

# Have We Guts Enough To Help Drug Users?

Anyone desiring to eliminate drug abuse activities in the Farmington Area, or any other community, must be willing to accept a burden much heavier than educating youth on the perils of narcotics.

A teen using drugs does not begin the habit out of ignorance. A drug user would have to be living in a cave not to get the message that "speed kills." Threats about the dangers of LSD have as much effect on youth as the cancer scare does on smokers.

The probable success of Rap Line is based on the accuracy of the premise that only youth can REALLY understand youth; that drug users desire and will seek help; and that counseling is more effective than punishing.

A FEW WEEKS AGO, a proposal was made by Farmington Township to form a blue-ribbon committee to explore steps to cut down on the use of drugs in the community.

## EDITORIAL

Such a group could be worthwhile if the community is willing to sincerely explore the problem and seek concrete solutions.

But if the committee's purpose is to seek means of educating youth, it can serve no real purpose because it will be duplicating months of work already accomplished by the substance abuse task force of the Farmington School District's Family Life Education Committee.

A blue-ribbon committee can be useful only if its members, and the community, are willing to step beyond the pale of blackboards and documentary films.

MEANINGFUL STEPS will be taken when the community has the guts to ask its young why they are on the streets. Don't bother asking what to do without first asking why.

A thorough, deep analysis into the WHY of drug use might uncover reasons which would both shock and disturb the community.

A man with guts is equipped to ask such questions as:

Why the generation gap? Why can't the young communicate with their elders? What's so wrong

with the establishment? Why do young people spend so much time at hamburger joints? Don't they have anything better to do?

IF THESE QUESTIONS are answered by adults, the problems will be missed entirely. But get honest answers from youth and then see what needs to be done.

I couldn't answer that question. But it could be that the community would have to invest \$100,000 in a teen center with activities designed for and planned by youth.

Too many adults are trying to plan activities THEY think are good for teens. Which may explain why the hamburger joints are crowded.

—EMORY DANIELS

ANY ADDITION to the school curriculum on drug abuse will be a valuable tool in the fight to eliminate harmful drug traffic.

But it is not the final answer because we adults have firmly established that facts and warnings do not automatically change attitudes and behavior.

A unique approach locally is being taken by a group of young people who have been meeting at North Farmington Baptist Church. The Drug Rap Line is a good approach because it involves the young persons themselves, trying to help each other.

## Monday's Mystical Moves

# A Profile On Telepathy

You may not believe in mystical experiences or mental telepathy, but strange things went on in the Farmington Area last Monday night.

A question was raised by Farmington Township trustees at 11 Mile and Orchard Lake, and the answer was provided minutes later by a Farmington school trustee on Thomas St. in the city.

A CURSORY investigation discloses the mystical exchange was not staged but occurred without foreknowledge by any of the parties involved.

The question included in a resolution prepared by Township Trustee Fred Lichtman asked: Why cannot the school board consider reducing the school millage rate to relieve the tax burden of Farmington homeowners?

The answer, included in a statement read by School Trustee Aldo Vagnozzi, was: Yes, the school board should make every possible effort to reduce the millage rate during its upcoming budget hearings.

Aldo's statement was read about 45 minutes after the township board finished discussing the request it was making to the school board.

Aldo's statement also included an explanation that as local assessments rise, the state reduces the financial aid it gives to the district. Thus, the district does not receive any great increase in revenue.

The decline in state aid simply shifts the burden on local taxpayers.

NOW, OBVIOUSLY, each unit of government had something worth saying and said it. But I just have to wonder why a phone call wasn't made beforehand.

Apparently, the township

## Daniels Den

By EMORY DANIELS

board went ahead with its resolution without first discussing the problem with the school board. And likewise, Aldo must have read his statement without giving a copy to the township board before Monday night.

The authors of both the statement and resolution are busy men, and the documents were probably composed at

the last minute. But haste is bound to lead to a breakdown in communication, which is exactly what happened this time.

THERE IS NOTHING wrong with government leaders voicing their opinions in public.

Certainly, each governmental unit has the right to com-

ment constructively on the activity of the other. But there was something ironic about Monday's mystical meetings.

During the recent consolidation campaign, much was said about the success of intergovernmental cooperation in the Farmington Area.

I can understand that the system may not be functioning any longer between the city and township, with all the lawsuits. But the system still ought to be workable between the township and school district.

Maybe the system never was workable. If it is, it wasn't last week.

## Kendallwood Komments

By EMILY ORR, GR4-7499

In another 21 days spring will be here and thoughts go to baseball, etc. The North Farmington West Bloomfield Baseball for Boys League is holding registration for all boys (ages 8 to 20) at the Bond School on March 7-12.

And then on March 6 at 6 p.m. the ladies of the Prince of Peace Women's League are sponsoring a "Spring" evening at the church social hall. There will be fun by Harv's, prizes, surprises and refreshments. Contact Barbara Johnson, 476-3178.

Faye Keppeler, 476-2102 for tickets and they are \$2.25 each.

LAST DAY of this short and active month and still a few more related birthday wishes.

'Twas on Abraham's day that Scott Niemiec was seven and what a party (Pirate Theme) and those present were Scott Edwards, Jim Carey, Jimmy Ross, Jeffrey Anderson, Todd Moore, David Gaines, Jeffrey Kutik and Jerry Scalon. Other celebrations in the Niemiec household were for the "Makid of the House" who is Norman and is a 9 year older plus there was a family dinner on Feb. 10 for Grandfather Niemiec.... "Happy Birthday" to all.

More on skiing, skiers and

ski jumping. Although there are no more competitive events, the Ed Benda family are still at that ski jumping sport plus as long as the snow holds they will be skiing like the rest of the snow bunnies. Back to the Benda family of Howard Road. Since January Lynn, Carl, Steve, Marty and Jeffrey collected 14 medals or trophies in competition ski jumping at Iron Mountain, Munising, Ishpeming, Briar Hill and Duluth, Wis., for the United States Central Association Ski Jumping Meet. At this particular meet there were representatives from Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois and Michigan.

Steve who is 13 and at Dunkel, placed seventh out of 50 jumpers. Steve placed third in the State Championships while Jeffrey who only eight placed seventh out of 50 in the Rabbit Ear Tournament in Duluth. Lynn is sophomore at North and she and another girl are the only girl ski jumpers in the State of Michigan.

Carl is a junior at North and last weekend came home a winner during the Kandahar tournament. Not only did he win a first with a 61-foot jump but won a ribbon for being the most graceful jumper. Marty, who is 10, also competes and he took a third in Kandahar. Remember Mr. Henry Hall who jumps at the age of 78. He called to report he broke his ankle but next year will build a better jump at his home on Nine Mile.

BILL AND JAN SALSIBURY of Bayberry are just back after five delightful days of skiing at Mont Tremblant which is located just outside of Montreal.

The temperature one of days was a minus 38 below. Bill did get some frostbite on his cheek. The folks stayed at the Mont Tremblant Lodge and while there competed in some races and both of them won a bronze medal. On Feb. 15, Bill Salsbury won a silver medal in the men's slalom race at Kandahar. Congratulations to the skiers.

Now here's a good story which many will not admit but the following folks won't mind a bit. The Desmond Godwin Family of Thorny Brae and Kevin Harris of Peppermill went skiing at Cabrafee (outside of Cadillac) and one of the kids dropped the car keys in the snow. So an extra day of skiing for the folks plus a towing charge to a locksmith and a new set of keys. Also Kevin Harris broke his wrist while skiing but as the kids put it "we got off from school on Monday"

## Letter To The Editor

### Flag Being Neglected

EDITOR: With all the trouble and strife in this land of ours these days and our young people looking for an example in leadership, I believe the neglect given the American Flag by the people responsible for seeing to it or raising it in front of the Farmington Township Administration and Police Department buildings is deplorable.

This flag was not flying on either Lincoln's or Washington's birthday, while the City of Farmington had flags in front of every place of business in the downtown area. Our flag should be flying over or in front of every public building every day of the year, whether permitting.

On driving by township offices every day I find this not to be the case the majority of the time. On Feb. 22 on passing the Township Hall my eyes turned over at seeing this disrespected for the father of our country and I called the police station (3:45 p.m.) and was told by the officer answering that he just came on duty and did not know it was not up.

but would see to it that it was raised. On passing the area at 4:30 p.m. I noticed my phone call was in vain. No wonder there are so few flags displayed in this area with such a lousy example being set.

ROBERT BLAINE  
Farmington Township

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