

Parents from page A1

"Parents are worried about the minutes of instructional time," Brown admitted.

Meanwhile, input from the Feb. 9 session still could have some impact on the final plan, Brown said.

The district's administrative support council is now reviewing block scheduling proposals for both Harrison and North high schools, in order to discuss issues such as transportation and to find out how much would need to be budgeted.

Judy White, assistant superintendent of instruction, said six teachers probably would need to be hired for each school, to cover the additional hour of instruction.

Barzing unforeseen circumstances, the proposal for both high schools would be decided by the school board at its Tuesday, Feb. 23 meeting.

With board approval, block scheduling would begin at North in the 1999-2000 school year and at Harrison in 2000-2001.

Farmington High School now is in its third year of the alternative schedule.

Harrison has had the toughest road of the three high schools in receiving the endorsement of parents for block. The currently proposed plan is much different from the more-radical four-by-four schedule originally introduced last spring.

Subsequent parent criticism of the four-by-four, that it was too restrictive for Advanced Placement and hand students, for example, prompted Harrison faculty members to change courses in mid-stream.

The plan now before the board would be an alternating block, with an optional "X block" extra period for student enrichment. It is similar to the North plan, where a 70-minute "Student Enrichment Time," SET, is in the works for Tuesday mornings.

In four-by-four block, students attend four courses for the first semester and switch over to four other

courses in the second.

Brown said the fact Harrison's plan has had bumps in the road shouldn't be viewed as an indicator that the school and parents are at odds over the controversial subject.

"One of the reasons these have been hard decisions," Brown said, "is we all have the same goal. We want to make sure we're not going to lose anything in this. I think people's hearts are in the right place."

She added that although all three high schools would have similar schedules, each will have unique characteristics.

"There's a lot to be gained by having consistency between the three schools so that students can take courses at all three," Brown explained. "But we also want to have some independence."

Harrison High School is located at 29996 12 Mile Road, between Orchard Lake and Middlebelt roads.

Burning issue



PHOTO BY PETER BALOGH

Training: The hot seat Farmington Hills City Council members sit on is a tepid lawn chair compared to the broiling front-row activity of a seeing a house fully engulfed. Council members Jerry Ellis (left) Vicki Barnett and Cheryl Oliviero took part in the Farmington Hills Fire Department training burn on Sunnydale Street Jan. 20.

CORRECTION

The price for the premium oak logs featured in our At Home ad this week is incorrect. The correct price should be \$299.00.



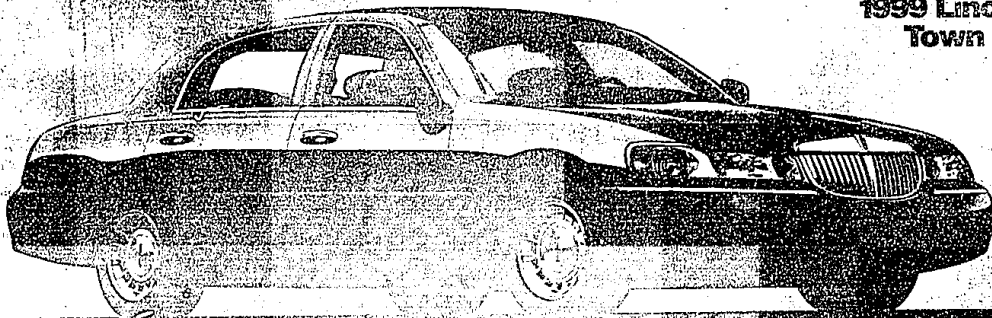
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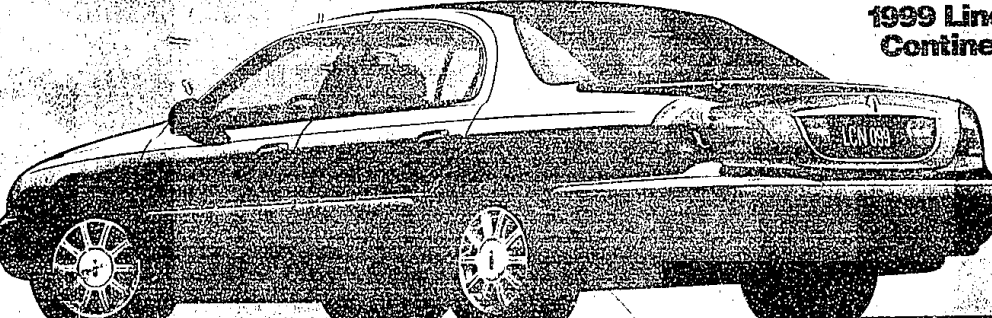
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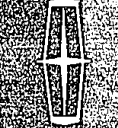
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