

January incident called isolated

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Neither Mitchell nor Endres had used the air horn, according to witnesses.

Both students said they were walking down the hallway outside the gym after the game when they were jumped from behind by six North Farmington students. They claimed their attackers picked them because they were blue-and-white Farmington High jackets.

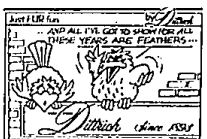
A FARMINGTON High student who witnessed the incident — and asked to not be identified — said the North students were searching for the visiting student with the horn when the fight broke out.

On Jan. 22, a dozen students from North Farmington and Farmington met with administrators to air concerns about the fight and inter-school relationships.

At the meeting, North Farmington students submitted a letter of apology to Farmington students. The letter was signed, "North Farmington student body."

The letter sent was "not based on all of their opinions," Endres said. "They (North Farmington students) were not all involved, but the ones that were should have done more," he added.

MITCHELL CRITICIZED the Observer for a Jan. 29 editorial opinion, which, he said, praised North Farmington.



ington students for showing maturity by submitting the letter of apology.

"There was no praise for us," Mitchell said. "The Farmington High students should have gotten praise for not taking out any revenge. We're right here, and there's no commotion. No one wants to fight. That should be a reflection of us, the student body."

Some North Farmington students admitted the fight created a bad image of their school.

"We'd like to have good relations with our rival schools, like we do with Harrison," said Scott Turken, a North sophomore. "I think the fight was a two-way street, but we should have been more responsible, especially since it was at our own school."

PARENTS FROM both schools agreed the incident should be forgotten and the less said about it, the better.

A colorful banner that read, "Welcome North" stretched along the wall in the back of the gym.

Jerry Potter, Farmington High

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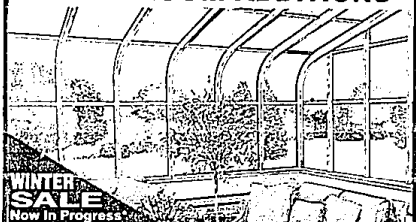
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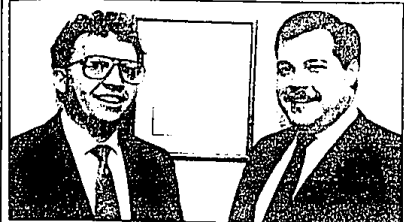
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Thayer-Rock Funeral Home owner Bob Rock (left) and Bruce Lantto stand near their 1989 Pursuit of Excellence Award.

Funeral home gets a national award

Thayer-Rock Funeral Home of Farmington has received the 1989 "Pursuit of Excellence" award at the 108th annual convention of the National Funeral Directors Association (NFDA) in Baltimore.

The award symbolizes funeral service excellence by recognizing outstanding accomplishment, unusual programming activity and innovative achievement.

The Pursuit of Excellence program includes eight categories of activity and accomplishment:

- Presentation of educational programs;
- Community outreach programs;
- Community and professional service activities;
- Library or media resource program;
- Attendance at conventions, conferences, seminars and meetings (continuing education);
- Special "in house" staff training programs;
- Individual funeral home public relations or educational programs;
- Use of brochures and other educational and public relations materials.

Owner Bob Rock said, "We are very proud to be singled out by the NFDA and recognized for the involvement and commitment we have to our communities. With more than 22,000 funeral homes in the United States, we are one of only 57 firms selected for the award this year."

"Thayer-Rock Funeral Home has served the north and western suburbs since 1933," Rock said. "Our experienced funeral professionals know death is always difficult and that without a funeral it can even be worse."

"The funeral doesn't deny what's happened. It helps you face it and face the future. We know the burden of grief is lightened through sharing... and that's why we're here."

The Pursuit of Excellence program is an annual awards recognition of the National Funeral Directors Association honoring the outstanding funeral homes in America.

The National Funeral Directors Association, with a membership of nearly 15,000, is the largest professional funeral service organization in the world.

County Young Dems meet

The Oakland County Young Democrats will hold a general membership meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 8, at the Bloomfield Township Library.

The speaker will be Ed McArdel, political director for the MacKenzie Chapter of the Sierra Club.

For more information, call Randy Pittler at 353-6152.

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principal, said students wanted to "get on with the game." He called the Jan. 12 fight an isolated incident.

"After talking with the kids for the past couple weeks, they really want to forget all this," the fight was an "individual act," not an act between the two schools.

"OUR KIDS are excited about making things work," said Jack Lawing, North Farmington assistant principal. "The kids involved are sincerely sorry that it happened. We

just want to see the games get back to being good, fun competition."

The Farmington Department of Public Safety beefed up security at Friday's game and maintained patrol until the end of the post-game dance, which began near the gym shortly after the game ended.

"It was surprisingly quiet," Commander Michael Wiggins said. "There were a lot of administrators from both schools there, too, but we wanted to keep patrol. We can't take any chances."

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