

School trustee candidates debate educational issues

Farmington School District voters will elect two trustees to the Farmington School Board in the June 12 election. All four candidates responded to a questionnaire sent by the West Bloomfield Farmington Area League of Women Voters. The candidates were asked their names, addresses, education, occupation, additional qualifications, and two issue-oriented questions with responses limited to 300 words total for both questions. The audited responses of the candidates are printed here.

The League of Women Voters is a national, non-partisan organization established to encourage citizen participation in government. Publication of these statements and opinions is solely in the interests of public service and in no way is to be construed as an endorsement thereof by the League of Women Voters.

The candidates are:

- Howard E. Aldrich, 23935 Gill Road, Farmington. Education: graduate. Farmington Senior High, 1969; Oakland Community College, two years. Occupation: Michigan District Court officer.

- Catherine Mary Egypt, 34633 Lytle, Farmington Hills. Education: Associates degree in applied science, medical laboratory technician, A.S.C.P. Occupation: homemaker. Additional qualifications: I am a concerned citizen of a school-age child. I was a participant on the Schoolcraft College Convocation Committee.

- Jack Inch, 33140 Meadowlark, Farmington. Education: Detroit high school graduate; BA, Wayne State University, 1958; master of education, WSU, 1969; MS, University of Illinois, 1968; attended the University of Michigan graduate school and North Texas State. Occupation: Professor of economics at Oakland Community College since 1969. Before 1969, teacher and department head for Detroit Public Schools, Redford, Cody, Rudman, Miller, 1955-69. Additional qualifications: past president of Flanders Elementary School Parent-Teacher Association; past president Oakland Community College Faculty Association; delegate to the National Education Association national convention.

- Janice Rolnick, 31042 Applewood, Farmington Hills. Education: BS, Wayne State University; graduate work in psychology and metropolitan problems and urban change, University of Michigan.

sky of Michigan. Occupation: Teacher of food awareness at Oakland Community College. Additional qualifications: I have had the experience of working with children in grades 2-6 which has provided an insight into student as well as teacher needs.

WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER THE MAIN ISSUES FACING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, AND HOW WOULD YOU EXPECT TO RESOLVE THEM?

ALDRICH: How to upgrade education in the face of declining enrollment and increased costs. We must motivate the learning process in students, encourage their participation in discussion of social responsibility, curriculum, and learning skills. The development of maturity and responsible citizens is mandatory to their fitting into society in social and career matters. We must assure the acquisition of basic communication, computation, and inquiry skills to the fullest extent possible for each student. I don't have any designed answers for the needs we are facing but will work within the system to achieve those goals.

EGYPT: The declining student enrollment, which leaves us with schools not working at full capacity. I would like to see a relocation of students so that the schools would work at a near capacity level. Then any empty buildings could be used for 1) special education-handicapped, etc. 2) a separate vocational school.

INCH: The main issue facing the Farmington School Board is that of the continual development of an outstanding education program in the face of declining enrollment and uncertain finances. Specifically, the issue is that of offering a strong fundamental educational experience in academic, technical, or vocational programs within tight cost restraints. The resolution of the paradox of quality versus cost can best be solved by the development of a firm priorities list in which the project under consideration is evaluated not only on its own merits, but in relationship to the merits of other projects. The true cost of any one program is not only how much does it cost, but also what could we get elsewhere with the same dollars?

ROLNICK: The financial support of public education is a major issue facing the board. I feel we will need a multi-dimensional tax support system composed of a limited base property tax plus state income and sales tax.

along with a three-to-six-mile enrichment for districts which have voter support for individual district needs and/or desires. The present and projected decline of enrollment is another area of concern. I would support the middle school concept. This would allow utilization of those facilities, which are most specialized and costly, to run at optimal capacity.

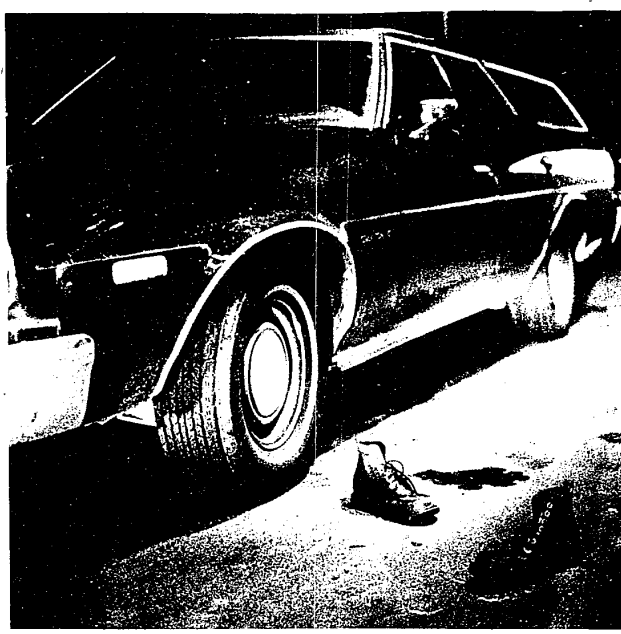
IN LIGHT OF DECLINING SCHOLASTIC APTITUDE TEST (SAT) SCORES, WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST TO IMPROVE THE PERFORMANCE OF OUR STUDENTS?

EGYPT: My suggestions for improving SAT scores: a) stronger discipline is needed in all levels of public schools, so that the classroom maintains an atmosphere of a learning environment; b) elementary education grades K-2 should stick to the basics—reading, writing, arithmetic—than bring in the social studies, sciences, and art appreciation at a third or fourth grade level. This way children should have a good understanding of the basics.

INCH: One cause of the decline in SAT scores is the decline of reading as a leisure time activity. The SAT test tends to be first and foremost a reading test. Therefore, students who only do required reading tend to lack the speed or vocabulary to score well. My suggestion is an expansion of required reading and encouragement of leisure reading which would help students to develop speed and vocabulary skills.

ROLNICK: Upon comparing SAT scores, one must realize that other districts do not allow all students to take these tests. There are some districts which only allow students with a "B" or better average to participate. In Farmington, it is open to all students. We did however experience a decline in the verbal portion of the test compared to previous scores of our own district. I would suggest that we turn some of our attention to grammar instruction in the middle school since it seems that our fourth graders do fine but experience a decline at the seventh grade level on test scores in this area.

ALDRICH: Heavier basic education in comprehension and inquiry skills to insure students understanding of test questions.



These shoes are made for...

This was the scene recently in the parking lot of a Farmington area shopping center. Either this person was in an awful hurry or the old togs just plum wore out. (Staff photo by Harry Maute)

Cops boost reward in killer search

(Continued from Page 1A)

providing information leading to the arrest and conviction of the so-called child killer.

Sgt. Kreske, second in command at task force headquarters in Beverly Hills, said the police profile of the suspect has not changed.

POLICE CONTINUE: to look for a white male, 25-30 years old, with dark eyes. He is believed to be 5' 8" to 5' 10" tall and to weigh 150-170 pounds. The suspect, police theorize, is a person whose job provides freedom and mobility and who is familiar with Oakland County. He may have access to a building where he could hold a child captive.

So far, 15,500 tips have been received by the homicide task force, which consists of 14 investigators from the state police, Oakland County Sher-

iff's Department and several local departments.

Sgt. Kreske said nearly 13,000 of these tips have been cleared by investigators.

Contributions from participating communities will allow the task force to continue operating until the end of the year. Federal and state grants financed the task force, formed in March of last year, for most of 1977.

Monthly donations of \$200 from 21 Oakland County communities, the county prosecutor's office, sheriff's department and Livonia will end June 30.

So far, 16 communities have agreed to contribute \$200 a month for the next six months. Several communities have pulled out or are undecided on continuing to assist the probe.

The investigators are looking for the killer of Timothy King of Birmingham; Jill Robinson of Royal Oak; Mark Stebbins of Ferndale and Kristine Mihelich of Berkley.

King's body was found in Livonia, Robinson's in Troy, Stebbins' in Southfield and Mihelich's in Franklin. All were 10-12 years old and held captive for several days before they were murdered.

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