

# editorial opinion

## Local teachers show sense

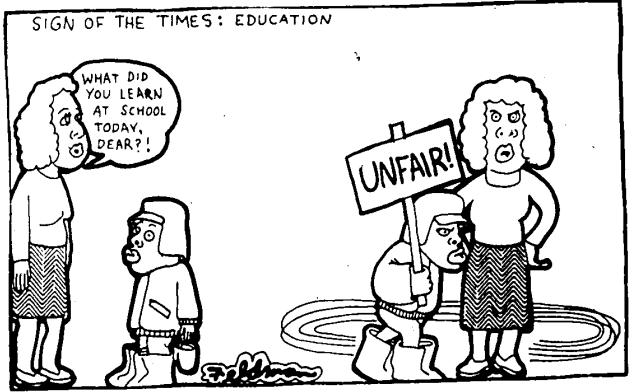
Teachers in Farmington and Southfield have displayed little interest in sympathy strikes for teachers fired by the Crestwood School District. Although neither teachers' organization has taken an official position, informal comments from both union officials and individual teachers indicate a sympathy strike is unlikely. Teachers and their unions are show-

ing good sense by not walking out over the problems in another school district. Farmington and Southfield teachers can show support for Crestwood teachers, if they are inclined, by giving money or moral backing. Local school districts have enough problems of their own without adopting the troubles of other districts.

## Lathrup loses valuable leader

Lathrup Village's city council looks different now. After 17 years, Mrs. Elizabeth Stanton has retired from the council. Mrs. Stanton has lived in Lathrup since 1935 and has been a member of the city council since 1957. For 15 of the 17 years she has served on the council, she was mayor pro tem of the city.

improvements made in the city are owing to Mrs. Stanton's dedication and interest. When the residents of a community are active in government and local affairs, the community and the individual residents benefit. Mrs. Stanton says she has enjoyed her years of involvement in Lathrup's government and in civic affairs. The community is in a reciprocal position, for it has grown and improved from Mrs. Stanton's contributions.



## 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. to 2 p.m. by volunteers the first Saturday of each month.
- PONTIAC**-Oakland County Recycling Center, 550 S. Telegraph, 9 a.m. to 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, 25000 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.

## Eccentricities

by HANK HOGAN



## Ford in no-win position

Too many people expect the president of the United States, in his State of the Union message next week, to pull a rabbit out of his hat and solve the economic woes of the nation. Our national financial woes did not happen over a short period of time and, therefore, are not going to be solved in a short period of time. Our inflationary trend can be traced to the period when John Kennedy asked Congress to reduce taxes to help the economy. Obviously, if Ford requests the same thing - and he probably will - he will be trying to serve the near-term recession, boosting the possibility of long-term inflation.

**WE ARE IN** a recession today because Arthur Burns, the head of the Federal Reserve Board, has tried single-handedly to fight inflation over the last two years because he was not getting any cooperation from either the former president or Congress.

Through Federal Reserve Board action he has dried up funds, which has all but killed the housing industry and stifled industry growth because of high interest rates on borrowings.

If the Fed were to reverse its policy and make money freely available, which it is starting to do, it will help the near-term recession because industry can then afford to expand and new jobs will be created. But, in the long term, it will be feeding fuel to the fire of inflation because the more money that is available when the number of goods remains the same, the more the prices of the goods goes up.

**IT SEEMS RIDICULOUS**, but it is obvious that no matter what Ford does will be wrong because it will either fight the recession and help in-

flation or make the recession deeper in order to kill the inflationary trend. There are some long range decisions Mr. Ford can make. The first, of course, is to review government spending. While we are going to have to spend more money on social things such as welfare, unemployment, and federally-created job spending, we must spend less money in helping other nations create wars and keeping petty potates in office against the wills of the people of those nations.

Charity does begin at home

As a major nation we have a responsibility to the world to help the less fortunate, but our responsibility must start at home first.

**IF THE MID-EAST** countries are able to disrupt our economy by playing around with oil prices, then we must use our vast resources in this country to create new sources of energy that don't involve oil and we must put mandatory controls on the amount of foreign oil that comes into the country so that our payments to foreign nations don't bankrupt us.

But most important, our country cannot ride out the present problems unless there is the cooperation of the executive and legislative branches to promote one concrete, positive program.

An attempt to solve our problems should have been made a year ago but the country got so immersed in Watergate that our serious domestic problems were ignored. It is important that the Congress does not let itself get waylaid into investigations into CIA's and other things that happened in the past until they have solved our top priority problems, which are the health and well-being of our nation.

## Observation Point

by PHILIP H. POWER

Over the past two weeks, the smoldering dispute between suburban teacher unions and suburban boards of education has flared into outright area-wide confrontation.

It's a situation which has disillusioned the children, angered the parents, and paralyzed both the authority of state and law and the efficiency of the public education system.

Worse yet, it's a situation in which no one party can be entirely blamed. Responsibility must settle on the shoulders of both the teachers unions (misnamed "education associations") and the school boards, with ultimate accountability resting with the State Legislature sitting safely in Lansing.

**MEMBERS** of suburban school boards are, by and large, concerned, public spirited people who assumed the difficult burden of running school systems because of their commitment to education.

There is a hard job, made much more difficult by the relatively recent phenomenon of teacher unions. Some local school boards, inexperienced in collective bargaining, have allowed passions to run too high.

Some members of some boards have made it plain they would like nothing more than to eliminate the unions altogether - which is obviously absurd, given the heavy labor union orientation of this part of the state.

**MEMBERS** of suburban teacher unions have faced similarly intractable problems.

Often unskilled themselves in collective bargaining, the teachers have found themselves caught in a difficult bind between rapidly increasing costs of living and only slowly (if at all) increasing money to support the schools.

So far protected from having to endure economic penalty for striking by the state requirement of 180 days of school, some teacher union representatives appear to want to broaden the Crestwood dispute into a wider theater in order to



## Public sours on schools

gain area-wide bargaining in which their economic clout would be magnified.

**WHO HAS** made all this possible?

Clearly, the State Legislature, which has stood idly by for the past several years, leaving state law abrid to allow collective bargaining rights but forbid the right to strike.

For the last two years, both teacher union representatives and school officials - not to mention the governor's office and the State Board of Education - have known full well that legislative action was necessary to resolve the contradiction. But no one had the guts to do anything, especially in the election year of 1974.

WHERE WILL it all end?

In the short run, it is virtually certain that 1975 will see some kind of state law passed to resolve the teacher bargaining problem - probably involving both a set timetable for negotiations and some kind of binding arbitration if bargaining fails to reach a settlement.

In the long run, it may be that this solution will be like the old joke about the scientist who rushed out of his lab one day, crying, "I have discovered a cure for which there is no longer a disease!"

I fear that the Garden City and Crestwood situations, following a long and tangled series of other teacher union-school board hassles, has fatally eroded public confidence in our school system. It may be that parents and taxpayers will get so disgusted with the whole mess that they will simply refuse outright to vote any taxes to pay for the collectively bargained contracts that the teacher unions, the school boards and the Legislature appear to want so much.

And then, having killed the goose that laid the golden egg, all three parties may be left standing around with plain, old, ordinary egg on their faces.

## From our readers

### 'Snow job'

Editor:

I would like to comment on City Manager George Majors' criticism of the Oakland County "snow job." Brother, we've had a "snow job" from both Oakland County and the City of Farmington (Hills) for the entire three years we have lived on Tuck Road. We have to park on Nine Mile and walk through ankle-deep mud every year, and no sidewalks, taking our lives in our hands each time we walk on the road after dark. When we call to complain we are told to have the road paved. We asked to have it paved and were promised it would be done before winter, 1974. In the summer we can't see approaching cars when trying to get out onto Grand River because of high weeds. Finally called the state to get the weeds cut down on the corners. If you think Farmington roads were bad after the snow, wish you had to drive into Detroit via Grand River, Six Mile, Schaefer. Personally, I think the county did a commendable job during the snow situation. Mr. Majors is likened to the pot calling the kettle black after the run around we get from the city each time we call to complain about Tuck Road. It made the big snow worth all the inconvenience to me if it caused Mr. Majors just a little frustration we put up with all year.

MARGARET ARNOLD Farmington

**'A great place...'**

Editor:

While visiting in Farmington Hills Woodbine Subdivision recently, I be-

came an unwilling prisoner, along with the residents, after the big snow storm.

Those who called city hall on Monday were assured the snow plows would arrive. My family and animals needed me at home so I called city hall Tuesday and got the same snow job. "The snow plows will arrive in that subdivision today."

I arranged for a pickup by late afternoon. No plows had arrived and the road was so bad the vehicle suffered a mechanical breakdown and 15 hours later a tow truck arrived. The residents had been unable to get to the stores or to get a doctor to come in until late Wednesday. Considering the tax bills paid by the residents, they have always been really neglected and the nonexistent services are shameful.

During the last nine years we have lived in rural areas of Ocoche, Gray-

ling and Blissfield. Our taxes averaged \$220 a year, yet we have always been plowed out within two hours of any snow storm.

As the saying goes "It's a great place to visit but I wouldn't want to live there!"

MRS. W. BACLAWSKI Blissfield

**Hope helped family**

Editor: Enclosed you will find a letter I received from the mother of a family which you were kind enough to publish in the recent issues of your paper.

I would personally like to thank you for all the efforts made in their behalf. They did receive not only financial and material assistance from the articles, but I believe they received something else they were sorely lacking - hope.

Please accept our very best wishes for success in the coming year and our thanks for the wonderful cooperation we have received during the past year.

THOMAS FROMMEYER, Director

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The letter refers to articles about a needy family. The following is the letter Frommeyer received from the family: "I cannot write to the newspaper because I must sign my name and they would want to print it. So perhaps you'd be kind enough to let them and

all who came to our aid know how grateful we are.

"It's not only the material things far from it, it's the caring, the time spent on getting help to us, people going out of their way to help people they never met before. The gift of brotherly love is so precious and deserving of so many thank yous."

"It's this gift, most of all, that is constantly on my mind. I shall never ever fail to remember this Xmas because I received the greatest gift of all."

### Teachers take jobs

Editor:

Mary Ellen Riordan (president of the Detroit Federation of Teachers) said, "I'm appalled that one teacher would take another teacher's job. They're nothing but thieves."

How ironic! I too am appalled. Not for the reasons mentioned above but for the greed and indifference to the livelihood of many of us building tradesmen who advertise in your paper.

I've been a carpenter and cabinet maker for some 30-odd years and I'm proud to say a damned good one!

In the same column under "Covers," there are two other ads. Each is a teacher! One says "moonlighting teacher." The other says "industrial arts teacher."

They both want the same thing, to wit: Carpenter work for weekends and holidays.

They want my work! Good gosh, how greedy and rotten can they get? Building tradesmen like myself are dependent entirely on the jobs we get. We have no guaranteed income or any other fine benefits that teachers automatically get.

Have you part-timers ever considered tutoring a handicapped kid that can't get to school?

If this sounds like I'm bellyaching, you can be yours sweet bippie I am!

V. T. GUILMETTE, The Village Carpenter, Farmington

## f.y.i.\*

\* For Your Information

While a movie about a "towering inferno" was playing at local theaters, Southfield firemen battled a mini-version.

Fire broke out in a pile of scrap wood on the second floor of the uncompleted AMC high-rise headquarters building.

Firemen hauled hoses up to the second floor of the superstructure. To fight the blaze and brought it under control within minutes. No one was injured and damage was considered light.

The fire was promptly labeled "The Covering Inferno."