

# Teachers discontent over principal's conduct

Continued from Page 1

teacher who is not a good administrator," Marquette said. "I didn't worry because I had a good feeling with him. He offered me the chairmanship of the English department, but I left because of the substance wages."

"BUT I KNEW teachers could be unjustly fired over certain areas of their personal life. A paranoiac grew, and Acquaro was the root of it. Teachers got no support from him. There were arbitrary firings and some felt they could be next. You can't do things capriciously or secretly and he did both. You have to be upfront with people."

Marquette, a Westland resident, said teachers who were least likely to get

fired were teachers who caused the "least amount of trouble for him personally."

"The fewer the phone calls (from parents), the less risk you got," Marquette said. "He should support teachers when parents come in. He should tell Johnnie to work harder so that the (school's) standards don't go down. What they've got there now is grade inflation."

PLYMOUTH RESIDENT Orrin Tibbits, with seven years as a teacher at the school, said he saw the handwriting on the wall and quit before he was fired.

His fears began, Tibbits said, when he failed three students and was forced by Acquaro to give two of the students passing grades. A combination of numerous firings, the run-in over grades,

a lack of job protection and a pregnant wife prompted him to find another job. "There were lots of firings and I felt the same could happen to me. It's not good to be unemployed with a baby coming. A lot of people were let go not because they were not good teachers but because they didn't get along with the principal."

"Your job was very tenuous if you got on the bad side of Acquaro. He doesn't like to deal with complaints or irate parents. There definitely was a fear factor. You had no protection, no union."

A FIRED TEACHER, who asked not to be identified because he is now teaching in a public school system, said Acquaro fires those who don't measure up to his standards.

"People will tell him things, thinking

he has more understanding. And then they will be let go because he (Acquaro) did not agree with his (the teachers') personal life."

The teacher said he was fired because he was an alcoholic who recognized his problem and went to his priest (Acquaro) to ask for help.

"He fired me for being sick," the teacher said. "People should be fired only because they are not doing their job."

John Dunn, who now works in the guidance department at Detroit's Holy Redeemer, said he was looking for another job and giving Catholic Central as a reference when he was let go in June 1983.

The reason given for his firing, Dunn said, was that he had "too many outside interests." Dunn said he worked part-time for the South Lyon Schools and

served as coach for another school system.

Dunn described the firing as a "personally clash," saying there were no complaints against his teaching, nor did he use the 10 days of excused absences given him.

CARL MANSFIELD, a former theology teacher, blamed his firing on his conservative views on such issues as abortion and birth control.

He said he was reassigned as a history teacher when another, more liberal, teacher complained of student confusion over conflicting viewpoints. He said he was then let go from the history department when that department was cut.

Mansfield, who is still looking for a teaching job in Catholic schools, said he believes he has been "blackballed" for

his conservative views. He described Acquaro as a liberal Catholic.

Nesbitt said the lawsuit and charges by Owens has hurt the school. "I really feel bad. This casts a black eye on that man's family, the school and students there."

Nesbitt also said he did not think the charges by the teachers who were fired were founded and questioned whether they were doing their jobs satisfactorily.

"When the Owen story broke, I had a round-table discussion with four other teachers and we all agreed, Acquaro was the best (administrator) we had worked under," Nesbitt said.

"WHEN HE first became principal," I was unsure of what kind of administrator he would be. Of all the administrators (three) I have worked under, Acquaro demands the most professionalism from his staff.

"He demands professionalism in attire, preparedness and in actual teaching, testing and grading. In my dealing with him, I found him to be completely human and understanding. There could be 30 different reasons why those (teachers) are no longer employed. The principal becomes the scapegoat."

"I didn't say I liked him best personally. I liked best the person who hired me. I was closer to him. But I believe he (Acquaro) is the best administrator. One of the reasons why Acquaro is a good administrator, Nesbitt said, is because he doesn't reveal reasons why personnel changes are made.

"A good administrator will handle the details in a professional manner, with him and the school board being the only ones who know the details of the hiring, firing, demoting, change. This is private, personal business. Maybe that's not all that happened (in the above case of the fired teacher). What about absences due to drinking, or other things caused by his drinking?"

# Walled Lake secretaries negotiating contract

Continued from Page 1

The recently settled 1983-84 Walled Lake school secretaries contract expired Aug. 31 — and efforts to negotiate a new agreement already are under way.

Union representative Kathy Mizzi said the old contract "was extended, but with some exceptions." These exceptions, called "work rules," include the suspension of the union's grievance procedure and the elimination of any incremental salary increases until a new contract is settled.

However, school board negotiator Tina Thomas said the rule denying

secretaries incremental salary increases would have to be changed. A June 4 Relations Commission (MERC) states that employers may not freeze increments during contract negotiations. "The decision is being appealed," Thomas noted. "But I don't think it will stand."

THE WORK RULES also delete the final two steps of the secretaries' grievance procedure. Under the former contract, when a secretary had a problem or complaint, she would take it to her immediate supervisor first. The second step was to attempt to work out

the situation with Superintendent Don Sheldon. Under the work rules, the procedure has been halted at that point, Mizzi explained.

Under the former contract, the third step was a hearing before the school board, and the fourth was advisory mediation.

The elimination of these last two steps suspends a grievance filed by the secretaries union last spring. The grievance protested the hiring of outside people for secretarial position, while several in-district secretaries were considered by the union to be qualified applicants for the posts. Mizzi

said this grievance would be "frozen" at step two until a contract is settled.

Mizzi described the work rules as "workable, but uncomfortable."

"We didn't really understand why they implemented them. We came into this with a very positive approach. . . . We're still keeping optimistic," she added.

KAREN FILAR, negotiator for the union, noted the two sides have met only once, but she said she expects to go to the bargaining table again before the end of September.

"Generally, I'm happy to report that

things have been very positive this far," she said.

The secretaries 1983-84 agreement was ratified by the school board last June after the group had worked most of the year without a contract. The secretaries, members of the Walled Lake Schools Secretaries Association (WLSSA), had agreed to a wage freeze last fall, but language in the proposed agreement continually snagged settlement efforts. Language finally was clarified and agreed upon by both sides, leading to the settlement in June.

Like Filar, Thomas said she expected a meeting on the 1984-85 secretaries contract within the month. However, she noted that preparations for bargaining the five contracts included in the Michigan Education Support Personnel Association (MESPA) has occupied much negotiating time this month.

# District hires set of new teachers

The Walled Lake Board of Education recently hired five new teachers.

The new employees include three elementary teachers for the emotionally impaired at Walled Lake, Glegary and Twin Beach elementary schools.

In addition, Walled Lake Central High School has a new Spanish/French teacher, and an additional teacher for the emotionally impaired.

The openings for teachers of emotionally impaired students were created when several staff members were granted leaves of absence. Assistant superintendent for personnel Barry

Roseborough said the hire of a new Spanish/French teacher was due to an additional program offering. Additional changes have been made in elementary staffing, as a result of enrollment in kindergarten and first grade this fall. An additional kindergarten section has been added at Maple Elementary School in West Bloomfield. There were 56 kindergarten children at the end of the 1983-84 school year. But enrollment on Aug. 31 was 92, requiring an additional section to maintain class size at less than 25 students, as required in the teachers' contract. The

cost to the district was \$15,681 for the new section. The increased number of kindergarten sections, as well as an increase in the number of first-grade sections over the past year, made it necessary to add two additional part-time instructors, one for physical education and one for general music. Each part-time elementary instructor cost the district \$6,197. The district also has called back five

more teachers from layoff. "We have just about everybody back from the 84 layoff," Roseborough said. Only one teacher from the 1984 layoff has not been called back to work. However, Roseborough noted approximately 42 teachers still are on layoff from previous years.

# College night sponsored at Harrison High School

Harrison High School is hosting a college night program on Oct. 4, 7-8:50 p.m.

Representatives of Michigan colleges and universities will be on hand with information about their schools.

They also will be ready to answer any questions.

Students considering college and their parents are welcome to attend. The high school is at 2099S 12 Mile.

## MITCH HOUSEY'S

One Pair Broiled LOBSTER TAILS \$15.00

**THIS MONTH'S SUPER DINNER SPECIALS!**

ROAST PRIME RIB of Beef \$10.00  
N.Y. STRIP SIRLOIN Steak \$10.00  
FILET MIGNON \$12.50

DINNER INCLUDES: Soup, your choice of the Sautéed Potatoes and Baked Potatoes.

**DEARBORN HEIGHTS**  
2720 VAN BUREN RD. across Hwy E & M. Free parking  
Lunch: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Mon. thru Fri.  
Open Sat. 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. OPEN SUN. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
reservations  
278-0888

Major Credit Cards Accepted

**SURF & TURF SEAFOOD PLATTER**  
Special dinner 1st and 2nd courses \$12.50

**ALASKAN KING CRAB LEGS**  
Dinner 1st and 2nd courses \$12.50

**LIVONIA**  
28500 SCHOOL CRAFT Corporate Detroit Road  
Course in the Comfortable Valde Motor Inn  
OPEN SUN. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
reservations  
425-5520

an Italian mohair and wool blend hand knit sweats that usually cost

**\$90.00 is \$24.99**

at donlevy's back room coming thurs., sept. 20th to 29121 northwesternhwy. at 12 mile rd., southfield

## donlevy's back room

OPEN MONDAY MEN'S QUARTERLY Expires 9/30/84

**MENS COMPLETE STYLE HAIRCUTS \$9.00**

with shampoo & blow dry \$10.00  
with shampoo & blow dry \$11.00  
with shampoo & blow dry \$12.00

**\$100 OFF ALL HAIRCUTS**

with shampoo & blow dry \$10.00  
with shampoo & blow dry \$11.00  
with shampoo & blow dry \$12.00

474-2120 or 474-2126

**RITE CARPET'S WAREHOUSE OUTLET SALE**

Mill Close-Outs • Roll-Ends • Remnants Discontinues & Much More!

**35% off 55% off**

**LAST FEW DAYS**

**45% off 65% off**

**30% off 65% off**

**Rite Carpet**

**Gerni Carpet 532-8080**

Furniture Cleaners  
All Work Guaranteed

**DEEP STEAM SHAMPOO Rinse and Extraction**

Living Room or Family Room  
Hall ..... Reg. price \$29.95  
with this ad ..... \$24.95  
Additional Rooms each ..... \$15.00  
with this ad ..... \$12.95 in your area

Includes Pre-Washing • Color Brightening • Shampooing • Furniture Pad • Hand Rubbing • Furniture Cleaning

FAMILY OWNED  
LICENSED & INSURED

**LIVONIA JEWISH CONGREGATION**  
31840 W. SOMERSET RD.  
**HIGH HOLYDAY SERVICES**

**ROSH HASHANNAH Sept. 28**  
**KOL NIDRE Oct. 5**  
**YOM KIPPUR Oct. 6**

**RABBI MARTIN D. GORDON OFFICIATING**  
**DAVID A. GITHLYN CANTOR**

FOR TICKET INFORMATION CALL  
471-7389 474-5557

**FREE ROOF VENT**  
(With Insulation Order)

Blown Cellulose  
Blown Fiberglass

**PRE-SEASON SALE**  
Compare our prices, quality and guarantee.

Coupons must be presented in estimate.  
Licensed/Free Estimates Utility Participant

**NOR WEST** **NORWEST INSULATION**  
LIVONIA  
591-3777  
REFORD  
26541 GLENDALE, 534-8010

**EXECUTIVE OFFICE SUPPLY, INC.**

SAVE WITH CASH & CARRY  
Present this Coupon for an Additional

**10% Discount OFF OUR SALE PRICES**  
With Coupon Expires 9-30-84

**471-1474**

HOURS:  
Daily 9:30 - 4:30  
Sat. 10:00 - 3:00

**59.88 AND UP**

**Executive Furniture Warehouse**  
In The Farmington Industrial Center Building, Second Building South of 10 Mile On  
24010 Haggerty Rd., Farmington Hills

**STACK CHAIRS \$2.88 AND UP**

We Specialize On Buy & Used Office Furniture

**59.88 AND UP**

## CHEVY TRUCK BONANZA

**OVER 90 TRUCKS IN STOCK!**

**NO REASONABLE OFFER REFUSED**

**1984 FULL SIZE 1/2 TON PICKUP \$7378**  
Stock No. 8864T

**1984 S-10 LONG BED PICKUP \$6998**  
Stock No. 1423T

**1984 EL CAMINO \$9888**  
Air conditioned Stock No. 1179

**1984 VAN EPOCH VAN CONVERSION \$15,988**  
Fully equipped Stock No. 1044

**8-10 PICKUPS EXTENDED CARE**

**NEW TRUCK MASTER CARD & SPORT VANS EL CAMINO**

**ALSO HARD TO FIND UNITS**

**Dick Morris CHEVROLET**

"Your Favorite Metro Chevy Dealer"

**624-4500 2199 Haggerty Rd. • Walled Lake** Open Monday & Thursday 9 P.M.

**Dr. Lewis A. Melfi**  
proudly announces the opening of his new office serving  
Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills in the Cranbrook Medical Building  
60 W. Big Beaver

Complete dental service • Implant & general dentistry  
IV "sleep" sedation (complete dental treatment in one appointment)  
In-house dental laboratory

You may call for an appointment

**BLOOMFIELD HILLS**  
642-2356  
W. Big Beaver  
1 block out of Westwood

**TROY**  
879-2117  
41069 Dequindre  
At Long Lake Road

**MADISON HEIGHTS**  
347-4442  
28303 Dequindre  
opposite Universal Mall