

From our readers

Postal feud clarified

Editor:

I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to express my opinion of the new contract between the U.S. Postal Service and the Postal Unions. I am sure it was enlightening for most of your readers. As an officer of the Farmington Local American Postal Workers Union (APWU) and as spokesman in the article, I feel it necessary to clarify several points that may be misleading to your readers.

Benjamin Baier is no longer Postmaster General since his move to an executive position with U.S. Gypsum in the spring of this year. He was succeeded by William Bolger, who took office shortly before contract negotiations began in May. Postmaster General Bolger is, by the way, the first Postmaster General to work his way up through the ranks as a career postal employee.

Regarding the pay package, the article subjected to the most abuse by nearly all the media coverage we had. Under the 1976 contract, postal workers earned \$1,518 under the Cost of Living Allowance (COLA). This amount now will be added to our base pay making the average wage \$14,536 annually. This is money earned over the past three years and is only a percentage of the rise in the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

THE ACTUAL raise, based on the new average salary of \$14,536, is this:

- Two per cent effective July 22, 1978, or \$291.
- Three per cent, effective July 21, 1979, or \$490.
- Five per cent, effective July 26, 1980, or \$835.

These percentages are the actual raises in pay, not COLA percentages as printed in your article. To our members represent a total pay increase of only 10 per cent over the next three years. To me, this figures out to be a little more than three per cent annually and this includes the COLA from the 1975 contract.

Now comes the new COLA which is capped at \$1,518 for three years. This part of the pay package, which is always lumped in to give the illusion of a fat 19 1/2 per cent raise, is money we may never see if the cost of living

holds steady. The chances for double-digit inflation are just as good, though, and it is our great concern that this allowance may not keep up with a rising CPI.

So when the figure of 19 1/2 per cent is flaunted about, keep in mind that this is a projected figure over the course of three years and assumes that the CPI will rise enough so that our percentage of that rise will be up to the total \$1,518.

One final note: On recouping our management staff, I discovered that I was mistaken. We don't have 12 supervisors for 142 employees but eight. Please accept my apologies for this miscalculation.

ROBERT F. BROWN,
Vice-president,
APWU, AFL-CIO,
Farmington Local

She wants fire study

Editor:

I just read Lynn Orr's article about the owner of the Danish Inn standing trial for arson.

There seems to be much attention focused on the problem of arson lately, and I think it's about time our city looked into this problem more closely. Just driving down Grand River, you can view the rubble of Waack's Bar and the Nibble Nook restaurant. Further on, the Valley View Condominiums. Within one mile of my home, there are three burnt-out homes that are uninhabitable.

We have a volunteer firefighter living down the street, and he is called almost every night to fight fires. To me, the amount of fires in our area seems unusually high compared to other nearby suburbs. I certainly hope something can and will be done about this.

KAREN BRANEX,
Farmington Hills

Film shows career options

Local artists seek 'quiet revolution'

By KATIE KERWIN

Children's books and filmmakers aren't usually thought of as tools of revolution. But the local artists and writers of Program Resources have a quiet revolution in mind.

Their goal is to broaden society's views on career options, minorities, aging and a variety of topics, through children. Program Resources, formed recently to produce educational materials, aims to help children develop open minds and realize their full

potential, according to Harriet Alpern, head of the company.

Changes in social attitudes are going to have to begin with children, Ms. Alpern said. She thinks it unfortunate that youngsters are exposed to a barrage of sexist and racist views, especially on television.

She feels good educational materials are needed to counteract this influence and to start youngsters on the right track.

"They need to have wider choices and know what opportunities are avail-

able," she said. "A PRINCESS MUST Grow." Program Resources' new filmstrip, presents children with the idea that a wide variety of careers are open to both men and women of all races and economic backgrounds. The filmstrip teaches that it's not who you are, but what you want to do, that counts.

The non-sexist, non-racist filmstrip combines the graphics of Troy artist Jack DeWitt with photographs by Pat Cimarruti. The story was written by Joan Wesiman of Southfield.

The princess goes to Children's Hospital for treatment because she isn't growing. She makes friends there with "real children" and together they explore what they want to be when they grow up.

They discover that both men and women can fill a broad range of careers, as they meet men and women who are guards, receptionists, therapists, technicians and researchers. They learn that men can be nurses and women can be doctors.

The princess is so intrigued by a microscope in the hospital laboratory that she becomes a research scientist when she grows up—which she eventually does—with a little help from the hospital staff.

MS. WEISMAN CHOSE the setting to capitalize on children's fascination with hospitals, and also because of the many types of jobs available. The filmstrip also helps to calm the fear of hospitals that many children harbor, she said.

Overcoming stereotypes was the main objective, though. The children in the story are repeatedly surprised to find that they often can't tell what a person does just by looking at him or her.

Artist Jack DeWitt drew the figures that were used with the photographs of Children's Hospital in Detroit. The group's non-sexist educational

approach appealed to him, too.

"The concept interested me. There's a need to expand children's awareness for orientation to careers."

DeWitt added that he hoped non-sexist education will lead young women to weigh at an earlier age the options available to them. As a former teacher of advertising at Wayne State University, he said he taught many young women who were confronted suddenly with the dilemma of balancing a career and family life.

"An earlier awareness may cause them to start thinking sooner about the decisions they will have to face," he said.

STEREOTYPES AND SEXIST role models abound in television programming, Ms. Alpern stated. And since children spend much time watching TV, they get a large dose of this.

"Media stereotypes are unnatural," she said. "Males are shown as active in society." Women are usually seen as passive, domestic creatures or as sex objects. Also missing from television are the aged and minorities.

Ms. Alpern noted, "We need books and material for children to make them realize that there are more dimensions to life than those presented on TV," she continued.

A children's book on aging, to be called "How Old Is Old?" is Program Resources' next project.

"We have to make children aware of change, growth and the aging process," Ms. Alpern explained. "We need to show them that old is good."

Children's Hospital already using the "Princess" filmstrip, and Ms. Alpern indicated that the response to it has been favorable. It has also been shown in several classrooms.

"They're crazy about it. The kids liked it and discussed it after the filmstrip," she said.

The filmstrip is available from Program Resources, 19100 Parkside, Detroit 48221, phone 368-3674.

School schedules listed for 1978-79

Those days of readin', riting' and rithmetic are almost here again. A sure sign of school season is the posting of the schedule for the coming year.

This year, elementary school with walking students, Lakewood, Kenbrook and Schlawassee will be open from 8:55 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Students who are bused to elementary schools will begin their day at 9:20 a.m. and end it at 3:30 p.m.

On Sept. 6, elementary students will attend school only in the morning.

ON THE HIGH SCHOOL scene, senior high students will pick up their registration packets between 9 a.m. and noon and 1-3 p.m. from Aug. 21-25.

Teacher workday is scheduled for Sept. 3 and senior high students will report for registration on Sept. 6.

During the morning of Sept. 7, teachers will have a half-workday with students returning to school from 11:30 a.m. to 2:15 p.m.

An all day session is scheduled for Sept. 8.

Senior high students are expected in school from 7:30 a.m. to 2:15 p.m.

JUNIOR HIGH STUDENTS will pick up their registration packets from 9 a.m. to noon and from 1-3 p.m. between Aug. 28-30.

Teacher workday is planned for Sept. 3 and teacher preparation day is scheduled for the following day.

On Sept. 7, seventh grade students will report for orientation in the morning. All students are expected to report in the afternoon.

The first full day of school for junior high students is Sept. 8.

The junior high day is from 8:10 a.m. to 2:55 p.m.

Bikers invited to fundraiser

The Associates of Michigan Christian College (MCC) will sponsor the third annual bike-a-thon on Aug. 12 to raise money for the junior college.

There will be two age categories: 13-17 and 18 and over. A Schwinn 10-speed bike, donated by Weller Store for Men and King Bikes 7, Things, will be given away to the person raising the most money in each age category.

Each rider's minimum sponsored amount should be \$100.

All proceeds from the event will go towards furnishing the new student center on campus.

One of two bike routes may be chosen. The first route is 6.5 miles and the

second route is 10.5 miles. All riders should meet on the MCC campus on Avon Road between Livonia and Rochester roads in Rochester at 8 a.m.

The MCC Men's Club will serve lunch from 11:30 to 1:30 at the Uley Student Center on campus. To obtain an entry blank or more information, contact Doug Dunn at 548-0018 or Joanne Shinsky at 651-2210.

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