

Readers Express Their Views On A Variety Of Subjects

Editors:
For two months, the Burton Hollow Advisory Committee has been meeting frequently with the Livonia School Board to find a more suitable solution to our problem of busing students for the south end of the city for the fall session.

The reason given by the school board for this decision was the over-crowded condition of all junior high schools in our area due to the tremendous community growth. We realize the problems, but after living in this area for eight years and moving from school to school to make room for new subdivisions, our students have been in a new school nearly every year.

The principal reason for most of us in moving out here was the reputation of the fine school system. Having youngsters move from school to school does not give them opportunity to enjoy the fine education that is being offered.

For two years we have been involved in these junior high school moves. Our 9th graders for the first time will remain for a full year, on a full day schedule at Holmes Junior High. But again, we are on the move because our 7th and 8th graders are involved in a similar situation. It seems to us that a more feasible solution could be reached.

First of all, what has caused this dilemma?

Livonia has been a productive lot as is indicated by the number of students registered, approximately 38,000 pupils. The situation that disturbs us is where schools are being built. Not in the areas where homes are already heavily established. Look at the homes built in our last three junior high schools. Namely, Holmes, Dickens and Lowell. These schools are built first and then the homes. This is a fine sales tool for the developers of these areas and a fine idea if we had been included in their plans.

That is why we in Burton Hollow have sat back for two years and allowed the school board to move our junior high school students waiting for Holmes to be built thinking that we would finally have a school in our area, and the students would be able to know and say where they would be going to school.

We realize very few persons in Livonia, who have children of school age have not been exposed to this type of juggling. Obtain a school map and you will see how the students in all areas are all over the City of Livonia and into Westland. Let's not forget some of the school board members who will be quick to cite how many schools their charges have attended. One might begin to think that this is some sort of a status symbol rather than an obvious handicap to the students involved.

The School Advisory Committee felt that the best way to approach the problem was to confront the school board as representative individuals and discuss their proposal in the hopes that a more suitable solution could be reached. We didn't feel we were qualified to offer the board any possible alternatives inasmuch as all the facts were not at our disposal. We asked them to again study the situation to see if they could offer us a reasonable solution, which they did not do. After several meetings, the committee offered the board several alternatives which they felt had some merit, keeping our 7th and 8th graders in schools as close as possible to our homes. The end results of all of these meetings is that our 7th graders will be still going to Lowell, which is in the far south end of the city and our 8th graders will be split up into four different junior high schools. The committee heard time and time again the school board is opposed to busing students which they will have to do for several years. Does this board realize what they have imposed on our students that will be going to Lowell Junior High School, and then splitting up our 8th graders into four different high schools?

These are some of the disadvantages:

—An hour at least bus

ride to and from school.

2.—With the high accident rate going up, especially at the hour these students will be on the bus during the peak hours of heavy traffic, we feel that exposure will eventually catch up with the so far good record of our school bus service.

3.—What about the time spent on corners waiting for the bus and the added danger of waiting when it is school.

dark during the winter months, for youngsters 12 and 13 years old.

4.—Our 8th graders are faced with another traffic hazard, the problem of construction on Farmington Road. The main intersections are nearly impassable. The danger of a bus trying it will be difficult. The school board has assured us that at least Farmington Road would be open for buses in time for school.

The only solution to this problem would be to relocate all students into their immediate area. We feel strongly that there are other feasible alternatives though none were ever offered.

The board assures us that the new school will be ready by Jan. 29, 1968. If things go according to schedule the school should be ready more likely next September.

In conclusion, it is our belief that more planning should accompany the purchase of school property, construction of schools, and the transportation problem. Busing means money, and we taxpayers have a right to expect more for our dollars.

Catherine M. Donovan

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Rap, Theater Films

Editor:

We are a group of parents who, in a recent discussion, criticized the lack, in recent years, of suitable motion picture programs which we could attend as a family group. During school vacations and indeed during various weekends throughout the year, we would enjoy using the motion picture medium as one of our forms of family entertainment.

We find, however, that the vast majority of the programs offered at our neighborhood theaters are suitable only for adult viewing.

While we appreciate the fact that these adult programs are financially profitable and some times artistically admirable, and while we also admit the need for an adult theater, we feel an equal need for programs suitable for the entire family audience.

We enjoyed your recent offerings of Snow White, The Shaggy Dog, and The Absentminded Professor. You would find us an appreciative and responsive audience if you could manage to present programs such as these at least once a month.

Thank you for your kind consideration of our views and opinions.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gleason
Mr. and Mrs. Sheldon Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Stiles
Mr. and Mrs. John Saller
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Kerwin

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Tierney Story Praised

Editor:

Your "reflections with Rep. James Tierney" in the Sunday Edition of the Observer was superb.

Rep. Tierney's views were most timely in the light of so many serious problems facing the present members of both parties in Lansing. Let us hope that Rep. Tierney will see fit to act as well in support of good legislation as he expressed such strong position in our interviews.

There seems to be so few Democrats in Lansing who are willing to stand up on the side of the people now as there were very few Republicans in the G. Mennen Williams administration.

Governor Romney and the people of our state need legislators like Rep. Tierney. May God help him to act out his excellent convictions now!

May I just add one topic which is paramount today but which was not mentioned in your article. Let us urge Rep. Tierney and all other good legislators, irrespective of political affiliations, to support and enact a state law to empower law enforcement officials "to stop and frisk" any one appearing to be in any manner suspicious.

If the good citizens are to be protected everything should be done to eliminate crime from our streets. Those who have nothing to hide need not fear being stopped and asked questions as well as searched by the police officers whom we should regard as friends anyway.

Since all of us wish to be free we should also want to be unfraid! But what fool today dares to venture alone for a walk in the cool of an evening—or any time for that matter. So let us support freedom from fear by empowering our law enforcement friends with proper authority!

Paul Nastoff

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The idea is a "study tour" type of vacation.

At any rate in three weeks the entire adventure will be over. Such a short span of time...

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Just Chattin' Moments of Pressure—Sports Filled With Them

By W. W. EDGAR

IT WAS GETTING CLOSE to midnight and the neighbors were sitting around the room, listening to the ups and downs of the Tigers in the closing innings of a stirring battle when one of them remarked:

"Talk about pressure—this is it."

Nothing was said for another minute or so as the Tigers missed the opportunity, went down to defeat and lost a chance to move closer to the league lead.

Although the game was over, the conversation continued on the subject of pressure and my neighbor was firm in his belief that the closing drives toward the pennant are the highest type of pressure for an athlete. "Because so much money is riding on every move"—and "you can't let your teammates down."

It was only natural, then, when another neighbor turned toward me and asked—

"You have been up and down the sports trail for a long while. What are some of the greatest bits of pressure competition you have seen—and which is the keenest type?"

WELL, IT WAS TRUE. Over the years these old eyes have looked at many a moment of pressure in all sports and some of them stand out just as clearly today as they did then.

For instance, who ever could forget the great pressure pitching of Little Tommy Bridges in the 1935 world series when Stan Hack lead off the ninth inning with a triple in the deciding game and the Tiger fans groaned.

The situation didn't faze Little Tommy. He just pitched the best he knew how—and the side was retired with no further damage as Hack "died on third."

It is history now that the Tigers won the game and the world series on Goose Goslin's famous "blooper" in their half of the ninth. And when Mickey Cochrane raced across the plate with the winning run and headed for the club house, he called attention to Little Tommy's pitching.

"He was throwing his heart up there," Mickey commented and this was the highest sort of praise.

There were many other pressure filled moments and no one provided more of them than Bobby Layne, the Lion's famed quarterback, as he engineered what came to be known as "cliff hangers" in the final two minutes of play. No quarterback, before or since, was his equal under pressure.

I recall, too, the morning, away back in 1932, when Gar Wood and Orin Johnson, in the famous Miss America X, faced defeat in the Harmsworth race. They were trailing Kaye Don, the English challenger on lap after lap, with a boat that had developed a leak in the gasoline tank and could have been blown to bits.

Pressure! This was it with only one more lap to go. It later developed that in the tenacious of the moment, Gar nudged his mechanic and shouted, "Let's win the trophy or go to Hell trying it."

That's just what they did. Defying danger, they opened the throttle, put on a burst of speed and shot over the line a winner.

Which sport provides the most pressure?

I have always leaned toward a heavyweight championship fight.

Remember, you are out there in a ring, under the white heat, with thousands yelling for your defeat, and no team mates. They claim it is the most lonesome spot in the world—and you are facing bodily damage every second.

There may be worse pressure spots—but I'll take that one.

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impressions

by sue chaughnessy

MOSOW—Actually this column is being written right here in Observerland, but by the time you read it the date line will be Moscow.

Not Moscow, Wis., but the Moscow of the Kremlin, the Bolshevik and the famous GUM department store. In other words it's located in Russia or what is formally known in the world councils as the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics.

Why visit Russia?

Maybe the simplest answer is because it's there.

That statement, however, explains the thought behind the trip and it doesn't.

Russia is a fascinating country and a world power. Should we ignore it or should we try to understand something of this, not really European and not really Asiatic giant?

I think that the answer to that is that we should make the effort.

Conversely the Russian Government should allow its citizens to make the same sort of attempt at understanding the vast country of the United States of America. That is another topic, however.

Only a fool would believe that tourists can gain any complete or correct impressions of a country on a trip, much less do anything to relieve world tensions. An open-minded tourist can, however, learn something. That's the intent of the next three weeks.

The itinerary includes: five days in Moscow; two days in Volgograd, three days in Kiev; four days in the Black Sea resort of Sochi; two days in Tiflis (the capital of Georgia and very near Stalin's birthplace); and four days in Leningrad.

It's a bit of a busman's holiday as arrangements have been made (at least I hope they have after hearing about the Russian Intourist means of dealing with such requests) to meet with Russian journalists from both newspapers and radio and TV stations.

The idea is a "study tour" type of vacation.

At any rate in three weeks the entire adventure will be over. Such a short span of time...

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