

editorial opinion

Millage deserves approval for the sake of students

Kids deserve a quality education. That's why Farmington School District voters should approve the 24-mill increase request on the June 14 ballot.

Inflation, decreased tax evaluation and state aid cuts have all worked in hampering local school districts in providing good education for students. True, voters become discouraged at continually increasing taxes. But there isn't anything more worthwhile on which to spend money than education.

Many residents are disgusted at the way in which the board has presented the millage question. Trustees have clouded the issue by presenting conflicting proposals on what should be done if the millage fails.

But don't let that discourage you. As mentioned

before, we can always elect new board trustees, but we can't reconstruct a kid's education after it has been cut to pieces by stingy funding.

If the millage fails, \$1.1 million will have to be cut from the budget. That's a big chunk. Whatever the cuts may be, residents can be sure of one thing: they won't benefit your children's education.

Education is facing trying times. The battle to maintain quality education is just beginning. Farmington School District residents should set an example to demonstrate their willingness to sacrifice through these difficult times.

In the end, when the present students have grown to adulthood, they will thank you.

FARMINGTON OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC

Ross, Prutow best choices in Farmington board race

We strongly urge Farmington School District voters to cast their ballots for Helen Prutow and Dr. Mervyn Ross in the June 14 election.

Mrs. Prutow will be a welcome new face, knowledgeable in the inner workings of the schools.

Ross could act as a valuable voice of experience if he accents that experience with increased force, which is needed to lift the board into competent leadership.

Presently, the board is suffering from a lack of leadership, resulting in a loss of confidence among residents, students and teachers. Both of these candidates should feel it their responsibility to revitalize education by providing that much needed guidance.

MRS. PRUTOW could prove to be an exciting new addition if she demonstrates the stamina to stand up to the strong personalities on the board.

Her stand on equal education for female students and an increase of female leadership in the top level administrative ranks are vital in perpetuating quality and realistic education in Farmington.

While some may shy away from this stand, voters should realize that Mrs. Prutow is a level-

headed realist who will approach the problem on an even keel.

Hopefully, the other female board trustees will take a cue from Mrs. Prutow and demonstrate a little leadership themselves.

Besides her stand on women's rights, Mrs. Prutow demonstrates an deep knowledge of other school district concerns. Her experience as the Farmington Area PTA president, and memberships in the Parent Education Committee of Youth Assistance, Michigan Association for Children with Learning Disabilities and the League of Women Voters should serve as a base of knowledge if she is elected a trustee.

DR. ROSS is one of the most competent of those now sitting on the board. His involvement in fostering progressive educational programs should be lauded.

Although we admire Ross, we call upon him to take a bigger role in leading the board out of its mire. He has the ability to take on the task. We feel it is his obligation to do so. The district is at a vital juncture. It can't wait for the board to transform itself over the next five years into a respectable governing body. It must be done now by these two candidates.

Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

All candidates qualified in C'ville board race

Clarenceville School District voters in Livonia, Farmington Hills and Redford Township are offered a field of three excellent candidates in next Monday's annual board election.

They are board members Raymond Chaiken and Richard Wood and challenger Marilyn Rowens, who is making her third run for a board seat.

They are running for two four-year terms, so the election is really an "odd person out" campaign.

Chaiken and Wood have a combined 28 years on the board. They have guided the school district through its growth period and are now making decisions on a recent phenomenon in suburban schools—what to do with buildings and programs in an era of declining student enrollments.

Chaiken is a Ford Motor Co. facilities modernization and planning manager. Wood is a Ford engineer.

Both are active in community groups and have a feel for what their constituents want and need in education.

Mrs. Rowens is one of the best challengers in several years in the Clarenceville district. She is currently chairwoman of the Community Commission on Drug Abuse, representing the school district.

She has demonstrated an obvious talent on the commission for initiating or supporting programs and activities which help people who need help.

Mrs. Rowens has a college background and experience in personnel and an enviable record in working with school programs over the years.

While we don't like to straddle the fence on election choices, it is clear that Clarenceville voters have three quality candidates to choose from.

There will be two winners and one loser in the Monday election, but the 3,000 Clarenceville students will be the real winners.

The Observer & Eccentric

Readers' forum

Editor:

I sincerely hope this letter will receive the same attention from the Observer & Eccentric as my comments to the school board did. (Observer & Eccentric, Thursday, May 20, 1976, 3a)

I want to thank you for giving me accurately I am writing because I feel there is a need to clarify my reasons for speaking as I did to the board. Although I felt obligated to express my concerns to the board, my comments were intended to be constructive—tending to construct, build up, help!—rather than destructive. I am assuredly not against the millage

request to be put before voters, June 10. Quite the opposite is true: I see a healthily supported school system as one of the best methods of furthering the best interests of the community as a whole.

I would like to go on record as supporting the millage—even though I see need for improvement in the board's and administration's efforts to educate the children of Farmington. I fully intend to vote for the millage, even though I won't have a child in the Farmington school system next year because I feel that a flourishing school system exerts a depressive weight

upon community spirit and property values.

To react to my dissatisfaction with some aspects of district administration with a "no" vote could help to make improvements in our schools difficult, if not impossible.

I don't intend to punish the children of Farmington for deficiencies in their school board, whom, rightly or wrongly, by vote or default, we elect.

BEATRICE F. KEEFER
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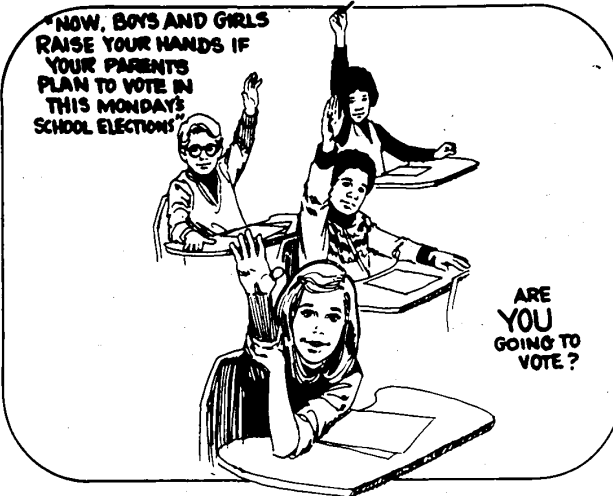
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Schoolcraft—a community asset warrants a 'yes'

Ask a person where he or she lives and the answer will be a city or township—Garden City, Livonia, Plymouth or maybe just "the suburbs."

Rarely will someone answer "the Schoolcraft College District." Yet few institutions reached by Observer & Eccentric Newspapers have so much contact with people and have done so much to enrich suburban life.

It's time to recognize that significant and growing contribution, not just with a mayoral proclamation, as local officials did last week, but with support at the polls June 14.

SCHOOLCRAFT ENROLLS some 10,000 students currently. That's more than any single high school in the district. It's even more than several entire K-12 districts in the area.

Schoolcraft has put these suburbs on the metropolitan area map with its famed culinary arts program which is taught by, and teaches, the finest chefs in these parts.

Schoolcraft has fulfilled its pledge to provide the first two years of basic college education toward a degree at a far cheaper cost to students than if they had to be residents at East Lansing or Ypsilanti.

Schoolcraft students are taught by senior faculty members, not graduate assistants working on advanced degrees.

Schoolcraft has moved forcefully into the vocational-technical area, providing practical post-high school job training.

Schoolcraft has provided persons who once considered suburbia an intellectual wasteland a mentally and artistically stimulating cultural and public affairs program.

Schoolcraft's faculty has taken part in other phases of our communities' public life and culture, writing dramas and music that we wouldn't enjoy if the college had never been founded.

Schoolcraft has gained national stature by hosting a conference on recreational opportunities for older citizens.

Schoolcraft has given attention to developing the talents of mature women who used to dismiss themselves as "just housewives."

SCHOOLCRAFT HAS BEEN more than a junior college, although it hasn't shirked that function.

It has been the community's college. It has touched a lot of lives directly and indirectly, although most of us never think of it when asked "Where do you live?"

Schoolcraft College District voters are being asked next Monday to raise the permitted property tax rate by 0.53 mills. Existing programs will be extremely difficult to finance—at least for the same numbers of students—if the millage is turned down. The kinds of expansion people have come to take for granted will be impossible if the millage is turned down.

Schoolcraft officials have forthrightly explained the public's demands on the college and the college's needs to anyone who would listen. We believe they have made their case for continuing what we have and improving Schoolcraft's contribution to suburbia. The proposal deserves a "yes" vote.

Life wouldn't be as good as it is without Schoolcraft College.

Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

How regulations robbed consumers of cyclamates

Governmental Regulation II

The cost of regulation can be staggeringly high. Perhaps even more significant is the threat to freedom of choice from ill-considered or unscientific regulatory decrees, the kind that seem to have proliferated along with regulation itself in recent years.

According to Robert M. Bleiberg, editor of *Baron's*, in a speech at Hillsdale College, the following is the case of cyclamates, the artificial sweetener, which for the past six years, despite a vast weight of evidence in its favor, remains banned to most Americans.

CYCLAMATES WERE discovered in 1937 and licensed in 1950 to Abbott Laboratories, which proceeded to develop and exploit their unique properties (while non-caloric, they are 30 to 40 times sweeter than sugar and much cheaper to use).

By the late '60s, cyclamates had begun to revolutionize American eating and drinking habits. They were used in carbonated beverages, fruit drinks, weight control preparations, jams, jellies, all sorts of desserts and almost everything that was sweet.

By 1969, diet soft drinks were pushing 15 percent of total production, while cyclamates in all formulations were displacing a ponderable quantity of sugar.

Alarmed at the competitive thrust, the sugar trade fought back. Abbott has publicly charged "As the low calorie market was developing into a major industry, the sugar interests openly launched a research, advertising and publicity program designed to raise doubts about non-caloric sweeteners."

By 1967, anti-cyclamate publicity was strident, and the FDA felt a thorough scientific evaluation was necessary.

AFTER WEIGHING ALL available data, the National Academy of Sciences—National Research Council issued a report which concluded that consumption of cyclamates in reasonable amounts posed no health hazard to human beings.

Further tests financed by Abbott turned up evidence of tumors in rats which had been fed huge doses of a cyclamate-saccharin mixture, which Abbott reported to the FDA.

Under the Delaney Amendment which provides that "no additive shall be deemed safe if it is found to induce cancer when ingested by man or animal," the FDA struck cyclamates off the list of substances "Generally Recognized as Safe."



—BY HENRY M. HOGAN, JR.

Early the following year, the agency banned their use outright.

PROCESSORS, CANNERS and farm cooperatives, caught with heavy inventories of cyclamate food and beverages, suffered losses estimated at \$100 million to \$125 million.

Overnight, consumers by the millions were deprived of access to low-calorie products and a great growth industry was stopped in its tracks.

The blow to the pocketbook was bad enough. What is genuinely alarming is the FDA's stubborn refusal to admit and rectify a mistake.

As an overwhelming mass of evidence now suggests, a mistake it undoubtedly was.

Since 1969, more than a dozen new scientific studies conducted under such prestigious auspices as the British Industrial Biological Research Association, Centre Institute, German Cancer Research Association, Osaka University School of Medicine, U.S. Cancer Institute and the FDA itself, have been unanimous in finding that cyclamates—even when fed in large quantities or in combination with saccharin—are free of either carcinogenic or other adverse effects.

An excellent start

The Litter Lobby—our favorite term for the persons who are pushing throwaway bottles and cans—are fond of asking, with hurt tones in their voices, "Why pick on us? What about the other kinds of litter on the streets?"

Why, indeed? The fact is that 62 percent of the litter on our highways is beer and soft drink bottles. If voters approve the referendum this fall to ban throwaway bottles and cans, it's entirely probable that our litter will be reduced by three-fifths or more.

The so-called "bottle bill" to ban throwaways won't stop slob from littering, to be sure. But it will make littering costly by requiring a nickel or dime deposit on every beer or soft drink container sold, and it will make picking up that litter profitable for kids.