The Farmington Observer
Home Town News... it's all about you

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Psychiatrist to examine defendant

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER
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A forensics psychiatrist will conduct an examination of murder defendant Harold David Bloom in the Oakland County Jail to help determine whether the Farmington man is mentally capable of participating in 47th District Court proceedings.

On Monday, Judge Marla Parker adjourned Bloom's preliminary examination until 8:30 a.m. Friday, Feb. 11. Over the next month, Dr. Michael Abramsky of Birmingham will go to the jail and conduct psychintric testing of the 52-year-old Bloom, charged in the death of his sister.

In doing so, Parker waived her earlier requirement that psychiatric testing of Bloom be done within two weeks of his Dec. 28 arraignment when he was charged with the first-degree premeditated stabbing of Susan Carol Disner of Farmington Hills.

Prior to Parker's ruling, Bloom's defense attorney, Jose Rafael Fanego, and Oakland County assistant prosecutor Marc Barron presented opinions to the judge about whether Bloom ought to undergo the testing at the county forensics center. Bloom was present at the hearing.

Fanego asked for more time for such testing to determine if Bloom is mentally compotent to face further court hearings and possibly a jury trial.

The defense attorney told Parker his client was only visited once by Abramsky since the arraignment, due to the fact that Bloom was said to have been on a "suicide watch." Since then, Bloom has been moved to a secure part of the jail.

But Barron opposed the request, saying it is proper legal procedure for a defendant to be interviewed at the Oakland County forensics center. "There has to be a forensics report done" first, he said.

"The only issue that must be decided is is he (Bloom) competent to continue with proceedings," Barron said.

Parker quickly ruled in favor of allowing Abramsky to do the exam of Bloom beyond the original 14-day stipulation. "I did authorize this the last time."

Following the brief hearing, Fanego reiterated what he told Parker. He wants as much information as he can get before beginning the preliminary exam, in order to be an effective lawyer for Bloom.

"He (Abramsky) knows what questions to ask to determine whether he meets the legal definition" of insanity, Fanego said. "If Dr. Abramsky tells me, 'There's really no evidence here of insanity and it appears Mr. Bloom should be held to the same standards you or I would be held to,' then 30 days from today we'll just come back here and conduct a preliminary examination."

But if the doctor finds that Bloom meets that definition, Fanego said he'd inform Barron "that insanity is an issue, which triggers the statute (that) ... you've got to refer the guy to the forensics center" to conduct a completed evaluation prior to beginning the preliminary exam.

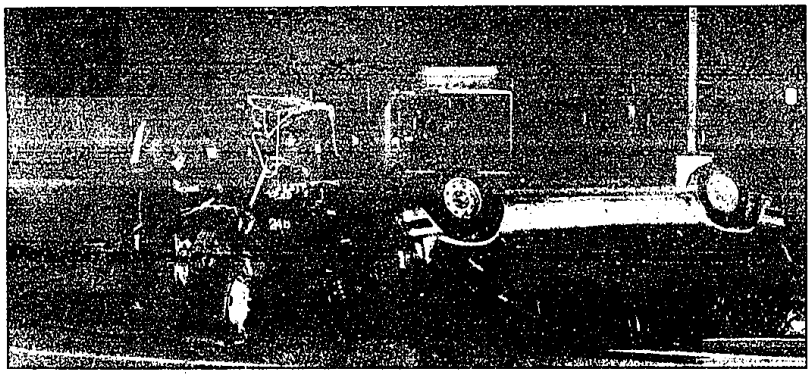
Bloom, who if convicted could receive up to life in prison, is charged with the Dec. 27 stabbing death of Disner. During the Dec. 28 arraignment before Parker, it was detailed that Disner was stabbed 14 times inside Bloom's residence at Jamestown Apartments on Grand River. She was pronounced dead at the scene.

Parker then ordered Bloom held without bond in the Oakland County Jail.

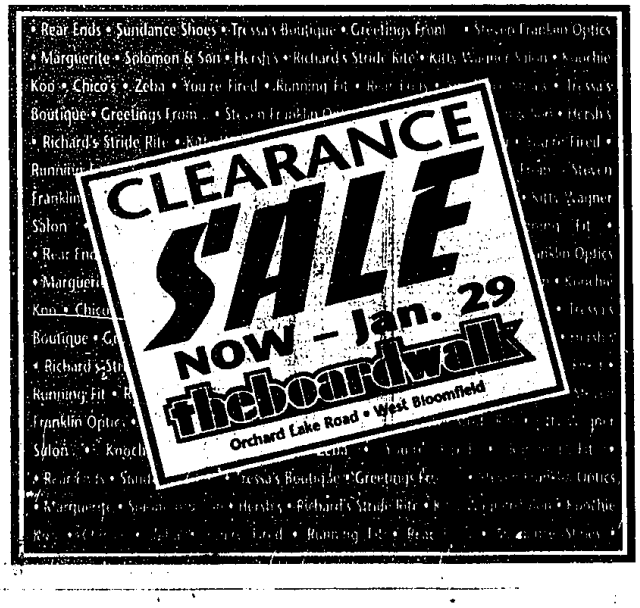
STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRESLEE

Defendant: *Harold David Bloom of Farmington will be examined by a forensic psychiatrist to determine if he is competent to stand trial in the stabbing death of his sister, Susan Carol Disner of Farmington Hills.*

Injury accident



Hurt: *A 78-year-old Novi man and a 29-year-old Farmington Hills tow truck driver were seriously injured Tuesday, following an accident on Orchard Lake Road. Police say the older driver, who was behind the wheel of a 1997 Pontiac, apparently pulled out onto Orchard Lake from a parking lot or side street and struck the side of the wrecker, which was southbound. The accident happened near the Fink Street intersection. According to Farmington's Deputy Public Safety Director Mike Wiggins, the older driver was ticketed for failure to yield.*



CLARIFICATION

A story in Sunday's Farmington Observer about the Warner Mansion Committee identified one of the members as Allen Abdou. The correct name is Ellen Abdou.

Rainbow Awards set for Jan. 25

The Fifth Annual Rainbow Recognition Awards of the Farmington/Farmington Hills Multicultural/Multiracial Community Council will be held at 7:30 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 25 at the Costick Activities Center in Farmington Hills.

The keynote speaker will be former city manager William Costick and the individuals to be recognized will be those who have made significant contributions to multicultural understanding and advocacy.

The cost is $10 per person and reservations must be made by Jan. 17. Call Susanne Paul at 421-8174 for more information.