

## Observer Newspapers

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Serving the rich Northwest 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.

### It Tolls For Thee

"If we are fortunate enough to have a male child, perhaps he will be spared from all of the rotten things which a war brings with and directly causes," wrote Marine Private Patrick J. Connors in a letter to his wife—from the battlefields of Vietnam to Livonia.

Private Connors is now dead, killed by a sniper's bullet in a war which he viewed with misgiving.

"I somehow can't seem to make this situation right," he said. "I'm not a pacifist, so I can't honestly say that war in itself is wrong and yet I often find myself asking the question: does any man have the right to take another's life regardless of the other's beliefs?"

How many other servicemen keep asking themselves this question as they plod through the jungles, fraught with ambushes and booby traps?

How many of us keep asking ourselves this question as we sit in front of our color TV's watching our favorite sport, fraught with the danger of spilling a coke on the new rug?

It seems to be okay when those who die live in California, New Mexico or New York.

But when it comes next door to a neighbor, and a bullet in Vietnam kills just as much as a bullet in Livonia.

Ask not for whom the bell tolls. . . it tolls for thee.

—BILL GAIL

### Just Chattin'

## Politics Can Be Funny (Peculiar)

Down through the years as majority leader in the U.S. Senate, Lyndon Baines Johnson, the tall Texan who resides at 1800 Pennsylvania Avenue as President of the United States, earned the reputation of being a shrewd politician.

All of which makes one wonder whether LBJ's trip to Detroit and Michigan on Labor Day, which many staunch Democrats insist was a comedy of errors and oversights, wasn't another shrewd twist to the great game of politics.

For instance, when he disembarked from his chartered plane at Metropolitan Airport and walked right by Emil Mazey, Treasurer of the UAW-CIO who had been designated by the Union as the official greeter, to recognize Governor George Romney, a Republican, and invite him as a guest for the automobile ride to Cobo Hall, was he returning a political favor to the Michigan Governor?

There is no doubt in the minds of the professional politicians that Gov. Romney's refusal to endorse Barry Goldwater in the last presidential election, enabled LBJ to carry Michigan by a wide margin.

Was the President now repaying him by embracing him as a guest and seeing to it that he was seated on the speaker's platform—even though it was a back row seat? One has cause to wonder.

When the President also fumbled the name of Zoltan Ferency, Democratic candidate for Governor, was he giving Romney another boost by letting the world know that Ferency was a little known plant in the big political garden?

Later on in Battle Creek, did LBJ give Romney another implied boost by not even mentioning Ferency's name, even though the Democratic candidate had ridden with him from Detroit?

A great to-do has been made, also, of LBJ's failure to mention the name of G. Mennen (Soopys) Williams, Democratic candidate for U.S. Senate, or to call on the convalescing former governor.

### Good Rapport

We'd be remiss in our duty if we didn't take time to congratulate Gerald V. Harrison, Superintendent of the Farmington

## Ten Fine Toes

As summer fades, mental pictures of barefoot boys and girls with cheeks of tan remain. Even hot city sidewalks and pavements fail to conquer the irrepressible spirit of youth with its urge to free itself from the fetters of nature—including shoes.

There is a message here to city planners and builders of concrete. Can we not somewhere build a few footpaths and bicycle trails? The automobile should not have us completely shackled.

Strange as it may seem, there are pedestrians yet left in this mobile world; and there would probably be more if they weren't forced to walk on busy thoroughfares.

—BILL GAIL

Schools, and the employees of the District on the professional quality of the contracts which have been signed for the coming year.

Healthy salary increases have been gained by the employees and fringe benefits have been outlined and defined.

The contracts also contain a clear definition of the rights and responsibilities of the School District and the Board of Education. The phrase "The parties recognize that the interest of the community and the job security of the employees depend upon the Board's success in establishing a proper service to the community," probably sums up the attitude best.

It also shows a healthy professional attitude on the part of both employer and employee. With the militancy of public employees for a just wage (and rightly so) it's refreshing to find that in the Farmington Schools this new awareness of power goes hand in hand with the realization of the demands of the community.

—SUE SHAUGHNESSY

## Teacher! Don't Let The Dream Last Too Long



### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

## Calls For GOP To Unite

Editor: For several years, I have actively worked as a volunteer worker for the Republican Party. The past month has caused me some concern and the article about the vote recount in Redford Township on the front page of last week's Redford Observer has moved me to write this letter.

During the campaign, prior to the Primary Election, I did not support any candidate for office. As a member of the Republican Nineteenth Congressional District Committee, I felt that I could serve the party better if I did not choose sides before the primary. However, the actions of many so-called Republicans since the election lead me to the conclusion that they are not interested in having a Republican Congressman for our district at this time.

Two strong political parties are essential for the government of the United States to be successful and good government is urgently needed now. Much of the poor legislation which was passed so hastily by this Congress would have been improved immeasurably with 20-30 more Republican votes.

May I urge all Republicans to join with me and to unite behind the Republican candidate nominated in the Primary and elect him to Congress on Nov. 8. In the next two days, the voters will be able to measure his effectiveness and with this in mind, I am certain that he will do a good job for our district.

Robert W. Reisdorf  
Pet. Dr. DeLoe Ho. 24  
Redford Twp.

### Parochial Schools Deserve Federal Aid

Editor: Re: Editorial "New York Guards Constitution." I would like to make a few comments concerning

Mr. Poger's article against public aid to private schools.

My child attends a parochial school and I am quite willing to pay the additional costs to see that he gets the kind of education I believe he should have. I would never expect the public to pay for his religion lessons, religion books, or any other religious or morally oriented classes. However, I see nothing unconstitutional in his benefiting from public tax funds—to which I, too, am a contributor—for such things as buses, milk, lunches, paper and supplies, etc.

As for money going to the student and not the school, this has been done in effect by the Federal government under the G.I. Bill, which provided for the education of the G.I. regardless of his choice of school—be it public, private, Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, etc. It seems to me what was good for our young men should be good for our young boys and girls.

Mr. Poger maintains that "if public funds . . . are funneled into church schools . . . public school systems will be the loser." But he neglects to mention the great contributions of private schools in educating our youth and also—no small matter these days—in relieving the overcrowded conditions in our public schools. If the private schools must some day close down for lack of funds, then, indeed, the public school system will be the loser.

MRS. MARY C. BIGTOT  
Farmington

26 Days  
To  
Register

## OMBUDSMAN

(A new feature in The Observer Newspapers — we will do our best to be a go-between, a red-tape cutter as the name indicates. When you have exhausted all other measures on a problem write to us (keep it short, please) and we'll see if we can help. Yes, John Q, you can fight city hall — with your own Ombudsman!)

Dear Ombudsman:

Can you tell what kind of carpeting has been put in some sections of the Randolph School on Norman in Livonia.

Mrs. James Belanger, Livonia

Dear Mrs. Belanger:

The nylon pile floor covering used by Livonia architect William Lindhout in certain portions of the new Randolph elementary school is called DENSILON and is made of special high density yarn which resists just about every possible kind of stain or mud or gook one can rub into it. The material, which is manufactured by the Commercial Carpet Corporation, was locally purchased from

Haig A. Jevahirian of 905 West Ann Arbor Trail in Plymouth at \$16 a yard. If you would like to reach him by phone call 453-1700.

Jevahirian and Lindhout have plenty of evidence to show that this high density nylon pile, which is permanently bonded to a sponge rubber cushion, is less expensive to install and maintain than are conventional "hard" floor coverings. Custodians who have lived with the material claim it costs one-half as much to clean as ordinary floors. All it needs is a quick vacuum once a day. Spills, such as ink, water color paint, or carbon paper soiling, sponge off with ease and a complete wash

job is needed about once each year.

The stuff is fine for kids to sit on. The softness induces youngsters to be less noisy and the lower decibels help keep teachers nerves relaxed and morale high.

Designers and architects like Lindhout love it because it won't show crush marks from chairs or high heels. It keeps fresh looking and is aesthetically and utilitarian. In the Randolph school, Lindhout has blended "Molten Gold" with a var-colored "Autumn." School board members suggest that you drop in on Livonia's newest school (in Section 19 in the Hix-Lyndon road neighborhood) and see for yourself.

## OBSERVING the Scene . . .

By MYRA CHANDLER

Despite how beautiful we make our schools, how interesting the curriculum, the outside influence for school dropouts is ever present.

Now, however, is the height of a drop-out season. The little boy or girl — and don't laugh, if it weren't for teachers' patience or the parents' paddle the little folk would prefer to be swimming, fishing or playing.

Half of all school dropouts are male and between 16-24 years old. Economics play a large part for the boys — the factory job that pays a paltry money. For girls, largely it's pregnancy.

In Livonia this Spring there was an 18 per cent drop-out in high school.

In Farmington a study was made breaking down the 71 dropouts of the 4,428 enrolled students. By grade levels showing 47 males and 24 females there were two at the 7th grade; two at the eighth grade; 10 at ninth grade; 28 at 10th grade; 18 at 11th grade and 10 at 12th grade.

Forty-nine were in the lower half of their group socially; 40 registered a retarded reading level, with 12 average and 10 accelerated. Fifty were below average in grade placement. Fifty-eight were poor in school attendance. Nineteen came from homes in which the family was unskilled or unemployed or disinterested.

This checks out over the nation.

The Farmington study made by Virginia Carley, Farmington High School counselor resulted in some basic steps to keep these kids in school. Other schools have asked for the results to study the recommendations and have already instituted the same changes. One of the most important steps in Livonia is to encourage High School dropouts to return to school, at night, at no charge. To take just one of two courses to start.

Administrators feel if they once get them started the rest is easier. It's the cold plunge of that first step that is difficult.

It's hard to reach past the spathy of some parents who would prefer their Johnny to get that \$2.40 an hour than go back to school where he is nothing but a drain on the beer-budget.

School people involved must be given a lot of credit for keeping after the problem because often they suffer abuse for their efforts, at first. Collectively, teachers and administrators all agree in their obligation.

In Farmington they instituted a beefed-up reading program with emphasis on early identification of children with reading problems. When a student is a senior it is a humbling to go back to fourth grade reading level. (Catch 'em early is the emphasis).

Greater attention by counselors in working with potential dropouts. (A counselor can often accomplish more than a concerned parent — and to a student that has a parent who is not, a counselor is better than grandma — someone to tell it to).

Establishment of a co-operative work training program (helps the student who feels economic pressure) which is nothing to be ashamed of. If a kid has eyes and see his parents are struggling, naturally he wants to help.

Participation in one Federal program (that even Republicans give credit to) "Head Start" — This strengthens the student's sense of identity and self-respect early. Kids from habits so early. Before we even think we should be setting a good example with follow-through, togetherness, and cultural home activities, they are observing. "Head Start" sets the pace for this. It was educational for parents and inspired many to continue the enrichment program.

One of the most important things Farmington did was to continue to jockey their teachers to accept the potential drop-out as a person worth salvaging and as a challenge to make individual classes as interesting as possible.

Teachers are people and I've attended a few "bull sessions" when they confessed they would give a certain student paper-chairs and tooth-pick building just to pass them on something.

Farmington gives in-service training sessions to assist the teacher in lifting the potential dropout — sometimes even one notch, which could make a difference in their entire life.

A teacher thus dedicated is to be respected by the community and should be willingly recompensed — which brings us to merit pay and another subject, dear to my heart.

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