

READERS' FORUM

Latin's Alive And Youthful

EDITOR: I wish to reply to Dan McCosh's editorial column on the "death" of Latin.

Mr. McCosh's report of the death of Latin is, like that of Mark Twain's, "greatly exaggerated." About 1,167,000 pupils in grades 7 through 12 are now studying Latin. The statistics on Redford Union are not an adequate basis for concluding that Latin is dead, and reports should not be based on so slight a foundation.

Mr. McCosh makes the point that "at the beginning of the decade" Latin was a required course for admission to many colleges, and he implies that, because this is no longer true, Latin has been dropped from the curriculum in many schools.

To the beginning of what decade does Mr. McCosh refer? In 1960 Latin was certainly not required for admission to many colleges. In fact, it was not required in 1950. Too, information about admission requirements should be accompanied by information about graduation requirements when discussing language programs.

More to the point is the fact that the chief lasting value of foreign language study as a school subject is for most students educative rather than vocational. The only argument that Mr. McCosh can validly bring against Latin is that it is no longer spoken as a mother tongue by anyone.

Why Bentley Has Breakfasts

EDITOR: A recent letter in the Readers' Forum was critical of the food subsidy made possible by federal programs to participating schools.

Assistance to school cafeteria programs by our federal government is largely a recognition that inadequate nutrition and careless patterns of eating are not restricted to poverty areas and that no other agency has the same opportunity as do the schools to encourage healthful attitudes and knowledge about our eating habits. A recent survey at Bentley High School revealed that over half of the students do not eat breakfast. Learning makes difficult demands upon students. An empty stomach throughout the entire morning produces irritability and reduced tolerance for frustration which compound learning problems.

Where Our Aid Money Went

EDITOR: I have compiled a statement of the foreign countries that received over a billion dollars through 1968. (Figures are expressed in billions)

England, \$7.4; France, \$7; India, \$6.5; Italy, \$5.3; Turkey, \$5.1; Nationalist China, \$4.8; W. Germany, \$3.8; Greece, \$3.6; Yugoslavia, \$2.6; Japan, \$3.5; and Brazil, \$2.4.

Also: Netherlands, \$2; Pakistan, \$3.1; Spain, \$1.9; Philippines, \$1.7; Iran, \$1.8; Belgium, \$1.7; Austria, \$1.1; Chile, \$1.2; Norway, \$1.1; Thailand, \$1; Korea, \$0.9.

These figures are from the U.S. official report of the Foreign Operations Committee and I believe the taxpayers have a right to know where their dollars are spent.

GEORGE B. SMITH Farmington

Editor Is Complimented

EDITOR: I compliment your Farmington Editor, Emory Daniels on the accuracy and comprehensiveness of his new articles covering the State Boundary Commission meeting of Jan. 21, as carried in your issue of Jan. 25.

Your newspaper should also be complimented on the degree of coverage given to the matter I am sure is of great concern to the citizens of the Farmington area.

ALLISON GREEN State Treasurer By R. S. D'AMIELLO Director, Local Property Services Division.

Sutherland Will Go To Capital

Roger Sutherland, co-director of a National Science Foundation-sponsored project in which Schoolcraft College and six other community colleges are participating, will attend a meeting of directors of NSF projects Feb. 11-14 in Washington.

The Washington conference will include discussion sessions on such topics as instructional technology, new course patterns, teaching science for non-science majors, and pre-service teacher education.

70,000 In Area Get SS Benefits

By W.W. EDGAR

Social security has become a major factor in the economy of the northwest suburban area where more than \$6 million is distributed monthly—and is going even higher.

At the present time we are serving 70,354 beneficiaries. Sam F. Test, district manager, related that he supervised the grand opening of the new headquarters offices at 17500 Lahser Road amid appropriate ceremonies.

"We simply outgrew our other office," he said, "as each week our list of beneficiaries keeps growing."

"LAST MONTH, for instance," he revealed to the more than 200 persons who gathered for the ceremony, "we had 70,354 beneficiaries on our list and they received \$6,214,343."

He quickly pointed out that with the start of the next year a 15% increase approved by Congress went into effect and this would boost the figure well over the \$7 million mark monthly.

"The mother of these children died last September," District Manager Test explained, "and they became eligible under the amended survivor regulations in the social security code in which Congresswoman Martha W. Griffiths (D-Detroit) played a major role."

One there was a species of giant manate in North Pacific waters. This species, named Steller, was wiped out by Russian hunters in the Bering Sea two centuries ago.

Good Breakfast Nourish those burger-loving breakfast skippers in your home with a basket of burritos before they leave for school. Just broil ground beef for ground lamb patties and peach halves. Serve with beans, whole wheat bread slices or toast.

Can't Afford It? which... the cost of income protection or the catastrophic bills resulting from an accident or illness? Remember, to insure your family's future, you must act when you don't feel like it today! 453-8901 or 455-7532 1005 W. Ann Arbor Trail Plymouth WOODRUM ACCIDENT AND LIFE COMPANY THE FABE NORTO AGENCY

What Social Security Brings To This Area At last count here are the figures for the Observerland areas covered by the new act:

Table with 2 columns: Number of Beneficiaries, Monthly Benefits. Rows: Livonia (6,039, \$316,977), Plymouth (2,550, \$218,000), Northville (1,659, \$138,135).

*Includes Plymouth township *Includes Northville Township Redford is included with the Detroit lists.

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EDISON Electric heat is like having warm summer sunshine inside your home, said Mrs. Neah Cochreum of Troy.

Vagnozzi Hits Vote By McDonald

It was Mrs. Griffiths who called attention of Congress to the unfairness of the rule that, demanded 1 1/2 years of employment during the three years immediately prior to the death for eligibility.

"Mrs. Griffiths got this changed so that the children become eligible for benefits long as the mother had a work record at any time. As a result, these children, ranging in age from two to 18, will receive benefits for the next 20 years. At the present time they are collecting \$88.40 each month."

AMONG THE MANY guests during the "open house" were Robert Dirbin and his 13 children, who provide one of the most unusual cases in the northwest office.

Fortunately, Mrs. Griffiths, who made the dedicatory speech, was there to greet the beneficiaries of her work.

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