

Faust Backer Blisters Petitpren's Attendance

READERS' FORUM

Letters must be limited to 300 words. Letters must be signed, with the writer's address. Names will be withheld only at the writer's request and for good cause. Please type or write plainly. The editor reserves the right to reject unsuitable letters.

EDITOR:
A few weeks ago a campaign aid of Rep. Vince Pettipren criticized Sen. William Faust's attendance record in your paper. If I remember right he even offered 10 to 1 odds that his statements were true. Of course, what he didn't say was that his data stops at a convenient point, and that Sen. Faust was in a hit and run auto accident and was in the hospital when he was absent from the Senate.

By chance, however, I happened to be interested in a particular piece of legislation, and during the past week wrote to Lansing for the House Journals. Lo and behold, I was horrified of what I saw.

The House Journal shows: Monday, June 22—Rep. Pettipren was recorded present, but apparently he left as he missed 15 roll calls.

Tuesday, June 23—Rep. Pettipren was "absent without leave." He again missed 15 roll calls and reported in on the session at 4:15 p.m.

Wednesday, June 24—Rep. Pettipren is recorded "absent with leave" at his own request. He did show up during the day, but apparently left soon after since he missed 30 roll call votes.

Thursday, June 25—Rep. Pettipren is reported "absent without leave." He did show up later on in the day, but missed 19 roll call votes.

I do not have the Journal for Friday, June 26, but I hesitate to think what I might find. Where, oh where was Rep. Pettipren? He deplores absenteeism, even uses it as a political weapon, but is surely too honorable a gentleman to have missed all those roll calls without some good reason. After all, he was elected to represent us, and now is the critical time in Lansing what with school aid, higher taxes, and numerous other questions being decided. But was Mr. Pettipren ill? Was he in the hospital like Senator Faust?

I hope he tells us why he missed so much during so important a week. Because there's an old adage that people who live in glass houses, should not throw stones.

WILLIS YOUNG
Westland
Editor's note: Rep. Pettipren is challenging Sen. Faust in the 15th Senate District Democratic primary.

What To Do With Boswell
EDITOR:
I have followed the antics of Mr. James Boswell with increasing disgust. I was hopeful that Tim Richard's recent article might shame this incredibly irresponsible elected trustee into reassuming his obligation to represent Livonia citizens on the Schoolcraft College Board of Trustees.

Your photo of his empty chair at the fourth trustees' meeting he missed and your comment "Livonia residents don't seem to be too upset," prompts me to inquire what action can be taken to remove this selfish individual who is placing in jeopardy the progress of our very fine community college and the education of its students while failing miserably in his duty to represent his community on this body.

I am not acquainted with Mr. Boswell, nor do I profess to know all of the details pertaining to his "boycott" of the trustee meetings. However, as

the parent of a Schoolcraft student and a tapping Livonia resident of the college district who is anxious to protect the excellence of this institution, I am extremely concerned about my community's lack of representation in the many critical areas of decision within the jurisdiction of the trustees.

Perhaps the reason Livonia residents "don't seem to be too upset" is not apathy, but the sense of frustration and futility citizens face in any effort put forth to remove an incompetent elected official from office.

MRS. PHYLLIS PATERSON
Livonia

A Poor Deal At The Movies

EDITOR:
I'm in complete agreement with Mrs. Carl about the Cinema charging so much to see a movie for children.

I got stung real good last Sunday. We called the theater, they said \$1 until 1 p.m. So I said fine. I'll get two girls along with the neighbor children. They only go about once a year, because of the ridiculous prices.

Well, they hurried to get there before 1 p.m. and then had to pay \$2.25 because it was Sunday and the other prices were only for weekdays. An adult neighbor took them and paid the balance for which I had to reimburse him. Had I taken them, I would have turned around and brought them right home.

At least at the drive-ins, which we don't go to very often either, once a year maybe, costs us \$10 when we go, you get to see at least two movies and cartoons. These other theaters give you one lousy movie.

If there weren't so many stupid people willing to pay to see these, they'd soon decide to lower some prices. That manager can make more excuses for his prices. Last time the prices were raised from 75 cents to \$1. "Because they always charge more to see Disney movies." It's really too bad because the movies fit for children can only be afforded by adults.

MRS. HENRY CHRUSCIAL
Livonia

Motorcyclists Have A Reply

EDITOR:
Writing that is obviously prejudicial usually displays

the ignorance of its author. The editorial column on the new motorcycle law is no exception. Contrary to R. T. Thompson's implication:

The requirement to wear a helmet while riding a motorcycle is not new.

The requirement that a motorcycle operator have a regular driver's or chauffeur's license is not new. However, anyone renewing his license after June 1, 1970, must, in order to operate a motorcycle, also take written and operational tests in order to obtain a motorcycle operator endorsement on that license.

Besides these and other factual errors in your column, it is apparent that you have misread the intent of the motorcycle laws. Closer reading and a little logic should convince you that the new laws protect the cyclists far more than it "crimps their style" or provides "happy days" for you long-suffering motorists.

This will be clear if you will think about the degree of harm that an automobile could inflict on a cyclist versus the harm a

motorcycle could inflict on the auto's occupant. A few examples follow.

The licensing does provide some protection for both the cyclist and the motorist.

The wearing of a helmet protects the cyclist.

The height of handlebars assures better steering control; a protection to the cyclist.

Having both front and rear brakes protects the cyclist far more than the production licenseable motorcycles are so equipped.

There is nothing new in the law concerning noise or mufflers (cycles still must conform to the automobile regulations on excessive noise).

Your interpretation of night motorcycling is extremely confused. The law states that permission is required for night street driving of motor-driven cycles. A motor-driven cycle has less than five brake horsepower or less than 125 cc displacement (7.5 cubic inches).

Most motor-driven cycles are the small trail bikes and mini-bikes. Many are so small and/or non-equipped as to be unfeasible for any public street use. The gangs you are so worried about (less than 1% of all motorcycles) tend to drive the largest, heaviest bikes.

They would not be caught dead on a motor-driven cycle.

The motorcycle law is a welcome addition to the Michigan Vehicle Code, but not for any of the reasons you've stated. It has little or no effect on the activities of the gangs you are so concerned about. It may have first been inspired by their actions but in its final

form its obvious purpose is to make cycling safer for the multitude of ordinary law-abiding citizens who are currently taking up this mode of travel.

Most fatal cycle accidents are caused by a motorist who did not see the cyclist. What we need now are some laws and/or education that will make the motorist more alert for the cyclist. Then, if the roads we ride on are better, we need now some laws and/or education that will make the motorist more alert for the cyclist.

The signers of this letter and their acquaintances include: professions: engineering, teaching, computer sales, nursing, foreman, chef. Even when we're all cycling together we'd hardly constitute a gang.

BARRY NOJARIS
R. PETERSON
EDWARD FEUBEE
MICHAEL HUBERTSON
CLARENCE HUTSON
EDWARD J. FITZ JR.
ROBERT ROSE
JOSEPH ROSE
MARK B. DONELSON

Lauds Help, Coverage
EDITOR:
On behalf of the 20 area high school baseball teams who participated in the annual Les Anderson Invitational High School baseball tournament just completed, may I personally thank you and the Observer Newspapers, Inc. for your co-sponsorship of this annual and very popular tournament.

The news coverage of the tournament plus the trophies donated by the Observer Newspapers was excellent.

From all indications this tournament is the most popular

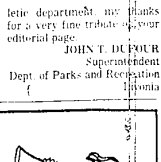
in the State of Michigan, and this is because of your interest. Sports Editor George Muskin and everyone else involved in your newspaper. Incidentally, on behalf of Robert Schwarz and the athletic department may I thank you for a very fine tribute to your editorial page.

JOHN T. DEFOUR
Superintendent
Dept. of Parks and Recreation
Livonia

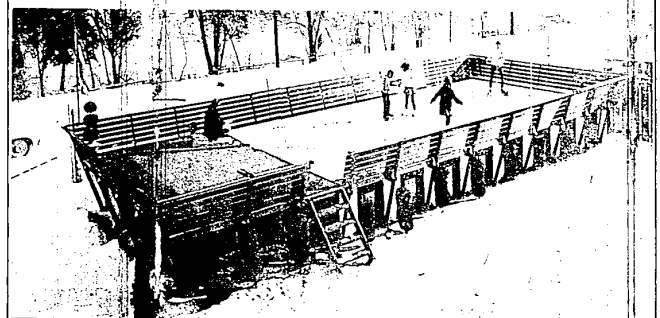
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