

# Wrong Persons Beg To School Board

EDITOR:  
As I observe the meetings of our Livonia Board of Education, I am struck more and more by the incongruity of the roles played by the members of the board and those who constitute our administrative staff.

It seems perfectly obvious to me that their positions are exactly reversed. The members of the administrative staff are people with extensive training in the operation of a school system—many of them holding doctoral degrees in school administration; however, they are forced to beg, plead and grovel in order to obtain a minute fraction of what is needed to make up even half-way suitable programs for our children.

Do not misunderstand, I believe our present Board of Education to be for the most part good. The members are doing the best they can under impossible conditions and they have my deepest respect, but I would feel better served if their role was one of evaluating and making recommendations to the superintendent and his staff with the final decisions and implementation coming from this group of trained professional educators rather than from lay citizens.

We would hardly ask a baker to build us a house or a dentist to build us an automobile, but we might ask each of these men what features he would like to have in a house and a car, but certainly the final decisions would be made by those qualified by their professional training to perform these tasks. Why do we seem to afford such tremendous respect to all professionals except those in the very vital field of education? I am just plain tired and disgusted with the current trend toward "bargain basement" education! Whatever happened to those parents who were willing, eager, happy and proud to make sacrifices so their children could have the very best education possible?

MRS. MARY J. KOZAKIEWICZ  
Livonia

## Cities Shorted By The State

EDITOR:  
In a recent column, Tim Richard and I discussed Sydney Harris' view that major cities would be better off as political entities, separate from the states of which they are a part.

I take exception to his view that the present arrangement is satisfactory. It is patently unfair that the rural sections of a state have political and economic power that is out of proportion to their percentage of population. In the past, a vote cast outside carried much more weight than an urban vote.

In many states this was defended as only fair and just, with rural spokesmen contending that the rural voter possessed more native American wisdom and character than his urban counterpart.

The consequences of rural dominated Legislatures were neglect of urban problems and financial starvation of the cities. Out of every tax-dollar raised in New York City, only 50 cents is retained in or returned to that city, in effect, upstate New York is enjoying a tax break at the expense of the people of New York City.

You point out several public officials, including the governor, and ask if they are bicks. Obviously not, but then, since the Supreme Court ruled that cows, pigs and cornfields could not be counted as people when drawing district lines, thus ending outstate's excessive political weight, it is not possible for them to be bicks.

As a result of the Supreme Court decision, legislatures are more urban oriented. And properly so, since that is where most of the people live and most of the wealth is generated.

Mr. Richard ridiculed Mr. Smith's idea that cities be separate entities by suggesting that he meant that a city secede without its suburbs. It would be perfectly possible, however, large parts of New Jersey serve very effectively as part of New York City's hinterland, notwithstanding that they are in different states.

In fact it is very possible that New York City would be better off if the rest of its hinterland were in a different state. It could then retain the taxes raised there and finance itself without going, hat in hand, to Albany or Washington. Of course, it is not politically feasible for cities to form their own states. Why should outstate set the golden goose free?

C.G. RICHARD  
Westland

## Counseling Not 'Anti-Draft'

EDITOR:  
In your Nov. 12, edition, page

## READERS' FORUM

Letters must be limited to 300 words. Letters must be signed, with the writer's address. Names will be withheld only at the writer's request and for good cause. Please type or write plainly. The editor reserves the right to reject unsuitable letters.

AC, you carried an article entitled, "New Anti-War Plans Are Told." This article alleged that Trinity Church of the Brethren in Redford Township would be a training site for "anti-draft counselors."

This allegation is false. The fact-of-the-matter is that our church board was requested to consider allowing the use of our facilities for purposes of draft counseling. The matter was deferred pending a more thorough investigation of the views of the group sponsoring such counseling. The essence of our concern now appears justified. We felt that a significant difference exists between "anti-draft" and "draft" counseling -- not to mention a vast difference in the emotional connotation of the terms.

Our membership includes those whose conscience has directed them to serve humanity in non-military ways, as well as those whose conscience has directed them to protect humanity via military service. I believe this erroneous reporting does a disservice to our membership and request your retraction of the statement.

RICHARD, PHILIP  
Church Board Chairman  
Trinity Church of the Brethren  
Redford Township

EDITOR'S NOTE: In a legal sense, "anti" was incorrect. Nevertheless, it should be pointed out that the kind of draft counseling given by the Committee for Peace is vastly different from the kind that would have been given by (say) the American Legion, because the committee is concerned with "conscientious objector" status and deferment loopholes in the law.

## Livonia Schools 'Inefficient'

EDITOR:  
Needless to say I am most upset with half-day school sessions in Livonia, especially when I feel it can be avoided. Please allow me to explain.

Livonia has approximately \$850 behind each student, which is the sixth highest in Wayne County. Their teachers salaries are comparable to districts in this area. They produce a good education but they have four grades on half day sessions. Now, as they say, "Let's Compare Combs." Our neighbors to the west, Plymouth, operates with \$700 behind each student, this ranks 19th in Wayne County. Their teachers salaries are within \$100 of Livonia. They produce an education equal to Livonia's, have

the weapon was a .22 caliber rifle! Some of the boy's classmates (journalism students) went to the editor to ask why this story was printed and where he got his information. They were told that he "wanted to wake parents up" and that the information was from the police report, which was available to the public. The boys went to the police department and there found that the record contained almost nothing like the story printed.

The editor also said that he had not printed the boy's name to spare his family. More likely, the name was not printed to spare the newspaper from a libel suit.

I could go on and pick the story apart, sentence by sentence, but your space is limited and I am again nauseated in just trying to put this down on paper.

LOUISE EVERHART  
Livonia

## Swanson's Letter Hit

EDITOR:  
I feel compelled to respond

to Bob Swanson's letter opposing parochialism. However, I have some reservations about referring to that frustrated jumble of words and smears as a letter.

Mr. Swanson's bias and hatred for those who disagree with him, and his utter contempt for responsible leadership shocks me. I have been a resident of Livonia for only 15 months. I moved here from another state with no opinions about local, state or county officials. But I wanted to be informed. Consequently I read everything available on elected officials and candidates for both parties.

I asked questions of people from various sections of the city and learned that Rep. Stempfen has the respect and admiration of a vast majority of the people I spoke to. I have never met Mr. Stempfen, but I consider myself extremely fortunate in having a man of his integrity and honest concern for his constituents, represent me.

MR. ANTHONY NILES  
Livonia

## Bentley Student Thanks Donors

EDITOR:  
This is just a letter of appreciation to all of the many residents of Livonia and Westland, to thank them for their participation in Bentley's canned food drive for needy people.

I would also like to tell you the seniors collected the most cans, 7,000 was their figure; with the juniors 5,800 and sophomores 2,000. Over 16,000 cans were collected, a very good total figure. So once again, a big thanks to all who contributed cans. A BENTLEY STUDENT

## Thanks From The 'Village'

EDITOR:  
Thank you so much for your wonderful writeup in The Redford Observer. The residents were very thrilled and I personally appreciate your writeup. It brought many volunteers to the village. I sincerely hope you will visit us again.

BETTY REGNA,  
Presbyterian Village

many after school programs that Livonia doesn't and are on full days.

Let us also look at the approximately 34 other school districts in Wayne County who have less than Livonia's \$850 behind each student. These districts are able to operate a full program on a full day, yet Livonia with more money behind each student can't. With this in mind I think you will have to agree that the Board of Education's argument for half-days simply does not make sense.

Until this is explained I can only assume that Livonia's schools are not operating as efficiently as all the other districts in Wayne County.

EUGENE ZANG  
Livonia

EDITOR'S NOTE: Reader Zang's figures don't jibe with current information. The Observer Newspapers has received, Livonia puts its figures at \$780 per pupil for the current year and Plymouth at \$1 higher, \$791. Livonia officials believe the source of the erroneous \$820 figure was a typographical error in the Detroit News.

## Leader Thanks Girls, Public

FARMINGTON

EDITOR:  
I am a cadet leader of Troop 712 at Duncklee School. There was a family of 10 on the east side whose home was destroyed by fire. My girls collected a very large amount of clothes, canned goods and money. In fact, my husband's truck was needed to deliver it. I would like to thank publicly the girls for their services and the generosity of the Farmington people who made this drive such a success.

RUTH BALARDI  
Farmington

## The Eagle's Wings Chipped

EDITOR:  
Last week another Livonia newspaper, The Eagle, printed a supposedly factual story of the tragic death by suicide of a boy.

The real, honest, legitimate facts were horrible in themselves, but this newspaper made up, added to and distorted the truth.

Is there no way that this kind of irresponsible journalism can be stopped? Talk about "yellow journalism" and "purple prose"—"the lay in a pool of blood, the pistol clutched in his hand"

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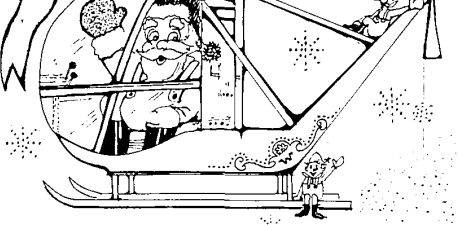
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BETTY REGNA,  
Presbyterian Village

# WELCOME SANTA TO WESTLAND!



FRI., NOV. 28th AT 10 a.m.  
PARKING LOT 2



In Person Sgt. Sacto, Ch. 50 Star of Captain Detroit Show

FRI., NOV. 28th AT 10 a.m.  
PARKING LOT 2


Give Santa a warm welcome when he lands at Westland in his shiny helicopter. Hear the wonderful John Glenn Rocket Marching Band, directed by David Wickham.

Join Santa's parade with the pretty Westland pixies, and escort Santa to his castle where you can talk to him in person.

Treats for all the kiddies!

## WESTLAND CENTER

WAYNE AT WARREN RD. - WESTLAND



RESERVATIONS ACCEPTED!

# NEW YEAR'S EVE

AT

# HILLSIDE INN

The holidays are fast approaching. Make your reservations now for dinner at the Hillside Inn New Year's Eve. Distinctive Dining amid the warmth of our colonial decor will be a perfect start for 1970. Call us soon.

453-4302

