

# Even young students get sexual stereotypes

## EDITOR:

As a proponent of liberation for both women and men, I applaud the success of Jeanette Shanks, Donna Henkel and the Plymouth School District to end discrimination on the basis of sex in shop and home living classes.

I should like to address myself, however, to some "reservations" of Sandy Leslock and Jackie Johnson, home living teachers. While some of their remarks were made undoubtedly in honesty and good will, they nevertheless demonstrate the extent to which our society has been brainwashed with sexual stereotypes.

They fear, for example, that "the quality of education might diminish" in home living classes because boys are apparently less coordinated when it comes to threading sewing machines. Therefore, the teachers will have to spend more time with them than with the girls. May I ask in what class a teacher does not have to give more time to some students than to others? If all students in a class had equal talent for that particular class, what a breeze teaching would be!

Mrs. Johnson says that a sixth grade boy in English class shows his affection for a girl by poking her with a pencil, but in a sewing class, he "can keep unthreading her machine." Presumably, the young girl will suffer more from having her machine unthreaded than from lead poisoning due to pencil pokes.

"And in the shop," Mrs. Johnson continues, "well, there are all kinds of possibilities with the equipment there." What possibilities? Don't boys roughneck among themselves? Hopefully, whatever safety standards have saved them so far from disaster will continue to do so when girls join the class.

Both teachers are concerned about the boys with "worries about their masculinity." Dear God, at ages 11 and 12! I do not doubt these worries, but these are the cruelest evidence of our society's sexual stereotyping. When the teachers "feel

## 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.

sure" that some parents would prefer the old system — that is, sexual discrimination system — I cannot help wondering if there are the parents of boys with masculinity hangups, a probable reflection of the parents' own hangups.

How beautiful will be the day when parents do not shove their children into absurd, cruel and demanding sex roles at age five, nor teachers at age five, nor anyone at any age who has anything to do with influencing children.

JOANNE STEIN  
Plymouth

## A lesson in injustice

### EDITOR:

To the spineless punk who backed into my son's car Jan. 30 at Oakland Community College Orchard Ridge branch parking lot, you did \$120 worth of damage. Are you so cowardly that couldn't leave a note?

It isn't necessary for you to go to school any longer, for you have already learned how to commit injustices against your fellow man.

V.J. MERCIER  
Farmington

## Environment talk lauded

### EDITOR:

I'd like to tell you again how worthwhile I think your recent environmental conference was. It is to your credit and to Concern Inc. that such seminars are held. Rarely do we get a chance to discuss

candidly such issues with our legislators.

If you choose to continue this series next year, please go a step further. Bravely suggest that there be no smoking. Let not the majority bow to the small minority. Will you be willing to try?

BETTY SHAW  
Director, Recycling Center, and chairman, Beautification Commission, Redford Township

## End begging, rationing

### EDITOR:

Wilbur Mack, chairman of American Natural Gas Corp., stated in a recent interview that there isn't a shortage of natural gas and won't be as far as he can see into the future.

Frank Ikard, president of the American Petroleum Institute, said we have not been developing our natural resources. As examples he cited the halt in the Alaskan North Slope, no development of the offshore resources in the Atlantic and a delay of a year in the Gulf of Mexico; delay in development of nuclear plants; no leasing of

## Area Deaths, Funerals

ARTHUR G. ROGALSKI—Services for Mr. Rogalski, 66, of 1800 Kingsley, Livonia, were in Harry J. Will Funeral Home with Rev. W. Edmund St. James United Church of Christ, Dearborn, officiating. Burial was in Oakland Hills Cemetery.

Mr. Rogalski died of a brain aneurysm Feb. 7 after a six-month illness. He formerly lived in Garden City and moved to Livonia in 1968. He was employed in supervision for KPP Co.

Survivors are his wife, Ruth; five children, Gary of Romulus, Donald of Warren, William of Dearborn, Wesley of Northville Township, Ronald of Dearborn and Edward of Dearborn; three brothers, Edward of Florida, Frederick of Dearborn Heights and Robert of Lincoln Park; a sister, Mrs. Clara Klopchinski of Dearborn, and eight grandchildren.

LLOYD W. DAVISON—Services for Mr. Davison, 66, of 1202 Brady, Redford Township, were in Harry J. Will Funeral Home with Rev. Edmund St. James of the South Livonia Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses officiating. Burial was in Grand Lawn Cemetery.

Mr. Davison died of a brain aneurysm Feb. 1 after a three-week illness. He was a retired superintendent for Michigan Tool & Machine Co. and had lived in Redford since 1952.

Survivors are his wife, Charlotte E.; two sons, Robert of Plymouth and William of Montclair; a daughter, Mrs. Susan (Vivian) Backus of Connecticut; a sister, Mrs. Violet Gagliardi of Florida, and nine grandchildren.

WILLIAM HUNT—Services for Mr. Hunt, 61, of 2416 Grand River, Farmington Hills, will be Wednesday, Feb. 13, at 11 a.m. in the Rev. Carl Schuch of St. James United Church of Christ of Farmington Hills officiating. Burial will be in Oakland Hills Cemetery.

Mr. Hunt died Feb. 11 at the home of his son, Ralph, of 2323 Violet, Farmington Hills. He was born in West and lived his entire life in the area. He was owner of William's Hardware in Farmington, now known as Home Market, until he retired from the business in 1968.

Besides his son, Mr. Hunt is survived by a sister, Mrs. Mary Cook of Florida, and one grandchild.

public lands to develop shale oil.

In each case, it was governmental meddling which has hampered America's development, mainly through the National Environmental Policy Act. Now we are told the solution is more governmental meddling in the form of controls and rationing.

The American people have never liked rationing or price controls. Most of us believe in letting the operations of a free market determine what purchases what goods at what prices. Price controls and rationing are brakes on a productive capacity which would soon convert any scarcity into a typical American abundance.

Another thing the American people don't like is to see their representatives begging the Arab countries to let us do business with them on their terms, especially when the amount we purchase from them has never been more than eight percent of our total supply.

Americans should write to their congressmen and senators urging them to use the power of their office to bring this insanity to a halt: price controls, rationing and begging.

TIMI CASE  
Farmington



NEW OFFICERS OF The Wayne County Police. Lt. Paul Tarabula, Sgt. Emory Alstead of Lincoln Park, sergeant at arms. In the front, from left, are Lt. Stanley Sak of Wayne, first vice president; Sgt. John Bethune of Wyandotte, president; Sgt. George Parkinson of Lincoln Park, the outgoing president; Thorne and Williams.

born, second vice president; Lt. Paul Tarabula of Ecorse, financial secretary, and Sgt. Emory Alstead of Lincoln Park, sergeant at arms. In the front, from left, are Lt. Stanley Sak of Wayne, first vice president; Sgt. John Bethune of Wyandotte, president; Sgt. George Parkinson of Lincoln Park, the outgoing president; Thorne and Williams.

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