

Critical condition



PETER BALDWIN

Struck by car: Farmington Hills firefighters and EMS workers came to the aid of Paul Moses Umlah, 18, of Wixom, who had been struck by a car on Middlebelt north of Liberty at 7:30 p.m. March 16. Police said Umlah was wearing dark clothing when he crossed the street in an area with little lighting during a downpour. He avoided being struck by one car but ran into another southbound on Middlebelt. He was taken to Botsford Hospital where he remains on life support equipment. The driver of the car that hit him was not charged.

Reform from page 1A

Legislative Team and the Governor's plan) are going to end up in gridlock. They won't recognize their own proposals when they're finished."

Bennett and Lukasiak are not new to this. Both were part of COMP's petition drive three years ago to end state-aid recapture.

This time, though, there are a few more hurdles.

For one, school finance reform is a difficult animal to explain. Bennett and Lukasiak are armed with reams of literature on O/K, which is named after former Detroit school board member David Olmstead and University of Michigan education professor Philip Kearney.

"It's (school finance reform) terribly complex," Bennett said. "I'm not sure we could ever fully understand it ourselves."

Farmington school board supports O/K as does Oakland County Superintendents Association.

Critics of the plan say O/K would soak up every new dollar of

state revenue for schools. Naysayers add it assumes other interests (mental health, environment, law enforcement, courts etc.) will not contest money going to schools.

Also, the plan is not a quick fix. Gradual tax relief takes place over an extended time period.

"I'm not sure it will provide instant relief," Bennett said. "I'm not sure everyone wants instant relief unless it's responsible relief."

INKWELL

Inkwell provides information about education issues and people in the Farmington area. Mail information to: Inkwell, The Farmington Observer, 21898 Farmington Road, Farmington 48338 or send information via fax to 477-9722. Please include a daytime phone number on your news release. Items will not be taken over the phone.

NIGHT OUT
Flanders Elementary School parents and kids had their night out March 10 at the school. Parents attended a variety of workshops such as helping children with self-esteem, reading and writing and ways to motivate underachievers. Students were entertained with an animated Disney movie and popcorn while their parents attended the session.

PEERING BEYOND PRESSURE
Fifth-graders Eagle Elementary students gained some insights on making the transition from elementary to middle school in a special presentation March 11 at the school. Parents discussed high risk situations common to middle school, including drugs and how to prepare children to face those challenges. Students were introduced to peer pressure reversal techniques.

BREAKING TRADITION
University of Michigan student Danny Slaim of Farmington Hills was one of 17 students who spent spring break volunteering on an Appalachian farm. The students participating in the U-M's Alter-

elona. Several area businesses provided door prizes that were given away during the night.

native Spring Break (ASB) program worked Feb. 21-27 at the Lend-A-Hand Center on Stinking Creek in Walker, Ky. They repaired fences, built gates, dug drainage ditches, made ball trees, cleaned livestock stalls, and accompanied nurses on home health care visits. The privately supported Lend-A-Hand Center is a 600-acre farm that operates an on-site health care clinic, sends nurses to visit those who need medical attention among the area's many isolated poor and operates a summer 4-H program for young people.

BOOK FAIR
In celebration of Reading Month, the GHS School PTA will be having a "Book Fair" the week of March 29 through April 1.

LSD from page 1A

ington or North Farmington," she said. "The idea is to help parents keep kids risk free from drugs and alcohol. But it served to alarm some parents."

But the Michigan State Police have taken the rumors seriously enough to reassure police, educators and parents about the rumors.

A directive from the state police said the letter creates unjustified parental concerns. Contrary to the what the letter claims:

- LSD is not casually given to children to cultivate new customers.
- LSD is not laced with Strychnine.
- LSD does not cause death in users through direct effects.
- LSD soaked paper has been illegally distributed for more than 20 years. It is not new nor epidemic.
- LSD on thin gelatin film

"(Window Pane)" is an outdated form, rarely encountered.

■ Children's stickers and decals (commercially made) have adhesives or glue on the backside of the product. LSD blotter paper does not.

Murphy said rumors surrounding a comeback of LSD circulate in the Farmington area about every 10 years.

"We've contacted the Michigan State Police and the Oakland County Narcotics Enforcement Team," Murphy said. "They haven't seen any big increase in LSD."

Phyllis Good, supervisor at the Michigan State Police narcotics unit crime lab, said rumors of LSD epidemics are an annual event throughout the state and country.

"Last year it was statewide," she said. "This year we've heard about it in the Jackson area."

Not only is the rumor false, but it is the exact information that was circulated 10 years ago.

"We don't want to downplay the fact that LSD is out there among some drug users," Good said. "But, it's not in schools and it's not a growing problem."

Good said she has traveled throughout the country only to find the same letters and rumors turning up elsewhere.

The number of cases of LSD use is fractional compared with other drugs state police investigate. The fanciful designs printed on LSD paper are meant as a marketing tool or trademark, rather than a ploy to attract children. LSD is also sold in tablet form with only a few junior and high school students taking part, she said.

"This is a needless scare," Murphy said. "It creates a lot of false information."

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