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3 in race C'ville hopefuls ready for race

Claremont School District voters will elect two school board candidates from a field of three in next Monday's election. The Observer & Eccentric, with the help of the League of Women Voters of Livonia, has prepared the following survey of the candidates.

RAYMOND CHAIKEN, 43, has been a member of the Claremont Board of Education for 18 years and is the current vice president. He graduated from Cornell University with a BS in mechanical engineering and has held managerial positions with Ford Motor Company since 1959. His present position is facilities modernization and planning manager. He lives at 3822 Weyer, Livonia.

MARILYN ROWEN, 47, holds a BA in English from the University of California at Los Angeles. Her employment back-

ground is in personnel and job placement. In recent years she has been active in civic affairs, particularly with school-related committees. She has been Claremont's representative on the Community Commission on Drug Abuse since 1971 and serves as its chairwoman. A Claremont resident for 19 years, she lives at 2889 Fargo, Livonia.

RICHARD J. WOOD, 38, 2821 Maplewood, graduated from Claremont High School and Cleary College in Ypsilanti. Since graduation he has been an engineer with Ford Motor, which awarded him an outstanding community service award. He has been a member of the Claremont board for 12 years and a delegate to the Oakland County School Board. Married with four children, he is active in Cub Scouts, St. Patrick's Church and Claremont Band Parents and Friends.

Questions
1. The school district is facing a continuing financial crisis. What priorities or educational values would you use in determining program or staff reductions?

CHAIKEN: "Our district recently faced financial problems. It was our decision to maximize the number of students in each classroom to reduce staff and to establish minimum enrollments for all elective courses. I would then favor a reduction in extra-curricular activities and in sports activities to meet budget requirements. I seriously doubt if any school system can maintain a balanced budget operation without additional state aid and/or increased millage, assuming the costs continue to rise."

ROWEN: "My priority educational values are the basic skills of reading and writing and the tools of reason and inquiry that equip a young person for lifelong learning and problem solving. I would evaluate programs and staff on their potential for developing in students a sense of responsibility, self-discipline, competence, and a feeling of self-worth and dignity."

WOOD: "I have been a board member for 12 years and enjoy it. The quality of education is important to me and most parents in Claremont. I enjoy having a voice in decisions made for our children. I try to represent all the people fairly in all aspects of the district policies. Education is still the key to success, and I want the children to have every possible chance."

WOOD: "When trying to evaluate priorities or educational values, one must take into account the total educational program. Outlines to other programs that will not be the majority of the students. Each student must be given a good rounded education. With contracts, negotiated layoffs are on a seniority basis."

2. Why are you running for a board seat?

CHAIKEN: "School systems in general have become big business corporations, and after 18 years on the Claremont Board of Education I feel that the Board requires members with fiscal responsibility, and with my background I can offer that to the District."

ROWEN: "I wish to share my experience, my perspective and the knowledge I have gained in our school district for the last 12 years. I feel I am qualified to serve our community in making evaluations and judgments on the education of our children."

WOOD: "I have been a board member for 12 years and enjoy it. The quality of education is important to me and most parents in Claremont. I enjoy having a voice in decisions made for our children. I try to represent all the people fairly in all aspects of the district policies. Education is still the key to success, and I want the children to have every possible chance."

3. In view of declining enrollments in the district and the changes in the Farmington and Livonia districts, do you feel the Claremont district should be dissolved and merged to neighboring districts? Why?

CHAIKEN: "I am definitely against dissolving Claremont school district at this time. The question implies that the larger systems can be more effectively financially controlled. This is not necessarily

so. Surely Livonia and Farmington have serious financial problems, but the dissolution of one district to another does not solve financial problems. Our record clearly shows that we have been able to offer at least as good educational programs as our neighbors without additional burden to taxpayers."

ROWEN: "This may be a viable alternative for the future, but I would resist the choice until I had exhausted every other option. There are hazards in being small and possibly lacking programs and curriculum of larger districts, but because we are small and autonomous, I feel we can be creative, that our size enables every student, teacher and administrator to function as a real human being, not just as a name or a number."

WOOD: "No." The Claremont School District when compared statewide is average in size. Being small compared to Livonia and Farmington has many advantages. Claremont has never had a teachers' strike or financial problems to curtail extra-curricular activities. We feel we are in closer touch to the needs of our personnel and taxpayers. We also have the advantage of belonging to the Vocational Center, thereby offering another avenue of education for our children."

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School budget mirrors rise in enrollment

By TIM RICHARD

Enrollments are declining at many K-12 school districts. But not at Schoolcraft College.

That's the biggest reason—though not the only one—the two-year college is seeing a 9.8 mill: property tax increase as the June 14 ballot, according to board Chairman Paul V. Kadish and President C. Nelson Grete.

The increase would cost property owners \$10 cents per \$1,000 of state equalized valuation.

The message is being told by privately-funded pamphlets and telephone rather than being delivered in political and service club meetings. Kadish and Grete outlined the financial picture in a recent lengthy interview with editors of Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.

"HIGH SCHOOLS are declining as a source of students," Grete said, "but older adults are a source."

Schoolcraft's enrollment is 10,000 persons currently, and 10,000 are expected by 1980.

"The vocational-technical programs are more expensive to operate. Community service areas are growing, too," he added.

"The state can't cough up much more. It's strapped by welfare, mental health costs and the new effort into resource recovery," said Kadish.

The Schoolcraft budget, nearing the \$28 million mark, was balanced with the aid of a tuition increase this spring. Basic price is \$13 per credit hour for residents of the Schoolcraft District, which includes the K-12 school districts of Claremont, Garden City, Livonia, Northville and Plymouth.

THE COLLEGE suffered another blow last week when Vice-president Kenneth Lindner learned that the new state single business tax (SBT) would not only cause local property tax revenues to level off, it actually cut revenues by \$28,000.

Meanwhile, the college has initiated new programs in recent years. One is for senior adults. Another is for women, who today constitute 46 or 47 per cent of the enrollment instead of the 38 per cent of 1971. Grete said.

Some sunset needs, they want on, include a women's resource center for Garden City, a day care center there and a child care center for evening hours. Not all will cost money, however, because some can be staffed with volunteers.

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