

# editorial opinion

## Look at alternatives

The defeat of the four mill increase requested to operate Farmington schools puts the district in a potentially bad position this fall.

The school board declined the 1.4 mills "differential millage" which it levied last year, and the district will suffer a decline in the tax rate which it had last year if nothing is done.

With the dust hardly settling on the voting machines, the school board has set a new election date of July 30 for another try.

Farmington voters easily approved a renewal for the district early this year. The defeat of the increase was by a fairly substantial margin.

**THERE ARE** many reasons for the defeat, and probably a lot of them added up to swing the difference.

One candidate for the board campaigned on a "no millage" platform, and rolled up a substantial vote mainly on that basis. The election came relatively soon after

the last election, where the renewal was passed. The "soft sell" of the board of education may have backfired.

But the board should also recognize the same inflationary increases which press on the district press on the residents of the community. The past year has seen more reaction than usual to municipal improvements, special assessments and almost anything which may add to the costs of running a household.

The district must ask for another election, to insure a reasonable income for the coming school year. But one would hope they don't assume the result at the polls was merely the voice of an uninformed electorate, and attempt to put exactly the same proposition on the ballot.

The possibilities are either lowering the request, or presenting an alternative proposition. Without the pressure of a race for the school board at the same time, the opportunity to "sell" the millage to the public will be greatly enhanced.

## From our readers

### Wonderful experience

To the Editor:  
Dr. Sage and I had one of the most wonderful and rewarding experiences of our lives when I gave birth to our son, Sean Michael, through the LaMaze method.

We attended the required classes and the results were terrific. I wish every woman could be aware of this method.

Kathleen Sage  
May 31, 1974 Farmington Hills

### Drug crackdown needed

To the Editor:  
Being a father who had a son killed and another maimed while riding in a car with a driver who smoked pot, I know even pot can kill.

I have mixed emotions about the driver and all users of drugs. I know that in Groves High School (and I suspect Southfield High Schools also), it is as easy to get drugs as it is for an under 18 youth to get a package of cigarettes. Therefore, the pressures "to belong" or at least experiment are great for all our youths.

However, when it comes to pushers I have no mixed emotions. In my opinion they are the scum of our society. Although I don't condone any crime, unlike a crime of emotion, passion or even burglary or robbery where only material losses are involved, the pusher is involved in conscious, day-after-day activities which involve the deterioration or destruction of human lives.

**THEIR OPERATION** generally involves face to face contacts, much as a door to door salesman, where they can exert their persuasiveness on these already hooked and more importantly on impressionable youth. All this for their own personal economic gain.

Their market will continue to thrive and grow unless more drastic curtailment steps are taken. Each year a higher number of experimenters become addicted than addicts become cured. In addition, a new crop of students are exposed each year.

Drug use is prevalent in our factories, colleges, high schools and even junior highs. Let me warn every parent who has a child entering junior high school, that by the time he or she graduates they will be exposed to the availability of drugs.

In addition, as in my own personal experiences, not one member of our society can be sure that drugs will not affect his life. It may be the heartache and problems involved in a drug addicted child, an auto accident involving a "hopped up" driver or loss of property or life from an addict who needs money to feed his habit.

It was encouraging to read of the recent arrests of courier and pushers, both in Southfield and Detroit. However, in the Detroit arrests it was in-

cluded that although the confiscations were large, and major dealers were involved, the effect on the local drug traffic was minimal. I suspect this is true of the Southfield arrests.

I REQUESTED and recommend that your paper take the lead and hopefully it will be followed by the Birmingham and Detroit papers. I hope you will designate a specific and significant section of your paper, each week, to outline every dope related problem that occurs in the city. This would include the number of OD's treated at the hospital, accidents and crimes known to be dope related, pusher arrests and most importantly, follow to conclusion the outcome of pusher arrests. The outcome of arrests should include the names of judges, prosecutors and lawyers involved.

Hopefully, this knowledge will encourage the general public to be concerned and express their will, both to the lawmakers and when voting for the judicial officials.

S. Owens  
Southfield  
May 26, 1974

### Poor criticism

To the Editor:  
As president of the Friends of Polish Art, I wish to reply to Deborah Perlberg's recent review of the Exhibition of American and Canadian Artists of Polish Descent which our organization sponsored at the "Galeria" of the Orchard Lake Schools May 12-25.

Miss Perlberg calls the culmination of many months of intensive work and preparation a "careless hodge-podge" and states that the "Choice of works" probably is the "villain which gives the exhibition a ragged look."

As a journalist Miss Perlberg should be more careful in the choice of her vocabulary. Contrary to Miss Perlberg's statement, this was a carefully prepared and organized art exhibition with the "choice of works" made by an excellent, knowledgeable jury consisting of experts in their field—such as Mrs. Gerald W. Boicourt, director of the Galerie de Boicourt of Birmingham, Mr. Michael P. Church, coordinator of cultural activities at the University of Michigan Extension Service, and Mrs. Joseph Maniscalco of the Scarab Club of Detroit.

Over 100 works were submitted from all over the United States and Canada. The jury rejected some and accepted others because they felt the artists showed promise and should be encouraged. This was the first large exhibition of an ethnic nature in which the qualifications were that the artists be of Polish descent and have professional training—the purpose being

to show the diversity of work done by these artists.

(Mrs.) Anna Chrypinski  
President Friends of Polish Art  
Detroit  
June 7, 1974

### Parents' view

To the Editor:  
Your repeated editorials and support of the Abbott Middle School parents who insist upon the transfer of OLMS children to their school demonstrates a lack of understanding of the position of many of the OLMS parents.

Look at our way. Last fall a group of Abbott parents complained to the board about problems in Abbott school. The board asked Dr. Herman for a report. Dr. Herman reported that the Abbott Middle School needed an assistant principal, but that by and large, the schools were pretty evenly matched.

Abbott lacked a language or two, but in the last analysis, there was no difference in the quality of education—Abbott kids were just as prepared for high school as OLMS kids and in the last analysis did just as well in the high school as OLMS children.

Next, the board did not come to OLMS parents for help or suggestions; it was the parents that went to the board when they found out the board was going to transfer their kids out of their subdivision areas and away from many of their friends and their adjoining subdivisions, away from their school loyalty and away from their positions of pride on student council, cheerleading and other programs.

**THE BOARD** claims that OLMS parents are irrational and press the board. Let us not forget that it was Mr. Rancourt, the spokesman for the Abbott School parents, that stood up in the board meeting early in May and demanded the board transfer the students immediately or suffer the consequences, and the board did it without batting an eye.

The excuse we were given was that (1) Abbott needed more languages (2) they needed band programs (3) they needed a better library, none of which could be afforded without more students.

The true facts, however, were stated by Mr. Riggs, the principal of Abbott, at an orientation meeting at the school May 30. He said (1) Abbott had offered languages, but the children rejected them in favor of many other courses, (2) Abbott had three levels of band (3) Abbott's library was better than the OLMS library.

Arnold M. Gordon  
West Bloomfield  
June 6, 1974

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# Eccentricities

by HANK HOGAN



## Equality misses the mark

numbers, at women's urgings, discriminatory laws were passed to protect them—so that if they did work they were given more privileges than men.

Until very recently, in Michigan, women could not work more than 10 hours a day. They had to be given two 15-minute breaks each day, which meant that they worked a half hour less than men, but were paid as if they had worked that half-hour.

Employers had to put couches in women's rest rooms, but not in men's, and they could not ask women to lift more than 40 pounds. These regulations went out when equal pay laws came in, but the equal pay-equal job laws have their problems.

A DETROIT WOMAN went to court to force the postal department to pay her the same as what she claimed her male counterpart was paid. The post office countered that the male was required to lift up to 70 pounds, which the woman wasn't and, therefore, the jobs were different. The court ruled in her favor and she was paid the same as men and was expected to do the same job.

She is now fighting a layoff because she became pregnant and said she couldn't lift 70 pounds. So the post office said that she couldn't do her job.

I feel that we should treat people based on their ability, not on their sex.

Sometimes a movement singles out unimportant issues that become the battleground and the whole perspective of what really should be accomplished is lost.

Eliminating male and female in classified ads is more of a detriment to our readers than what it accomplishes for the recognition of the role of women in the business world.

# Observation Point

by PHILIP H. POWER



Living with double-digit inflation can have some unexpected social consequences these days.

For example, I consider newspaper scavenging. A couple of weeks ago, we ran a story about the problems they're having in Birmingham, where there is a city newspaper recycling program.

Last year, newspaper recycling plants paid \$10 per ton for old newspapers. But with today's inflation, the price has jumped to \$30 per ton.

As the price has risen, so has newspaper scavenging. People are driving around Birmingham in anything from compact cars to old vans to gleaming Cadillacs, swiping bundled newspapers left at curbside for the city's collection service.

This practice, together with increased competition in the old newspapers field from civic and charitable groups, has cut the tonnage going through the city's recycling plant.

**NEWSPRINT**, once regarded as almost a "free good," has become a valuable commodity.

Recycling plants generally ask few questions if someone drives up with a pickup truck loaded down with bundles of old newspapers. And if you figure that you can get around a half a ton into the back of a station wagon, scavenging can bring \$15 per load, 10 days.

Tomorrow it could be more, since the price of newsprint keeps going up.

## High priced garbage wrapper

For example, last December the newsprint which we use to print this paper on cost us \$175 per ton. Since then, it has jumped in price to \$213 per ton, and just last week we received telegrams from our newsprint suppliers informing us that the new price as of July 1 would be \$235 per ton. A 34% increase in a little over a year and a half is pretty steep.

And last month, a newsprint industry spokesman shocked an audience of publishers by remarking that at today's interest rates and costs of new paper making machinery, newsprint would have to cost \$288 per ton before it became economically sound for paper companies to buy new equipment.

**SUCH PRICES** translate into some pretty startling numbers per newspaper.

The paper you are now reading averages in weight between 10.5 and 17 ounces, depending on the edition and the season of the year. If newsprint costs \$213 a ton, that's 10.65 cents per pound, or .666 cents per ounce. So the cost of the paper you are reading now—just in newsprint—ranges from 6.99 cents to 11.32 cents.

All this goes to show that what newspaper publishers used to say about their paper—that it was valuable for wrapping garbage after being read—now applies in many, many more ways in these days of inflation.

## From our readers

### School slighted

To the Editor:

The Observer-Eccentric has again slighted Pierce Elementary School. For this year's Michigan Week Parade the 550 students of Pierce School decorated and in part constructed the float to help celebrate their school's Semi-Centennial.

A picture would have been wonderful recognition for the children's hard work. But in the space limitations of a bi-weekly paper, however, I do believe your article covering the parade could at least have mentioned the float and the better than 65 students who marched with their float.

The Observer-Eccentric has in the past ignored Pierce Elementary School. This year Pierce had many unique activities; the most elaborate centered around the Heritage Festival.

Our fifth graders contributed and worked in the "old time" arts and craft show, while third and fourth graders diligently practiced to perform the Maypole, which was nicely photographed by the Detroit News, rather than by our own home town paper.

All of the school activities have been relayed well in advance to reporters at The Eccentric.

I do not expect all of our Pierce School activities to be covered but I do feel that some of these things could have been recognized, especially our project which evolved from the effort and work of the student body, teachers, administrative staff, custodians, PTA and parents at the Pierce School.

Mrs. Ann Forester  
Pierce School, Students  
Birmingham  
May 28, 1974

### Millage supported

To the Editor:

The citizens of the Southfield school district on July 10 voted in

resounding positive fashion in favor of the millage renewal propositions placed before them. In an unprecedented fashion, voters in every precinct in Southfield and Latrup Village said "yes" to continuing financial support of the public education of the children in the school district.

As has been reported in the pages of this newspaper, the school board called for a "yes" vote on the millage renewal was absolutely necessary to continue a quality educational program in Southfield-Latrup.

**IT IS MOST** gratifying to the writers of this letter, the rest of the school board and, as we believe, to the children in the district, to the administrators, teaching staff, custodians, secretaries and all other employees of the school district that the millage renewal request was approved. It was not only approved, but approved by margins ranging from two to one to 10 to one. Thank you all for your support.

To those citizens voters who did vote "no" on the millage request, we will attempt in the coming months and years to do an even better job of providing excellent educational opportunities for every student in the school district at the most economical cost so that at the time of our next millage request you may be favorably disposed to vote "yes."

Leonard Teicher  
Robert Wright  
School Board Millage Committee  
June 11, 1974

### Outlaw guns

To the Editor:

Crime must be reduced and one way to help reduce it is to outlaw handguns completely. It is shocking to read and hear how many of

our legislators and people in public office carry a gun. Maybe this is their answer to crime—have every one carry a gun. And as crime increases, have everyone carry a machine gun—that would really do the job.

Carrying a gun may help them, but what about the protection of the common everyday working person going to and from their job or running their business? They have to live in the towns, walk on the sidewalks and shop in the stores. What about the children? They can't be carrying a gun to protect themselves while going to and from school. What about the women? They can't be carrying a gun to protect themselves while going to and from the grocery store or shopping center.

For the safety and welfare of all people in our fine civilized United States, the following action must be taken: (1) Handguns must be outlawed completely, (2) Legislators must pass stricter laws for crimes involving guns, (3) Judges must give stiffer sentences to convicted criminals, (4) People must give more support to their police force in apprehending criminals.

Ray Clark  
Pontiac  
June 4, 1974

### Wonderful experience

To the Editor:  
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Kathleen Sage  
Farmington Hills  
May 31, 1974

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