Oct. 6. Students in all Farmington-area schools are being asked to wear T-shirts Friday with the red-colored slogan, "Say yes to life, say no to drugs," as part of the launch effort. Several schools are planning special anti-drug activities in conjunction with the T-shirt day.

• **Sports Nights**, Oct. 18 and 25. Former Harrison High football star John Miller and Lions quarterback Rodney Peete will meet the public at Harrison at 7:30 p.m. on the 25th. Plans are still being formed up for the 18th.

• The "Are You Concerned?" drug awareness series Tuesday Oct. 10, 17 and 24. The first of the series, coordinated through Maple Grove Center and sponsored by FFIA, was held Tuesday. Residents can attend any or all of the series at no charge at Harrison High School at 7:30 p.m.




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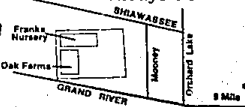
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