

POINTS OF VIEW

# Don't blame 1960s for student behavior today

**Q:** As a senior citizen and member of a local board of education, I see much of the troubles we now have — crime, disrespect for authority, poor student performance — as a result of the 1960s. That whole "do your own thing" movement sowed seeds that we in education are now paying for. I said it then and see it now. Do you agree?

**A:** You sound a bit old-fashioned and you are making a sweeping generalization. Nevertheless, it was most interesting in my experience to have taught at Eastern Michigan University in the 1960s as a visiting lecturer and rub elbows with the young, idealist adults of that era. I remember the bricks coming

through my classroom windows during a typical protest and me announcing: "I'll be back when this stuff is all over." And out the door I went.

More interesting is that many of those students with their bizarre dress and extra-long hair eventually got married, got a job and went on to become parents and moderators... whether they admit it or not. I remember one free-spirited "hippie" I had at Eastern Michigan who became a lawyer and a school board member. Here's a guy that was part of the sit-in at board of regents meetings in the '60s (how time and responsibilities change a person). Listening to him today, at Rotary Club meetings... he now sounds a bit to the right of Pat Buchanan.



Doc Doyle

Educationally speaking, the promises of the '60s did have a major impact on our children, our families, our society and on education.

The major impact is on the building

principal and the classroom teacher dealing more and more with abused kids, kids with learning problems, drug problems. One really has to "walk in their shoes" to understand what it's like.

It also needs to be said that many of the positions of those young '60s-generation people took was based on a sound belief system — a justice for all and a right to be heard. However, as in any movement, too much freedom results in a price to be paid.

The '60s was indeed a watershed event.

You ask: "Do I agree with you." As a fellow senior citizen with those corny family values... I do agree. But let's agree with some caution.

We now have the far right movement

working to balance the scale, to neutralize the "freedom for whatever" movement. Will we have the far right dictating every thought, every curriculum guide, every good decision. Attacking any name given to an educational concept and we will end up having the same problems from the opposite side of the pendulum. It is an issue board members are well aware of.

Education is exciting. Educators are always an issue regardless of the country's mode of movement.

Frankly, I find it exciting and love it all.

James "Doc" Doyle is a former teacher and school administrator. He lives in Northville Township.

## LETTERS

### Support millage

**A**t its February board meeting, the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce endorsed Oakland Community College's March 16 bid for voter approval of a 1-mill increase for operations.

OCC has been performing well on the one mill that was approved for their operation 30 years ago, but time, inflation, rising costs and increased student population have taken their toll and eroded the college's ability to serve Oakland County.

Only 85 percent of that original mill can be assessed, and the purchasing power of that mill is severely reduced. The college has increased its services to the business community through its facility, training programs, business-specific classes and resources over the years in addition to serving the traditional students.

For about \$1 per week for the average household, OCC can continue to serve its many populations for the coming generations.

The chamber urges Oakland County residents, especially business owners, to support the 1-mill increase and vote on Thursday, March 16.

Jody Soronen, director, Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce

### No on millage

**T**o all those property owners in the Oakland Community College District, particularly those in the Wall Lake School District: Here we go again.

Another millage vote. And in case you haven't seen the "Notice of Correction" in your local paper, the vote is on a Thursday. That's right, Thursday, March 16, 1995.

This time it's Oakland Community College asking for a 1-mill property tax increase, which — with minimal infla-

tion of Oakland County and some of Livingston, Lapeer and Washtenaw counties — will net the college an additional cool \$30 million this year and every year thereafter, until you-know-what freezes over.

Did you catch the words "and in perpetuity" in the tax proposal? That means endlessly. Forever. For eternity. And don't be misled. This request is for brand-new money, not a renewal of the 0.7 mill that expired last year which had to be used specifically to pay off bond interest.

With all due respect to the present OCC Board of Trustees, the taxpayers' confidence in our government's fiscal responsibility and its deficit spending of our hard-earned tax dollars is very low.

It dropped even lower recently when it was reported that the Detroit School Board members spent \$142,000, using their "free" American Express cards on personal items such as telephones, car repairs and out-of-town "educational" seminars and junkies.

Look at your last year's property tax bill and note that as a property owner you are still paying a 1-mill property tax to OCC voted back in 1964. Corrected to inflation by the Headlee amendment, it is actually 0.8522 mill and will net OCC \$26.2 million this year.

Now OCC is asking for another 1 mill on top of the old voted 1 mill which could net them an additional \$29.9 million this fiscal year and at least \$150 million over the next five years.

OCC's fact sheet says this perpetual new millage will be used primarily to repair old buildings, upgrade computer systems for the 21st century, and expand other programs.

You can buy a lot of computers and repair a lot of buildings in just five years with that kind of money and still have a lot left for other programs.

There is no doubt that better education of our young people in better

buildings with better equipment and teachers will answer many of our existing problems and continue to strengthen our economy and our place in the world as a technological front-runner. But at what price? A signed blank check with no date and no accountability?

Why not limit this OCC millage increase to, say, five years since it is primarily for renovation of old buildings and upgrading of equipment? Will that take forever? Or better yet, OCC Board ever heard of a five-year plan?

By rejecting this "in perpetuity," no-strings-attached tax proposal, the property owners in the OCC district can again demonstrate that we are no longer willing to sign a \$30 million blank check every year until who knows when.

Instead we would prefer to reserve the right to vote on a genuine need that can be satisfied within a specific time frame, not an unjustified bonanza that we are committing unborn generations to pay for now "til" eternity.

Vote no on "perpetuity" March 16. W.C. Shortt, Farmington Hills

### 'We are winning'

**W**hen Lynne Donnell of HARE attacked our organization (Letters, Feb. 9), it reminded me of a 2-year-old throwing a tantrum when she doesn't get her way.

She says she's a "humanitarian," but we ought to examine just what her kind of "humanitarianism" should be for those who don't share the vision of her movement. That's about 95 percent of us.

Ms. Donnell's brand of "humanitarianism" would mean no milk for children, no insulin for diabetics, no seeing-eye dogs for the blind.

It would also mean no open-heart surgery, organ transplants, and no treatments or cures for diseases such as AIDS or cancer.

Ms. Donnell's brand of "humanitari-

anism" means the end of zoos, circuses, rodeos and aquaria, no meat to provide a balanced diet, no hunting and no pets. Her kind of "humanitarianism" would mean that we would no longer be able to choose what kind of clothing we want to wear, shoes, fur, leather, wool or silk would be strictly out of bounds.

On the Aug. 1, 1992 broadcast of "Eyewitness News Weekend," Pat Dodson of HARE refused to condemn the terrorist tactics of the Animal Liberation Front, said that the earth doesn't need human beings, and added, "This is the way we live and this is how we believe other people should live."

For five years, Putting People First has been informing the public about the dangers of the animal "rights" movement with honesty, truth and integrity, and we are winning despite the rantings of these zealots.

We believe that in the end no real humanitarian supports the agenda of groups such as HARE.

Bruce Fleury, area chapter coordinator, Putting People First

### Parents are key

**F**armington Families in Action would like to respond to your Feb. 23 editorial, "Attack Problem at All Levels."

You are right. Parental modeling does matter. In contrast to your commentary, however, FFIA programming emphasizes these notions.

FFIA was thrilled when 550 people, half of whom were parents, attended GRIP last Saturday. You misunderstood the program, though. GRIP was not an "anti-dope" message. Rather, parents attended break-out sessions such as "Raising Responsible Children, Setting Limits-Saying No, and Conflict Resolution in the Farmington Schools."

Students from fourth through eighth grades attended sessions on peer me-

diation, problem solving and ways to cope with peer pressure from friends.

We doubt that all 550 of these citizens are misadventurers "of the choir," as you put it. Even if they are, they can influence those who did not attend.

Contrary to your view, FFIA programming is year-round and geared predominantly toward parents. Each school within the district, as well as Our Lady of Sorrows, has a school representative, a liaison between FFIA and the parents in each school.

We supply that information via information newsletters to educate parents and make them aware.

TWYKAA teaches parents what to say about alcohol to their teens, and how to say it so that the teen will listen. Sixth Grade Night presents middle school issues to parents. Babes, a third grade program, is previewed with parents, and worksheets are sent home to share with the family.

The newest program, GRIP, requires kids to bring their parents along for the day. Parents are a vital part of our programming.

We cannot dictate what parents or young people do. We can only educate and make them aware of the negative impact of alcohol and other drugs. In the end each person, young or old, makes their own decision. FFIA wants to give them enough information so they can make an informed decision. FFIA believes strongly that when parents work together we can have a tremendous influence on the norms and standards set in the Farmington area, and our programming supports that belief.

FFIA has grown and been active because of the involvement of a large number of volunteers who care. We welcome your opinions and any ideas which would help us to make this community a better place to live.

Linda Enberg, co-president, Pam O'Malley, co-president, Betty Nicolay, chairwoman of the board

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**FATIGUE & ARTHRITIS**

In arthritis, fatigue is the first feature to come and the last to leave. Depression over being incapacitated plays a major role. The causes are far greater than a matter of attitude. No one with arthritis who complains of feeling tired, should be the object of a comment like: "It's all in your head." First, the arthritis initiates chemical reactions which release substances called cytokines. These cytokines are responsible for the irritation the joints develop but also cause the tiredness we associate with fatigue.

Second, the inflamed joint is an inefficient mover. An impaired shoulder, knee, hand, or ankle will wear you down daily; the accompanying pain prevents you from building strength to overcome the handicap of impairment.

Third, poor sleep creates the basis for early fatigue. Joint irritation may let up at night, but tendons and ligaments stretched beyond capacity during the day, will now register their protest. You cannot find a position in bed that allows a prolonged and restful sleep as even a slight movement may start a tendon aching.

No therapy as yet cures fatigue. You have to deal with the problem as you would the second 12 months of a 30 year marriage.

**Physical Therapy & Sports Medicine**

**SHOULDERING RESPONSIBILITY**

A person does not have to be a baseball pitcher to experience a rotator cuff injury. Small tears in the ligaments that surround the shoulder joint may be caused by anyone who overuses his or her shoulder. While the competitive athlete may well see the opportunity to return full use of the injured shoulder quickly, the average person with overuse syndrome and small rotator cuff tears should turn to more conservative treatment. Such non-surgical treatment consists of rest, ice, physical therapy, and medication (if needed). For inflammation, rest, ice, physical therapy, stretching and strengthening exercises should help the shoulder heal.

As key members of the health care team specially trained to improve movement and function, relieve pain, and restore optimal movement, the physical therapists at MILLER PHYSICAL THERAPY & SPORTS MEDICINE, P.A. can help you with any pain or discomfort in the neck and shoulder region. Treatment goals may be achieved through pain reduction, muscle re-education, joint and soft tissue mobilization, and other techniques. Call us at 478-7230 to schedule a consultation, or see us at 33506 Light Mile Road, Suite A, Farmington Hills. We are open by appointment.

P.S. If severe chronic pain and/or instability from a shoulder injury persist, patients may want to explore the surgical option.

**Dentistry in the 90s**  
by Herbert M. Gardner, D.D.S. & Martha P. Zinderman, R.N., D.D.S.

**AT A LOSS FOR FLUORIDE**

There is general agreement that fluoride is much of our driving water is responsible for the significant reduction of tooth decay in this country's population in recent decades. Unfortunately, some people who enjoy the current fluoride's beneficial effect by drinking bottled water, which may not contain fluoride, find that only one bottle of water a day is not enough to replace the fluoride content of tap water in the home.

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Osteoporosis, characterized by a weakening of the bones, affects about 25% of women past the age of 60. While we all start to lose bone mass by age 35, the years of most rapid bone loss are the five to six years after menopause. Because estrogen helps maintain bone mass, hormone therapy for postmenopausal women who are at risk for osteoporosis or are diagnosed with the disease may be advised to take estrogen replacement therapy in combination with calcium supplementation. Because calcium absorption varies, it may be taken in conjunction with vitamin D, and magnesium to enhance its intake by the body. This strategy helps postmenopausal women get the 1000 mg to 1500 mg of calcium they need to stave off bone loss.

Dr. James Stubbs, Jr., M.D.

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