

# Trial set for 4 accused of high-stakes gambling

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the basement. Defense attorneys for each of the defendants dwelled on that fact, with each requesting dismissal of some or all charges against their clients. "I don't think they proved anything but inference upon inference," said Abro's attorney, Richard Lustig of Birmingham.

Assistant Oakland County Prosecutor Jose Fanege disagreed. "It was not coincidental these four people were in this house. Each person by himself did not run a gambling operation. Each came and helped Mr. Abro run a gambling operation."

MONTI TESTIFIED that he saw Samoua at the blackjack table. But he also testified that, unlike Marogi who was at the crap table, Samoua had no cards or cash on him.

"He was behind the table acting as a dealer," Dwyer testified, adding that he based his categorization on his experience in vice enforcement, including gambling.

Monti read an inventory of items confiscated from Abro's house the night of the raid. About \$58,000 cash was seized as well as dice, cards, a blackjack table and football betting card.

Monti also described attempts to apprehend some of

the people, including Marogi, after he and Dwyer announced the raid. When Marogi saw Monti, according to testimony, he tried to put "a wad of U.S. currency" in his pocket. Monti grabbed his wrist. Marogi then ran toward the stairs leading to the first floor.

"He kept running and his shirt stayed with me," Monti said, describing Marogi's flight. Halfway up the stairs, Monti grabbed the man's pants. "The pants came right down to his ankles."

"The last time I saw Mr. Marogi he had his pants down around his ankles and was attempting to exit the service door of the garage," Monti continued.

FARMINGTON HILLS attorney Larry Kaluzny, who represented Nash, told the court that his client should not be described as the gambling operation's doorman because he merely opened the door once when Dwyer and Monti asked for entrance.

Kaluzny argued that Nash, who is black, was not part of the gambling conspiracy. He had only \$63 on him when arrested and was not downstairs where the reported gambling was taking place.

Because Nash was the only non-Chaldean in the house at the time, Kaluzny told the court that it's possible that Nash — "by color" — could have been the housekeeper and not the doorman as testified by the police.

# Revenue well runs dry

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A PRELIMINARY planning budget proposed at a May 7 school board meeting shows the district considering a \$96.95 million budget, which includes \$83.9 million in the general fund, \$9.9 million in county special education center programs, and \$3.15 million earmarked in a special building and site fund.

The three areas are being considered as separate revenue funds — a change in district accounting practices this year. The state is allowing the district to consider the special education center program budget separately, since the program is totally reimbursed by Oakland County.

Comparing like budget figures, general fund and building and site fund budgets are proposed at \$83 million for the coming year, compared with \$81.6 million spent similarly during the current fiscal year, which ends June 30.

Some highlights of the proposed budget include:

- The operating tax rate of 32.05 mills from 1990-91 will increase to 32.77, with 1.25 mills earmarked for a building and site fund. The state equalized value of property in the district rose from \$2.37 million to \$2.51 million.

- The proposed budget shows an increase of \$4.9 million from the \$92 million budget adopted last June. But losses during the past year caused the district to adjust expenditures up to \$95.5 million using money from district reserves. Considering that, the increase nets out at \$1.4 million.

- Of the \$83.9 million general fund revenue, \$70.9 million is proposed for expenditures. The \$13 million left over is to be put in reserve, or what school officials call fund equity.

- Cuts can be seen throughout the staffing and benefit areas. Textbook budgets have also been cut, but assistant superintendent Mary Lou Ankele said some money has been left in technology areas to make up the difference.

- Program cuts, including \$640,000 in transportation, and other cuts in athletics, staff training and capital projects, are included in the proposed budget.

- County allocated millage of 1.25 mills, or \$3.15 million, is proposed to be earmarked for necessary capital projects such as electrical updates on buildings and completing projects such as the Gill Elementary addition. This money was previously included in the general fund.

ANKELE SAID where educators formerly looked at the three R's as reading, writing and 'rithmetic, schools today view the three as "re-financing, reform and restructuring." She said in the budget process, school officials are considering outside effects, such as state legislation affecting schools, expectations of the community and national reports, such as President George Bush's recent national goals and standards.

"There are reductions in virtually all areas of our budget," she said. "We were selective and careful. We studied much and we argued much."

# Myers gets FHS principal's job

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MYERS APPEARS ready for the challenge. He was selected from three applicants, all from within the district, and will officially move into the job in June when Potter leaves his post. Myers said that as principal at John Glenn, he never totally delegated to his assistants and plans to be a hands-on principal here, sharing responsibilities in all areas.

"We're a team," he said, explaining that his philosophy means involving teachers, administrators and other staff. "I share the responsibility and hopefully the rewards too. They work for me, but I work for them too."

"I don't make decisions in a vacuum."

The team will be comprised of Myers, longtime Farmington High assistant principal Jerry Allison; assistant principal Ken Dean, who will move to Farmington from North Farmington; between 75 and 80 percent of the veteran staffers who remain; and between 13 and 15 new teachers, who will be hired or transferred from other schools because of that number of retirements.

Myers said he wants to keep a good thing going, but expects new people to bring new ideas and approaches to the district's oldest high school. "I'm always open to new ideas," he said. "Right now, it's going along the same lines, but it will be fresh and new."

He already has some ideas for new things at the school, including a student orientation week prior to the new school year to handle scheduling, school identification and class pictures, and general information. He would also like to do something

special to welcome the new staff to the school.

As principal in the in-formula district of Wayne-Westland, Myers said he learned to operate a "lean but good program," which may come in handy as Farmington prepares to make some program and staffing cuts. He is also pleased to have an involved parent community here, which he calls helpful. "They don't always bring the problems — they look for solutions," he added.

With the exception of the past year, Myers has spent all of his educational career with the Wayne-Westland district, both as a teacher and administrator. He also holds a law degree from Wayne State University and served as an assistant Washtenaw County prosecuting attorney before deciding he missed the

interaction with kids and returned to education in the mid-1970s.

He believes today's families and kids need a caring school setting more than ever. He calls today's kids "more complex," having been exposed to more sex and violence in today's society, but said they still have to be given a chance to grow up.

"We are surrogate families for many students today," he said. "You put in all the time you can to give the kids every opportunity. I want the best teachers, the best role models for these kids."

In his new role at Farmington High, Myers plans to stay involved in state and national education issues as well. He chairs the National Committee for Large Secondary Schools.

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## 'Glass With Class' exhibit

A "Glass With Class" cruet collection is the newest exhibit in the Farmington Hill Historical Commission display case in the Farmington Hills City Hall. It runs through June 1.

Commissioner Judy Antishin acquired the collection of glass decanters from her mother and grandmother. The collection represents one of many collectibles that originated in Ireland. Pieces are dated from around 1890 to the present.

"My family has foraged through the Midwest, in various antique shops, to add a third generation of old cruet to the collection," Antishin said.

The Farmington Hills Historical Commission showcase is just off the main lobby of the Farmington Hills City Hall, near the clerk's office. It can be viewed during regular business hours and during evening meetings at the city hall, 11 Mile and Orchard Lake Road.

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CATHLEEN WEBB,

Secretary, Board of Education

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