



WINNERS -- Michigan boys and girls won 12 of the 132 national cash awards in Triple-A's 26th annual school traffic safety poster contest. In the foreground is Laurie Thomas, 14, ninth grader at Our Lady Of Mercy High School, winner of one of this year's two national grand awards as well as a first place award winner in the junior division. Others include (from left) Gayle Gregor, our Lady of Mercy, third place senior division, Larry

Wozniak, Cass Technical High School, third place; Karen Olson, Our Lady of Mercy, second place junior division; Daniel Golac, Cass Technical High School, first place senior division; Laura Gross, Our Lady of Mercy, second place senior division; Cindy Lange, Goodale School, third place award junior division; and Anne Cheff, Our Lady of Mercy, first place senior division.

Mercy Student Wins Top Triple-A Award

FARMINGTON -- Top national honors in the American Automobile Association's national school traffic safety poster contest were won by Laurie Thomas, 14, a ninth grade student at Our Lady of Mercy High School.

She received one of the year's two Triple-A grand awards and a \$500 savings bond. Her award winning poster urges pedestrians to "Be Extra Alert in Bad Weather".

To win her national grand award, Laurie first had to qualify as a first place winner among the hundreds of entrants in her category. In the secondary school group, her award won her an additional \$100 savings bond.

This year's two national grand award winners were selected from among 11 of the first place winners in the four contest categories.

primary, elementary, secondary and high school.

"There are only 132 cash award winners in this year's national competition from among the more than 25,000 entries submitted by students from 2,231 schools across the U.S. and Canada," Triple-A assistant general manager, James Moffat said. "Twelve of those 132 winners are from Michigan, so we can be justifiably proud of these young people."

This is the 26th successive year that Triple-A has invited young people across the U.S. to submit their original poster designs illustrating a positive approach to safe pedestrian traffic behavior. Participants choose one of 10 safety themes on which to base their posters.

OTHER TOP CASH AWARD winners from Michigan are:

Ann Cheff, 16, 11th grade, our Lady of Mercy High School, a \$25 first place award, senior division and a \$100 savings bond, for her poster "Pedestrians: Expect the Unexpected"; Daniel Golac, 17, 10th grade, Cass Technical High School, a first place award, senior division, \$100 ("Check Traffic When Leaving School Bus").

Others were: Laura Gross, 17, 12th grade, Our Lady of Mercy High School, a \$75 second place award, senior division, ("Pedestrians: Expect the Unexpected"); Karen Olson, 14, ninth grade, Our Lady of Mercy High School, a \$75 second place award in the junior division ("Help Your Safety Patrol").

Larry Wozniak, 17, eleventh grade, Cass Technical High School, a \$25 third place award in senior division ("Check Traffic When Leaving School Bus").

"We think that the involvement of school children in programs such as these traffic poster safety contests and in safety patrol work pays off," Moffat said. "In 1919, the year safety patrols began here in Michigan, there were 300 traffic fatalities among school age children (ages five to 14). Last year, with all our modern automobiles and improved highways, fatalities among school age children totaled 64," he concluded.

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Vagnozzi Plans Boycott Of Board Study Sessions

FARMINGTON -- A member of the Farmington School Board Monday night said he won't attend the board study sessions held Monday nights when the board is not in public session.

Aldo Vagnozzi, former secretary of the board, urged the Board of Education to adopt a committee of the whole format instead of the private study sessions. The committee of the whole meetings would be open to the public.

"Two meetings ago," Vagnozzi reasoned in a prepared statement, "a motion was made to deny an employee grievance without one word uttered in its defense by those supporting the motion. At the

last meeting a slate of board officers was elected without any discussion on behalf of the successful nominees. Even though many statements were made in a private session prior to the public meeting."

"I don't think it serves the public interest to allow members of the board to use the cloak of privacy to make statements they would not make at public meetings."

"Therefore, I have come to the decision that I will no longer attend the regularly scheduled private sessions of the Farmington District School Board. I have a proposal which I feel would permit us to cover the private sessions but to do so at public meetings."

Vagnozzi said he would present a proposal in a motion at the next public meeting. The entire board would meet in informal discussion unless matters such as personnel, wage negotiations or land acquisition were discussed.

The committee of the whole format would also lend itself to the holding of public hearings on key education issues such as the recent family life reports without requiring that we act the same night we

hear from the public," the board member said.

The school board has been under fire from some residents for approving implementation of controversial sex education, drug education and minority understanding programs.

Vagnozzi's statement raised little comment from the other members of the board.

President John Washburn elected with the slate of candidates Vagnozzi referred to in his statement, asked if he was ready to submit a motion.

"I'll be glad to see your proposal and discuss it when it's available," Washburn said.

In his statement, the board member with the most liberal voting record revealed some of the proceedings of the study sessions.

"It became obvious that the meeting agendas were set up by and for the administration while members, such as myself, seldom were given an opportunity to bring up items which we felt were of importance to the school district. For instance, discussion of administrative assignments at the various schools and evaluation reports on administrators have been put off for several months even though some of

the board members had questions to raise in these areas."

"Right from the beginning I made it clear that I would not agree to submerge differences when an issue came up at a public meeting which had been previously discussed at a private session; I believe that the public has a right to know if there are differences of opinion on school board issues and also needs to know the reasons behind the decisions made at public meetings."

"It became obvious to me during the year that with few exceptions the truly study items which were considered at the private meetings could just as well be aired in public meetings. In many cases the public was deprived of valuable information concerning their school district because such information was confined to the private meeting."

"At the same time I have been bothered by the fact that while no decisions are to be made in the private meetings there have been instances where a consensus was reached which when reported out to the public meetings lacked the discussion which was needed to justify the decisions."

The trustee's statement mentions he had serious reservations about the study session when first elected last year, a position Vagnozzi has voiced several times.

Welfare Changes Wanted

LANSING -- Welfare reform is one of the most critical issues facing Michigan today, the Michigan County Social Services Association (MCSA) said.

The association, made up of the directors and board members of the state's 83 county welfare departments, 19 Gov. Milliken's Welfare Study Commission that the need for reform is "immediate and urgent."

MCSA President Clarence Bailey said the association made nearly two dozen recommendations to the study commission which it believes will improve the state's welfare system.

Bailey said the association's three major recommendations called for:

1--Abolishment of the multiplicity of programs and the place them with one general assistance program.

2--Simplification of eligibility requirements, with adequate safeguards against abuse and fraud and establishment of appeal procedures at the local level for any interested.

3--Financing all public income maintenance and social

Kropp Earns Viet Citation

FARMINGTON -- Marine Major Ronald G. Kropp, of 3334 Kings Lane, Farmington, is eligible to win the Vietnamese armed forces' meritorious unit citation of the gallantry cross with palm through his services with the 1st Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (F-4) in Vietnam.

The award was presented to all personnel who were serving with units attached to the Third Marine Amphibious Force from March 8, 1968, to Sept. 20, 1969, in Vietnam.

The squadron is attached to Marine Aircraft Group 3, Second Marine Aircraft Wing at Marine Corps Air Station, Beaufort, S.C.

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