



## More streaking

The streaking craze may have quieted down, but one Southfield resident seems to want to get it started again. He approached people on city streets last week seeking the legalization of streaking. Who knows, in an election year maybe it will pass?

# Gravel pits meandanger

By LORIN LABARDEE

Tuesday (July 9) was the sort of scorching summer day when all you wanted to do was find a cool place and take it easy.

A 15-year-old Rochester youth found his cool place at the gravel pit off Hamlin Road near Ryan Road in Shelby Township.

He drowned in the pit about 2 p.m. that day.

The spot Michael Kunz chose was not unusual. Youths from Rochester, Avon Township, Shelby Township and other surrounding communities constantly flock to area gravel pits for fun in the sun.

The attractions to the pits are numerous. They are secluded, no admission is charged and no one to tell you what to do.

BUT THE QUIET, blue water is a deadly facade. It hides the hazards that make the pits places where teenage youths lose their lives having a good time.

Most gravel pits, according to Joseph Allard, an officer with the Macomb County Sheriff's Department's Marine Division, are spring fed.

This means the water temperature in the pits is often 20 to 40 degrees colder than the air temperature, Allard said.

"The kids dive into the water and the change in temperature is such a shock to the victim that he gets short of breath."

"They can't breathe and the exhaustion they experience is almost tripled, they struggle to get out of the cold water, lose strength and disappear," he said.

IN ADDITION to the extremely cold water, Allard said, the depths of

gravel pits can vary greatly from one point to another.

"Around the edge, the water may be only two or three inches deep, but you take a couple steps and you could go down 40 feet," he said.

Undermining the practice whereby gravel pit operators dig into the side of the pit, can also be a hazard for swimmers.

A swimmer may find a ledge to stand on in the middle of the pit but the ledge could break or the swimmer could fall off into much deeper water. Islands in the middle of the pits are a big attraction among swimmers.

They go out there to party and drink and eat, then try to swim back to shore and can't.

MOST OF THE gravel pits that are frequented by area youths are located in Shelby Township.

Shelby Township police and Macomb County Sheriff's deputies say they know the hazards of the pits but keeping the kids out is an impossible job.

"I can't think of anyway to keep these people out," Allard said.

"No trespassing" signs do no good at all, police report.

"People tear them down faster than we can put them up," Allard said.

The usual method police use to stop the kids is to write them tickets under Shelby Township's trespassing ordinance.

Allard said as many as 40 youths have been ticketed for trespassing in a gravel pit at one time.

"IT DOESN'T DO any good. After the tickets, it slacks off for a week or so and then bang, the kids are right back in there again."

One Macomb County Sheriff's deputy

ty reported that as ambulance attendants were taking the drowned boy's body from the gravel pit more kids were coming in:

"They just kind of looked and shrugged and walked on by," he said.

This year, there has been only one drowning in a Shelby Township gravel pit. Police officials say they hope it stays that way.

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## School board tables teacher strike bill

SOUTHFIELD — A resolution asking for changes in the state law regarding teacher strikes failed to make it off the drawing board at the Southfield Board of Education meeting July 23.

The resolution, which calls for better enforcement of strike laws and removal of criminal penalties now levied against school boards, was tabled for an indefinite period by the board.

The resolution, adopted by the Flint Board of Education on Dec. 12, 1973 calls for:

- Legislation that specifies all labor contracts entered into between boards of education and teacher unions have as their termination time the date of

June 30 of the year the contract expires.

- Rejection of compulsory arbitration as a tool for settlement of impasses in negotiations.

- Removal of penalties now levied against boards of education, including loss of state aid, fines and imprisonment should they be forced to operate a school year for less than 180 days because of a strike.

- Legislation to provide means for the enforcement of the law prohibiting public employee strikes, or the enactment of laws legalizing strikes by such groups under conditions that would free school boards from the 180 mandated days and obligate public employees to assume economic risks.

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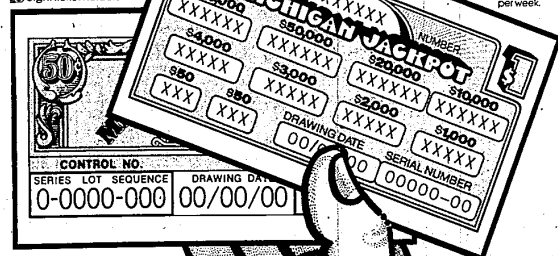
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## Providence expands emergency facility

A new trauma unit and additional treatment facilities are among the major features of the recently completed expansion of the Providence Hospital Emergency Department. The construction project added 800 square feet to give the Emergency Department a total area of 4,200 square feet. The new section contains a two-bed trauma unit for the treatment of seriously ill or injured patients, five additional treatment cubicles and a nursing station. The reception and waiting areas were remodeled to provide more comfort and better service to patients and visitors. A separate room is now available for families to confer with physicians or to wait during critical periods.

The expansion was accomplished at a cost approaching \$100,000 and will enable Providence to render comprehensive emergency care until an entirely new Emergency Department is constructed.

"A much larger emergency facility has been a top priority item in our long-range planning, but it was evident that the critical space shortage could not wait until our new building is ready in three years," said Sister Gertrude Badnager, hospital administrator. "This major investment was necessary so that we can continue to give the highest level of care to the residents of our service area."

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