

# Farmington High Schoolers Sign Up For New Courses

**FARMINGTON** Several challenging new courses at Farmington's three high schools, Farmington Senior, North Farmington and Harrison, are getting an enthusiastic response from students, according to Joseph Nicita, director of secondary education for Farmington Schools District.

Courses that were offered solely at the college level and some that have never been offered before are now available to students in Farmington, maintaining that "quality education" for which Farmington is famous, he said.

**PSYCHOLOGY**, philosophy, the art of the motion picture, the Bible as literature, to name a few, are all drawing capacity classes, according to Nicita. These and other electives are offered only at schools where they were tested and accepted.

A psychology class that began last year as a pilot program at North Farmington enjoys probably the greatest success of any of the new courses. About 115 students enrolled for this elective and the program was expanded to Harrison this year where 230 students signed up. Nicita said

he doesn't personally see why all schools should offer the same electives. "He said he believes new courses should be offered at schools that engender the most interest."

The psychology course is open to 11th and 12th grade students for one semester. Providing an introduction to general psychology. Studies cover psychology as a science, determinants of behavior, psychometric approaches to personality, adjustment and social psychology and many other facets of the relatively new course.

Writing in the English language, so by using it as a model, the student may find ways to improve his own writing."

**DATA PROCESSING** courses offered for the first time on a group basis this year are available to 12th graders. Classes meet at Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge Campus with transportation provided to and from campus by Farmington Schools.

Under the direction of Earl Baumunk, director of vocational education, the course is now in its third year in Farmington Schools. High school students receive a unit of high school credit per course and may request college credit after high school graduation. (No tuition will be charged.)

Designed to prepare students for entry employment in data processing as coder/programmers. The course accomplishments will be graded by college instructors who will send the grades to appropriate counselors.

The study of mass media, also in its third year, is available at both Farmington High School and Harrison High. "Mass media" deals with the far reaching and exciting impact of television, radio and newspapers on the American students. The course introduces the students as a consumer or user of these media, to the various aspects of the communications world.

Lectures, discussions, critical appraisals, taped repeats of shows of merit, field trips and visiting speakers are employed to provide new insights into the world of the objective and critical viewer, listener and reader. This one-semester course has a prerequisite of "fundamental skills."

One "established" elective open to seniors seeking social studies credit is "family sociology."

This course deals with problems of the home and family and its place in our society. Topics studied include personal adjustment, courtship, marriage, family finance and child care, as well as social problems which



WORKING WITH FILM will teach Maria Graham and Bill Chapman how to make picture-taking an art when a new course called "Art of the Motion Picture" debuts at North Farmington High School next semester. (Evert photo)

## Township Adds 4 Patrolmen

**FARMINGTON** Farmington Township has voted to spend \$31,480 to match with federal funds to establish a traffic safety bureau sometime after Nov. 1.

The \$650 federal grant will allow the township to hire four additional patrolmen who will be assigned to a traffic safety bureau and placed on patrol to reduce serious injury and fatal accidents in the township.

THE BOARD voted 7-0 Monday night to appropriate the \$31,480 for the township's share in the 1971-72 budget so the program can be implemented.

Treasurer Thomas Nolan said the proposed budget had

provided for hiring two policemen and investment of these funds into the matching program will allow the township to hire four patrolmen for three years without having to budget funds for the additional two supplied by the federal grant.

Supervisor Earl Peoples commented the program was good but added it involved an investment of \$31,480 for the township compared to the \$1,800 local share in the emergency employment program rejected by the board two weeks earlier.

**TRUSTEE** Fred Lichtman quickly replied that under the traffic safety grant, the board was presented a program outline with detailed goals, procedures, and evaluation of costs including benefits.

Under the traffic safety grant, Lichtman continued, the township pays 50 per cent of the costs the first year the bureau operates, 35 per cent the second year and 30 per cent the third year.

When the emergency employment request was made, Lichtman said, an analysis was not developed and the board was simply given a request for a clerk-typist, court officer, probation officer and a couple police officers. The cost did not present its need for these employees, he added.

Under the emergency employment act, Lichtman noted, the federal government would pay 90 per cent of the salaries for two years and the township would then pay 100 per cent of the salaries. "But no study was made, and we've known about the traffic safety program for some time."

Nolan observed that to hire two patrolmen would cost the township \$25,000 in salary costs alone plus benefits, equipment and uniforms. Although the item was budgeted, the township has yet to hold a budget hearing and officially approve the budget which covers the fiscal year from April 1, 1971 to March 31, 1972.

Scheduled to begin during the second semester is a new elective called the "Art of Motion Picture," open to 10th, 11th, and 12th graders at North Farmington High School only. Under the direction of Mrs. June McKnight students will learn about the cinema and its impact on the entertainment and educational fields.

Future film makers will also view and analyze professional films both in and out of the classroom to help them become more discriminating consumers of motion pictures," according to school officials.

Another "first" for Farmington in its first year at North Farmington High is a one semester "Bible as Literature" course open to 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students. This course uses the heavy page stock version of the complete Bible (Old and New Testaments) in the King James Version.

Nicita is careful to explain that "We are not teaching religion in this course, we are merely using the Bible as a literary source. The King James version is considered one of the best pieces of literature ever written."

The emphasis in this course is on the language and style of the King James version, which should help the student in his study of Shakespeare. According to a pre-registration bulletin, "The complete comprehension of much modern literature is impossible... unless the allusions that modern authors make to the Bible are clear. The King James version also contains some of the finest

## Teacher Bargaining May End By Monday

**FARMINGTON** Possibilities of a teachers' strike in Farmington may, depending in part, on the ability of a state mediator to bring the parties together.

Teachers met Friday night to vote on whether to give the school board 48-hours notice on cancellation of contract. If teachers vote to cancel, their choices will be narrowed to (1) going to work without a contract or (2) not showing up on Monday.

THE STATE mediator began meeting with bargainers at 6 p.m. Thursday with members of the Board of Education sitting in as observers. Leroy Bartman, chief negotiator for the board, says his team is willing to negotiate around the clock this weekend to reach an agreement.

Teachers are presently working under last year's extended contract by mutual agreement between the board and the Farmington Education Association (FEA), the teachers' union.

That extension was made because of the presidential wage-price freeze, but provision was made that the contract could be cancelled with a 48-hours notice by either the board or the FEA.

**BARTMAN REACTED** Thursday to comments made by Roger Allen, FEA executive secretary, and to the filing by the FEA of an unfair labor practice charge against the school board.

Bartman described the charge as "a ploy to arouse public sentiment" and predicted the FEA would not follow up but let the charge be dropped once its usefulness for publicity has expired.

"The charge can be made without evidence or proof whatsoever that an unfair labor practice has indeed occurred," Bartman said, "and further, under Public Act 379, the employer does not have the right to file an unfair labor charge."

**BARTMAN OBJECTED** to

Allen's accusations that he lacks authority to negotiate and is stalling.

On Sept. 27, Bartman said, the board made a salary offer to pay \$8,800 to \$13,900 for the bachelor degree holder and \$8,800 to \$16,200 to a master degree holder.

The FEA held to its demands for \$9,000 to \$15,110 for the bachelors and \$10,010 to \$17,550 for the master degree for four days before offering a new proposal, he adds.

On Wednesday, Sept. 29, the board offered \$8,050 to \$13,750 and \$8,850 to \$16,225. Bartman continued, and the offer was rejected by the FEA with no counter-proposal being made.

"The Farmington Board of Education, upon judiciously studying their financial position and considering the recent millage defaults and recent settlements, find they are unable to meet what now appears to be the financial goal of salary settlements of the FEA."

"It is the board's feeling that the public has indeed spoken and the board has, as its total responsibility and accountability, development of a budget which allows it to offer what it considers of equitable pay raises and also maintain those services it is able to afford."

**BARTMAN SAID** he has specific authority given by the board to make a settlement within certain financial guidelines.

affect the family such as mental illness, alcoholism, use of drugs, delinquency and poverty. This course will serve college preparatory students in completing a course.

Nicita added that it is in this course "that has been around for several years" that family

life education courses will be added. He said school officials decided to incorporate new 12th grade elective, the course programs into this class is strictly an option anyway," rather than create a new

"We may change the title," he added, emphasizing that parents retain the right to keep their children from sex

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Phone 261-8600

Published every Wednesday 5th Weekend

Home Delivery Service

Newstand ..... per copy, 15¢

Carrier ..... monthly, 60¢

Phone 261-3800

Published by Observer Newspapers, Inc. 26251 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia, Mich. 48150 every Wednesday and Friday. H. J. Jones, Publisher. Entered as Second-class matter in the U.S. Post Office, Detroit, Michigan. Address all mail subscriptions change of address forms to P.O. Box 2428, Livonia, Michigan 48151.

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