

Best bet are incumbents

AN OLD BOXING adage dictates that to win the crown, a challenger has to soundly beat the champion.

Being as good doesn't count. Many times even being a little better isn't enough to wrest away the championship belt in the judges' eyes.

And so it is in the Farmington school board race. Although the challengers have brought up important issues and some good ideas, their campaign plans just don't pack a knockout punch.

Therefore, Farmington district voters should cast their ballots on June 14 for incumbents Jack Inch and Janice Rolnick.

Both have done an above-average job in their first four years. More important, they have grown. Monday's voters will be casting votes for more educationally aware and politically sophisticated incumbents.

In truth, Rolnick and Inch are two of the better board members. In other years, this crop of challengers might have deserved to replace the incumbents.

But this isn't the year.

Rolnick understands the importance of keeping public education just that — public. She calls it maintaining the "universality" of education. She believes in offering a broad-based curriculum, with emphasis on training students to work and live in a global community of ideas and cultures.

INCH IS MORE of the pragmatist between the two. He has a strong educational background, having taught in the Detroit School District, and is an economics professor at Oakland Community College.

He looks upon students as individuals rather than statistics. He understands their problems and aspirations. And although he possesses compassion, he has demonstrated an ability to make the hard decisions when necessary.

Both challengers have talked about the importance of increased resident participation — certainly an admirable goal. And this board has been less than militant in bringing the public closer to the concerns of the school district.

This should be an issue the board, as now constituted, should be willing to face.

Our choices for C'ville

CLARENCEVILLE VOTERS will elect two trustees to the school board on Monday. Their job will be to maintain a sound educational program in these uncertain economic times.

The candidates are Lorene Erickson, Linda Ahnert, Daniel Morrison and Charles Goodwin. The two highest vote-getters will be elected to four-year terms.

ERICKSON, the present school board president, is the leading choice for one of the seats. An instructor at Washtenaw Community College, Erickson is an intelligent and articulate trustee.

Last fall, as board president, she capably represented the Clarenceville district at a public hearing before Livonia City Council on the summer tax collection issue. Her background on school finance and curriculum makes her an important board member.

She has bachelor's and master's degrees in education and has taught school in the Detroit and Livonia school systems. She has served as secretary and treasurer of the school board during her four years. She is seeking her second term.

ERICKSON, her husband, Robert (a former Clarenceville board member), and their family have lived in the district for some 17 years. She knows the district and she has demonstrated her interest and commitment to education. Erickson merits re-election Monday.

For the other seat, voters have two good candidates in Ahnert and Morrison.

AHNERT, a homemaker, is making her first run

for office. Although a newcomer in the political arena, she has been active in the district for the past 12 years.

She has worked hard behind the scenes on such projects as the junior high school plan committee, high school parents group, Project Outreach for the Oakland County Intermediate School District and the Botsford Bucket Brigade.

Ahnert has done the kind of things that a school district needs — but doesn't often get — from many parents. She also is president of the Botsford Elementary School PTA. We believe her volunteer efforts have provided the practical experience and insight that a diversified board needs.

We believe that as a board member she would provide a fresh and different perspective. Voters should consider her when they go to the polls Monday.

MORRISON, who is seeking his third term, would also be a good choice. The father of nine children and some 50 foster children in the last eight years, Morrison knows what parents expect from a school district.

His tenure on the board has provided him with the direct experience and background that a newcomer may lack.

A claims manager for an insurance company, Morrison's prepared statement, which appeared in this newspaper May 31, reflects an independent thinker who is not afraid to express his views. He wants to continue serving as a trustee and his experience merits voter consideration.

Don't ignore college

Give variety to OCC board

OAKLAND COMMUNITY College's board of trustees has long been heavy with teachers and school administrators. This is not to criticize any individual but to propose that an excellent college would be well-served by having a spectrum of talents on its governing board.

All three holdover trustees are educators. Four trustees will be elected in Monday's balloting. Persons voting in their local K-12 elections should not overlook OCC.

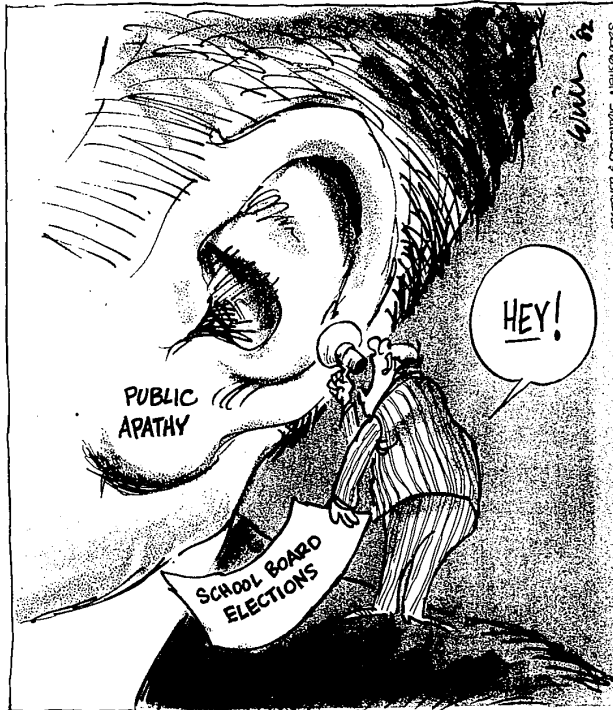
FOR A SIX-YEAR term, incumbent Suzanne Reynolds, 41, of West Bloomfield, is a standout. After six years on the board, she has learned the college's problems and personalities. Reynolds asks good questions. Her colleagues recognized her talent by electing her vice chairman of the board.

Reynolds has thrown much personal energy into OCC's newest project, setting up an independent foundation to scout up funds for scholarship and enrichments that dwindling state aid can't buy. She is shedding her "Goody Two-Shoes" image and is no longer shy about taking on tough issues.

After 18 years on the board, Earl Anderson is an institution — literally since a diesel lab has been named in the honor of this champion of vocational education. He had hoped, however, he might retire at 68 on his laurels, particularly after a recent outburst in which he threatened to punch the president in the nose, to punch the biggest guy in the room and anybody else. We expect age and ailments, rather than meanness, were to blame. Nevertheless, the time has come.

So for the second six-year term, we endorse Adam S. Karibian, 45, a Birmingham architect. Hardly a meeting goes by without the board taking up an issue of construction of a new building, renovation of an old one, a problem with a contractor or some equipment problem. Literally no one on the board has any professional experience in the area. Karibian could fill that void. Further, he strikes us as a man of moderate temperament with no axes to grind.

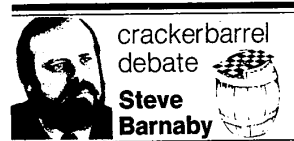
FOR A FOUR-YEAR vacancy, Helen B. Cost, of Royal Oak, has outstanding credentials.



Credit plan would bite your wallet

DRIVING UP to the gas pump gets to be more of an adventure every day.

The price goes up. The price goes down. Your windshield gets cleaned. Do it yourself. Pay first. Pump first. Correct change only. It's enough to drive a sane person bonkers.



And come August, more than the heat of summer will make you boil when you fill 'er up. At least that's the story being told by the Service Station Dealers Association of Michigan.

These are the guys who have been pumping your gas for years and taking the public flak which should have been aimed at international oil moguls who consistently put the screws to the consumers.

But this time the dealers have had about enough and are fighting back. Admittedly, they are doing it to make their lives a little easier. But in this case, the dealers' cause is also the consumers'.

Those of you who buy petrol with a credit card are going to be the first to feel the pinch. The major oil companies have decided you'll pay four or five cents a gallon more per gallon than the guy with greenbacks.

Sounds fair enough, right? Wrong, unequivocally, insurmountably wrong.

TO TAKE THE HEAT off themselves and to insure they get their bucks, the major oil companies are going to take the discount out of the dealers' hides and leave it up to them to collect from the customer.

In short, the "discount for cash" program will reduce the wholesale price by about two cents which should be passed on to the consumer. But, at the same time, four of five cents will be added to the retail price which may or may not be returned in the form of a discount to cash paying customers.

The Dealers Association calls the above a "questionable practice."

No kidding. These oil moguls have been counting their money too long. They're completely removed from reality. In practice everyone will be paying the increase. You and I know darn well the chances of the guy pumping gas reminding you of your discount is slim to none.

The Dealers Association is backing Michigan House Bill 5703 which would ban such practices. It's a truly bi-partisan effort being co-sponsored by such liberals as Lynn Jondahl, D-Lansing, and Republicans Ruth McNamee of Birmingham and Jack Kirksey of Livonia.

Alternatives also have been suggested by the dealers which would also end what they feel is an unfair system with the price of the charge card built into the price of gas.

THE FIRST would be to impose either a monthly or annual charge to individual charge card users as is done by other businesses.

Dealers also suggest a transaction charge that would be billed along with the regular billing or a charge based on the average daily balance of the account.

So, folks, now is the time to sit down and write that letter to your legislator. No sense getting ripped off any more than we are already.

Vote the millage

VOTERS IN Clarenceville School District will be asked Monday to renew 3 mills for five years for school operations.

The small district, which includes parts of Livonia, Farmington Hills and Redford Township, has done a responsible job of budgeting over the years. School officials have been fiscally prudent and careful to offer a balanced educational program.

The proposal does not represent an increase in the tax rate. The money is needed to retain programs and services currently in existence.

We urge voters to approve the renewal. The 3 mills (\$3 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation) will yield about \$375,000 of revenue for the school year. Voter rejection would place the district in a financial crisis.

Although the district's state equalized valuation (SEV) will increase about 4 percent for the 1982-83 school year, Clarenceville's income will be less than it is for the current school year. And voters should note that any increase in the local SEV will mean a proportional loss of state aid.

The district also expects a reduction in federal funds, and it will lose the rent being paid by Botsford Hospital for use of what was formerly the board office.

In 1982-83 (with the 3 mills) the district tax levy of 37.90 mills for school operation would bring in nearly \$5 million in local property taxes. State aid is estimated at approximately \$667,000. Those funds will provide an educational program for some 2,120 students in the kindergarten through 12th grades.

The Clarenceville administration and school board have cut corners and managed well over the years.

It may be bad time to ask voters to consider any type of millage proposal. But if Clarenceville is expected to keep on providing its students with a basic educational program along with a few extra-curricular activities such as band and athletics, support for the 3-mill renewal is essential.



Did you know there soon may be a relationship between the microwave oven cooking meals in your kitchen and interplanetary missiles hurtling through space at incredible speeds? Three Michigan State engineering researchers are developing two novel types of engines which will propel aircraft faster. These scientists are making use of the principles behind the microwave oven.