

# 'Guidelines' Planned For C'ville School Paper

By EDWARD WENDOVER  
The Clarenceville Board of Education will be asked Thursday to formally adopt a set of guidelines for the Clarenceville High School (CHS) paper, The Prophet. Dr. Ray Renbarger, CHS principal, is recommending an explicit set of guidelines that includes administrative "right of prior review." He feels the guidelines would "prevent confrontation." Renbarger drew up his recommended guidelines after school board members and Clarenceville Supt. David B. McDowell criticized several issues of the paper during recent board meetings.

"THE TOTAL impact of each edition of The Prophet should support and build school spirit rather than destroy and demoralize," Renbarger's guidelines say. Under the heading of "unacceptable items," the principal's recommended guidelines include, "News or feature stories which emphasize the negative aspects of school sponsored events and student and faculty contributions to those events."

McDowell told the Observer he could not personally agree with Renbarger's recommendations and "negative" articles from the paper. "It doesn't seem right that I tell a student, 'You write positive things all the time,'" he said. Criticism of The Prophet began after the paper's second issue which devoted its outside page to an article on the Student Mobilization Committee, an anti-war group banned from the high school by the board of education. Flaring again at the Dec. 9 board of education meeting, the board's criticism prompted Renbarger to draw up guidelines governing content of the paper.

At that meeting, Renbarger told the board that he had deleted a poem from the paper's first December issue because it contained the words, "god damn."

## Prophet's Staff, Advisor Ready To 'Disengage'

"Neither prudent, nor necessary" was how Floyd Kucharski, advisor to Clarenceville's student paper, The Prophet, described a set of guidelines being proposed for the paper. The guidelines, which set down types of material unacceptable for the paper and includes "right of prior review" of each issue by the school administration, will be proposed to the Clarenceville Board of Education tomorrow night by Dr. Ray Renbarger, CHS principal. Kucharski, who said he would finish the year in his

role as adviser to the paper under the guidelines if adopted, has asked to be relieved of that role next year. "Actually there's no problem (with The Prophet). The board is creating one if it passes these (guidelines)," Kucharski said. "THE BOARD is criticizing my students for being too negative, and they're the ones that are negative," he said. "We had an open house last semester, and although invited, only half the board showed up." Kucharski said the journalism class, which produces

# Bank Bandit Kills Ex-C'ville Man

Stanley Irish, former Clarenceville assistant superintendent and a branch manager of an East Lansing Bank, died Monday afternoon - the victim of an armed bandit who escaped with \$20,000 from the bank.

"All the plants in the bank were his. You couldn't help but like the guy."

Mrs. Irish was at a garden club meeting when her husband was shot.

The principal at Central and Edgewood schools in 1951-52, Irish was made district assistant superintendent in charge of purchasing, cafeteria, transportation and maintenance in 1952 and remained in that position until 1966. "A man of good character... high moral standards... kindness and courtesy in everyday attitudes," is the way Clarenceville records describe Irish. "Painstaking in his work... willing to put forth the extra amount of effort to do the job well."

Last year Irish's wife took pictures of their prize overripe tomatoes to their weekly newspaper, the Williamston Enterprise, for printing.

The bank is in a residential section. Irish's window boxes were tipped over and plants trailed across the floor after the robbery. On Irish's desk lay a gardening book.

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the paper, took a vote of who planned to return after learning of the proposed guidelines. Only two of the class of 20 said they planned to return. "Some of the kids had planned to leave before (the guidelines) were proposed," but now the journalists are gone. "They have disengaged themselves already from any kind of production with the newspaper," Kucharski said. Some of the paper's staff have said they would try to publish an underground paper if they could find a place to print it. "The regular school paper is going to die (if the guidelines are adopted and the staff subsequently leaves) and eventually the underground paper is going to die - history has proven that - and then there'll be nothing," Kucharski said. "There'll be a journalistic moratorium in Clarenceville. It's sad." THE PAPER'S advisor said the board should allow students to publish anything that isn't libelous or obscene, or would "substantially disrupt the school's operation," or would advocate an illegal act. He said that he would delete such material before it appeared in the paper himself. Kucharski said the enrollment in the class next semester might be about seven. David McDowell, Clarenceville superintendent, told Observer Newspapers that his class, as a result, would be canceled if its enrollment fell below 15. "What was a successful teaching situation, has been taken away," said Kucharski, who he feels certain the board will adopt some guidelines. "What's happening with the paper is part of a larger issue," Kucharski said. "This district has decided the teachers shouldn't say much and the kids shouldn't either."

## Northern Fire Loss Dips In '71

Michigan's 1971 forest fire season, called off on account of winter weather, has gone down as the eighth best control year on state records dating back to 1928, reports the Department of Natural Resources. The state's final forest fire toll stands at 5,498 acres, marking a downturn of more than 1,000 acres from 1970. This year's losses also rank as the lightest since 1967 when forest damage in Michigan was held to a record low of 2,884 acres. This season saw 1,218 wild fires break loose in the state as against 1,393 last year. THE CUTBACK in fires and damage is traced to last spring when Michigan came through that explosive period with its acreage losses running 2,400 acres below the year before.

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