

# Mural from page A1

face, to represent that about one-tenth of the population is homosexual.

"All of a sudden the word got around that this was a gay mural, and it became a gay bashing kind of thing," said counselor Margaret VanAmeyde, one of the group moderators. "It was certainly very hurtful" to students in the group.

Administrators explained that club members wrote their names on the mural at the time it was painted, as a show of courage.

"That concerned me," Horn said. "Once you do that you could be subject to ridicule."

Brown said club members "got proud in their courage in doing it (the mural) and put up their names. But like graffiti, others put up their names, kind of like a joke. It became a mockery."

The mural was intended to raise awareness that gays are as much a part of society as is any other group.

There were no police reports filed with the Farmington Hills Police Department about the defacing.

One Harrison parent, who asked to not be identified, said the defacing of the mural was disappointing, and flew in the face of the school's usual individualism and open-mindedness.

"There should be room for everyone at Harrison," the parent said. "What I like about Harrison is... the tolerance for all types of people... This concerns me."

Defacing of the mural contained mocking and joking

## The Gay Straight Alliance, also in place at North, followed the formation last fall of a support group for gays, under the auspices of the district's student assistance department.

...references, including one "suggestive" drawing, said Horn.

But he emphasized that the graffiti was never hateful in manner.

"There never once was anything put up there that was mean, no profanity," Horn explained. "It was more of 'I'm going to put somebody else's name up.'"

The Gay Straight Alliance meets weekly during lunch hour and is moderated by VanAmeyde and social work Greg Drozdowski. Formed in January, it is considered a co-curricular activity, and is not sponsored by Harrison.

The mural was funded by donations.

VanAmeyde said the idea to put up a gay pride mural emerged out of a school assembly about diversity.

The alliance does not recruit, nor does it promote homosexuality. "Students come to us," said VanAmeyde. "This is just a group of students (in the Gay Straight Alliance) who aren't really a problem," Horn said.

Brown approved the mural, along with those from other student groups, to cover walls that eventually will be torn down for upcoming renovation of the building.

# Rage from page A1

bury and Bowser became entangled in a battle for lane position on the freeway's southbound side, causing the Sable to spin out of control and cross the median, witnesses testified.

"I'm sorry any of this happened," Bowser said afterward. "I'd do any one of 10,000 things: not going home that way, hitting the brakes a tenth of a second quicker. Hindsight is 20-20."

Authorities are concerned why the pickup truck driver didn't return until 45 minutes after the crash. Other motorists — one of whom testified Wednesday — stopped immediately.

Bowser turned himself into Michigan State Police at the Eight Mile exit on northbound I-275.

He told a trooper he felt "a bump" and saw Salisbury's car go off the road where he thought it crashed, according to testimony. State law requires motorists

## PRELIMINARY EXAM

to pull over immediately if involved in any accident.

At 75 miles an hour, authorities estimate Bowser traveled 18 miles south before turning around.

"That is not stopping immediately," said Dan Lemisch, Oakland County prosecuting attorney. From the accident scene, there were four exits on southbound I-275 from Eight Mile Road to M-14, prosecutors said.

Bowser didn't know he was in a serious accident, his Ohio-based attorney said.

"He did (return) within an hour," John Rion said. "I don't think rendering any assistance would've been of any consequence in this case."

Another motorist in a minivan did stop, though Joseph Spears said he kicked out the Sable's rear window and cut Salisbury's seat belt.

At first, Spears felt a pulse but the man had died shortly after. Salisbury's youngest daughter cried in the courtroom as Spears testified.

Both vehicles bumped in the same lane before the Sable went in front of Bowser's pickup. Then Spears saw the Sable spinning out of control.

Another witness said both drivers looked at each before Salisbury's Sable went in front of the pickup.

Spears said he slowed down after the pickup refused to let him into the same lane a few seconds earlier.

"I looked at him and called him an a-hole," Spears said.

# Internet from page A1

into the U.S. over the Windsor-Detroit border. She was previously twice denied direct entry into the U.S.

He paid for her plane tickets, police said.

Greer is not surprised that an electronic relationship evoked enough passion for a woman to travel across the world to meet what she thought would be the love of her life.

Men and woman are increasingly striking up Internet romances, some of which are

intense but don't end happily in long-term relationships.

People have left spouses, pursuing something they believe will fulfill them, Greer said. E-mail hides foibles and flaws detectable in face to face meetings.

"They feel totally understood and loved, and become enveloped in something that everyday life doesn't afford us," Greer said. "It's a way to create and compose ourselves in any way we like. It's even a way to become

erotic because you feel so safe ... In the electronic world, it's easy to let those components come forward."

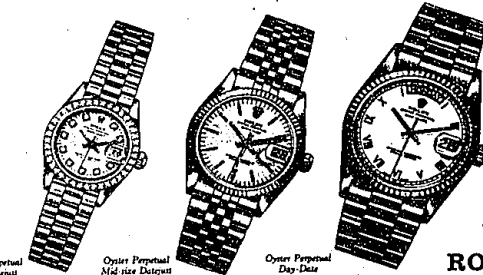
When the Big Three auto companies first got into electronic mail, Greer heard of cases in which workers became worried after they felt they'd "crossed the line" in their correspondence.

"They got themselves into predicaments," Greer said. "It got a little scary, especially for some of my female clients."

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