

School board candidates make their views public

Catherine Egypt

A back-to-basics theme is threaded through Catherine Egypt's campaign for a seat on the Farmington school board.

She believes stronger discipline, concentration on the basics particularly in the elementary grades and stronger enforcement of board policies by administrators are needed in the schools.

She's also concerned that parents are unaware of what's going on in the schools.

She's opposed to the middle school concept, teacher strikes and media centers, but it was her observance of student behavior that prompted a bid for the school board.

"I feel that as a substitute in the kitchens in the school system, she's observed some startling behavior, she said.

"In one junior high in particular, I've seen a group of kids tear apart a table with a screwdriver, bring hard liquor to school and mix it with orange juice for lunch, students wearing halter tops and jogging shorts and T-shirts promoting the growth and use of marijuana.

"I feel the board should be informed better about the way the schools are run."

MS. EGYPT believes school policies should be strictly enforced, including raising and lowering of the flag, which she says is done sporadically.

She's convinced that stronger discipline and a basics movement would improve the educational system and receive voters' support. She's opposed to the placement of sixth graders in middle schools and objects to media centers on the basis that students "know how to operate a video machine but don't know how to read."

In fact, she's so concerned about the state of education in Farmington, she's contemplated putting her elementary school age child in private school.

Working as a substitute in the Farmington Hills, said observing students at Schoolcraft College convinced her that high school graduates lack basic learning skills.

"Their attitude is that the school owes them," she said. "In some schools, there's drinking, bad language and threats to teachers. It was something by the average parent, they'd do know about it."

COMMUNICATION in the form of flyers or newsletters are one way to inform parents of school problems and



CATHERINE EGYPT

activities, she said. She also believes board members should visit schools, talk to staff and administrators and find out their problems.

"I don't think the board and administrators should be totally separate entities."

Discipline in the schools is the long-range problem the board faces, she said, while declining enrollment and empty buildings confront the board in the next few years. The board will

(Continued on Page 4A)

Janice Rolnick

Better communication between the school board and the community is one of the goals Janice Rolnick hopes to pursue as a member of the Farmington school board.

"I see that as a major responsibility of board members," she says. "You're supposed to be a link between the school system and the community."

To that end, she will push for monthly newsletters of some kind to serve two purposes—open the lines of communication from the public and keep the community better informed of what's going on in the schools, she says.

"You hear that the public is apathetic, but I think they're uninformed," she says. "Sometimes public relations can be very effective, and it doesn't have to be costly."

Ms. Rolnick, 38, of 31042 Applewood, Farmington Hills, is the mother of two children in the Farmington school system. She also teaches nutrition awareness on a part-time basis at Oakland Community College. Her professional career has influenced two aspects of her campaign.

HER CRITICS have raised a potential for conflict of interest as a board member who is a teacher.

Ms. Rolnick has denied a conflict of interest potential and believes she is capable of separating her professional life from her role as a board member. And she's moving ahead to promote nutrition awareness in the Farmington school system, as well as around the state.

Currently she's campaigning for the establishment of new guidelines for textbooks that would prohibit the use of name brands in textbooks, such as the Scott-Forbes math textbook used in the elementary schools.

"They're using products like Coke, Hostess Twinkies and Hershey's chocolate bars," she explains. "With the lack of nutrition education, it's almost like they're teaching anti-nutrition."

She would like to see Farmington establish a wholesome lunch program, as well as attempt to take advantage of some of the \$80 million in federal grants available for teaching nutrition education, she maintains.

Thorough research would be her best aid in presenting projects to other board members, she adds. And she believes she has the "drive, energy and skills" to be an effective board member.

"I'm running because I feel I'm extremely qualified," she says. "I feel



JANICE ROLNICK

I have the insight from both a parent and a teacher's point of view. And because it affects me personally, not just professionally, you care about it."

MS. ROLNICK sees declining enrollment as the board's most pressing problem and school financing as it's long-range problem. A multi-dimensional tax support system for education may be the only way to curb the anti-tax trend of today and establish better financing for the future, she says.

"The more you collect locally, the less state aid you receive. And I don't like the idea of education in the hands

(Continued on Page 12A)

Jack Inch

Selling programs, involving parents and residents in the school system and use of facilities, and collective action by school boards in Lansing lobbying efforts, are some of the ways to solve the problems of school financing, said candidate Jack Inch.

Inch believes school financing is the district's most pressing problem.

"If you sell a high-quality program people will be willing to pay for it," said Inch. Millage support at the local level, however, will not solve all the problems, he added. The high costs of lobbying may cause school boards to take collective action to get a better return for education, he said.

While he's concerned with financing issues, he decided to make a bid for a board seat after serving on the task force for School Organizational Structure (SOS). The task force recommended the adoption of middle schools, an alternate grade structure for Farmington.

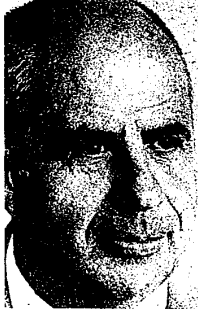
"THESE FOUR years are crucial as to what's going to happen to the district," he said. "I want to make sure the intentions of the task force aren't altered."

Inch, 47, of 33140 Meadowlark, Farmington, has four children in the Farmington school system. An economics teacher at Oakland Community College, his professional background is an asset, he believes. But his career and his "hobby" of coaching cross country at Harrison High School won't be a conflict of interest as a board member, he said.

"If I'm elected, I'll ask the board lawyer if I can serve on the board and coach, but if there's any conflict of interest about being a teacher, I don't know about it."

"I think I bring experience and knowledge to the job, and I would resign if a major conflict of interest arises, an alternate grade structure for Farmington.

As a teacher, he believes the legal



JACK INCH

problems surrounding teacher strikes must be cleared up in the courts.

"A strike is a court of last resort,"

(Continued on Page 4A)

Howard Aldrich

Farmington is a conservative town, Aldrich, 26, of 23335 Gill Road, Farmington, is a bachelor, who believes his age proximity to graduating students allows him to understand their concerns. He said his job as a Michigan Court officer allows him to see the results when youth founder.

A more open attitude in dealing with problems by both the board and the administration, he adds, could be helpful.

"TOO MANY kids hide things from their parents," Aldrich said. "If the parents were more aware they would take a more active role in the schools. I think if we can show the parents their children are really learning, that we are turning out responsible citizens, and that kids like going to school, that the parents are going to be more willing to pump money into the school system."

Teachers don't believe they're getting their money's worth, Aldrich maintains. And the state's school financing system doesn't help, he adds.



HOWARD ALDRICH

(Continued on Page 12A)

THE INSIDE * ANGLE

*OMAR THE TENTMAKER take note: The Farmington Plaza Merchants Association have requested authorization to conduct a tent sale from June 26-July 1. They recently asked the Farmington City Council for permission to erect tents with open sides along the 20-foot driveway in front of the stores. When the council asked Farmington Police Chief Dan Byrnes for an opinion of the project, Dapper Dan replied in his usual easy manner, "We can live with it."

*MOVING ON to another type of financial event, the Orchard Ridge Campus of Oakland Community College will conduct a course in personal finance. The three-credit-hour course will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7 p.m. June 29 through Aug. 17. Registration will be June 29-30. Tuition is \$48. Consumer rights, income tax, Social Security, buying, selling, financing and insuring a home will be discussed.

*TWO WHEELERS will get a chance to strut their stuff at 10 a.m. June 10 when the Farmington Area Jaycees reschedule their Bike Rodeo at the Belaire Bowling Lanes, Ten Mile and Orchard Lake roads. Boys and girls under 16 are eligible for awards and trophies. The Farmington Police will conduct a safety inspection.

The last rodeo was rained out earlier this year. Seems the Jaycees could have used some of the 20-foot tents the Farmington Plaza merchants are ordering. Inside Angle is sure the two groups could have at least reached a tent-ative agreement.

*WINGS OVER THE LIBRARY or at least inside it will be a reality when Tim Pelon from Joe's Hobby Shop breezes into the Farmington Hills Branch Library, 32377 W. Twelve Mile, to instruct young adults on the finer points of model airplane building. All those who attend the free program will receive a model to build. There will be a film on model aircraft flying. There will be a feature demonstration on radio-control and U-Control aircraft. Angles wants to know whatever happened to the good old fashioned paper airplane with the paper clip for a nose. Darn, they would go out of style just after IA finally learned to fold one properly.

*FARMINGTON'S board and commissions had more vacancies than a hotel after the tourist season, recently. But the Farmington Council remedied that quick enough. ("In one fell swoop" is how Council member Ralph Yoder described the action.) All incumbents were returned to office. Joan Barbrick, DeDe Adams, Carol Kurth, Richard Hatfield, William Reed and William McNaughton each have two more years with the Beautification Committee. Peter Propkop and James Moore went back for three more years with the Planning Commission.

Bayard Tupper has another three years with the Board of Zoning Appeals. Robert Deadman was picked for another three years on the Farmington Building Authority. IA is sure it's heard that last name before somewhere.

*SPEAKING of the Farmington City Council, Angles would like to know what Nancy Leonard does with all the embroidery she finishes during council meetings. The veteran council watcher is known by her trademark embroidery projects. When the action's fast, her embroidery needle's slow. There are some nights, IA swears she finishes her projects in a jiffy.

*ANOTHER TYPE of pastime is evident in Farmington these days—Little League Football. The Farmington Rockets are conducting registration for their fall program from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. June 10 at the Farmington High School Field House. The field house is the blue building on the east side of the parking lot. Boys between 9-13 years old as of Dec. 1 are eligible. Practice begins at 4:30 p.m. Aug. 14. Boys must live south of I-696. Angles would love to suggest a girls football team but is afraid someone will call it the Farmington Rockettes.

*WANT TO BE AN ANGLER? Then drop IA a line at the Farmington Observer, Box 28, Southfield 48037. Tell Angles what's happening in your neighborhood, club or church group. Have a funny story. We want that, too.

field is secretary.

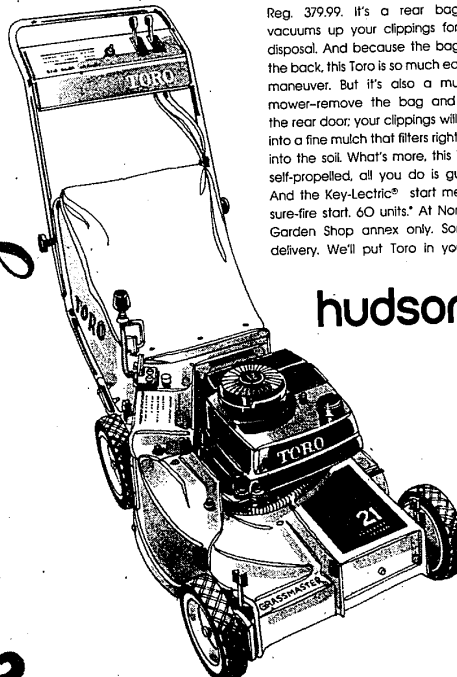
Irvin Alpern is treasurer. Henry Gutter is assistant recording secretary. Andrew Berger, Michael Berger, Lawrence Brown, Gerald Corin, Ted Frazis, David Friedman, William Katz, Meyer Littky, Harry Michelson and Harold Zuker are trustees.

Anniversary Sale

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Bnai
Brith
installs
officers,
trustees

The Metropolitan Detroit Bnai Brith Council will conduct its installation of officers dinner-dance at 6 p.m. June 14 at Congregation Adat Shalom, Farmington Hills. Floyd Bernstein of Farmington Hills, David Jaffe of Birmingham and Arnold Michlin of Farmington Hills will be installed as vice-presidents. Joel Garfield of South-