

SMART from page 9A

■ Buses are clean.

SMART recently announced it was adding 68 new buses — large, air-conditioned vehicles with computerized engines.

Had SMART known the O&E staffers were coming, the new buses might have been available Tuesday, quipped Harold Harris, a driver on Route 851 from Orchard Lake to downtown Detroit.

The buses the O&E staffers boarded Tuesday weren't new. But they were clean.

■ Drivers are friendly.

Drivers go through what is called "transit ambassador training," and it shows. Robert Ingram, who drives the Pontiac 450 route along the Woodward corridor, for example, greeted several riders by name. They responded in kind.

Driver Kim Hearn dropped one rider off between stops in the downtown area. "Thanks," the rider said, "see you tomorrow."

■ The ride is comfortable.

Possibly the most important number for SMART is customer service at 962-5515.

■ We put one staff member on the Orchard Lake Route 851 and another on Rochester Road Route 492. Both routes start in the northern suburbs and wind their way south. Route 851 stops at the Cross Winds Mall, the Orchard Lake Mall, the Farmington Hills Campus of Oakland Community College and Northland before continuing to Detroit. Route 492 goes to the Oakland Mall where Detroit-bound riders transfer to Route 495.

On every occasion, the operators were courteous and patient.

Some riders read books or newspapers, while others leaned back and closed their eyes. Most just watched the miles roll by.

On the return trip, one rider said it was her first experience with SMART. "But I think it's great," said Donna, who asked that her last name not be used.

Donna said she lives in Detroit and normally drives her car to her job at the Ross Roy Group in Bloomfield Hills. This Tuesday, however, her car was in the garage.

■ Costs are reasonable.

Most rides are \$1.50 or \$2, with a 10-cent charge for a transfer. There are discounts for the elderly, the handicapped's and youngsters. Children under 5 ride free.

For more regular riders, 10-ride tickets cost \$11 and monthly passes start at \$40.

Call customer service for comments, complaints

That's the number for route information. It's also the number SMART wants riders to call with complaints or comments.

"How's my driving?" is written on every bus. "Call 962-5515."

The O&E called that number seven times. On five occasions, a person answered after a maxi-

mum of four rings. The other two times we got a recording saying lines were busy and the call would be answered as soon as an operator was available.

FARMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS INVITATION TO BID

Farmington Public Schools will accept sealed bids for renovation at Farmington Training Center until 1:30 P.M., Tuesday, May 25, 1993 at the Lewis Schuman Administration Center, 31500 Shawwassee, Farmington, Michigan 48336. Addressed to Beverly Hausman at which time they will be publicly opened and read for presentation to the Board of Education at their next regularly scheduled meeting.

The Board of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or to waive any informalities therein; or for reasons for establishing uniformity, to award the contract to other than the low bidder.

It is strongly recommended that bidders attend a prebid meeting at 1:30 P.M., Wednesday, May 12, 1993 at Farmington Training Center, 33000 Thomas, Farmington, Michigan 48336.

A bid bond or certified check for 5% of the bid must accompany the bid. Bid specifications and documents may be obtained after May 10, 1993 from the purchasing department; please call (313) 489-3341.

JOSEPH A. SVOKE, Secretary
Board of Education

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INKWELL

Inkwell provides information about educational issues and people in the Farmington area. Mail information to: Inkwell, The Farmington Observer, 21898 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336 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.

Michigan University April 23. Sandra Weidel and Sarah Ilmer won third place in song and dance competition. As a duet, they sang and played Marimba in costume. Rohn Generalao won second place for poetry. Spanish levels two, three and four participated in the event. More than 3,000 high students from around the state took part in song, dance, skit, display, poster, poetry and

interpretive reading competitions in French, German and Spanish.

■ SCIENTIFIC TERRIFIC

Three Detroit Country Day students from Farmington Hills won first place at the annual Metropolitan Detroit Science and Engineering Fair April 22-24. Senior Heather Shenkman won for her project on the measles M gene in the medicine and health category

and sophomore Uday Gorrepati won in the computer science category for his program to assist disease or object identification. Sandeep Krishnan of Farmington Hills received a first place award on the middle school level. Erin Roeder of Farmington Hills received a second place honor. More than 2,560 students from the tri-county area participated in this year's fair.

■ LANGUAGE LESSON

Foreign language teachers and 50 students from Harrison High participated in the 21st-annual Foreign Language Day at Central

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29405 12 Mile & Middlebelt, Farmington Hills

29158 Van Dyke & 12 Mile, Warren

33316 12 Mile & Farmington Rd., Farmington Twp.

6558 Telegraph & Maple, Bloomfield Township

8238 23 Mile & Van Dyke, Shelby Township

Newburgh Plaza 6 Mile & Newburgh Rd., Livonia

Livonia Mall, 7 Mile & Middlebelt, Livonia