

Schoolcraft faculty wavers on millage proposal

By TIM RICHARD

"The mood of the faculty is on the fence," said Richard Arlen, president of the Faculty Forum at Schoolcraft College, about officials' dream of winning a property tax increase at the polls.

"Some will support it. Some won't," said the blunt-spoken head of the union that represents some 180 full time and other part-time instructors at the two-year college.

Several members of the board of trustees expressed disappointment, when they voted to cancel plans for a Feb. 27 millage election, that Arlen and the faculty had showed so little

enthusiasm for pumping new money into the college. Arlen had skipped that meeting on Jan. 4 because the agenda gave no indication any real action would be taken.

IN HIS SMALL office in the Applied Sciences Building one day after classes last week, the accounting instructor spoke of his unhappiness with the role he and the faculty had been called on to play in the unsuccessful 1976 and 77 millage campaigns.

Of campaign planning, Arlen said: "You're invited, but it's a left-handed invitation. You're told what's going to happen."

"Larry VanderMolen and myself

have quite a bit of political experience. We had things to offer in analyzing the situation and designing literature. Whatever we offered was basically ignored," said Arlen.

VanderMolen, of the political science department, is an active Democrat who has run for office in Northville and elsewhere. Arlen is an active Republican and an elected member of the Plymouth-Canton school board.

THE FACULTY sees different needs for the college from what the administration is trying to sell the public, Arlen went on.

"The public doesn't see a salable product. The fine arts auditorium—the public won't buy that."

"One real need is replacing and updating equipment. There's always a struggle to get updated equipment. We've only slowly started to replace some equipment."

"The microscopes are going to pot. If you'd had a regular program, you wouldn't need to replace 60 microscopes at once."

"The alignment machine in the auto shop is old. Even the brochures have

pictures of 1950s cars on them. They (the administration) were discussing equipment replacement, but was it instructional equipment? Or was it data processing equipment and a new snowplow? There's no degree of clarity of purpose."

"OUR PRIORITIES and their priorities have been in reverse order," said Arlen.

"We need full time faculty. We have

a large part-time faculty. Full time faculty has never been a priority item until recently."

News-wise, he said, the college relations office appears to concentrate on sports and community services programs. "Its work is misdirected," Arlen said. It should be telling the public the story of what's going on educationally, how students are benefiting from what they learn at Schoolcraft College.

To a board member's statement that the faculty should support a millage because it would be the chief beneficiary, Arlen replied: "We're not gonna get that. (President C. Nelson) Grote's gonna hire three more administrators and put in more maintenance."

Faculty members feel so uninvolved in the college's direction, he said, that "most of the faculty has pulled off college committees."

Youngster faces operation

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undergo surgery to correct his liver and spleen complications.

He'll enter University Hospital in Ann Arbor Jan. 17. Doctor's have told Mrs. Willsey and Hamm it's a risky procedure. While he's recuperating, he'll have the transplant.

Ricky's dad says he's ready for the transplant.

"I love my son and would do anything to keep him alive. We're just thankful we could make the decision. Doctors told us he'd never live to be eight," says Hamm, who works at Ford Motor Co.'s Livonia Transmission Plant.

Hamm calls his son "a little trooper."

"He's handled everything very well. Most adults could never have gone through what he has. The needles on the dialysis machines are large and

he just stands there and takes it."

Although Hamm used to enjoy taking Ricky fishing, camping and hunting, things have changed since this summer when the dialysis started.

Although Ricky's first operation presents a great risk, his mother said there was no other choice.

"Doctors told us he'd never reach puberty on the machine unless he had the spleen operation. We figured it was the best way to give Ricky a fresh start."

Doctors have told his mother without the transplant Ricky's growth would be impaired. At eight, he weighs only 48 pounds. With the transplant, doctors say he'll grow.

Mrs. Willsey, who also has a 15-month-year-old baby girl, who is healthy, says she's accepted Ricky's condition and is trying to help him.

She's undergone home dialysis training and could give Ricky treatments at home if he needs them after the operation.

She says there's still some hard times but for the most part they're coping.

"When I first found out (about Ricky) I was hurt and I did a lot of crying. It still hurts deeply. There's been times when I've seen him on the machine and I wish it was me."

"For someone so small he has a lot of problems."

But for someone so ill, Ricky doesn't spend much time thinking about his illness. He enjoys playing monopoly and likes to take pictures with his camera. He also has a metal detector. Ricky and his stepfather, Calvin, a part-time jeweler, have made things from the scraps he's collected with his detector.

Ten Mile-Grand River traffic problems get public hearing

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Mile-Grand River intersection.

Another of Cool's clients, Stella Buick, of Redford, is interested in the parcel near the intersection if there is provision made for easier turns. Motorists who are forced to struggle against traffic are less likely to turn into a business concern in that area, according to Cool.

The other two proposals continue to place the emphasis on Ten Mile Road. Proposal B would widen Grand River and make Freedom and Halstead one-way roads. A bridge over M-102 would

allow motorists access to both traffic directions.

Proposal C advocates the construction of an exit ramp from M-102 which would split to accommodate drivers who are making left turns on Grand River.

The split ramp would allow left turns north of the Freedom-Grand River corner and would alleviate some of the traffic congestion there according to highway engineers.

Freedom and Halstead remain two way roads, but separating the left turning motorists would alleviate congestion on those streets.

Heiss is presenting graduation awards

Richard Heiss of Farmington will take part in the 85th annual winter commencement exercises of the Detroit College of Law, Feb. 6, at Rackham Building, Detroit.

Heiss, a member of the college's board of trustees, will participate in the presentation of awards to outstanding members of the class of '78.

Judge Damon Keith of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth District will deliver the commencement address to more than 100 law graduates.

Seniors, faculty and trustees will participate in the senior dinner on Feb. 5 at the Raleigh House, Southfield.

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