



Humanities should be mandatory in Farmington school district

It's astounding that Farmington school administrators give Humanities the same priority as study halls.

The Farmington Board of Education should listen carefully to the controversy that's been brewing over graduation requirements. The rumbling began less than a month ago when a group of parents banded together to formally protest and hopefully improve a music program they see going down the tubes.

About the same time, some teachers from Harrison High School came forward with a proposal they drafted which would have increased high school graduation requirements by adding two years of humanities. It was rejected by administrators before the board of education caught wind of it.

The two causes have become intertwined. They've stirred a slew of phone calls and letters from parents,

teachers and students to this newspaper office.

The momentum increases every day. Persons from all areas of the district are banding together in their concern for quality education — a phrase that's sometimes lost in the bureaucracy of budgets, millage rates, transportation costs and all the other components of running a school system.

The administrative philosophy of graduation requirements is to require a minimum number of credits and allow a maximum selection of elective classes on the theory that most students are college-bound and will take a heavy academic load. Others will drift to vocational education, business or industrial arts — hopefully.

WHAT ABOUT THE portion of the 20 percent of Farmington high school

graduates who don't go to college and aren't interested in anything other than the quickest, easiest way to a diploma?

Some parents set their own standards for their children. But what about the kids whose parents don't care. Is it fair they get so little from the system while others get so much?

For that 20 percent, high school will be the last taste of formal education. Will basketweaving and study halls prepare them for the job market?

Many parents, teachers and kids don't think so.

In the current requirements, a student can graduate with one year of math, but two years of physical education; three years of English, but one year of science; two and a half years of social studies, but no foreign language, music, art, industrial arts, business or home economics. In a six-hour day, stu-

dents can take a study hall each year. Too much structure can be negative, but too little guidance can be as damaging. It can cheat young minds out of a well-rounded education that at least touches on several diversified areas.

How can students know what they like or what they are good at if they aren't exposed to a variety of classes?

The board of education has a duty to perform. That's knowing what's going on in the schools and providing for the best policy limited tax dollars can buy. Trustee Dick Wallace is to be commended for showing up at a recent Concerned Parents for Music meeting to ask questions and observe.

It isn't the job of the board to be a rubber stamp for administrative recommendations. The board has a responsibility to the district to provide quality education.

Unsung heroes demonstrate a sound society

Journalists have a tendency to become jaded after years of writing about the same old celebrities, civic leaders and politicians.

Readers get the same way. But a few months back, Suburban Life Editor Loraine McClish came up with an idea that reinforced our faith in people.

It also brought to public attention some well-deserved recognition for persons who otherwise would have gone unnoticed — the Unsung Heroes of Farmington and Farmington Hills.

Regular readers have noticed the articles in the Suburban Life section. Many have expressed their pleasure at seeing articles about these very special persons.

Frankly, I was more than a bit skeptical about the idea when Loraine fielded it at a staff meeting. Editors are supposed to be that way.

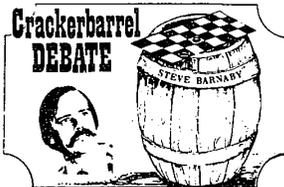
"We won't get but one or two responses," I said. "People just aren't into giving praise to one another these days."

Boy, was I all wet. The response was overwhelming.

As the nominations came pouring in, the entire staff became immersed in debate over who should be the Unsung Hero. We finally decided a luncheon was in order to make the decision.

GATHERING DOWN at the Diggers restaurant in Farmington Hills, the staff debated back and forth. Sifting through the nominations, there were 20, was a task made easier by our receptionist, Debbie Eggert, who made up packets for each one of us.

The choice was difficult. Some of the letters brought tears to the eyes of even the crustiest of us.



In short, we found there were some mighty wonderful people out there:

- A teen-ager who endured physical pain in a futile attempt to keep a younger brother alive who was dying of leukemia. Who says teen-agers don't have values these days?

- A woman who took a Vietnamese family into her home at great personal sacrifice.

- A man who was nominated by his 93-year-old mother-in-law for the care he had given her.

- Another teen-ager who spends her free time at a local nursing home.

Other nominees were less dramatic but just as touching — children who wanted some recognition for their parents, husbands who wanted to put a good word in for their wife and vice versa, babysitters, lovers. The list was endless.

We hope you have enjoyed our Unsung Hero series as much as we have.

Loraine McClish deserves a lot of credit, herself, for the effort she put into it and for refusing to bow to the cynicism of her editor.

Next year we hope to hear from you about your unsung hero.

THE INSIDE * ANGLE

AHH SPRING It's hole in one time again for golf enthusiasts. The Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Department is sponsoring a hole in one club to recognize those plucky duffers who have conquered the greens — well, at least one. Triumphant duffers who have conquered the San Marino Golf Course must have a legitimate hole in one as a portion of a completed nine of 18-hole round of golf at San Marino. The hole in one must be witnessed by an adult, 18 years old or older. The golfer must notify the pro-manager immediately following the completed round of golf in which the hole in one took place and present scorecard as verification. In recognition of his or her feat, the golfer will receive various promotional items from golf equipment manufacturers and an individual hole in one trophy engraved by the Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Department with the name of the golfer, the date of the event and the yardage. The golfer's name, date, hole and yardage will be placed on the "Hole in One" plaque to be displayed at the San Marino Golf Course. There isn't a fee for this opportunity. The only cost will be the actual round of golf.

THE GOVERNOR'S Energy Awareness Advisory Committee, a non-profit corporation charged with increasing public awareness of our national and state energy situations will sponsor the first Michigan High School Energy Awareness Scholarship Contest.

(Just from reading all that official sounding language, IA is bereft of energy.) The contest is part of a series of statewide consumer exhibitions scheduled for the fall. The contest consists of two categories: an energy awareness brochure and an energy demonstration project. It will offer a \$5,000 scholarship to the state winner in each. Four state finalists in both categories will receive \$2,500 scholarships. Each project will be judged regionally before the state finals and may be displayed at energy expos around the state. There will be one Nov. 13 to 16 in Cobo Hall, Detroit. Applications must be received by the Governor's Energy Awareness Advisory Committee in Lansing by June 1. All project work must be completed by Aug. 1. Locations for delivery and set-up at regional expos will be announced after June 1. Contest rules, descriptions and entry blanks are available at high school principals' offices or by writing the Governor's Energy Awareness Advisory Committee, 9545 Mercantile Way, Lansing 48919. To call the committee, dial, 517-374-9448.

IN THE GOOD OLD SUMMERTIME the entire town sleeps. Right? Wrong, according to the Clareville Summer Theatre Players (STP). They have a six-week program conducted by Bob

Gregory at Clareville High School for anyone interested in drama. The group will perform plays, learn backstage procedures and participate in a variety show.

Tuition for the six week session is \$50. Students and community members both are encouraged to enroll. STP runs from June 23 to Aug. 21. For more information call 478-5520. The STP is supported by the Clareville Theatre Parent the C.H.S. Thesplan Troupe 1292.

'WE CARE' messages to the hostages in Tehran, Iran are available to the public at no charge from Bob and Sally Managel, owners of Postal Instant Press (PIP), 31567 West Ten Mile at Orchard Lake Road. The white or blue cards feature a Bell and carry this message: "The people remember and support you through their thoughts and prayers. We wish you a safe and speedy journey home." The program is promoted throughout PIP's 550 franchised outlets.

FARMINGTON AREA residents are invited to attend a forum on taxation at 7 p.m., May 1 at the Farmington Community Library on 12 Mile west of Orchard. The meeting is sponsored by state Rep. Wilbur (Sandy) Brotherton, R-Farmington. The meeting will focus on current property tax proposals and other aspects tax structure.

DOUBLE YOUR PLEASURE if you're into bargain hunting, the Farmington Area Mothers of Twins Club is sponsoring a clothing sale from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., May 10 at Community Center, 127050 Dorset, Southfield.

The center is north of 8 Mile and east of the Southfield expressway. Clothing from infants to size 14, some ladies and men's clothing, toys, books, games, child care equipment, cribs and high chairs will be accepted. Checks won't be accepted.

WANT TO TAME a wild flower? Oakland Community College offers two biology classes this spring at its Oak Park campus which will clue students in on telling wild flowers apart. The second course deals with birds of Michigan and compares, contrasts and categorizes the birds as they appear in their natural habitat.

Wildflowers is offered from 7 to 11 a.m. Tuesday mornings. Birds of Michigan will be discussed from 8 a.m. to noon on Thursdays. Both classes require a minimum of lab work and a maximum of field work. Students may register for these two credit courses from 8 to 8 p.m., April 30, May 1 and 2. For further information call 548-1252, extension 18.

New beachwear brights for young bathing beauties

Now young teens have their own mailots and rompers in shimmering, sensational, sun drenched styles and colors. Try a triple striped mailot, \$14, or a bright hibiscus print mailot, \$16, just two from our new swimwear collection. Both from LITTLE MISS

DUNE DECK in plum-colored Antron® nylon/Lycra® spandex. Sizes 8 to 14. And cover-up in cool, terry rompers, \$14. In plum, lilac, hot pink, jade, yellow, red or royal polyester. Sizes S-M-L. In Young Teens, all stores.

HUDSON'S