

Caribbean's newest
'playground,' 1D



North tops
Falcons, 1C

Games teach teachers
to make math fun, 3A

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STATE of the Cities.
The date has been set for the Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce's annual State of the Cities breakfast.

The event will be held at 8 a.m. Thursday, March 22 at the Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Co. of America meeting room in Farmington Hills.

Guest speakers will include Mayor Shirley Richardson and City Manager Bob Dondanville of Farmington and Mayor Joan Fox and City Manager Bill Costick of Farmington Hills. For reservations, call the chamber, 474-3440.

Memory lane

25 years ago:
In a decision described by Farmington Township attorney Joseph Brennan as historic and unprecedented, the Michigan Supreme Court upheld the population control principles underlying the Farmington Township Zoning Ordinance.

The self-proclaimed leader of the American Nazi Party in Michigan was arrested by Farmington police at his home on Grand River and charged with criminal libel, a misdemeanor, for allegedly hiring a 14-year-old boy to deliver in the community hate literature against blacks.

— Farmington Enterprise, Feb. 10, 1965

This week

MONDAY, the Detroit:
Red Wings scrimmage with students at the Farmington Training Center, and the Pro Challenge comes to North Farmington High Tuesday morning, where professional athletes will compete with student teams there.

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Rapist to spend life in jail

Faces long terms in 2 states

By Helen Niemiec
staff writer

"Oakland County rapist" Steven Szeman will live out the rest of his days in prison, though he may be in his 80s before he begins a Michigan jail term.

Szeman, 26, would have to serve a minimum of 48 years at Jackson

prison before he would be eligible for parole for convictions on charges that included rape, armed robbery, breaking and entering from attacks during 1987-88.

He pleaded guilty to all 49 charges before Oakland County Circuit Judge Robert Templin Friday.

Szeman won't begin to serve his Michigan prison term until he completes a 58- to 140-year prison sentence in Ohio. The former West Bloomfield resident pleaded guilty to a rape charge in Ohio in November 1988.

Oakland County will transport Szeman to Columbus, Ohio, this week, where local officials will hand him over to the Ohio Corrections Department.

SZEMAN was sentenced to concurrent jail terms for the nine separate incidents he was convicted on, which included 10 victims and 49 specific criminal charges.

The penalties were 60 to 90 years in prison for armed robbery, life sentences for each first degree criminal sexual conduct (rape) charge, 10 to 15 years for second degree criminal sexual conduct, 10 to 15 years for breaking and entering, and various terms for assaults with the intent to commit either robberies or rape.

Just before the sentence was delivered, Szeman told the court in a barely audible voice that he was sorry. Szeman had previously remained silent during court proceedings and refused to speak to reporters.

"The attorneys covered pretty much everything, but I'd like to say I'm sorry," Szeman said.

Before a filled courtroom, which included several of Szeman's victims, Templin said the severe sentence was justified because of the "monstrous crimes."

"THERE IS NO one word that can cover what happened. He terrorized the communities," Templin said. "He will be in prison for the rest of his life."

The hour-long hearing included the judge reading the charges, Szeman detailing what he did and then entering pleas of guilty. Plead-

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Steven Szeman

Szeman still an enigma

By Helen Niemiec
staff writer

Steven Szeman remains an enigma to his attorney, the prosecutor and police who investigated the man.

Described as someone who epitomizes the "All-American boy," Szeman was convicted and sentenced Friday on 49 separate counts that occurred during a 1987-88 rampage that saw 10 women between the ages of 12 and 61 victimized.

During that period, women in the county regularly were warned by media that "the Oakland County rapist" was on the loose.

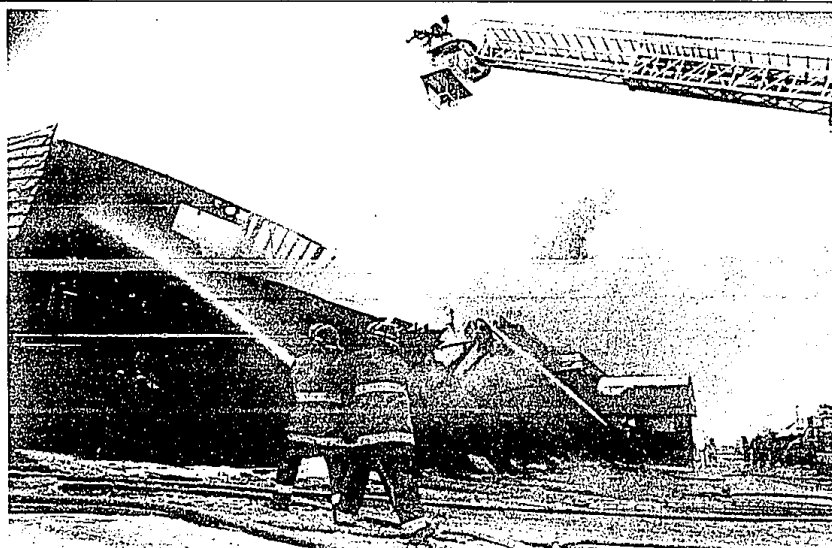
Friday's sentencing brought to a close nearly three years of investigation and prosecution of the former West Bloomfield man. Szeman's conviction is the first of such magnitude — both in number of charges and ultimate sentence — in Oakland County, according to assistant prosecutor John Slevin.

Slevin is satisfied that Szeman pleaded guilty rather than going through a trial.

"I'M MORE relieved for the victims," Slevin said. "It's going to be a long time — if ever — before he is on the streets again."

Lt. Jeffrey Werner of the Bloomfield Township police investigated the series of rapes, which began there. He was relieved that the entire ordeal is over.

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SHARON LeMOUX/staff photographer

Farmington Hills firefighters worked into the afternoon Sunday to extinguish a fire at the Roman Terrace building on 12

Mile just east of Orchard Lake Road. All four stations were called out to fight the multi-story building blaze.

Landmark burns Sunday morning fire guts Hills building

By Casey Hans
staff writer

One of the co-owners of the Roman Terrace building said he plans to rebuild the Farmington Hills landmark, after an early morning fire Sunday gutted most of the multi-level building.

No injuries were reported from the fire, which had an unknown origin and caused what fire officials estimated could be millions of dollars in damage at the 12 Mile and Orchard Lake Road intersection.

But owner Lou Bosco couldn't be specific about damages Sunday morning as he watched the nearly 18-year-old building go up in flames at one of the city's busiest intersections. Bosco also had his law offices in the building.

"I really feel bad for the restaurant owner. He just refurbished it. It was just really starting to cook."

— Lou Bosco
building co-owner

"I don't know what you can say about it," said Bosco, at the scene with family members and another co-owner, brother Don Bosco. "Yes, we'll rebuild. I really feel bad for the restaurant owner. He just refurbished it. It was just really starting to cook."

THE FORMER McFrick's Tavern on the lower level had just been refurbished, renamed McJoe's, and owners were planning to begin serving food there today. The Roman Terrace was also undergoing extensive renovations. One of the owners, Bob McDonald, said he wanted to re-open the restaurants but couldn't be sure Sunday.

"I would like to. It's really premature," McDonald said. "I've got to check with my partners and assess our future."

While on patrol early Sunday, Farmington Hills police officer Tom Shiyak smelled smoke in the 12 Mile and Orchard Lake roads area. He found light smoke coming through shingles at the north end of the building in the 27000 block of Orchard Lake Road. Firefighters

from all four stations were dispatched at 7:38 a.m., and were still fighting flames into the afternoon.

Farmington Hills police closed off 12 Mile Road at Orchard Lake Road to just east of the fire site for much of the day. The billowing smoke could be seen for a distance and drew many people who pulled into nearby parking lots to watch the action.

Although a fire investigation will likely not be completed for several days, Farmington Hills fire officials believe the fire started in an office on the north side of the building. It appears to have swept through a false ceiling which ran the length of the building, burning

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Rivalry spirited and peaceful

game coverage, 1C

By Noreen Flack
staff writer

All seemed forgiven between Farmington High and North Farmington High students at Friday night's basketball game when the rival teams met for the first time since a post-game fight three weeks before.

Both schools have been mending relations since the Jan. 12 incident at North Farmington,

which left students and administrators concerned about a tattered image.

But for Mark Mitchell and Greg Endres, victims of the post-game violence Jan. 12, all is not forgotten. The Farmington High seniors were treated at Providence Hospital in Novi for cuts and bruises received in the fight.

Friday's rematch was at Farmington High. North won the spirited, well-attended game, 65-57.

Mitchell and Endres admitted they still harbor bad feelings about the incident but said they would never consider revenge.

"That was the scariest thing that I've ever

been through," Mitchell said. "We told them we didn't want to start anything. We didn't want to fight."

The violence should not be a reflection of all North Farmington students, but the perpetrators should have accepted more responsibility for the fight, Mitchell said.

IN THE Jan. 12 incident at North, several students became upset when a visitor from Farmington High used an air horn during the game, according to spectators and school officials. North won this game, 64-61.

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Schools say cover ads not theirs

By Casey Hans
staff writer

A company selling advertising for school book covers is not affiliated with the Farmington school district.

"We just wouldn't sell ads for a book cover," said Longacre Elementary principal Bill Smith. Several Farmington-area businesses called him last week to ask about a solicitation that linked itself to Longacre.

"They're using the Longacre name — showing a piece of paper that has the name on it."

He has been busy handling inquiries regarding the book covers being sold by Parrish & Associates, a company owned by Farmington resident Charles Heady. Several Farmington-area businesses, plus one in Livonia, had contacted him, Smith said.

Heady, upset because former principal Millie Bennett had ordered 6,000 covers, said the company had stopped selling advertising for the Longacre covers because of the problems. Smith said he had spoken

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