

Poor Facilities Cramp FATAAC 'Action'

By DAN OKRENT
Staff Writer

Dave Estep is a nice kid, a 16-year-old sophomore at Farmington High School with nothing to do on weekend nights. Whenever the Farmington Area Teen Activities Club (FATAAC) sponsors a dance out at the YMCA on Grand River near Drake Rd., Dave and his friends come on out.

"You have a good time, Dave?" "Now. But there's nothing else to do."

"Could you have a good time, Dave?" "If there was room."

The Farmington "Y" is packed into an ancient clapboard house, a clean but cramped headquarters that cannot measure up to the needs of the more than 200 teens who flock in to stand around and do nothing.

On the night before Memorial Day, a school holiday, the "YB's" were playing at the "Y" in a small room jammed with kids from area high schools and junior highs. As usual, there was no room to dance, and Dave Estep and his friends "hung around."

"They're not going to stick around here on a non-school night, but they haven't anything else to do. They go the "Y" for the area's only "action," and that is a misnomer for the activities that center around small mobs of teens standing about, talking and staring.

In the summer, when FATAAC moves the dances to the tents

Receives Honors

Charles Albert, 23648 Fairfield Road, received a BA degree with major in economics at the University of Virginia, June 3 at the College, Bethesda, Md. He is a member of Sigma Xi fraternity.

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courts in City Park, it's a different story.

"We can dance there," says Dave White, 16, also an FHS sophomore. "We can even breathe there," pipes in a friend.

Carol Cox is a nice-looking 18-year-old, a Farmington senior who heads FATAAC. She says they're trying hard to organize activities, but they need room more than anything else.

Rose Berberian is the "Y" program director who will be leaving Farmington June 15 to work for the Metropolitan Detroit YMCA in an area-wide teen program. Rose feels the need for a new building, too.

You can see her surging around at the dances, acting as a semi-chaperone, semi-cop, hustling out troublemakers (there are a few, she says), keeping people moving at the door, making sure the FATAAC board members at the desk check everyone who comes to the dance for either fifty cents or a FATAAC membership card.

But it's hard to keep things unquested in the four-room first floor, where the kids stand around with frustrated looks on their faces, sometimes disgruntled looks, but always expressions of displeasure with the facilities.

Dan Benya, administrator of the Farmington Board of Commerce, comes out to the dances every so often with her husband, "Dad."

The Benyas serve as volunteer chaperones. Dan likes kids (she has three boys of her own), and likes to do things for them. One thing she'd like to do is get them a place to hold their dances.

"The reason is self-evident," she explains. "When I'm standing in the living room at the Y with all the kids packed in there, I hold onto the window sills for dear life."

She's afraid the floor might fall through.

It's only a half-joke.



SECURITY IS not the only benefit of a membership in the Farmington Area Teen Activities Club (FATAAC), say board member Ray Tamminga and Chairman Carol Cox; FATAAC can be an enjoyable institution, too. Ray and Carol cite dances, trips and other activities for area teens as the best benefits in the YMCA-sponsored organization.



LACK OF ROOM to breathe — much less room to dance — puts a considerable crimp on teen activities at Farmington's YMCA. Over 200 area teenagers attend dances at the "Y," but end up grumbling about the lack of space each time. When school ends later this month,

Teens Promote Fun at 'Y'

"What is FATAAC?" "FATAAC is an organization sponsored by the Farmington Area YMCA for teenagers in the area," informed Mary Ann, 17, a member from Farmington, North Farmington and Oak Lake of Sororia's plank down \$5 for the year's membership.

A couple hundred more teens join as they cut, shelling out 50 cents at a time for the dances, or a few dollars more for the larger activities.

"The FATAAC board is composed of representatives from the Farmington Area high schools."

That's what it says on the folded-over yellow pamphlet that the pretty high school girl hands you when you ask what it's all about.

Now what's it all about?



Twenty civic-minded teenagers sit on the FATAAC board, teenagers like Chairman Carol Cox, who spends her days at Farmington High School as a

club leader, as a member of the student council, as a member of the chess club, as a graduate student getting ready to attend Michigan State in the fall.

Or teenagers like Ray Tamminga, a sophomore at North Farmington with a variety letter in chess, a spot on the track team and an honorable mention for dancing about "we at FATAAC."

"This board serves as a planning committee for all FATAAC activities,"

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Commissioned

Peter J. Hill, 20, son of Mr. and Mrs. James L. Hill, 32268 Pomeroy Hill, was commissioned an Army second lieutenant upon graduation from the Kentucky Officer Candidate School at Ft. Belvoir, Va., April 21.

Joins Optometrist

Dr. Howard D. Tulin has joined Dr. Morris L. Burton, Farmington optometrist, at 33308 Grand River as an associate. He is a member of the American Optometric Association, Michigan Optometric Association, Wayne County Society of Optometrists and the Alumni Association of Chicago College of Optometry.

Joins State Force

Robert D. Uther, son of Mrs. Joseph R. Uther, 212411 Farmington Rd., was one of a class

of 32 graduating from the Michigan State Police Officer School in Lansing May 26.

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Local Youth Graduates

Gregory Avery Cleveland, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jack A. Cleveland of 32305 Chestbrook, Farmington, is among 113 graduates of Bob Jones Academy, Greenville, S.C. Bob Jones Academy is affiliated with the University of the same name in Greenville.

ANNOUNCEMENT
DR. M. L. HUTTON,
optometrist in Farmington
is pleased to announce his new associate in practice
DR. H. B. DUBIN.
Dr. Dubin is a graduate of the Illinois College of Optometry. He is a member of the American Optometric Association, Michigan Optometric Association, Wayne County Society of Optometrists, as well as Alumni Association of Illinois College of Optometry
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