

# Who Spends How Much

School District	SEV Per Resident Member	Local Revenue Per Pupil	State School Aid Per Pupil	Total Operating Expense Per Pupil
Southfield	\$31,458	\$827	\$204	\$985
S. Redford	\$30,811	\$834	\$174	\$982
Plymouth	\$26,230	\$723	\$225	\$897
Livonia	\$18,989	\$594	\$315	\$932
Detroit	\$18,347	\$441	\$367	\$895
Farmington	\$18,066	\$586	\$320	\$937
Clarenceville	\$15,603	\$575	\$352	\$909
Wayne-Westland	\$13,165	\$504	\$401	\$885
Redford Union	\$13,002	\$519	\$386	\$865
Garden City	\$ 8,363	\$263	\$501	\$758

Source: Michigan Dept. of Education, Bureau of Research, achievement test report 1971-72.

# Tax Base Heart Of School Case

An Observer Roundup

The Michigan Supreme Court decision outlasting the state's system of funding public schools leaves legislators facing the necessity of devising some new method of financing for the 1973-74 school year.

And the new method, the court said in essence, must go farther in helping poorer districts.

Michigan supports its schools through a combination of local property taxes and state aid. Because of differences in property values across the state, the amount raised by local property taxes varies widely from district to district.

The state aid formula attempts to adjust this by providing more help for poor districts than for wealthy ones. But the court said this unequal spending of public funds for students in different school districts is unconstitutional.

THE COURT, in a 4-3 decision, actually ruled only on the state aid formula applied in the 1970-71 school year. But legislators and other agreed that little of the inequality has been remedied since then.

At the heart of the ruling is a school district's property tax base—the value of taxable property behind each pupil. Even with the adjusted state aid, various school districts spend widely different amounts on pupils.

In Overland, for example, Southfield is the wealthiest school district with \$31,458 in taxable property behind each public school student. Garden City, with only \$8,363 behind each of its pupils, is the poorest. (See chart.)

The state's school aid formula, designed to overcome such disparity, provided Southfield with \$204 per pupil for the 1970-71 school year and Garden City with \$501 per pupil.

Even so, there was inequality. Southfield was able to spend

# Stempien Eyes Job Writing Betting Law

By KATHY MORAN

Former State Rep. Marvin Stempien may be hired to draft legislation to combine dog racing, horse racing and off track betting into a private, state-regulated corporation similar to the Michigan Public Service Commission.

Stempien, who was Livonia's state representative and House majority leader until Jan. 1, has returned to his private law practice in Livonia after an unsuccessful bid for Congress against U.S. Rep. Marvin Esh (R-Ann Arbor).

Stempien is also considered a likely candidate for state Democratic Party chairman, but maintains that he is not an "active candidate."

THE PROPOSAL to establish a corporation regulating racing and betting was made by House Speaker William Ryan (D-Detroit). Ryan said it would function like the Public Service Commission, which regulates utilities companies.

In discussing the proposal, Ryan said Stempien might become a consultant and lobbyist for both dog and horse racing interests promoting such a plan.

But Stempien vigorously denied that he would be "lobbyist," saying that he might be hired as an attorney to write legislation creating the corporation.

"I'm not a lobbyist, I'm a practicing attorney," Stempien said. "I have been asked to rewrite the parimutuel act."

"I would be happy to do it if suitable arrangements can be made to hire me," he added. He said he could be hired by the House to draft the legislation, by one of the interest groups or through a pool of funds from the interest groups and House.

EVERY YEAR for the past decade, major disputes have arisen between horse racing interests and backers of dog racing and off track betting, he pointed out. Horse racing lobbyists are afraid the tracks would lose money if dog tracks are permitted.

Under the corporation plan, everyone would have an equal chance at parimutuel wagering.

"I'm not sure we would work something out, but we could give it the old college try," Stempien said. "I think it would be more reasonable and sensible to see all parimutuel interests have their needs met without scrapping over it every year."

"I would like to see the dog and horse racing people together have an approach

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# Schoolcraft Project 'Getting Acquainted' Is Easy

By KATHY MORAN

A Schoolcraft College student who can make it through the week of Jan. 8 without making a whole host of new friends is destined to be a dud.

That is "get acquainted week," and countless man hours have been invested to make it the most active and "spirit-raising" in the college's history.

To begin with, all students should be wearing name tags. Corry?

Maybe, but these name tags will be valuable.

In addition to announcing a student's name, the tags are worth free beverages in the cafeteria all week and will be an admission ticket to almost all events.

THOSE EVENTS begin at 10:30 a.m. each day with "The Last Drop"—a jazz, folk and rock concert rolled into one. It will feature poetry readings, talks on the occult and about anything the students can come up with. It will close when the last person leaves.

"The Last Drop" will be located on the main floor of Waterman Campus Center, which will be sectioned off, windows blackened and lighted by candles.

"The Candleman" will be a feature every day beginning at 11 a.m. when G.E. Campbell, a professional candlemaker, from Livonia, will display, polish and sell his candles.

Films are scheduled throughout the week, including "A Man Called Horse" at 11 a.m. Thursday and "Fahrenheit 451" at 1 and 7:30 p.m. Wednesday followed by a discussion. They will be shown in the Liberal Arts Theater.

"The Atomic Film Festival Revisted" will be put on by the Student Activities Board and consist of various horror films. It starts at 11 a.m. Thursday in the liberal arts theater and will be repeated at 7:30 p.m. in Waterman.

PAT BARRETT, a Livonia resident, will bring his amateur films on Friday at 11 a.m. students are invited to show their films.

Football tournaments will begin Wednesday at 10 a.m. and finish with finals at 10 a.m. on Thursday. Football machines are in the games area of lower Waterman.

A karate demonstration is scheduled for 12 noon on Thursday in Waterman.

High school wrestling invitations are planned for 11 a.m. Friday and 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday in the physical education building.

Michigan license plates will be sold at 10 a.m. Wednesday and Thursday.

The week's activities culminate on Friday with the "special event" called "Friday 101." It begins at 5:30 p.m. with a spaghetti dinner for one followed by entertainment provided by Ron Coden and Danny Cox costing \$1. A student can't attend one without the other; thus, it costs \$1.01.

The final activity of the week is a Kappa Tau Rho veterans' fraternity concert featuring Michael Quatro Jam Band, Johnathon Round and Julia in Waterman at 8 p.m.

THE WEEK of activities wouldn't have happened without the hard work and leadership of Bob Drogosch, Livonia freshman. Other student workers include Brad Jones of Livonia, Gall Kragoski of Plymouth, Debbie Moshamer of Farmington, Depise Thibau of Plymouth.

Bonnie Shuster of Farmington is doing the artwork even though she isn't a student at Schoolcraft.

"Our goal during the week is to demonstrate that there are many activities, organizations and individuals who are doing exciting and meaningful things on campus," Drogosch said.

He said the activities will show that there is more to Schoolcraft than a formal education and create "an atmosphere of good feelings and provide a medium for the exchange of both warm handshakes and new ideas."



NATIONAL POSTER CHILD for the March of Dimes, Paula Pfeifer, 5, was greeted by (from left) Bonnie Birger of Redford Township, Mrs. Dawn Rusk of Redford Township and Ms. Ellie Price of Livonia when she stopped in Detroit to kick off the annual Mothers March. The three women are staff members from the Metropolitan Detroit chapter. Paula, a resident of Bartlesville, Okla., was born with spina bifida (open spine), club feet and paralysis in her ankles and feet.

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