

# Re-elect Prutow, McGlinicy

Leadership attuned to the future needs of students is essential when considering educational trusteeship.

Competent board members realize the significance of providing a diverse curriculum so the students of today can be productive citizens of tomorrow.

Incumbents Helen Prutow and James McGlinicy have demonstrated a clear understanding of this concept. We endorse them for re-election to the Farmington Board of Education.

During this campaign, there has been a lot of talk about getting back to basics — whatever that means. While this talk may appeal to some persons' populist inclinations, we find it absurd and a denial of the realities of our complex society.

While there are some very profound problems haunting the educational system, board challengers' insistence that reading, writing and arithmetic are the answers is inappropriate and potentially harmful.

Students face uncharted courses when entering the job market. Long gone are the days when memorizing McGuffey's Reader and doing math on a chalk slate are enough to meet these challenges.

Today's students have to be keener and better prepared than ever before if they wish to live at anything more than a subsistence level.

COMPUTER SCIENCE, a mystery field 10 years ago, is essential in today's job market. On the other hand, understanding and living with today's rapidly changing social system are equally important.

We no longer live in a parochial society, cut off from our neighbors in the next town. Learning to live together — men and women, black and white, Christian, Jew and Moslem — is part of the learning process.

"Basic" education just doesn't meet these challenges.

Over the last four years, the Farmington Board of Education has taken steps to meet these needs. Mrs. Prutow and McGlinicy have shared in this progress.

But more — much more — needs to be done. We urge the incumbents to take heed, resist the urge to sit on their laurels, and meet these challenges.

It's disheartening to witness the disinterest this campaign has suffered. Only two residents took enough interest to become challengers in this board race.

That's a crime in an area where so many well-educated persons could serve their community by running for the school board.

Worse yet is the voter apathy. It would be a safe bet that voter turnout for this election is one of the lowest ever.

The board's challenge is to heighten the interest of the community.

UNFORTUNATELY, many parents have abandoned their children to the school system, leaving teachers to be babysitters, rather than educators.

A concerted effort must be made to bring the community back into the educational system. Only then can the school system do the job it was meant to.



# OCC tax shift wise; candidate crop good

More important than who runs the board of trustees is the property tax shift proposal at Oakland Community College.

The OCC tax shift proposal June 9 merits a strong "yes" vote.

OCC currently gets 1.7 mills (\$1.70 per \$1,000 of state equalized valuation). Of that, 1.0 is for operating expenses (salaries and supplies) and 0.7 for paying off bonds.

President Robert F. Reolof's plan is common sense. As bonds are retired and the college's facilities are built, why not shift 0.2 mills out of debt retirement and put them into operations?

In dollar terms, the shift would ultimately add \$2 million to the present \$28 million operating budget, without raising the current tax rate.

Moreover, OCC could use more operating money. Some buildings are 15 years old and need maintenance. Some need energy conservation measures. That takes operating money.

OCC knows it needs to do more in the way of vocational-technical education. Such programs cost more than lecture-textbook courses. That takes more operating money.

Oakland County residents would do their community college a good turn by supporting the tax shift proposal.

FOR THE BOARD of trustees, where three persons are elected for six-year terms, 10 persons are running. They are fairly evenly matched, and OCC shouldn't suffer, no matter who wins.

We recommend incumbent David W. Hackett and newcomers Theodore D. Dziurman and Robert M. Filiatraut. For those seeking a maverick, incumbent Barbara J. Willing is the best bet.

Hackett, 56, of Avon Township, has been active since the campaign to found the college in the early 1960s. A political liberal who left business to teach in Detroit, Hackett, nevertheless, still looks out for the north end of the county.

Dziurman, 41, of Troy, is an architect and engineer. He was in county government until two years ago and is now in a private consulting engineering firm. As a board member of the Oakland County Economic Development Corp. and chairman of his city's building code appeal board, he has the best leadership credentials among the candidates.

Filiatraut, 35, of Bloomfield Hills, has spent most of his professional life teaching at the Detroit College of Law. He clerked for a federal judge and teaches federal practice. What Filiatraut lacks in civic experience, he more than makes up for in intellect.

Ms. Willing, 27, a legal secretary from Madison Heights and former OCC student, is an enigma. Her incredible political antennae catch the currents, cross-currents and undercurrents of college machinations. Frequently she dissents from the established view — which can be a valuable function.

Unfortunately, her objections are phrased "I don't feel good about this," rather than in precise budgetary, political, or legal terms. Such arguments aren't intellectually convincing.

### CANDIDATES worthy of note include:

Arthur J. Pappas, 28, Troy insurance man with great professional experience in community colleges but only a year of residency in Oakland County; Nancy E. Vangilder, 42, of West Bloomfield, former student government president at Orchard Ridge campus; Mariellen Greenbury, 49, former teacher and reporter who would like to be a voice for Farmington Hills and southwest Oakland; and Margaret MacTavish, 36, of Birmingham.

# Our freeways are safer

Statistics tell us the most dangerous type of road in the state is a rural, two-lane road after dark. Add a little alcohol and you have pictured the scene where a majority of fatal accidents occur.

Freeways, on the other hand, are the safest roads in the state, even though they carry a lot of people at high speeds.

And freeways are getting safer. The Michigan Department of Transportation has been experimenting with two projects, and the results are amazing.

WHEN YOU ARE squeezed out of the left lane during rush hour, you may not appreciate it, but the new concrete median barriers being installed are life savers.

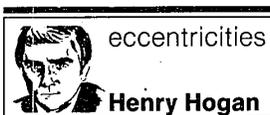
A three-year study indicates the probability of a fatal crash is about 10 times less when a vehicle collides with a concrete barrier than when it runs into a standard wood and metal guardrail.

The barrier design is the reason. All barriers are designed to keep vehicles from crossing over the median. If cars cross the median, there is a certainty that a serious accident will occur.

The concrete barrier does a better job of keeping cars on the right side of the median by means of two sloped surfaces which cause the wheels of a colliding vehicle to climb the 32-inch wall. The tires and suspension system cushion the impact and redirect the car back into the traffic flow.

When they are struck, there is little or no damage to the wall or the car. Where the new concrete barriers have been installed, traffic deaths have declined sharply.

An added benefit of the concrete barriers is a reduction in maintenance costs once incurred to replace guardrails, which cost \$50 a foot for urban freeways.



They also act as a base for light poles, eliminating a roadside obstacle, and as a glare screen. These benefits reduce accidents associated with headlight glare or gawking motorists passing an accident.

THE SECOND project that MDOT has been experimenting with is a new pavement "roughening" process that may reduce traffic accidents on icy and wet road surfaces as much as 50 percent.

The process, known as pavement texturing, has been tested at 12 locations within the past four years. An evaluation at the sites indicates that wet surface accidents were reduced by 10 percent and accidents on ice-covered highways were reduced by 50 percent.

Traditionally, when road surfaces become slippery under wet conditions, MDOT has applied a new asphalt surface. However, due to increasing costs for petroleum products from which asphalt is derived, the department has experimented with alternative methods.

Pavement texturing is accomplished by grinding the topmost layer of a concrete roadway and creating a new surface that's more resistant to skidding. The cost of texturing is one-fourth the cost of asphalt paving.

These and other methods by our state transportation department are encouraging for all who use our highways.



Did you know that Michigan maintains 102 roadside parks from one to 30 acres in size, another 75 freeway rest areas (each about 15 acres in size) and another 175 picnic table sites, plus 10 information centers? Campers may find overnight facilities in thousands of campsites maintained in Michigan's four national forests, 33 state forests and in 72 of the 80 state parks.

# Community college: a challenging place to teach

A fellow named Howard London recently penned an article outlining, of all things, the travails of the community college teacher.

I thought this guy had to be kidding. Community college teachers must have it made, I told myself. And how important could community colleges be, anyway?

Like many other persons with the same feeling, I was wrong — dead wrong.

London, a Ph.D. teaching sociology at Tulane University, is something of an expert when it comes to community colleges. He recently published an ethnography on the subject.

In a recent article for Annals Magazine he points out some facts which are surprising to those of us whose eyes have been glazed by the importance of four-year universities.

In short, he tells us that community colleges have been sprouting like dandelions in the last 20 years, and those teaching at them are confused and in need of a clear definition of just what is a community college's purpose.



Frankly, every community college trustee should be issued a copy of this article. Every person voting in next week's election should run to the library and read the March issue of Annals.

IF YOU ARE one who believes community colleges are unimportant, consider a few of these facts:

- In the last 20 years, community colleges have tripled in number from 315 to 920.

- Enrollment has increased from 392,000 to 3,901,000.

- Number of teachers has risen from 40,000 to 200,000.

- Community college students now account for 1/3 of all undergraduates and teachers for 1/3 of the academic profession in this country.

That certainly changes the image of those deceptively quiet colleges stuck away on some wooded campus.

But London warns there is trouble in these publicly little known institutions. He labels community college teachers as those in the "twilight status" between high schools and universities.

Thirty-three percent of the teachers come from high school faculties; 11 percent taught at four-year institutions; 25 percent came from the trades and

industry; 25 percent started careers at community colleges after graduate studies, and the remainder began teaching right after undergraduate school — a diverse mix, to say the least.

These teachers, says London, are faced with an "open door" educational policy which dictates that every student gets a chance.

IN SHORT, this means a lot of frustrated teachers instructing a lot of frustrated students.

Many community college teachers, half of whom sit around dreaming of teaching at a four-year university, feel negatively about their students who, in turn, sense these feelings and simply go away, never to receive further education.

London admits that many community college instructors are satisfied with their jobs, but the discontent is spreading.

That vote you cast, or don't cast, for a community college trustee is more important than you may have thought. You, or your child's education, could depend on it.