

Go figure!

Open board race draws only 2

Gasp... only two? That's right, filing deadline came and went Monday, and only Linda Enberg and Jennifer Levin remained in the race for a seat on the Farmington Board of Education.

Go figure. One seat open with incumbent Susan Lightner announcing well in advance that she won't be standing for re-election. You'd think every school groupie and griper would come running with completed petitions in hand.

Why only two? Well, we guess there haven't been a lot of burning issues district-wide this year, although a flame or two has been fanned in and around individual schools.

We've noticed that not that many people have been attending the board of education meetings lately. Maybe they're enjoying the meetings on cable TV in the comfort and privacy of their own living rooms.

Last year, when there were only three for two seats, we could rationalize it away by pointing out that incumbents Jack Inch and Cathy Webb were as popular as it's possible for a school trustee to be in this day and age.

Now, in those heady days of April and May of 1993, there was an open seat and a weak incumbent, and nine came running. Our editorial comment at the time was something like, "Shall we break out the baseball bats and gloves?"

We'll admit to being a little disappointed that some of the folks who said they might be interested this year have pulled out.

Patti Alsap, a Hillsdale Elementary parent and a frequent critic of the district, would have been an interesting candidate. So would the always-outspoken Vicki Barnett, who lost

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in her bid for a state Senate seat last November. We would have enjoyed hearing their ideas.

And we wonder whatever happened to Susan McKendrick and Terry Fobbs, challengers who made the '93 Farmington Board race so exciting. Their names never came up this year.

Oh well, at least a handful of Farmington Hills residents won't be shut out of a hot school race this year. They are the people who live in the far northwest corner of the city.

Their square mile is part of the Walled Lake District, where voters keep shooting down bond issues, most recently on Feb. 4. Two four-year terms and a one-year term are to be filled. There are nine hopefuls (We'll send them Farmington's bats and gloves!) for the three seats.

In the Clarenceville District, which takes in the southeast corner of Farmington Hills, only one of the four candidates (two incumbents, two challengers) will be disappointed after votes have been counted on election night, June 12. The district has two four-year terms and one two-year term open.

A smaller field does have some advantages. For one, with fewer candidates, maybe the voters can be more focused. They'll hear more in a less-crowded field. Let's hope it's something worth hearing.

Now it's officially school board season. Let the races begin.

Living the message of Easter

Christians celebrating Easter on Sunday do so not because Jesus died on Good Friday but because he rose from the dead and visited with the apostles for a time before returning to heaven, still very much alive.

As a matter of faith alone, Christians believe Christ remains alive today. Those beliefs in the resurrection and ascension have confirmed for Christians that the man Jesus was really the Christ (son of God) and as such was more than a great teacher. Jesus was a great teacher and moral leader; Christ is the spiritual leader for Christianity.

The significance of those beliefs is that the teachings of Christ are more than philosophical utterances but become a standard of behavior which humans can seek to achieve.

In talking with the apostles, Jesus made it clear to them and to us that his lifestyle was within the reach of everyone. And Jesus also taught, although this concept remains mysterious for non-believers, that the resurrection empowers all humans to become Christ-like in attitudes, thoughts, values, behavior, and in relationships.

In 1995, as in Jesus' time, we live in a world inhabited by diverse, multi-ethnic people who believe in different Gods or don't believe in any.

Jesus always showed tolerance for people of different ethnic backgrounds, of different beliefs, of different cultures. He could not tolerate hypocrites — people in power who misled and harmed the innocent, especially children. And so it should not be troubling today to Christians that the God others worship may be perceived differently than the God Chris-

tians see as the father of Christ.

What is important to our world, nation, community and neighborhood is whether Christians really believe they are empowered to be Christ-like and whether they make any effort to reach that goal.

If large numbers of Christians simply made the effort to adopt the attitude and behavior of Christ then our world will be a far better place — for atheists, agnostics, Buddhists, Muslims, Jews, and Christians.

If we considered what it meant when Christ showed genuine compassion to harlots and was personally interested in their welfare, what would be our attitude for those afflicted with AIDS?

Should it really matter to us if the victim acquired this dreaded disease through blood transfusion, drug use or homosexuality? Can we really avoid contact with AIDS patients when we see how openly Jesus approached lepers? Some of us say that Christ hated sin but loved the sinner. Do we?

Consider also the feeding of the multitude by Jesus with the loaves and fishes of a boy. Should we tolerate hunger in the world today?

There's much more, of course, to ponder. His teachings, sayings, actions, and miracles could fill a book, and they have. But these thoughts should be enough for us to realize that this Sunday, when Christians celebrate Easter, we also celebrate the greatness of God the Father and Son and how great humanity can become if the challenge of Easter is accepted.

On April 16, may the son shine on your Easter.

COMMUNITY VOICE

QUESTION:

What do you like best about the Farmington Library?

We asked this question at the downtown branch of the Farmington Community Library.



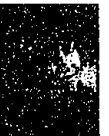
"The computers you get the number and go right to the book."
Brenda Hansen
Farmington Hills



"They have a lot of books. I like the mysteries best."
Chris Hansen
Farmington Hills



"The literature the most recent novels."
Jennifer Budick
Royal Oak



"The computers. They make it easier to locate things."
Charlotte Tacey
Brighton

ARKIE HUDKINS



LETTERS

Makes 2 points

I believe your post-election editorial (March 23) on the OCC millage attempt missed two things: 1) The amount of the millage, and 2) The length of time the millage would be collected.

A proposal for an amount that doesn't more than double the current millage would be more attractive to voters. And a millage that has a termination date five or 10 years down the road is definitely more attractive than one that goes on forever.

Possibly the trustees should give some consideration to these aspects in determining their new campaign for increased millage.

John Jordan, Farmington

Next (although his logic is obscure), I think Hank's point is that even if glaciers do melt, the weight of the water will just push the oceans lower into the molten inner core of the earth for no net gain in water level.

While that is partially true, we shouldn't forget that Archimedes' principle states that floating objects displace their own weight of liquid.

Consequently, since molten rock (the 'liquid') is several times as dense as water (the floating object), the additional volume of molten rock displaced will clearly be a fraction of the additional volume of water floating on it. In short, the oceans will rise as glaciers melt.

Dick Landback, Farmington Hills

Stop Iran, Iraq

Something has to be done to stop Iraq's and Iran's efforts towards destruction in the world.

Iraq is again involved in the making of germ-warfare weapons. Iran supplies the world with terrorists and weapons of war.

What we really need is a worldwide ban on these two evil nations of all kinds of trade transactions. International sanctions and isolation will curb the efforts of these vicious opponents of peace.

If the United Nations cannot, or will not, take actions against Iran and Iraq, then the United States must be the leader in such a great and positive undertaking.

The world does not have to be hostage to two alien countries that are even horrible to their own innocent citizens. It's time.

Leon Scholchit, Farmington Hills

More on warming

Hank Borman still insists that global warming will not cause disastrous flooding due to melting ice.

In his latest letter (April 6, 'It's no accident') he claims that glaciers in Antarctica won't melt because it 'seldom' gets above freezing down there. Actually, that isn't quite true (ref. Encyclopedia Britannica, vol. 1, p. 440).

During the warm months, temperatures range as high as 69 degrees F, with a mean of 32 F on the coast, to a mean of minus-31 F in the interior. Clearly, a rise of just a few degrees can have a dramatic effect.

Kmart cares

Im extremely saddened by the way the media in Detroit have handled the trouble Kmart is experiencing. Based on the business coverage, it's as if there is nothing positive to say. The March of Dimes, as well as many other non-profit organizations in this area, feel quite differently.

Kmart has been, and continues to be, an extremely important part of this community. Kmart doesn't merely toss a percentage of their budget to causes, and feel they've fulfilled some obligation. Their management and employees are driving forces on the front lines, helping fulfill needs in Southeast Michigan. We know of many times when Kmart employees, from the president to the cashier, have gone above and beyond to share their special brand of caring.

The business side of Kmart Corp is going through a difficult adjustment period. However, we in Southeast Michigan know better than anyone, that they will be back stronger than ever. They are a quality, caring corporation staffed with creative, enthusiastic employees at all levels. They will make it happen, the same way they help make things better for countless people in Southeast Michigan through their support of charitable organizations. Kmart has a slogan that says "Kmart Loves Kids," but as we know well, Kmart cares for Southeast Michigan.

John Marshall,
chapter chair,
March of Dimes Birth Defects
Foundation,
Southeast Michigan Chapter

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— Philip Power