## Abstinence theme pervades new Michigan Model

Despite a State Board of Edu-cation compromise, the Michigan Model seems destined to be a rightwing political issue in many school board elections next June. The state's revised model model

strong abstinence theme" in its human sexuality section.
Seven of the eight board members last week approved the revised policy after a 10-months controversy. Only Gumecindo Salas, D-East Lansing, abstained — the equivalent of voting no. Salas disagreed with the empha-

sis on abstinence.

Meanwhile, self-styled "concerned parents," echoing the line of the National Association on Christian Education, have called for sale of the curriculum, abolition of the State Bhard and elimination of the state's historic leadership of local public education.

Still dissatisfied was Bob Lemicux, president of DADS Foundation of Kalemazoo. He called for scrapping the Michigan Model.
State Sen. Gil Dilvello, R-Macomb County, criticized the board for the same reason. Dilvello chaired a special Senate panel whose reports echeed the "concerned parents" themes of scrapping the state's leadership of education.

ing the state's leadership of edu-cation.

Local districts and private schools may choose to adopt the Michigan Model curriculum, and 446 of the state's 524 school dis-tricts plus 129 private schools have done so. Other states have reportedly adopted the Michigan Model.

State's role

"We are not redoing the curriculum," said board president Dorothy Beardmore, R-Rochester Hills.
"The Legislature says you must teach physical education and health. Your health education may include family planning, it must include communicable diseases, including sexually transmitted diseases.
"There is no (parental) opt out for AIDS. There is for birth con-

trol, reproductive health and family planning. We cannot teach about abortion as a means of birth control."

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Beardmore, a former local and intermediate school board member, said the state's leadership role is necessary because local districts often avoid their jobs under pressure.

She said the comprehensive health curriculum is "the only state curriculum is "the only state curriculum. The rest is outcomes and guidelines. It came out of the Legislature clear as a bell."

Last August Beardmore survived a stiff challenge from the religious right when alse sought remaination for a second eightyear term as the Republican State Convention. On Nov. 3 she was the only Republican (among eight education board candidates) to win.

## Final wording

Here is the final wording of the long-debated statement on human sexuality:
"The corneratone of instruction about human sexuality as it relates to sexual behavior norms for students is to have a strong abstinence theme.

"Delaying sexual intercourse until such time as individuals are capable of assuming responsibility for their actioins, and as appropriate within a marital relationship, is to be emphasized as prevention for unintended pregnancy and/or a sexually transmitted discase infection."

It goes on:
"Under Public Act 220 of 1977, each local district should determine the extent to which risk roduction information is made available to students.
"If a district decides not to teach about methods for reducing risk of seuxally transmitted discases and/or pregnancy, the district should institute procedures for a referral process that would give students access to this information from family/community resources."
The dissenter, Salas, said he had "grave reservations about a strong abstinence theme, it is not the role of this board to determine what human sexuality in dividual and civil rights. I've heard about getting government off our backs for 12 years now, Yet you give license to a government agency" to stress abstinence, Salas said.

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## A Christmas memory: 1933

By VALERIE OLANDER STAFF WRITER

Christmas is the time when families can get together and rem-inisce of days gone by. Remem-bering past Christmasse can bring back sentimental memories

inisco of days gone by, Remembering past Christmass can bring back sentimental memories to almost everyone.

When I was just a small child I remember my grandmother telling me stories of the "old days" and all the great times they had. I could sit and listen to her for hours, and f'd always ask her to repeat certain stories from time to time. I don't know if sike ever got sick of repeating them for me, but she always did.

I still enjoy listening to her stories and yes, I still bring up ones that she had told me so she'll repeat them. One particular saying she always had is, "We were never rich but we always had tim."

There was one special Christmas story I remember her telling me and I think of it often. It was a time long before Super Nintendo and Cabbage Patch dolls. It was the Christmas of 1933. The country at that time was in recovery from the Great Depression, although my grandmother remembers it as the hardest year throughout all of her 86 years.

From what I understand Santa Claus wasn't able to visit everyhous families still got together to elebrate the real meaning of Christmas, the birth of Christ.

In previous years good old St. Nick would stop by and leave small gifts of the girls and warm shirts for the boys. Sometimes he

would even leave a book or small toy under the tree.

1933 is tough

However, 1933 was a tough year for my grandmother. She had told me she used to share a pair of shoes with her oldest daughter, who was about 10 years off at the time. My Aunt Lou would went the shoes to school during the daytime while my grandmother thended to the house. Then when she'd get home my grandmother thended to the house. Then when she'd get home my grandmother would slip them ont to go to the market or to church. Neither of them could go out together because there was only the one pair of shoes.

My grandmother didn't even have enough money to buy thread for mending. She would take the strucks of the day the was a fer out of the could she ask for shoes.

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living room and use them to mend
socks or replace buttons on a
shirt.

My grandfather mashed

socks or replace buttons on a shirt.

My grandfather worked very hard in those days to put food on the table for his five children; soon there would be five more mouths to feed, It was very hard to make eath meet.

During the holiday season of 1933 it didn't book as if Santa was going to visit the Larose family, my grandma said.

But on Christmas Eve a god-send happened. My grandmother received an unexpected \$10 bill from her mather in Ottawa, Ont. Being that the money was Cana-change it for American money and quick.

At that time my grandmother lived in an upper flat above a

Making a tree

Making a tree

Of course, there wasn't enough
money to buy a Christmas tree; it
would have been impractical in
those days to buy a tree. But my
grandfather went out and found a
large branch which he halled to
piece of wood to made one.

I can imagine the family sitting
around decorating that Christmas
tree. Christmas was complete.
And what a Christmas to be
thankful for.

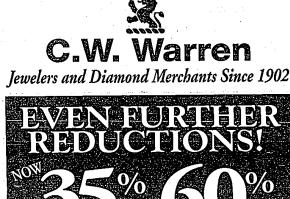
And what a Christmas to be thankful for.

Whenever the joyous holiday rolls around and the mulls but come annoyingly packed I think of the Christmas of 1933. Seeing that particular Christmas through someone cles's eyes I become aware of the real meaning of the Christmas spirit.

Valeric Olander has filled in as a staff reporter for the Observer & Eccentric newspapers.

Liz Wear







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