Candidate forum

Sarkisian lashes out at mayor, opponent, council

BY LARRY O'CONNOR

Farmington Hills mayoral challenger George Sarkislan didn't wait for anyone to say ready or aim. He just fired.
At Monday's forum sponsored by the Farmington Area Democrate, Sarkislan attacked apponent Nancy Bates on many issues, including the city's recently enacted bith chimet ordinance.
Sarkislan said the law

recently enacted bike heimet ordinance.

Sarkisian said the law 'crossed over the line of democracy and into dictatorship.' Sarkisian and Bates are vying for Farmington Hills mayor Nov. 2. Bates is on the city council and is mayor pro-tem.

In his opening statement, Sarkisian criticized Bates' supposed role in disbanding the Ethics Committee and alluded to her association with previous city councils in which he contends there were financial irregularities. Sarkisian was not specific on the latter assertion.

He also took a shot at outgoing Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi.

Mai Thai

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Aggressive: Mayoral Aggressive: Mayoral candidate George Sarkisian criticized his opponent for her supposed role in disbanding the Ethics Committee.

"We have a mayor who is the epitome of arrogance and pompousness," Sarkisian said. "This bothers me."

Vagnozzi is not permitted to seek re-election due to city term limits.

limits.

Asked about his aggressive campaign tack in a question from an audience member, Sark-Excellent that Find As You Like it 'Finathist thin Medium, Spiry and Extra Spicy

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bothers me. George Sarkisian Hills mayoral candidate

isian looked toward Bates sup-porters scated in Farmington Hills City Council Chambers: "Is this an attack George Sark-isian night?" he asked before turning to Bates to inquire if she felt he maligned her personally. "Oh, don't go there, George," Bates said. Bates cited her 10 years on the city council and involvement in several local, state and national committees in her opening state-ment. She spent a better part of her closing answering Sark-isian's charges.

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The city's ethics committee
was disbanded along with sever-al inactive bodies as a "house-keeping" measure, Bates said.
She also clarified Sarkisian's misconception about a proposed charter amendment, which would require a managorial

audit every 10 years opposed to one to every five years. Sarkisian likened the issue to General Motors doing an audit once every 10 years. Ten audits in a century is not enough, he added.

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"The audit on the ballot has nothing to do with dollars," Bates said. "It has to do with management of the city."

Bates defended the blice helmet ordinance, noting that it not only protects children but shields the city from potential lawauits. A potition drive failed to put the measure on the ballot. Bates added.

"I'm not sure there was as much conflict as a few people would have you believe," she said.

In his closing, Sarkisian cited his 10-year involvement on the city's Committee to Increase Voter Participation and work as warranty analyst for Ford Motor Co. as qualifications for mayor. "Applying those problem-solving techniques to city government is no different than applying those techniques at a car company," he said.

At times, Sarkisian appeared unclear on some questions posed.



Response: Mayoral kesponse: Mayorai candidate Nancy Bates used a better part of her closing at the forum to address her opponent's remarks.

For example, he said it would be "unprofessional" to answer a question on a proposal to increase council members' and the mayor's salaries, which have remained the same since 1973. He also didn't elaborate when asked where he saw Farmington Hills progressing two years from now.

"God has a way of changing your agenda," he said. "I don't like to say what is going to hap-

Part as y miss a going can be pen. Batter returned a few jabs. She noted election turnout was 39.6 percent in 1998 when Sariesian started with the Committee to Increase Voter Participation. Eight years later, in 1997, 17.8 percent of the electorate voted.

17.8 percent of the electorate voted.
"I'm certain that's not a reflection on his leadership," Bates said, "but simply proves that statistics do not always tell the story."

A story on the forum that featured candidates for the Farmington Hills City Council will run in the Sunday, Oct. 10 edition of the Farmington Observer.

Man in custody in suspected ring theft

A maintenance worker startled a Farmington Hills apartment resident who was still in bed while he allegedly rummaged through her dresser drawer and closet around noon Monday.

HILLS **POLICE NEWS**

Police took a Farmington Hills man, 57, into custody. He was unaware sho was in the bedroom. When he realized she was there, the man said "Oh great" and left the residence at Village Green Apartments off Haggerty Road. She noticed her \$7,700 one-karat diamond ring was missing.

With the help of an apartment manager, Farmington Hills police found the maintenance worker, who admitted being in the apartment to fix a broken toilet. He also said he went into the bedroom to check the paint.

Authorities searched the man and his truck but didn't find the ring.

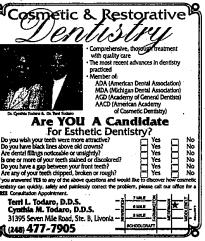
The woman returned to her apartment after dropping off her husband at the airport. She awake to hear someone working in the bathroom. She remained under the covers when a man came into the bed-

under the covers when a man came into the bed-











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