

PTA

FROM PAGE A1

Provided questions were:

- What do you hope to accomplish as a member of the Farmington Board of Education?
- What areas do you believe Farmington Public Schools should improve upon?
- We live in an era of tight fiscal responsibility. As a board member, how would you balance fiscal responsibility with quality educational choices?
- What do you believe the main legislative issue should be for public education? A short time following Bolsen's outburst, Farmington School Board Member Pam Christian quickly distributed a card to both the press table and Kim Heath. The cards read: "Why did the PTA Council give one candidate advance review of the questions? The card didn't identify the candidate." When questioned after the forum, Christian said she was talking about candidate Cheryl Swaim. However, she didn't have actual proof. "I believe that Cheryl had all of those questions ahead of time, because she was



so prepared," Christian said. "It was not the forum we had in the past, and to be honest, it didn't feel good. Did I see someone hand her the questions? No." Swaim said she saw only the questions each of the candidates received in the mail. "I knew the out-of-district Section 105 (question) would be one because that always will be one, because that's an issue," Swaim said. "And intra-district schools of choice, those are the hottest issues going right now. I knew that senior project would be one. Those questions were asked at the Republican Club (forum)." Swaim said she does her homework. She prepared presentations for public meetings earlier in the year when both out-of-district schools of choice and the senior project were discussed. "I studied the manuals all three of us received when we met with the different

administration departments back in April," Swaim said. "We all received the same information. I sat down and went through every single manual. I do my research and I do my homework. If I sound prepared, that's what I do. Let the games begin." Both Heath and Bridges absolutely denied allowing any candidate access or review of any questions other than the four. Heath apologized for any misunderstanding in her closing remarks and said PTA members who were busy and unable to attend found this a way to pose their questions. "It's important to address the issues," Heath said. "I don't think all candidates should have all access to all the questions in the first place," Bridges said. "Everybody should have the same opportunity to have all the questions. The questions were pretty standard." Bridges thinks it's important to see candidates in an impromptu situation to see how they think. Some candidates want to be pre-packaged, he said. The candidate forum was taped for later play on Channel 10.
 sbuck@home.com.net | (248) 477-5450

Candidates talk about scholarships, communicating

BY SUE BUCK STAFF WRITER

Farmington School Board Candidates John Goshorn, Cheryl Swaim and Karen Bolsen Monday discussed retaining the \$2,500 Michigan Merit Scholarship at its present level based on high performance on the Michigan Educational Assessment Program test. They expressed their thoughts at the Farmington PTA Council forum held at the school administration building. The election is June 9. Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm has proposed reducing the scholarship to \$500, to help balance the state's budget. Goshorn said his son took advantage of the scholarship. "It benefits every child who goes on to higher education. Let's face it, unless you are fabulously wealthy, paying for a college education these days is not something that's taken lightly and every little bit helps." Swaim shared this view. "It will help kids who may not have financial resources available to them," Swaim said. "It will give them a little bit of

a head start in college. There's a lot of groups out there who are trying to get money, but I really hope she will come through for us." It would be a shame if the scholarships were to be decreased, and the governor is in a very tight spot," Bolsen said. "The reduction would affect all three of her children, who are in the seventh, ninth and 12th grades, Bolsen said. "All three of my children work, whether it's having a paper route, cutting grass or babysitting. They are helping to support their college future." Her daughter, who's a senior at North Farmington High School, has worked at a number of restaurants. "This year, I don't think it will affect her, but it will affect her sisters." Candidates talked about strategies they would use to communicate information about controversial issues to parents and taxpayers. "The alternatives there are endless and I'm not sure which is the best way to get your message across," Goshorn said. "Certainly the local media is one and TV 10 is another." He also suggested that par-

ent advocates explain issues to a small group and have those parents explain it further to their friends and neighbors. "It's critical to our future to get everybody in the community on board to understand what we are doing and why we are doing it," Goshorn said. "With good communication we would have fewer problems than we are having today." Swaim said she does a lot of research to fully understand issues. "The people I have spoken to during my candidacy are very reasonable people. We have a very intelligent community out there. What we have to do is communicate the facts. We don't have to hide anything. We don't have to smooth things over. They are not afraid to know the truth. Once they understand, I found most of them will be very supportive of different areas. I also feel it is necessary to listen to what their concerns are." Going to the media on a controversial issue would be Bolsen's last choice not her first choice. "I would solve any problems as close to the problem as I could. What is controversial to one person may not

Fresh Approach

DRAKESHIRE PLAZA
 CRANES BLDG. & DRILL
 FARMINGTON
 442-2888
 OPEN DAILY 9 TO 9
 SUNDAY 9:30 TO 8

PRICES GOOD
 MAY 20th THRU MAY 26th, 2003

Open Memorial Day May 26th 9 to 6
 "GREAT ON THE GRILL!"
 Farm Fresh

CHICKEN LEGQUARTERS
 SOLD IN EXACT WEIGHT 10-12, 24 OZ FOR \$1.99
 HALF PRICE SAVE 50¢ E.L.

39¢

Fresh Florida Peaches & Cream SWEET CORN DOZEN \$2.99 EARS 2

Fresh Western Grade-Fed WHOLE CENTER CUT BONELESS PORK LOINS 7 to 9 Lb. \$1.99 SAVE OVER \$1.00

SLICED & FROZER WRAPPED FREE OF CHARGE

\$1.00 OFF
 48-Count Flat of Flowers
 Please Present Coupon To Cashier
 LIMIT 10 FLATS PLEASE
 LIMIT ONE COUPON PER FAMILY
 COUPON GOOD THRU 6/30/03

Bazaar Oriental Rugs • 29601 Orchard Lake Road • N. of 13 Mile Road • Farmington Hills

GOING OUT OF BUSINESS

Bazaar Oriental Rugs
 In Farmington Hills

One of the best collection of rugs in town!

100'S OF RUGS - PAKISTAN • INDIA • IRAN
 Like Tabriz • Nain • Isfahan • Kashan-Wool & Silk
 Must Be Sold In Short Time

EVERYTHING 60%-75% off

Bazaar Oriental Rugs
 29601 Orchard Lake Road • Farmington Hills
 Just north of 13 Mile
 248-855-0404

Going Out of Business Permit No. 03-01 Farmington Hills

BERNHARDT

Half Off

If you've been dreaming of purchasing a beautiful, quality-made bed by Bernhardt, now is the time. During the Bernhardt Half Off Sale, you can get any Bernhardt bed for one-half off the Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price. Available in a wide range of designs, Bernhardt offers you the style and elegance you've been looking for in a bed. Wake up and visit us soon. This is a sale you can't afford to miss. Prices good on beds purchased from May 16-June 16, 2003. Beds purchased along with two other Bernhardt bedroom pieces.

Financing Up To 12 Months No Interest

Since 1922 **Walker/Buzenb**
 Since 1922
 240 W. Main Street, Farmington Hills, MI 48334