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Lytle asks board to resign

By BARBARA UNDERWOOD
If one Birmingham school district resident has his way, there will be a whole new school board after the June 13 election instead of one new trustee.

The Birmingham district includes a portion of northeast Southfield.

Robert Lytle, a long-time outspoken critic of the board and its "non-goings-on," is advocating that all board members resign and an entirely new board be elected. Only one vacancy will occur on the board this year, but the announcement this week that Robert Ketchum will not seek re-election. No other terms expire.

Lytle is chairman of the newly formed Birmingham Schools Action Committee, formed to take decisive action to reverse the decline in the quality of Birmingham's education and at the same time, the resulting decline in property values.

The committee's purpose is to "find and support qualified school board candidates, to advise voters on ballot issues and to solicit funds for these activities."

The task is "an uphill fight, but it must be done," said a letter circulated to some school district residents last week.

RESPONSE To the letter so far has "not been overwhelming," Lytle said Tuesday, "but I think that probably is good because it means a lot of people agree and it's a little early to say yet."

He hopes to keep committee membership to about a dozen people "so we can accomplish something, but we will need a lot of workers to pass out literature at election time and so on."

Lytle said he hopes that many of the present school board members would "have the conscience to resign," but admitted that it was unlikely that they would.

"I cannot support the millage (a renewal proposal) is expected on the June 13 ballot for some or all of 17.1 mills that expires this year) with this school board," he said. "I support the millage basically, but what I am saying is that I can't trust this school board to handle it."

Lytle's committee will encourage only as many candidates to run as there are vacancies on the board when the April 11 filing deadline approaches, he said.

"I AM NOT ONE OF THEM," he added. Lytle has run for the board four times in the past without being

elected and has said he would not run again.

If school board members do not resign "we will have to get rid of them another way," Lytle said. Asked if his committee would pursue a recall effort to accomplish their goal, he said it was planned but that no time schedule has been determined.

In a letter to school board members, Lytle charges the trustees with a lack of background "essential to operate an enterprise spending \$22 million" and a lack of management experience.

"Experience with AAUW, L.W.V., PTA, Girl Scouts, as a lawyer, as a corporation bureaucrat, provides little hope for becoming qualified on the job," his letter continues. "Four of you are former teachers, which may place your empathy with employees and not parents."

Lytle cites two major problems facing the schools: A decline in both the quality of education and enrollment. He contends that the decline in education is supported by "the relative increase in selling prices of homes in the Bloomfield Hills and Birmingham school districts."

"THE PERCEPTION of the home-buying public about quality in schools cannot be denied," he said.

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Groves High School's music and drama departments will team up to present the musical comedy "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying."

Groves is attended by Southfield students living in the Birmingham school district.

Groves High School's music and drama departments will combine to present the musical comedy "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying."

The production will be given on two weekends, March 25 and 26 and March 31 and April 1. All performances will be at 8 p.m. in the high school auditorium, Evergreen and Thirteen Mile roads, Beverly Hills.

The March 25 performance will benefit SCHOLAR (School Community Helping Outstanding Learners Achieve Recognition). SCHOLAR patron tickets for the opening night performance are available from Mrs. Norman Goebel, 19573 W. Shire, Birmingham 48009. Tickets are \$5 each.

SCHOLAR is a group of Birmingham area residents who work to increase the amount of finan-

cial aid available for college loans or scholarships to deserving high school graduates living in the Birmingham School District.

All money received by SCHOLAR is turned over to the Birmingham Student Loan and Scholarship Fund. Any high school graduate within the Birmingham School District may apply for financial aid.

LAST YEAR more than 60 students applied but funds were available to give assistance to only 20 graduates. The maximum loan or grant was \$500. Six Groves students were among the recipients.

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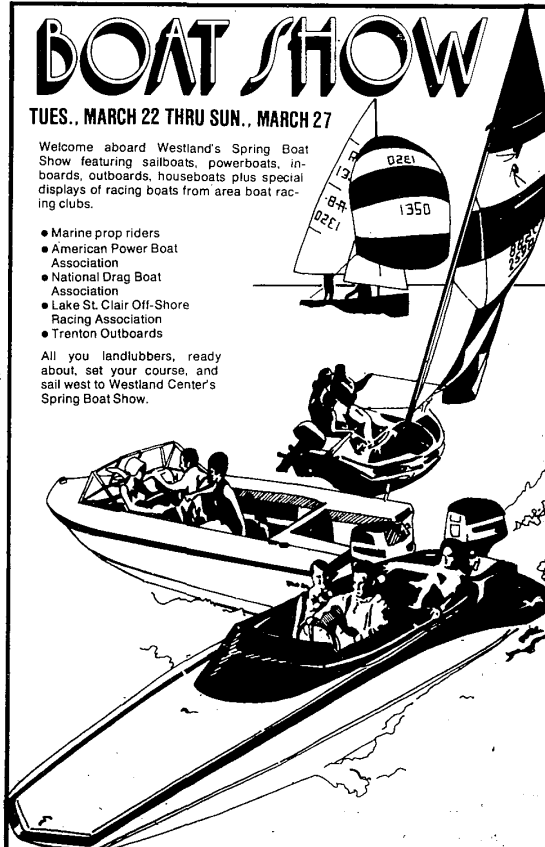
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