

from our readers

Educator pays tribute to retiring teacher Lee Peel

Editor: Gladly will be learn and gladly teach."

When Geoffrey Chaucer wrote this line centuries ago, he was praising the contributions of dedicated teachers. If he were making a list today, he would certainly include the name of Lee S. Peel.

Students returning to Farmington

High this fall found that Mr. Peel had retired after many years of dedicated service to students and citizens of this community. In a diverse number of ways, he epitomized all those qualities of advising, counseling, and chaperoning contacts with students. However, a better indicator of a teacher's impact is seen in the changed lives of his students. In this domain, Mr. Peel's record stands aloft; his instruction in English

and the Humanities introduced young minds to those ingredients necessary to live the abundant life. The number of his former students who went into careers related to Creative Writing and Journalism is probably unmatched anywhere in the country.

In addition to this primary work, Mr. Peel has long been active in the Farmington Historical Society and has served as its president. Following several years of research, he authored a pictorial history of Farmington, which has become one of the best examples of combining photography and writing in covering local history.

At a time when many teachers are being criticized for the decline in student performance, let it be known that

Mr. Peel is listed among that large group who contributed to the fine record of quality education.

His dedication and example will be sorely missed by the district. And, indeed, the hallowed halls of Farmington High will be a little hollow with his absence.

Dr. DONALD NICHOLS
Oakland Community College

North Farmington deserves fair shake

Editor: I believe your Front Page article about the North Farmington High "conflict" was a disservice to the community.

Why should a student who defies school rules and verbally abuses school administrators get a public forum for her half-truth version of her dispute with the school? It seems to me the administrators were trying to maintain order and discipline in the school — a difficult and thankless job. Your article undercuts their position, confuses the issues, and blows the whole thing out of proportion.

As a Farmington parent and substitute teacher in another district, I've seen both sides of such incidents and feel that superficial newspaper coverage is totally inappropriate and detri-

mental. As most parents, I've observed injustices and deficiencies in "the system," but your newspaper does not address itself to the real, basic problems of public education. You divert public attention to self-seeking individuals who seem to have serious problems distinguishing where their rights end, and the rights of the rest of the school community begin.

There are many pressures on students, teachers and administrators today; it is a complex and time-consuming affair to maintain a democratic and efficient learning environment. Your kind of sensationalism tends to make administrators defensive and afraid to do their jobs.

Most high school students are refreshingly warm, enthusiastic, inde-

pendent-thinking people. They want to learn; hopefully, they are mature enough to realize that order and rules are essential parts of their education.

Why don't you explore the problems and activities of these students? **DOLORES FORGE**
Farmington Hills

DeChants promoted to vice president

National Bank of Detroit has announced the appointment of Peter C. DeChants of Farmington Hills as assistant vice president in its Metropolitan Corporate Division.

As a loan representative, DeChants arranges commercial loans for businesses in the metropolitan Detroit area. With the bank three years, De-

Chants has worked as a credit analyst, loan representative, assistant loan officer and loan officer in the bank's credit administration division.

He holds a BA in economics from Claremont Men's College and an MBA in finance and accounting from the University of Chicago.

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