



Farmington Observer

Volume 101 Number 61

Thursday, May 3, 1990

Farmington, Michigan

104 Pages

Fifty Cents

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BOOKED up. Books are now being collected for the American Association of University Women-Farmington Branch's 29th annual used book sale Sept. 27-30 at the Livonia Mall.

Proceeds from the sale of donated books are used for graduate fellowships and local non-profit groups. Clean, readable books in good condition are needed.

Book collection barrels are at the Great Scott's stores at 13 Mile and Orchard Lake Road, 11 Mile and Middlebelt and Eight Mile, west of Farmington Road. There's also one at the Farmer Jack at Nine Mile and Farmington Road.

REMEMBER to sign up. The deadline to register to vote in the June 11 school board election is May 14. The deadline to register to vote in the Aug. 7 primary election is July 11.

QUOTE of the week

"A car could blow a tire or get shaky on the road. Imagine if it left the road. It could maim or kill a lot of people at one time. There's a lot more at stake than just stopping cars from racing."

— Carl Carey, about drag racing on Hills Tech Drive. Story: 1A.

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The CLASSIFIEDS

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Witness: Bonelli planned to kill girl

By Darrell Clem
staff writer

Anthony Bonelli made plans to kill 17-year-old Kristina Marie Fracchia because she planned to expose their waning relationship to his new girlfriend, a former classmate said Tuesday.

"He indicated that she was bothering him and he couldn't handle it anymore, and he was going to kill her," Robert Kasgoris, 19, testified Tuesday as Bonelli's murder trial

began in Oakland County Circuit Court.

Kasgoris said Bonelli told him of his plans during a telephone conversation two days before Fracchia's drowned body was found on March 17, 1989, in Orchard Lake.

KASGORIS SAID Bonelli told him, "I know exactly what I'm doing. I have it all planned out." Kasgoris is a cousin to Venise Asmar, the Farmington Hills girl Bonelli had started dating.

Bonelli planned to get Fracchia drunk, strangle her, place beer bottles near the lake and make it appear as though she had drowned by accident, Kasgoris testified.

"I told him he was crazy and he was never going to get away with it," said Kasgoris, who had associated with Bonelli several times outside of the North Farmington High School government class they had together.

Under questioning from James Andary, Bonelli's attorney, Kas-

goris said he didn't report the telephone call to police because he wasn't sure Bonelli was serious.

Relatives and friends of Bonelli and Fracchia jammed the courtroom Tuesday as Bonelli's long-delayed trial on a charge of first-degree murder began before circuit Judge Alice Gilbert.

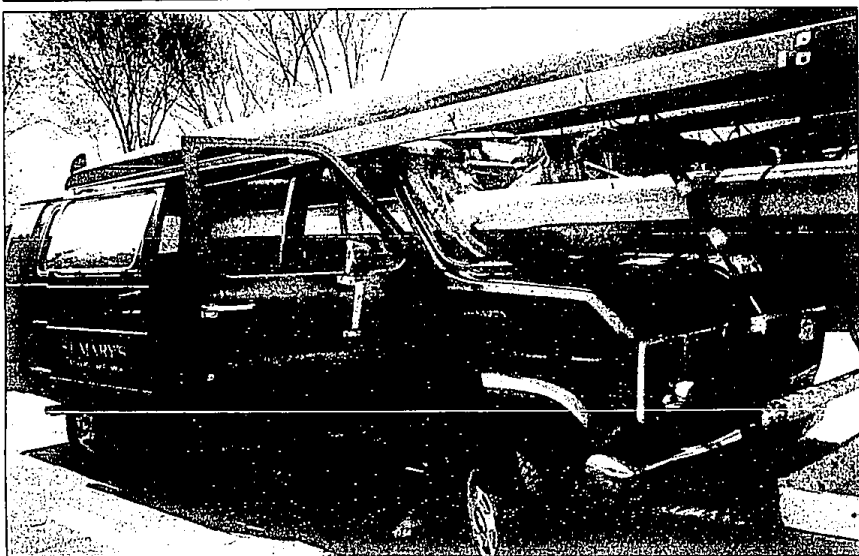
Fracchia's mother, Sandy, wept in the front row as assistant prosecutor Fred Miller showed jurors a photograph of her daughter and told how she was held underwater by Bonelli

"until every last breath was squeezed out of her body."

Miller described Fracchia, a Mercy High School junior, as the "odd woman out" in a love triangle that made Bonelli "exceedingly angry and violent" when he learned that Fracchia planned to talk to Asmar.

Julie Camardella, 17, a friend of Fracchia, said she and Fracchia met Bonelli in early 1989 at the 7-11 store on Orchard Lake Road. But the

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MIKE PRYOR/photographer

David Caswell, 26, a volunteer coach for the Orchard Lake St. Mary's rowing team, was killed in West Bloomfield Saturday when the van in which he was riding struck the team's boats as they were being hauled home on a truck by another St. Mary's

van after a morning competition. Three 25-foot racing sculls punctured the second van's windshield during a three-vehicle accident, which injured another assistant coach and several team members.

Probe of fatal crash continues

By Susan Buck
staff writer

West Bloomfield police continue to investigate a freak, three-car accident Saturday that killed a volunteer assistant coach for Orchard Lake St. Mary's Preparatory School rowing team and left several other

team members, including a Farmington Hills resident, injured.

"There's a lot of work that needs to be done," said Sgt. Mike Madigan of the West Bloomfield Police. "We're checking brakes, lights and all those things."

Michigan State Police are assisting. No decision has yet been made

whether or not to press charges, he said.

David Devlin Caswell, 26, a passenger in one of two St. Mary's school vans, was dead on arrival at Providence Hospital. His driver, Robert Daniel Elliott, 27, also an assistant coach, underwent surgery for shoulder injuries and was released

Sunday, according to Kris Karns, hospital administrative assistant.

Aaron Reed, 17, of Farmington Hills, a member of the team who was a passenger in the center of the second row seat of the same nine-passenger van, was listed in fair con-

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Man charged with rape

A Walled Lake man is charged with kidnapping a 21-year-old Westland woman at her place of employment in Novi and raping her in a Farmington Hills motel room Friday, police said.

Farmington Hills police, assisted by the Michigan State Police, arrested the suspect, Frank Michael Mole, 34, early Saturday.

The victim, in her 20s, was treated at Botsford General Hospital, Farmington Hills.

Arraigned before Magistrate James Brady of the 47th District Court in Farmington, Mole stood mute to these felony charges:

- two counts of criminal sexual conduct—first degree, which involves penetration.

- one count of criminal sexual conduct—second degree, which involves forcible touching.

- one count of kidnapping.

An innocent plea was entered in his behalf. He requested a court-appointed attorney.

Mole was remanded to the Oakland County Jail in lieu of \$100,000 cash bond pending a preliminary exam Friday before District Judge Margaret Schaeffer of Farmington. He faces up to life in prison if convicted of CSC first degree and kidnapping and up to 15 years in prison if convicted of CSC second degree.

ACCORDING TO police Lt. Richard Murphy:

After the victim's vehicle broke down at her workplace at 2:30 p.m. Friday, a customer offered to assist her in making repairs.

After driving to various locations

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Drag racing revs up again: Hills cops impound 8 cars

By Bob Sklar
staff writer

Farmington Hills police ticketed 37 people and impounded eight cars in connection with organized drag racing on Hills Tech Drive, near I-696 between Halsted and Haggerty, Sunday night.

"It was quite a party," said Sgt. Ray Cranston, Farmington Hills Police Department Traffic Section supervisor. "There must've been 400 people and 150 cars. They trashed the area pretty well."

Drag racing typically takes place on Hills Tech after dark on Sundays during warm, dry weather. "It's highly organized," Cranston said.

Ages range from late teens to the late 50s. Drinking is prevalent. Police aren't sure if drugs are used. "We've been told there's gambling, but we've never seen an exchange of cash," Cranston said.

Safety is a big concern.

"A car could blow a tire or get shaky on the road. Imagine if it left the road. It could maim or kill a lot of people at one time," said Carl Carey, a Hills reserve officer who operates a business along the tire-marked drive.

"There's a lot more at stake than just stopping cars from racing."

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This red dragster was impounded April 25 along Hills Tech Drive. Police believe the 29-year-old owner was fuel-testing it in advance of Sunday's drag racing. The driver, from Hartland, was ticketed for having an uninsured vehicle and also improper plates.

SHARON LAMUE/Observer photographer

Hills homeowner angered by heavy tree removal

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Old Homestead subdivision resident George Notarianni says far too many trees were removed to make way for the entrance and required retention pond for a 73-chapter home, 40-acre development on Drake Road, just south of I-696.

But Farmington Hills officials and Selective Group developers say the city's year-old tree ordinance was not violated even though 30 trees were removed, for which developers

failed to secure a required tree removal permit.

"We found they were doing it in accordance with the approved site plan," said Dale Coughton, Farmington Hills community development director. "They didn't go through procedure but they did violate the plan."

DEVELOPERS ARE expected to begin landscaping within seven to 10 days.

"We are going to restore it in as natural a state as possible," said Mark Freedman of the Farmington Hills-based Selective Group development company.

About 400 to 500 shrubs, flowering plants and trees of 12-14 inches in diameter will be planted in the bald area. Some of the 50 to 60 large trees to be planted will be evergreens, Freedman said. The 40 acres also will provide an open space area.

THE TREE removal for the entrance and retention pond was overdue, Notarianni said.

"I just don't buy that. I'm a little tired — as I think a lot of people are — of developers getting their way, taking their money and leaving the people behind."

"There was a whole big pile of stumps. Uncategorically, there were trees 12-15 inches in diameter cut."

A couple of 12-inch diameter trees were removed, Freedman said. But the balance of the 30 trees were 6 to 8 inches in diameter.

"There were no landmark trees removed."

Landmark trees stand apart from their neighbors by size, form or species. They include those that are 24 inches in diameter.

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