

Observer Newspapers

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Serving the rich Northeast Wayne County and South Oakland County Suburban markets with a group of affiliated newspapers in Livonia, Plymouth, Farmington, Redford, Garden City, Westland and the Townships of Plymouth, Farmington and Redford.

What Does It Mean To Educate?

Education has many purposes: to prepare children to be productive members of their economic society; to acquaint them with their place in the fabric of history; to enrich their lives with the cultural experiences of the arts; to reinforce the constructive social values generally agreed upon by our society; to help them, insofar as possible, to fulfill their potential talents as human beings. To summarize, one can say that the primary purpose of education is to prepare our children to cope with the problems which will face them in their future.

We recognize this principle when we teach them to read, which makes it possible to transmit some kinds of information more efficiently. We recognize it when we teach science and mathematics, for we are predicting that knowledge of these areas is going to be essential for informed decision making in the future; we recognize it when we teach specified vocational skills on the basis that these skills will still be in demand when the children enter the labor market.

And we also recognize this primary purpose when we teach children about the social structure of the world around them, for informed decision making about social conflict situations may be even more important to their futures than their knowledge of basic principles of mathematics or science.

Let us consider from an instructional point of view the recent Shared-Learning Experience involving children from Stark Elementary School. One basic assumption which must be accepted is that teaching children about the world around them is a legitimate function of the public school system. We know, on the basis of both developmental psychology and the experience of our educators, that the world of a child is a continually expanding world.

From his earliest experiences with his mother the infant first learns what to expect from other people. His social world increases to include the family unit and his geographical world, the home. As a preschool child he learns about his own block, neighborhood, other children, and through

stories and television, of the existence of a still larger world. In school he generally acquires the experiences and knowledge necessary to place these worlds in perspective. He learns of similarities and differences between individuals, groups, and nations; between the ways in which they live, their values and patterns governing their existence, and the physical worlds which surround them. These things are taught in the hope that through knowledge and understanding the adults of the future may make more rational decisions about their social problems.

Now that we have discussed the necessity for teaching social concepts, let us look at techniques of teaching. One striking observation concerning the teaching of abstract concepts, particularly to children, is that these concepts are best learned through immediacy of experience, through "discovery," rather than as a result of being talked at, either vocally or in print. This principle accounts for the widespread use of "experiments" and activities in which the child can participate; field trips, etc.

Now the unit on the neighborhood, which is, in any sense, a new or revolutionary unit of study. It is part of an overall plan to give to our children a realistic perspective of the world around them. Your children and mine have taken part in such units of study, gone on field trips to see the buildings and the streets of downtown Detroit, and even looked at the people who populate these neighborhoods. What has been added in the project we are discussing is the opportunity to communicate with, rather than look at, those strangers in that foreign land—and the inner city is as foreign to our children as Paris, London, or New Delhi. The Shared Learning Experience was, as its title suggests, a first hand experience for all of these children to learn about and participate in one aspect of the world around them. As such, it meets the tests of social value and educational design which warrants the approval of the Board, the Administration, the teaching staff, and the community.

Dr. Edward A. Katz,
Livonia School
Board Member

Two Meanings

With elections coming up in Garden City and other communities this summer, The Observer feels it should perform a public service and inform its readers of the standard list of terms used by the politicians and the real definitions behind those terms.

I felt that this was the time to print the following semantics in view of a verbal tongue-lashing this writer received from Garden City Mayor Edwin Freeh, Jr., last week.

Many of the candidates' comments will concern the attitude of local newspapers toward his campaign and our list of political terms and definitions will be in that category.

"That newspaper is nothing but a scandal sheet." This means that the paper prints

ed the candidates poor driving record. "That newspaper is a great paper." This is when the editor prints the just police story about his opponent.

"That newspaper is a stooge and prints a bunch of lies." This means that the publication published the biography of an opponent's campaign statement of his opponent for office.

"That newspaper should get the Pulitzer Prize." This happens when the paper publishes the incumbent's picture giving away free suckers to local youngsters.

The other guy at least print my side of the story" is said when the paper neglects to give his opponent's side of the issue.

"That editor is a skinny..."

Well, that sounds good coming from an overweight one.

— LEONARD FOGER

Boys' State Great

Editor: I would very much like to thank the Clarenceville P.T.A. for sponsoring my trip to Wolverine Boys' State. My only regret is that more boys cannot share in this opportunity to actually see and participate in the formation of our government.

My stay at Boys' State instilled in me an avid interest in politics and made me realize that each and every one of us should contribute our share toward making and keeping our government the best in the world.

DAVID G. WILSON
Clarenceville

Ed. Note: David Wilson, sponsored by Clarenceville P.T.A., was elected as Gardfield City Constable.

In Memory of Paul Chandler

Editor: This is to acknowledge with appreciation a Civic Membership in memory of Paul Chandler.

I did not know Paul personally, however, it is with great pleasure that I give the dedication of this man throughout the Livonia community. The Y.M.C.A. is now in Livonia because of Paul's good efforts.

We trust, that as we build the Livonia Y.M.C.A. it will be only to reflect the needs of this community and bear witness to a finer way of life for our youth and our families.

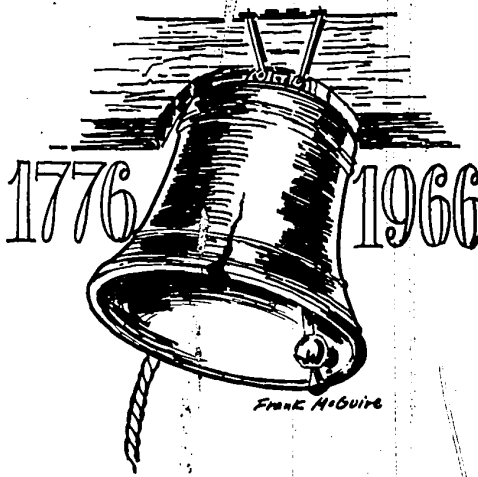
A. CHARLES WISE
Extension Director
YMCA

Some Example

Editor: After reading about Kindred-Schiller incident, I must take place during the Livonia Federation of Civic Associations and Livonia School Board Advisory Council. I wonder what has happened to the man who has an enlarged sense of his own importance. I really and truly think, after hearing him talk on two occasions, that he believes himself to be a crusader for truth and justice.

Actually he is living in a world of another year. He would have made sense 75 years ago or in the "good old days." I am not sure, if I had a choice, I wouldn't prefer those days back myself as a superior, white protestant. HOWEVER, we have no choice and fighting a changing world can only lead to more trouble and civil war all over again. We must educate ourselves and learn to live with the mistakes we have made as a nation and try not to make any more.

I commend the school board on their educational part in this program. They not only have my vote in the next election, but I shall try and work harder toward getting out the vote in their behalf, something I have never done.



The Reader Speaks Up Kindred-Schiller Stir Readers

George Kindred has very graphically shown the people of Livonia what caliber of man he is, by his actions and by the company he keeps. During his campaign for a council seat he stated he had no prejudice against any minority group, but his actions prove otherwise. I do not know whether or not he is a member of the John Birch Society, but the smell is there.

Let me quote from Mrs. Elly Petersen, Republican State Chairman. "The responsible Republican leadership in Macomb, Oakland and Wayne Counties has spoken clearly and forcefully on the John Birch Society problem. I know they had hoped, as all of us did, that the Birch members would realize that hatred and intolerance have no place in America today."

"I stand 100% behind these District and County chairmen and I am sure that all responsible citizens will applaud their action. There is no place in the Republican Party for the reckless irresponsibility that characterizes the John Birch Society under the guise of education and patriotism. The Birchers have cast an ugly shadow on the fine name of genuine Conservatism. The Birchers have tried to divide and conquer both the Democrat and Republican parties. The Democrats defeated one of them in Ann Arbor and I know that Republicans also will defeat those who work against us. I denounce the John Birch Society today, as I have in the past, and now declare it to be an outlaw from decent responsible politics in Michigan and of quote.

Likewise there is no room for George Kindred and his gang of bigots in Livonia.

Yuran M. Lazar
Livonia

Too Old Fashioned
Giving George Kindred the benefit of the doubt I am sure the man has an enlarged sense of his own importance. I really and truly think, after hearing him talk on two occasions, that he believes himself to be a crusader for truth and justice.

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MRS. R. ALLEN
Livonia

Unsigned But Firm
Editor: I am signing my name, but please don't use it in the paper I absolutely agree with

George Kindred. I wasn't at the meeting where the fight took place, but golly, someone has to put a stop to all of this integration. Where can we go to get away from the Negro element? I want to live in an all-white neighborhood and I'm not ashamed to say it.

LIVONIA

Editors Note: You are certainly entitled to your opinion, as is Mr. Kindred, but would have appreciated being able to use your name back up to your opinion.

Mr. Kindred Is Angry

Editor: Acknowledging the power of the press (and some irresponsible and self-indulgent editors) to distort the truth, malign the innocent, magnify the news and brainwash the unwary or mentally myopic, I am sending this letter to several publications trusting that there is still a remnant of an honest and free press. I bare my thoughts, realizing, all too well, that from certain quarters, I will be attacked as a rattle-brain, an extremist, or worse.

During the past few years I have served in a number of civic organizations, both as leader and member, and must admit that in the beginning an idealistic pride and dedication to serving the Livonia community blinded me to some now sobering and alarming facts that could have dire consequences.

If allowed to continue without illumination, unquestioned and (in some instances) unopposed!

My first observation questions the propriety of the Livonia Observer, along with its sister newspapers, in delivery of their publication (without charge) to nearly every doorstep in Western Wayne County and parts of Oakland County.

At first glance receiving a publication free would appear to be a commendable gesture on the part of the Observer Papers. I am sure the advertisers appreciate the market afforded them by this vast handbill-like coverage, and I don't believe the favored politicians and pressure-groups will argue against the no-cost-to-reader-captured-audience circulation policy.

I acknowledge that some home-owners look upon receiving their free copy of the Observer as an act of benevolence and a community service. After all, "For Free, Take!" But, is it truly free? Does not the taxpayer indirectly pay for his paper?

In a sense, doesn't our city subsidize the Observer with taxpayer's money, by naming the Observer Livonia's official paper and publishing, nearly 100% of its official notices and advertisements in the Observer? How long has it been since our Councilmen have put the printing of the city's public notices out for bids?

We might ask the same question of our School Board. Shouldn't Livonia's printing go to the lowest bidder? Of course, one could say that the Observer has a larger circulation than any other weekly newspaper serving the city. Now, there is the rub! How, pray tell, can a newspaper with paid subscribers fairly compete in circulation with

one that delivers for free? Isn't it possible that a publication that derives its revenue solely from advertising and city-school printing could be victims of political and other pressures? The citizens of Livonia have the right to expect unbiased reporting and editorials. This can be had only with free and equal competition... without conditions that are stacked in one publication's favor.

My second observation has to do with the gravitation of radio station WERB (a fine service station directed at the suburbanite's needs and pleasures) to WTAK (a "conservative" station with the conversation dominated by a self-confessed arch-liberal, Paul Winter).

Mr. Winter is the glib, silver-tongued (sometimes said... which corrodes the silver) button-pusher of the "Sound-Off" Hour. If he disagrees with what you say you may well find yourself listening to a rather cacophonous dialogue; not realizing, in his egomania, that you do not call the Sound-Off Program to have a tete-a-tete with him; but rather, to have the time allotted to each caller to sound off.

Mr. Winter is a master at insinuation, gross discreditation, circumlocution; and promoting causes diametrically opposed to individual freedom, property rights, and patriotism... unless the individual freedom, property rights, and patriotism concurs with his own personal philosophy.

In essence, the Sound-Off Program has become a one-sided liberal lobby with the erstwhile discreditation as its monological lobbyist.

My third observation deals with the political power structure, or, for want of a better phrase, the "influence establishment" of Livonia. I was amazed to discover the significant number of names that repeat themselves in positions of influence, on the membership rosters of such organizations as the League of Women Voters, Livonia Citizens for Better Human Relations, P.T.A., and others.

We could say that they are dedicated public servants, except for the fact that many find their way to elective or appointed positions with the city and school board, aided and abetted by our local liberal press.

Who will deny that those who have the Observer possess an excellent chance of realizing their political goals. Power begets power and the misuses of power. I will elaborate on this and other observations at a future date. In the meantime, remember... it's your community!

GEORGE KINDRED
Livonia

Ed. Note: Because of its wide circulation and reputation for honesty and integrity The Observer feels an obligation to print all sides of an issue and all opinions in good taste. HOWEVER, unless Mr. Kindred plans on starting his own vehicle of communication his promised future dissertations will be out at the editor's discretion to allow other people to have an opinion too. Two pages double spaced is the rule for letters to the editor.

OBSERVING the Scene...

By MYRA CHANDLER

"The less government we have, the better—the fewer laws, the less confided power."

It has always been my idea the above wisdom from Ralph Waldo Emerson inspired George Orwell to write his book "1984."

Everytime a legislator in Washington, Lansing or right here in River City votes on more law, more protective measures for we, "the poor public," I wish they would read, a chapter from Orwell's "1984." As you remember it ended up by the "poor public" being so protected we were all actually slaves with numbers and had only one thing to worry about that "Big Brother" who protected us, guarded us—also watched us. It was about the most gruesome book I have ever read. Perhaps you think it was exaggerated for emphasis. Well I might have too, but remember Buck Rogers—and look at him now.

It all could happen.

As important as electing independent and straight-thinking Congressmen and women, Senators and State Representatives—I feel it is equally important to guard our grass roots level laws.

Presently Livonia City Charter Commission is toiling away at modernizing Livonia City Charter. It is my prayer they are streamlining, not supplementing.

The Garden City revised Charter is before its voters on Aug. 2. It reminds me of the first step toward the "Big Brother" type of Government.

It gives too much power to the Mayor. He appoints practically everyone with the exception of the Treasurer who is elected by the Council, not the people. The Council is elected by the people—but a Strong Mayor type government with appointive powers of many Commissioners, Assessors, Clerk and all of his employees, depending on this appointment, can build up such a machine of patronage he can be Mayor forever. Of course, it follows, a Strong Mayor will also build up his own Council and send word down the line to all Commissioners, Department heads, Clerk, City Assessor, etc. plus the Corporation Counsel to also elect these Councilmen—and then they are dependent upon him for re-election. And then you have a dynasty where power and corruption can run wild without restraint.

There are many improvements in the Charter. I am sure will be pointed out to you as the election draws closer—but the division of power is unhealthy—and more expensive for Garden City taxpayers at a time when taxes should be on the decline, not the rise.

If you think this is far-fetched—visit Chicago and find out how many people would like to see a different Mayor other than the one that has been in office 12 years.

Do you know the Mayor of Chicago now appoints the School Board. He has the whim of firing the School Superintendent. Chicago (and this is fact) has the worse school system in the entire mid-west. In fact, fellow voters, it is so bad the school phone numbers are unlisted.

One lady I talked to wanted to see about having her son transferred to a school he could walk to, rather than by bus. She thought there was probably some mix-up since they had just moved. She was a widow and worked and couldn't personally go to the school and she tried for two weeks unsuccessfully to get a call through to the school administration. She was finally told if she wanted action she would have to see the Ward boss of her precinct. She did—got her son transferred and is now on the mailing list, she said, for all the political material from the present administration.

These things don't start out in these proportions. They start small, but for a politician that has more ambition than talent, a small start is just the beginning to a long career.

Be on guard.

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