

Ex-official out on bond

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"Obviously she fell in love with him," the attorney said. "He convinced Barbara to loan him money for business transactions."

Arnoff entered an innocent plea Dec. 27 for Esler in Farmington's 47th District Court. He said that this client doesn't have the money.

Esler, a divorced mother of two and a grandmother, is a 20-year church member. Her mother, the late Dorothy Allen, had been the church secretary.

Esler was arrested Nov. 27 by Royal Oak police and arraigned

a day later in 47th District Court before Magistrate Maria Parker. He convicted, Esler could face a sentence of up to 10 years in prison and a fine up to \$5,000.

AFTER ESLER and the church parted ways Nov. 1, the church began an intensive audit, which revealed discrepancies. A private investigation followed, and then a police report was filed, said the Rev. William "Ritter, senior pastor at Nardin Park.

Rev. and Al Fletcher, who chair the church finance committee, asked for Esler's resignation,

said Tina Jensen, also a committee member.

"She refused to turn over her 1990 records," Jensen said. "We had been waiting since summer."

When Ritter revealed the situation in a letter to his 1,600-member congregation Nov. 26, church members were surprised, said Beverly Miller, the Christian education director.

"They couldn't understand why it had happened," Miller said. "Our church is like a family, with great support for our ministers."

The Associated Press contributed to this report.



Barbara Esler

obituaries

JAMES HENRY FEDRAW
Mr. Fedraw, 73, of Farmington Hills died Dec. 23 in Detsford Hospital, Farmington Hills.
Born in Detroit, Mr. Fedraw was a sheet metal worker for the heating and cooling industry.
Survivors include his wife, Margaret; sons, James Jr., Kenneth and Marlan; daughters, Carol Peludat and Bette Hadley; two sisters and two brothers; 14 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Services were Dec. 27 at the Heene-Sundquist Funeral Home, Farmington, with the Rev. Les McCabe of Clareneville United Methodist Church officiating. Cremation followed.

JAMES F. BAKER
Mr. Baker, 50, of Farmington Hills died Dec. 23 in Detsford Hospital, Farmington Hills.
Born in Detroit, Mr. Baker worked in the asphalt industry.
Survivors include his wife, Kathryn; daughter, Dawn Middaugh; two sisters and two brothers, one grandson.

Services were Dec. 26 at the Heene-Sundquist Funeral Home, Farmington, with the Rev. Arthur J. Hunt of Ward Presbyterian Church officiating. Cremation followed.

RAE LYNN BURKHARDT
Mrs. Burkhardt, 44, of Farmington Hills died Dec. 23 in Sinal Hospital, Detroit.
Born in Chicago, Mrs. Burkhardt was a salesperson for Crowley-Milner.
Survivors include her husband, Charles; sons, William and Andrew; a daughter, Kelly; parents, Leonard and Ruth Chadwick of Westlake, Texas.

A memorial service was held Dec. 27 at the McCabe Funeral Home, Farmington Hills.
Memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society.

HARVEY SQUIRES
Mr. Squires, 95, of Livonia, formerly of Farmington, died Dec. 24. Born in Montreal, Quebec, Canada; Mr. Squires was a fireman for Ford Motor Company. He was a World War I veteran and a member of VFW 1494-Deerborn and Farm-

ington Lodge 151 F. & A. M.
Survivors include his wife, Edna; sister, Edna Muldoon; several nieces and nephews.
Services were Dec. 28 at the Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington, with the Rev. John Maki of Salem United Church of Christ officiating. Burial was in Glen Eden Cemetery, Livonia.
Memorials may be made to Angel Hospice Home Care, 36995 Five Mile Road, Livonia 48154.

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Hills man gets 8-30-year sentence

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situation "a tragedy for both families." The father said he wished Raymond, Jr. — who served as a bodyguard for President Ronald Reagan during his tour with the Marines — had come to him instead of handling the situation with a gun.

"My stomach has been tight through this whole thing," he added.

Testimony in the 2½-day trial painted a picture of a friendship and business deal gone bad between Florian and Magon. It included direct testimony from Florian about his panic when he believed Magon was going to move out of the Hills apartment and not return thousands of dollars Florian had invested with an

The father said he wished Raymond, Jr. had come to him instead of handling the situation with a gun.

aquarium company owned by Magon.

FLORIAN WENT to the Meljers Thriftly Acres Store at Eight Mile and Haggerty in the early morning hours of July 3 and purchased chains, padlocks and tape which he considered, used to detain Magon. Later that morning he went back to Meljers and purchased a gun and ammunition which he first used to

threaten Magon, then kill him, shortly after noon.

Florian had visited the Farmington Hills Police Department before his second Meljers trip, asking them to investigate the investment situation with Magon. He called the police and reported the killing after he fired shots into Magon's chest and head.

Although testimony from various witnesses showed Magon to be a drifter who was in trouble with the

Internal Revenue Service, and who had taken money from Florian and others, his ex-wife defended him Monday.

"He had his problems," Kathleen Magon said. "But no matter what they said about him, he was a good man and had a good heart."

The Oakland County probation department had recommended a sentence of 10 to 40 years for Florian, because Florian used the gun to attempt to get his money back from Magon. Assistant Oakland County prosecutor Robert Hedges contended that represented extortion.

But defense attorney David Binkley argued successfully that Florian was never charged with felony murder and said that should not be taken into account.

Area college entrance exam scores rise

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compared with scores of 20.6 logged both statewide and nationally. Farmington's scores this year compared favorably with 21.5 in 1990 and 20.2 in 1989.

On the verbal portion of the test, Farmington students scored an average 454 compared with 461 in the state and 422 nationally. Current Farmington scores compare with 441 in the district in 1990 and 482 in 1989. This was an improvement from 1990, when verbal scores fell

below the state average.

In the mathematics area, Farmington students averaged 533 compared with 519 statewide and 474 nationally. Farmington students had scored 522 on the SAT verbal in 1990 and 535 in 1989.

Total scores on the SAT — which

includes both verbal and math added together — showed Farmington students averaging 997 compared with 980 statewide and 896 nationally. Students had scored 963 in 1990 and 997 in 1989.

This also was an improvement from 1990, when Farmington fell below the state average scores.

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