

editorial opinion



Growth is within

Too often, growth is equated with size rather than what happens from within. Fond relatives look at a youngster, arms hanging limply from too short sleeves, feet looking like paddles attached to poles and say, "My, aren't you growing like a weed."

Same with communities: growth is judged solely by the number of new subdivisions, buildings and taxpayers. There is so much more. The child grows mentally, too, and in the overall life, this is far more important to his well-being than the kind of contribution he eventually will make to society.

Sure, our cities are growing: population wise but more importantly, they are growing and maturing in other ways.

Few things are more indicative of a high level of development than participation and appreciation of the arts. In the past year many deals and projects related to the arts have flourished here—the remarkable "Arts" series of several plays, the Farmington Artists Club, longme

supporting group for area talent, steadily increasing as a force for developing interest in the arts.

From the "Picture Lady" program now in several area grade schools to the annual show and sale, the club provides a meeting ground for the exchange of ideas on how to encourage the arts and provide a show case for local talent.

One of the most energetic and enthusiastic persons in the area, Marlow Belanger, implements programs to encourage the arts at the local, county and state levels. Her leadership of the Farmington Community Arts Council has resulted in some of the most innovative programming in the state—one of the newest of which is the art-in-residence.

Encouraged by the signs of growth, about a dozen local painters opened the first cooperative gallery, The Garret Gallery, in Farmington late last year.

Lead by Alice Nichols, no small feat for well, the artists rented the second floor of the pillared building on Grand River

just east of Farmington Road and turned it into a charming display area for their work.

Hopefully, the community will respond to these efforts. Although open for several months, the gallery will hold its first open house Friday, Feb. 27, 7:30-10 p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 29, 2-4 p.m.

Last year's summer in the park series, the regular concert of the Farmington Community Concert Band, the amazing success of the first ethnic festival in the Farmington Community Center, the local architecture, the new library—all tell a story to those who believe this is the way to maintain values and an identity in a technological age.

This isn't a ho-hum community, but a place where creative juices are encouraged to flow, a place where visionaries and social commentators who communicate through art are welcome.

Good thing. Without them, communities die a slow death from abject boredom.



Those old bad news blues

It's disheartening enough to get up in the morning and find bad news in the paper on your doorstep or all over the front lawn.

But when you have to walk through four inches of possible snow (fuzzies) to get the daily newspaper in the box on your curb, it's nothing short of disaster.

The first thing I turn to is the obituary column because I know more people there than in the engagement, wedding or new baby announcements.

The morning I got up at 6 a.m. to surprise my family with a four-pack, strawberry jello mold, my daughter read about red dye two and wouldn't even let me feed my masterpiece dessert to the dog.

My other daughter called to complain about my remarkable grandson and said he was going through the "terrible two's." That moment, a head line in the paper caught my eye, "Is a child over the hill at the age of three?"

The article said unless a child reaches his potential by age three, it is probably too late for him to become a developed fully. My daughter had visions of bringing up a pygmy who would never read or write and would be a burden on society.

BEING An impartial grandparent, I assured her that the child who will be a genius will show signs of this by the time he's three years old so she had nothing to worry about.

I flipped the page and newspaper and read a letter from a frantic mother who said, "Our only son, 23, has caused more heartache than we can bear. This boy was every parent's dream until he reached 14 and started on drugs."

"After numerous arrests, he was sent to reform school, released on parole, and arrested shortly after for breaking and entering. Where have we failed?"

The response was, "Some children inherit fragile nervous systems, go haywire and crack up. They don't react to parental love." I didn't tell my daughter because she identifies and would drag our poor little grandson to get the daily newspaper in the box on your curb, it's nothing short of disaster.

If you find the news of the world is depressing, try reading advice to the lovelorn columns. Here's one example: "I just read the letter from Mr. J.J. who says that 'anxious' the wife of 30 years whose husband is interfering with her marriage is feeling sorry for herself. He leaves all the responsibilities to his wife and even cheats on her."

"MISTAKE! I wonder how you would manage keeping house, raising children, cooking, washing and working around the clock like a wife and mom. You try doing her job and I'll bet you'll find in one day," signed "wife who's been through it all herself."

So what solution does the column expert offer? She tells the wife to go see a marriage counselor. Hubby is delighted because that will give him more time to cheat. In the meantime, the kids are neglected, the house is a disaster area, mom joins the woman's liberation movement and spits. The counselor has been married five times and specializes in breaking up homes.

According to another expert whose column I read religiously, men have much to gain from having women free to develop their own potentials. Women's liberation should eventually improve the quality of marriages sexually, emotionally and economically. Family arguments on the subject are healthy if each listens to the other and keeps open minds, the psychologist maintains.

My husband claims I am definitely entitled to my own opinion as long as it agrees with his. If family arguments are healthy, we'll both live at least 100 years.

IF YOU read the newspapers, you know. If you work hard enough at understanding what you read, you'll be too busy to get depressed. But you may have a nervous breakdown if you can fit it into your schedule.

Then I read the nearest "cynic relief" you find in your daily cheerfulness. A girl who signed her name "desperate teen" wrote that her mother doesn't think she mixes enough and is too shy.

A week later, the kid wrote that her mother found birth control pills in daughter's purse, nearly took the roof off of the house and "my head with my mother's suggestion. The expert advised mom to remain calm and cool and keep the lines of communication open. But the daughter got shy again.

Then I read about the mother of two who is executive director of the National Organization for Non-Parents. If she had four kids, she'd be president. The organization has a budget of \$110,000 with private contributions from mothers and fathers.

You learn all kinds of things in the daily press. One letter was from a widow in her 80s who considers herself fortunate that some men are sexually repressed by time. "Mother Nature did me a favor," she said, "I no longer need sex. It's like losing your appetite for caviar when you can no longer afford it."

Don't let bad news get you down. I just read that deaths from heart attacks will increase 15 to 25 per cent in the next three years as a result of the ongoing recession. There will be a 30 to 35 per cent increase in alcoholism, a 15 to 100 per cent hike in mental disorders and a 15-25 per cent rise in suicides.

If you want to discover what you can look forward to, just read the news and you'll know.

Board votes tuition hike

By TIM RICHARD

With the Student Senate acquiescing, the Schoolcraft College board voted 7-1 to raise tuition and to take the first step toward placing a "cap" on non-resident student enrollment.

Trustee Rosina Raymond dissented on the tuition increase. Trustee Mark McQueen dissented on the non-resident tuition. Board members applauded when Student Senate President Jeff Stabenau announced at the opening of the Jan. 28 board meeting that the 18-member student group was in no alternative to the administration's proposed tuition increase.

The student leader also asked trustees to place a 0.5 mill property tax increase for operations on the ballot. There has been open talk in Schoolcraft circles of placing a tax hike on the June 8 ballot, but it hasn't come formally before the board.

In return, Stabenau asked for a board and administration commitment to help students form a coalition of community college student governments in order to lobby with legislators.

TUITION WILL rise with the spring semester, at the end of April, and will bring in \$41,000 this fiscal year. In 1976-77 the additional revenue will be worth nearly \$400,000.

For residents of the Schoolcraft College district, the price will go up \$2, to \$12 per credit hour. For out-of-district Michigan residents, the price will rise \$4, to \$16 an hour. For non-Michiganians, tuition will be up \$6, to \$20.

Full-time students carry 15 to 18 hours per semester. Thus, a resident carrying 15 hours will pay \$180 a semester instead of \$105.

President C. Nelson Grote said Schoolcraft is one of the few community colleges in the state that has not increased tuition recently. A tuition increase will help strengthen the community college's case for additional state appropriations, he said.

"In addition, should we place a millage question before the voters, we will be in a more defensible position if they know we have passed on an increase in tuition directly to the students," Grote said.

"I SHOOK MY head when I heard the Student Senate say they were in agreement along with this," said Mrs. Raymond as she announced her negative vote. "I wonder how many of the 9,000 students that are enrolled here will be able to pay."

She cited a 13 per cent unemployment rate, a rising rate of delinquency in student loans and some funds left in a working capital account as her reasons for opposing a permanent tuition increase. But she said she would have backed a temporary "surcharge."

"I don't know if the Student Senate speaks for the students," shot back trustee Arch Valler, who was at odds with Mrs. Raymond's reasoning.

Trustee Gerald Cox, who teaches in Detroit, said, "I don't know of any pockets of poverty" in the college district.

Trustee Mark McQueen, who listed two weeks ago he would prefer a temporary surcharge, went along with the tuition increase, but he criticized state action in manipulating the community college appropriation formula to practically force a tuition increase.

In response to a question, Student Senate leader Stabenau said he wanted college

help in the form of information on whom to lobby with and what has been done in the past to persuade the legislature to boost appropriations. The state provides about 30 per cent of the college's operating funds, a proportion that has been shrinking in recent years.

TO CAP enrollment, the college will include the specific date and times when non-residents will be eligible to register for classes, according to the newly adopted board policy.

Thus, preference will be given to limited programs to resident students. The policy took effect Jan. 20 and has no effect on non-residents already enrolled at Schoolcraft or on waiting lists.

It means non-residents will be accepted on a space available basis. Other steps could be taken later, Grote said.

McQueen, the only trustee who has attended Schoolcraft, saw grave implications to limiting non-residents. "My real concern is that in the past we haven't been vocal about it. We should attempt to maintain a good balance between residents and non-residents."

"We have a responsibility to non-residents because we do get funds from the state. But it's not just a question of money. It's a question of the quality of education. (Capping) limits input from different socio-economic groups and different races."

Other trustees, however, argued that although the state had passed enabling legislation to create the college district, local voters were putting up the bulk of the money.

"We have to explain this to the residents," said Valler.

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from our readers

Reader likes clamdigger article

Editor

I have been wanting to congratulate you for some time and trust you will accept my remarks of commendation even at the late date.

I am especially referring to the article you wrote on Chuck Meyer and his Clamdigger. Your style is unique, most interesting and quite unusual in the introduction that you made of Chuck to the community.

In short it was terrific!
PAUL A. MANZ,
Paul A. Manz Catering Company
Farmington Hills

Thanks for help

Editor

The Consumer Protection Unit of my office has advised me that you recently assisted them in the investigation of a consumer complaint.

I wish to thank you for rendering assistance to our unit.

The success of this unit in large part is based upon the willingness of people like yourself in the business

community lending both their time and experience in solving a particular problem.

Again, thank you for your interest and assistance.

L. BROOKS PATTERSON
Prosecuting Attorney
Oakland County

They didn't know

Editor

On Tuesday, Jan. 13, somewhere around one in the morning, Larry Lower was shot in the back of the neck and killed. This, then, is for all the people who didn't know Larry, and for all the people who took him away.

A friend of mine is dead today, they shot him in the head some say. But, I somehow am still trying to justify it as an "in-the-line-of-duty" act. Yet, how can I?

True, he never made the president's physical-fitness team, nor ever led the Farmington Community Choir, but he was a person like you and I and he was alive.

Life brings hope no matter how desperate or "hope-ending" a situation may be. Each breath, each dawn, gives promise of better things to come.

What does death bring? Death is dead— all chances gone, all hope taken away. And who has the supremacy to take or give hope, breath, or life? How can you tell the trigger on a world? Although different from yours, still a world.

My God, what ever became of innocent

until proven guilty? Running shows lead surrender to a point. Why did you have to tell him? Was he trying to kill you?

"With liberty and justice for all." All whom? Certainly not all people who need hope or life. I guess only for people who have the means to take it away. Well, you took my friend away, but now you'll never know the kind of person he was. You'll never know the kind of hope he had. You'll never know the love of life he had. And you'll never know if he was innocent or guilty.

RAY-ELLEN POTOCKI
Farmington Hills

North sponsors bloodmobile

North Farmington High School will sponsor a Red Cross Bloodmobile from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, Feb. 20 in the school gym.

North the first high school in Oakland County to sponsor the bloodmobile three years ago expects to receive more than 100 parts of blood in this year's drive. Last year, 96 parts were donated.

All donors must be at least 18 and weigh more than 110 pounds. Seventeen years olds can donate blood if they have written permission from their parents.

Anyone interested in donating blood should contact William Braker at North High, 426-2511 to schedule an appointment for their donations.



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