

# The Citizen

Sept. 28,

50¢

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## Labor dispute: Firefighters win round 1 with city

By Charles Sercombe

Firefighters recently won their first of several labor disputes with the city administration.

A labor arbitrator ruled against the city for the way it recalculated overtime and time off pay for firefighters, which means the city will have to pay tens of thousands of dollars in back pay owed.

The issue also brings to light some of the quirky and unexplained practices in city government that have occurred for years. In this issue, overtime pay for firefighters was calculated at an hourly rate based on a 40-hour week.

The problem, however, is that by contractual definition firefighters work 50 hours a week. About a year ago the city administration decided to calculate overtime pay based on the 50-hour work week.

That meant each firefighter was paid about \$5 or \$6 less per hour during overtime.

Retired City Controller Michael Zebrowski was called by the city to testify on its behalf. Zebrowski, however, provided damaging testimony for the city in saying that in his 30 years of employment, the firefighters' overtime pay was calculated on a 40-hour week.

He said that there was never a written agreement to base that on, but stressed it was just the way things had always been done.

That point was picked up by

See LABOR on page 5



## Cosmos bring it back home

By Charles Sercombe

It was a great evening for the Hamtramck High School Homecoming.

The sun was shining, the temperature was warm, the floats colorful, the queens pretty and the students full of energy.

Too bad, though, for the HHS football team. The Cosmos were creamed by Livonia Clarenceville 32-0. The team is winless in five games.

But then again, can anything really spoil Homecoming?

It's the annual fall rite of passage with all the trappings: each graduating class vying for attention. The Cosmos' Homecoming also lives up to its namesake, Cosmos being short for cosmopolitan. The student body is one of the area's most ethnically diverse, with kids coming from Bangladesh, Poland, Bosnia, Yemen and elsewhere.



Hamtramck High School students had their moment in the sun last Friday for the school's annual Homecoming Parade. Unfortunately, the Cosmos football team lost, 32-0.



## Critic, scholar, powerbroker: Brzezinski shines in Detroit lecture

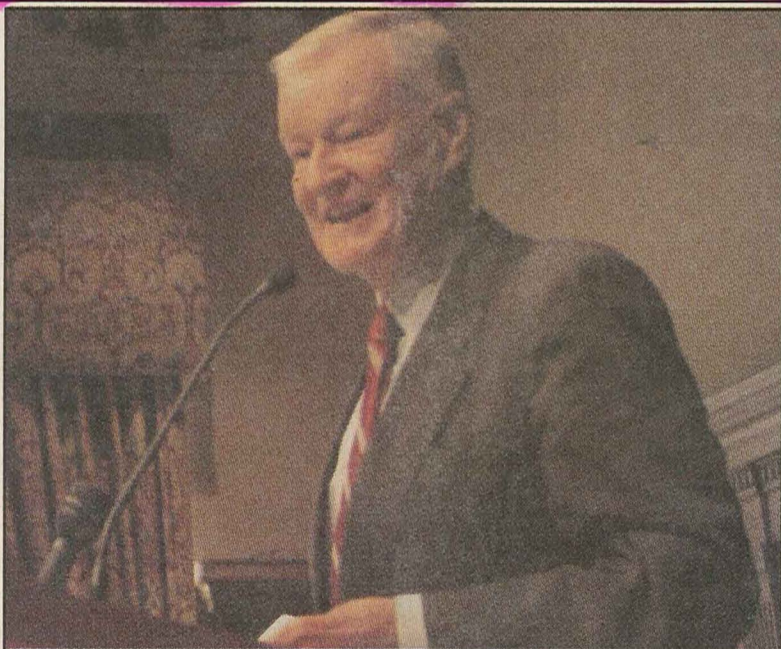
By Walter Wasacz

In less than an hour, Zbigniew Brzezinski took about 200 people around the world.

At a lecture held Friday at downtown's Detroit Athletic Club, the former U.S. National Security Advisor to President Jimmy Carter talked about the costs vs. benefits of the Iraq war, the dete-

riorated global image of the U.S. and how students in universities around the world constitute a "potentially a new revolutionary force."

He talked about China's emerging economic might, and he deftly answered questions about a Baltic pipeline connecting Germany and Russia that is skirting around Poland. He was as quick to heap critical comments on the



the current U.S. administration as he was at the governments in Berlin and Moscow.

One of the most influential strategists and statesmen of the past 50 years, Brzezinski is arguably the most accomplished and distinguished of all Polish-Americans.

See BRZEZINSKI on page 10

Zbigniew Brzezinski is one of the key figures in American foreign policy during the past 50 years. He was President Carter's National Security Advisor and has taught international studies at some of the top universities in the world.

## Car theft in Teen looking for fr rides

By Charles Se

Hamtramck Michael Cramatic is an exa Hamtramck's thief.

He's a 17-year-old school student transportation school, or where to get, in order fare.

Cramatic has arrested or convicted before. He is awaiting trial in which he and a boy are accused mini-van here in

In most cases the youths have stealing cars, but often churned out by justice court right back on the

According to p Glenn Kay, of the theft unit, Hamtramck is a prime target for car thieves.

"They just want to ride," he said.

Their favorite Chrysler product is the company's because they are easy to break into.

The Citizen reports a crime trend a few years ago. See CAR THE

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