

from our readers

Grade-school teachers saluted

To the editor:

Another school year draws to an end, and, again, it will close with mixed reviews. Some will file the year away as one of personal growth or one of personal misery, while others will misfile it and never recall it again.

There will be those who fear the year-end evaluation, while others will look forward to the final documentation of their accomplishments. Some will depart with nervous ticks, stomach aches, dizziness, and headaches, only to find them disappear or reappear in the fall.

It is the sensitive and introspective teacher that I salute. Hoary to the struggling educator who has strived throughout the year to educate the heart, as well as the mind.

There is a mystique involved in being a successful nursery or elementary teacher. One must maintain a professional appearance while mixing paints, composure while the students use them, and display agility when cleaning them up. Not only is it essential to one's sanity, it is essential to the learning process as well.

**THESE STUDENTS** are made to

feel SPECIAL, and, therefore, when presented with high expectations, aspire accordingly.

It is gratifying to know that there are still instructors who can persevere through overflowing classrooms and overflowing toilets. There are those who can still manage rowdy children and frustrated parents with equal decorum.

It is a special talent that often goes unheralded in a time when cutbacks and strikes take the spotlight. We should remember a special teacher with the same fascination that comes with seeing a sunbeam stream through a storm-riddled sky.

It doesn't happen often, but it does make a lasting impression.

So as this school year makes its final curtain call, let's remember to be an appreciative audience to those who have served our children well. Perhaps our encouragement will help those teachers to continue to strive for excellence.

It might not be as thrilling as a pay raise, but it could make a difference to the finger-nail-biting, hair-chewing child down the street who needs that teacher to be there next year — next year, when the magic of learning streaks down as a single sunbeam in a cloudy sky.

Cassandra Withers  
West Bloomfield

Reader objects to golf course

To the editor:

Rumor has it that Farmington Hills is raising our taxes by approximately 12 percent. Why do they do this when there is a staggering amount of money being wasted every year?

One of our biggest wastes in terms of value received is the San Marino Golf Course. Why does this city need a substandard golf course that doesn't come close to paying its own way, that has four times the number of employees it had when it was in private hands? Especially considering that Glen Oaks (county owned) is within our borders, and it provides all the functions that San Marino does plus some.

In light of our purchase of the Spicer property, I believe this town should reassess its goals. Why not spend our money where thousands can enjoy it, in a park, nature center, play fields, etc.? Not wasting it on a golf course that few ever use.

Plus by selling San Marino we will be gaining two things: 1. the money received would go towards the purchase of the Spicer property; 2. the San Marino land will return to our tax base, i.e., more money for the city.

The city could also retain a small portion of San Marino for a small park for the west side of town, though this is really not necessary due to the extensive commons area in the newer subdivisions on that side of town.

Name withheld by request

Cotton lauded by residents

To the editor:

As long time residents of the Farmington community, we want to laud the contribution of Jack Cotton, who is retiring as the district's athletic administrator.

For over three decades, Jack has given dedicated service to the welfare of young people at the local and state level. During a time of great enrollment growth, Jack showed insight and initiative in expanding health education programs, sports and intramural activities. Of particular note was Jack's leadership in promoting sports competition for girls.

It was our pleasure to work with Jack during the early '60s, and we always found him fair and supportive of staff and student concerns. It was Jack's practice to look at the "broader picture" in making decisions and planning activities for different populations.

Let it be known that Jack Cotton epitomizes all those qualities one likes to find in a teacher, coach and administrator. We are thankful for his contribution and for his friendship.

Dr. and Mrs. Don Nichols  
Farmington

lar situation arise in this council, we would not condone punishment of children for their performance in cookie sales.

On Monday, April 18, our board of directors reaffirmed this principle and its support of Girl Scout national policies, which, as we interpret it, clearly indicate that a girl's membership in her troop depends only upon payment of registration dues and adherence to the Girl Scout Promise and Law, which make absolutely no reference to selling cookies.

Because of the dedication and competence of our 3,600 adult volunteers working on the cookie sale with 25,000 Girl Scouts and their parents, Michigan Metro Girl Scout Council is able to operate as a partially self-supporting organization. In addition, Girl Scout cookie sales provide the opportunity to teach girls many valuable things among them: self-confidence, service to the troop and the council, cooperation, setting and meeting of goals, handling success and failure, dealing with the public, managing money, and of course, responsibility.

Because the individual Girl Scout cookie order form is signed by the parent of the girl, we feel strongly that it is the parent who must be held accountable for making full payment for the order as promised. In any instance where a parent cannot pay, the Michigan Metro Girl Scout Council makes every effort to be accommodating in clearing up the matter with the adult.

Therefore, while we certainly state the importance of being responsible, we do not believe that cancelling her membership in her troop is the way to teach it. Only with a girl's continued troop membership and eligibility for troop activities do we get our chance to help her learn such values and hopefully grow and benefit from all the good experiences Girl Scouting has to offer.

Mary M. Law, President  
Penny Baller, Executive Director  
Michigan Metro Girl Scout Council

Girl Scouts are defended

To the editor:

The local newspapers have recently carried news articles and letters to the editor regarding Girl Scout cookie sales and an unfortunate incident which occurred in a neighboring Girl Scout Council in Macomb County, Okla. Council. The Michigan Metro Girl Scout Council of Wayne and southern Oakland counties wishes to reassure the community that, should a sim-

ilar situation arise in this council, we would not condone punishment of children for their performance in cookie sales.

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Mary M. Law, President  
Penny Baller, Executive Director  
Michigan Metro Girl Scout Council

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