

# Opinion

21898 Farmington Road/Farmington, MI 48024

Bob Sklar editor/477-5450

B(A)F

O&amp;E Monday, June 25, 1990

## Earns salute

### Rolnick has served schools well

EVERY ONCE in a while, an elected official voluntarily steps down despite still having the community's respect and support.

Farmington school board secretary Janice Rolnick is such a person.

And as Superintendent Mike Flanagan said at her final roll call last week: "We'll miss you and your dedication."

No fence-sitter or flip-flopper, the three-term trustee never wavered in her plan to call it quits when her daughter, Jessica, graduated from North Farmington High this year.

Some public servants stay on past their prime because they're fearful of giving up the mantle of power. But Rolnick had enough self-assurance to know when it was time to step aside and bring a new voice to the board.

That's, of course, not to say she overstayed her welcome. We've long viewed her as one of the most insightful, enterprising and articulate trustees.

A traditionalist she isn't. She subscribes to the progressive philosophy that "everything can be improved," even "if it ain't broke."

FLANAGAN WAS right on in calling her an independent thinker.

Over the years, Rolnick has gone to bat on behalf of such varied facets of education as the gifted program, equalized classroom facilities, the science curriculum, the foreign languages and creative learning approaches.

Recognizing who foots the bill, Rolnick has listened attentively to taxpayers — backing away, moving ahead, holding firm as her conscience dictates.

Special-interest groups are just as apt to win her over as they are to incite her wrath. She plays no favorites.



Janice Rolnick  
independent thinker

Her positions are seldom predictable. Her arguments are always thoughtful, even if we find them wayward. Recall chants hardly phase her.

Most importantly, she has always voted with our kids at heart and the entire district in mind.

Flanagan caught the essence of Janice Rolnick, the school trustee, when he said: "She genuinely does support all kids reaching their potential."

Enjoy retirement from the board, Janice. You've served the schools well.

## Let's work to keep open a longtime sledding hill

The writer, Laura Myers, is a Farmington resident.

### guest column

I THINK that Shlawassee hill near the school administration building should remain open for the community to use for winter recreation.

The sledding hill at Heritage Park is a poor substitute. The pleasure that Shlawassee hill gives to the community is shared by those that use the hill and those who enjoy seeing it in use.

Thousands of cars pass that corner every day and the people on Shlawassee hill give eloquent testimony to the willingness of the school district to allow community use of its property.

Sledding on the hill enables families to engage in healthful fun and exercise.

Like many programs to promote physical fitness, sledding brings with

it the possibility of injuries and lawsuits over liability. Instead of spending money to dot the hill with trees, we should sculpt the hills to reduce the possibility of children sledding into the woods or coming to an abrupt halt at the fence by Farmington Road.

For the last several years, the district has tried to shed its responsibility to people using the hill. The crevices and potholes that form don't get refilled anymore. The gentler slope near the ice rink that smaller children used to use is now criss-crossed with fencing. Even the ice rink is not kept filled and clear of snow the way it used to be.

The school board needs to make a commitment to improve safety on the hill. Posting clear rules and hours of operation, while not 100 percent effective, would tell the community what kind of behavior is expected of them.

It seems that we can no longer depend on common sense to dictate how people act. A recreation worker on weekends and holidays could begin to teach the children to climb back up the side of the hill, not the middle.

Our Shlawassee hill is the best one in the county. It is too valuable a community resource to be closed simply because it is too much trouble.

We must look at the hill as an opportunity to promote exercise, enjoyment and good will to many people in our community. Keep Shlawassee hill open.

### from our readers

#### 'No knock' missed point

To the editor:

I just read your editorial in the May 24 issue. I think your editorial writer missed the point when he or she wrote about the proposed "No Knock" legislation allowing police to execute search warrants without the courtesy of knocking on the front door of a suspected drug house.

You seem to be suggesting that the purpose of this statute is to fight the "drug war" and confiscate drugs while arresting drug dealers.

I think that even a casual observation of this proposed bill would show that the purpose is to protect the lives of the police officers when they

enter these drug houses.

It is common knowledge that, where you find drugs and drug sellers, you also find firearms (often semi-automatic or automatic weapons) and you also find people who do not want to be arrested and are more than willing to use these weapons to shoot the police and escape arrest.

Perhaps your editor would like to go along as the point person on a search warrant team. He or she could stand in front of the door and knock, announcing the purpose of the visit and wait for the homeowner to open the door and invite entry.

A few times doing this and your future editorials might take a different opinion on "No Knock" legislation.

Donald L. Vendersloot,  
Livonia

#### EMEAC says thank you

To the editor:

Thank you very much for your May 17 editorial commending the East Michigan Environmental Action Council for its 20 years of environmental activism.

The support of your newspaper gives us encouragement to continue our efforts to protect southeast Michigan's air, water, soil and other natural resources.

I hope your readers will call our office for information about recycling, natural areas protection and other environmental concerns.

Elizabeth S. Harris,  
Birmingham

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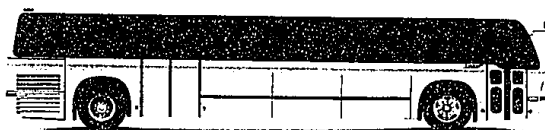
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