

editorial opinion

Dan McCosh's Column



Assessing the budget cuts

The cuts made by the Farmington School Board remind one of someone trying to wake up a sleeping elephant by poking him with a stick, trying to find where the beast is ticklish.

Lingering in the background is the feeling at least a few were made for the shock value. This is not to blame the school board, or the administration, for trimming the budget.

They had to swallow cost increases which exceeded their revenue by a sizable chunk, and the cuts are painful.

The atmosphere around the administration building is difficult to describe.

A couple of the more case-hardened administrators see a changing attitude towards education.

FOR THE PAST couple of years the colleges recruiters have been coming into town in a big way, trying to attract students. Any secondary or elementary school administrator has got to think when the kids look twice at college, their parents are going to be looking twice at the public schools.

The gains in public education over the past 10 years or so couldn't go on forever. Teacher salary increases

have been jumping past growth in the private sector of the economy every year since collective bargaining began.

It had to stop sometime, and maybe this is the time. But others saw Farmington edging its way to the top among suburban school districts, with the slow, painful, addition of programs.

These people see the cuts as a serious setback, a year backward which could take two or three years to turn around.

But now that school has started, the cuts are being felt.

Athletics, art, music, bus schedules are all feeling the pinch.

A school is closed, and a lot of kids come home to lunch who used to stay in school.

The fact remains that the public schools are the only public service which must go regularly to the people for a vote of confidence, lest their financial support disappear.

This is being brought home to many residents of the Farmington district as the aggravation of change is felt.



Modulation by MICHAEL MARCELLINO

Nobody's perfect

At lunch the other day, conversation drifted to the price of gold and silver. Someone mentioned the papers were carrying ads offering three and four times the face value for non-clad (silver) quarters.

One fellow started telling about a time when he was six or so years old and how he liked ice cream cones from the corner store. We listened to find out how he was going to connect that ice cream with the boost in demand for silver.

"ONE DAY I found some pennies in the top of my father's desk drawer," the storyteller continued.

"I took one of the pennies down to the ice cream store to see if I could obtain one of those cones," he related.

"The man said he liked my penny so much that he gave me an extra special portion. And, he would do the same each time I gave him a penny like the one I had handed him," he said.

Well, we had all guessed by this time that the storyteller had given away an Indian Head penny. Of course, we expected the worst and, sure enough, several more pennies found their way to the ice cream store.

"MY FATHER was a rather direct and strong spoken man," said the storyteller. "When he found out about the missing pennies, I expected the worst."

His father, however, did not react to the situation in his normally strong manner.

The storyteller recalled that his father said, something about "that I would understand" later.

Well, the storyteller, Dr. Don Peckenpaugh, told us that later in life, his father's Indian Head penny collection passed to his possession.

ABOUT THIS point in the story, I had taken a rather superior attitude. Here was the superintendent of Birmingham schools admitting he was human. He had erred. And, he had lost quite a nice piece of change in the process.

That was about the time I remembered "borrowing" a few quarters from a bag in my father's room once or twice during my own youth.

That's right. They were older quarters and they were silver. And, my parents gave the whole bag to me some years ago.

Well, nobody's perfect.

From our readers

Bus service ended

To the Editor:

I formerly worked in downtown Detroit and moved with my company in May, 1973 to their present location in Southfield at 10 1/2 Mile and Evergreen Road, and have need to take a bus from Northland to my office.

At the time of my move I was informed by SEMTA that there would be bus service to my building on a regular basis. I have now been informed that this service is being discontinued as of Monday.

I feel this is a gross injustice to the people who use this bus line as it is the only means of transportation to those unfortunate enough to not own a car.

There have been many, many times when we have had to wait in the bitter cold or rain for the bus only to have to resort to more costly means of getting to work when the bus did not show up at all.

I HAVE BEEN TOLD that this bus could be re-routed along Lahser Road, but this would be of no help to those who work on Evergreen Road where

there are many office buildings and people requiring transportation.

I am sure if this bus is discontinued it would certainly prove to be an inconvenience for the many people who use it. I, for one, know I would have to quit my job and try to get another one where the busses run more often.

I am the only breadwinner in my family and have children to support and therefore I cannot think to look for work elsewhere.

I look to you for a logical answer. Please advise.

Pauline Cauch
Sept. 6, 1974

Your ecology calendar

Ecology-minded persons who wish to save cans, bottles or newspapers for recycling may use these facilities.

To prepare glass, thoroughly wash the containers, remove all metal caps and rings from the glass and separate the glass by color.

To prepare cans, clean only. Paper need not be removed.

Newspapers should be tied in bundles with heavy string or rope or secured in heavy paper bags.

• BIRMINGHAM-Daily newspaper pickup with regular trash. Newspapers must be bundled separately.

• BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP- Behind the township offices, 4200 Telegraph Road, just south of Long Lake Road. Between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m., Saturdays. Glass and clean cans are collected each week. All aluminum items accepted. Newspapers collected on the last Saturday of each month.

• GROVES ECOLOGY CLUB- Bundled or bagged newspapers and cardboard will be collected from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Friday and 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday the second week of each month at the high school's front parking lot.

• LATHRUP VILLAGE-At the Public Services Building, 19101 Twelve Mile Road, adjacent to the

high school. Newspapers are collected 10 a.m.-2 p.m. by volunteers the first Saturday of each month.

• PONTIAC-Oakland County Recycling Center, 550 S. Telegraph, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. every Saturday. Groups bringing in more than 500 lbs. of glass will receive \$10 per ton for glass.

• SOUTHFIELD-In the old city offices, 26000 Berg Road at Ten and One-half Mile, one block east of Telegraph.

• TROY-At the DPW Yard, 4695 Rochester Road, from 9 a.m. to noon on the first and third Saturday of each month.

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CROWLEY'S

Come out and play mates,

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Carter brings its wonderful way with knits into the great outdoors--just for kids. And will they ever have fun playing in them. Smart pants are topped off with adorable pinafores and jackets for girls, appliqued sweaters and jackets for boys. Everything is sturdy and heavy enough to withstand the most rambunctious activity, even on chilly autumn days. And when winter comes, these sets slip easily under a coat. Choose from these and other styles in bright, patterned tops and solid pants of machine-washable polyester/acrylic or acrylic double knits. Toddlers' 2T, 3T, 4T; girls' sizes 4 to 6X. Sets priced from \$8.50 to \$14. Toddlers' (#16) and Girls' Wear (#56) at all eight stores.



WESTBORN CENTER Livonia Mall BIRMINGHAM FARMINGTON
Michigan at Quaker Drive 7 Mile & Westland 200 North Woodward 12 Mile & Farmington Rd

