

Livonian Asks Student Gang Action

EDITOR:
Seeing the mayor and commissioner of drug abuse attack Sen. Birch Bayh's comments about Livonia on television should surprise no one: it was inconceivable of Sen. Bayh to single out this town above others where the problem is just as severe.

However, Livonia does have serious problems I think the people of this city want to ignore. The increase of drug use in the junior and high schools is just one of it; other crimes, such as assault, are widespread and just as widely disregarded.

Four or five years ago, students at Bentley and Franklin, and at junior highs such as Riley, were making bitter jokes about "nice, safe schools"; they'd like to attend which were located in Detroit's "inner city."

Not much public attention was drawn to the dangerous gangs in the schools, nor is much said now about the gangs that are making schools, parks, and other facilities unsafe to go near. When some news about gangs does hit the papers, people just don't seem to see it. I read the Observer and News through every issue, and I've noticed the large number of articles about crime. Yet when I told a friend that minors had been arrested at Schoolcraft and Farmington with, among other things, a machine gun and a sawed-off shotgun in their possession, he (and others) refused to believe it, even though the article made your front page.

The people of this town had better wake up. We may be the wealthiest city of our size in the state or nation, but we certainly haven't created a safer environment than poorer cities elsewhere. Compared to just about any town in the west, this city is the scene of a minor crime wave. Most important of all, it seems to me, is the need for action to prevent gangs, especially of minors, from gathering anywhere in the city.

WAYNE LARICINI
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Sale Of Cards

A Big Success

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READERS' FORUM

Please type (or write clearly) and limit letters to 300 words.

- Letters must be signed, with the writer's address. Names will be withheld only at the writer's request and for good cause.
- The editor reserves the right to reject unsuitable letters.

I wish to thank you for presenting the excellent article on the clinic home.

As president of the Northwest Communities Association for Retarded Children, I must advise that we had a tremendous response from the community regarding the Christmas cards we had for sale, as the result of the picture of a card. Many people cut the picture from the Observer and sent it to us, asking for more information.

As a mother with a child residing in Plymouth State Home, I wish to thank those responsible for the many articles in the Observer which present the problems, programs and needs of these special people.

The Observer has certainly done a terrific public relations job for the handicapped. Everyone in our association is appreciative of the efforts of the Observer. I know I'm speaking in behalf of our entire membership.

BARBARA MOORE
Redford Township

Instrument Use

Demands Care

EDITOR:
This year the Livonia Board of Education had approved a maintenance fee of \$10 per year for the use of school owned instruments by fifth and sixth graders and junior high students. Later it was reduced to \$5 per year, as some thought the fee was unfair. This fee was found necessary to help defray the cost of maintenance and repair to the instrument.

In the school district where I used to live, before I moved to Livonia, students interested in playing an instrument were required to buy one from the very beginning. As a result, my brothers each own some type of instrument, and we found out

that their upkeep is very high even with the best of care, and a fee of only \$5 a year doesn't even pay for a trumpet valve adjustment.

These instruments cost hundreds of dollars and when you are young you don't realize the care you have to take, and just carrying it home in its case can jar something loose or dent it.

ROBERT EWALD
(age 16)
Livonia

Bumper Sport

Has Dangers

EDITOR:
Garden City drivers beware! The bumper grabbers are back.

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Clarenceville

Dominates

League Band

Clarenceville musicians have filled 40 of the 77 chairs in the All-League band which will give concerts on Jan. 16 and 17.

All-League schools are comprised of Milford, West Bloomfield, Bloomfield Hills, Andover, Clarkston and Clarenceville.

The Jan. 16 concert will be given in West Bloomfield and the Jan. 17 program in Clarenceville.

R. G. & G. R.

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These instruments cost hundreds of dollars and when you are young you don't realize the care you have to take, and just carrying it home in its case can jar something loose or dent it.

Perhaps if parents and students would know the cost of these instruments from the start and how to care for them, the cost to the school district might be reduced. Even a well kept instrument needs regular repairs, and I have seen many instruments mislabeled by younger students because the school owns them.

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