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## 'Different roads to quality education'

By JUDITH BERNIE

More than 1,300 educators from Oakland and Wayne counties became students themselves at a regional conference of the Michigan Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development held last week in West Bloomfield.

They heard keynote speaker Mario Fantini, dean of education at State University College, New Paltz, N.Y., declare "there are different roads to quality education."

Some of those roads were explored in 56 workshops whose topics included "Metric Make and Take," presented by Wayne-Westland schools; Birmingham schools' "Creative Music Project," and "Teachers Helping Themselves," presented by Plymouth and Novi school districts.

West Bloomfield School District, hosting the conference, presented three workshops: "This is Media," "Mass Economy" and "Unified Arts."

FANTINI, AUTHOR of "What's Best for Children," answered the topic of his speech, "Options: Who Needs Them?" with a resounding "We all do."

He is convinced that public schools must offer alternative classroom situations for students all of whom do not learn in the same way.

"This meshes perfectly with the diversity among teachers all of whom are not comfortable teaching in the same manner," he adds.

FANTINI WOULD have teams of teachers with administrators develop separate schools within each public school to accommodate different learning styles.

He suggests three options: the traditional classroom; the open, non-competitive classroom; and an in-between flexible alternative.

"You don't need to push either students or teachers to any of these," they're attracted to them," he said.

"TRADITIONAL EDUCATION has carried us this far," he said, "but we're expecting one model of education to be for everyone."

He similarly branded the swing on the east and west coasts to the open classroom as "the answer."

Both are legitimate options," he added.

"QUALITY EDUCATION is not a privilege but a right," according to Fantini who believes taxpayers are calling not for school systems but for educational systems.

He would start with the teacher, and the liberation of his style. If he is a good traditional teacher, he has the right to that.

"If not, he is entitled to find a better match—between a style of learning and a style of teaching."

## House OK's trailer bill

Oakland County representatives had mixed feelings as the Michigan house passed, 72-39, and sent to the senate a bill to establish a Mobile Home Commission to regulate the industry.

Backing HB 4181 were Reps. W. V. Bechtel (R Farmington), Joseph Forster (D Oak Park), Mel Larsen (R Oxford) and Sal Rocca (D Sterling Heights).

Opposed were Reps. James Delbaugh (R Bloomfield) and Ruth McNamere (R Birmingham).

"I HAD SOME reluctance," I was afraid of creating another bureaucracy," said Bechtel. "But there was just no way to avoid it."

"This bill creates a commission to deal with the problems and practices of the industry. For example, operators have charged fees for moving in and out."

"We left authority to local units in zoning and approving plans. Cities can't prohibit mobile home parks entirely, and this bill tells cities you'd better make some provisions for mobile home parks, with the price of housing going right out of sight."

MRS. McNAMERE, however, said the bill "takes site plan review and determination of density powers away from local government."

Drawing on 10 years experience on Birmingham's planning commission and city commission, she said site plan review powers enabled local government to negotiate with a developer as one structure relates to others. It was a matter of aesthetics. It has to do with the character of the community.

"This bill permits local units to retain zoning and water and sewerage powers but local units wanted to retain control of site plan and density too."

"I offered five amendments that would have reserved site plan and density review," she said, citing help from Avon Township Supervisor Earl Borden. Her amendments were all defeated.

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High school juniors who want to compete for state scholarships for the 1977-78 academic year have until March 1 to register for the first of three exams that will be given.

The American College Test (ACT) is the designated exam for State of Michigan Scholarship. Registration for ACT is available at every high school in the state. The first examination will be given on April 18 at about 200 test centers throughout the state.

John W. Miller, state superintendent of public instruction, said about 60,000 Michigan high school juniors are expected to take the examination on April 18 or one of the alternate dates of June 12 or Oct. 9.

Participation in this examination is the first step in the process of selecting state scholarship recipients. State scholarships awarded on the basis of need may be in amounts up to \$1,200 per year and may be used at any of the 96 Michigan institutions of higher learning, Porter said.

During the current academic year, more than 15,000 Michigan students are receiving nearly \$11 million under the scholarship program.

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