

editorial opinion

Outside survey not needed now

The Farmington school board acted wisely when it decided not to spend \$3,000 of taxpayers' money at this time for a survey.

The board voted not to award a contract for demographic and attitudinal survey of the school district. Officials proposed a survey in order to determine what kind of school system the community wants.

The prime reason given for opposing the survey was that the PTA is conducting an informal "coffee and comment" program of its own.

District officials need all the information they can get about a district and its residents in order to plan and implement any educational program. However, now is not the time to buy a survey with doubtful long-range or short-range usefulness. An intensive study, conducted by district

personnel, should be planned for the future.

Although the PTA's study will be of questionable scientific validity, it has one important factor in its favor. A survey by the PTA will involve more school district residents.

School district residents should know that the future of the system is in their hands, not the board's or the staff's. It is up to residents to decide what kind of education they want for their children.

In addition, the district and PTA might get together to attempt a more formal survey than the "coffee and comment" format. District personnel might set up a sampling system and write a questionnaire. The PTA and other community groups could do the leg work to gather the necessary information.

The speech, not the speaker

Announcement that John W. Dean III has been engaged to speak at Oakland University appears to have inspired a flurry of protest on the campus.

The protest centers on the concern of some that the student activity fee would be supporting the appearance of a convicted criminal. Dean, former counsel to President Nixon, was released from prison in January after his sentence had been commuted.

IT NOW appears that the speaking engagement will pay its own way and may even turn a profit. The event, scheduled for Feb. 7, is open to the public. People appear to be interested in what Dean has to say.

The fact that there is high interest in Dean appears to justify his selection as a speaker by the university's concert-lecture board.

CERTAINLY THE fact that someone has been convicted of a crime, served his sentence and has apparently made serious attempts at restitution does not justify ostracizing an individual from society nor the speaker's platform.

The merit of an idea lies not so much in who presents it but in the soundness of the idea, itself. At this writing, reports from Oakland University tend to indicate that much of the initial opposition to Dean's appearance is losing momentum. That is as it should be.

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.

•ROCHESTER—Bottles are collected at Jaycees Recycling Center, Mill Street, under the bridge, the first and third Saturdays, between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Separate colors into brown

green and white—and plate glass or light bulbs.

•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.

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

•BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP—Behind the township offices, 4200 Telegraph Road, just south of Long Lake Road, between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m., Sat-

urdays. Glass and clean cans are collected each week. All aluminum items accepted. Newspapers collected on the last Saturday of each month.

•BIRMINGHAM—Daily newspaper pickup with regular trash. Newspapers must be banded separately.

•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.

•LATIRUP VILLAGE—At the Public Services Building, 19101 Twelve Mile Road.

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Social issues 2nd

Editor:

As a parent and resident taxpayer in the city of Southfield, I feel it is necessary to write an open letter of information for all residents of this city to read.

My attendance at School Board meetings in the city of Southfield, over a period of four years is one that I am proud of. It has always been my belief that any school system can only benefit by the constructive interest and support of parents.

In writing this letter, I want to express my concerns in the way our district is operating. Meetings of the board of education are held bi-monthly. They are scheduled to begin at 8 p.m. and usually are drawn out beyond the 11:30 p.m. hour. Members of the community who are in attendance are very few and far between, unless there is a valuable issue at hand. Apathy plays an upper hand in the community.

Recently our board has been under fire for its unresponsiveness to this community. And as a result, four of our seven board members—Leonard Teicher, Harold Bussey, Walter Johnson and Robert Schwarz—are subjects of a recall drive. For those who are involved in the recall, continued success is my wish for you. For those who have not taken the time to become involved, please do.

There are important problems to be solved in this district. It has become necessary for parents to come before this board to plead and beg for neces-

sary programs. It has also become necessary to embarrass the board in order to have action in certain areas.

I will explain the pleading by stating that parents from Southfield 10 had to come with petitions in hand with signatures from both parents and staff included. The petition was a seal and request spanning over a period of two and one half years begging for a resource room in their building. Many parents have to tutor their children to try to prevent academic failures.

A pathetic explanation of the embarrassment of this board took place a few weeks ago, when parents had to bring their severely-handicapped children and place them in front of this board to try to get the assurance of necessary safe transportation for them to Farmington schools.

We have a declining enrollment in Southfield. However, we do have a constant tax base. We have financial problems, everyone does, but I feel there are ways to provide necessary programs in this district.

We have an elementary school in operation with an enrollment of 115 students. This includes K-5 and a staff of four. If necessary I suggest the closing down of this building and utilizing funds for the academically-talented child, increasing programs for the learning disabled and improving programs for the special education students.

My attendance at the Jan. 14, 1975, meeting is the reason for the following information. A student from Southfield-Lathrup High School wanted to present a petition to the board and solicit their support in favor of a boy-

cott on the removal of Teamster lettuce from the school cafeteria. I personally applauded the student for his interest in such matters.

However, for the board to agree to even consider studying or obtaining further information on this subject appeals me. I expect educating the students of Southfield to be the primary function of this board, and making sure all children in this district are educated to their fullest potential. If the board can successfully accomplish this, then they may have time to consider social issues. However, in my opinion they will never finish trying to educate.

DIANE E. KOPACH
Southfield

Article distasteful

Editor:

I am a friend of Susan Jakko, and I am not only writing for myself, but for many other of her friends. The whole article on the Jakko family was very distasteful, written, and very, very cold. The whole article talks about the money that the family had, and the payments on their plane.

It is bad enough for Dr. Jakko's friends to tell you this, but for you to print this is outrageous. Anything to get a story.

Who really cares about the material things which the family had? They had less money than they had a special love throughout the family. The article makes it sound as if all they cared about was money with which they could buy material things.

Eccentricities

by HANK HOGAN



Mayor of special interests

Isn't it about time that the honeymoon ends for Coleman Young, mayor of Detroit?

For many years the blacks in Detroit have been saying that Detroit's problems could be solved if a black mayor were elected, because he would represent the majority. This generality has put Detroit where it is today.

What Detroit needs is a good administrator, whether he be black or white, because the running of Detroit is a big business.

IN HIS TERM of office, Coleman Young has proven that he is a mayor of special interests, a politician, and a poor administrator.

The latest example is hiring a girl as the temporary head of the law department in Detroit for close to \$40,000 a year. She graduated from law school less than a year ago, flunked the bar exam and has never practiced law.

Prior to that appointment, he put his girl friend on the payroll as head of the Bicentennial celebration at over \$35,000 a year. When the Free Press investigated what was being done by her department, the answer came back, "nothing."

One of the first things he did as mayor of Detroit was to put Stress out of business. If you remember, this was the operation of the Detroit police department where plain clothesmen roamed the streets of Detroit, luring street robbers into a trap, arresting them and taking them off the streets.

Since Stress is no longer operational, major street crimes have increased dramatically in the city of Detroit.

Observation Point

by PHILIP H. POWER



The biggest hot potato in American politics these days is the question of what to do to cut the nation's dependence on outside oil supplies by reducing the demand for petroleum products—and who will take responsibility for making the decision.

Unfortunately, the two major proposals so far advanced—increasing the price of gas at the pumps by taxation or restricting the supply by rationing—both penalize folks who live in the suburbs.

Let's consider the advantages and disadvantages of both proposals from a suburban point of view.

ON THE SURFACE, President Ford's proposal to drive down demand for gas by taxing imported crude oil seems fair and sensible. It would not entail the vast bureaucracy that a rationing system would, and it would depend on the mechanisms of the free market to restrict use of gas as its price rises.

But, suburbanites do much, much more driving than the rest of the population, and hence an increase in gas prices would affect us in the suburbs much, much more than the rest of the country.

Many people live in the suburbs but work in downtown Detroit or elsewhere, and because there is essentially no worthwhile mass transit in this area they are dependent on their car (and expensive gas) to get to work. Even people who live and work in the suburbs are required by the spread-out nature of our community geography to use their car to drive to work or take the kids to school, or shop.

The only counter-argument to this suburban analysis is that, in general, people in the suburbs are richer than people who live downtown or in rural areas, and that to tax by increased gas prices wealthy suburbanites is fair.

We have always said in this paper that the suburbanites owe a duty to the core city to see that it is healthy because there are no fine suburbs if you have a deteriorated core city.

BUT THE MAYOR of Detroit apparently doesn't want suburban help and was even considering the closing of the Detroit Institute of Art because it cost the city of Detroit money to operate and is used primarily by people who live outside of Detroit.

His parochialism and reversed racism has now made Detroit one of the sickest cities in the nation.

We would all like to be positive about Detroit because it has many fine attributes, but the longer Coleman Young remains in office the more difficult it is to try to be positive about the city.

Coleman Young is in office to stay for a long time unless he is recalled by the voters. Obviously, suburbanites have no role in such a recall. Because Coleman Young is black it is doubtful that there would be enough voters in Detroit who would petition for a recall for fear that they would be accused of racism.

Yet, if Young were white there's a good chance that he would have been booted out of office shortly after his election because of the way he has been running Detroit for his own special group of people, and these are not the black people in general.

He is not helping Detroit and we are sitting helplessly watching the city deteriorate.

Pay up or wait in line

THE RATIONING example would not penalize us in the suburbs directly in the pocketbook, but it sure would louse up our ordinary life style. Almost surely the consequence of rationing would be restricted gas supplies to almost all of us. How many of us could continue our ordinary driving style on only nine gallons a week, as the Administration predicts the results for rationing would be? Not many.

And for suburbanites no alternate means of transportation are available when gas supplies are restricted.

Hence, on these grounds, rationing seems like the worst possible alternative for us.

THERE IS ONE WAY out of the bind.

If we do not want to accept the progressive tax on suburbanites that an increase in gas taxes would entail, and if we want to maintain some kind of equity in gas availability that rationing would threaten, it would do well to consider the rationing plan suggested, among others, by Rep. Henry Reuss, newly named chairman of the House Banking Committee.

He would have a series of local boards, which would hold hearings for each recipient of gas rationing cards to determine the extent of normal and necessary driving, and adjust the gas allocation accordingly.

This system would be fair, but clumsy and probably very time consuming. It probably would be open to all kinds of abuses.

Hence, as is so often the case, there is no really perfect answer to the big problems. We can tax gas, and hence disproportionately tax ourselves in the suburbs. We can ration gas and threaten ourselves with serious curtailment of our ordinary way of life. Or we can set up neighborhood boards, which will result in confusion and delay.

You pay your money (or wait in your line at the pumps) and take your choice.

From our readers

Play a success

Editor:

We wish to let you know that the production of "Jack and the Beans" was a great success—over 800 people saw the performances. We can attribute much of this success directly to the great article-interview in your paper, both from phone calls and those who brought the paper to the shows.

Thank you very much for the help. I do hope the rest of the Children's Season is as great a success.

DONNA VALATKA
Southfield Repertory Theatre

Cypriot relief

Editor:

It was gratifying to see your article in the Jan. 9 issue of the Southfield Observer & Eccentric on the efforts of the Greek community to get relief supplies to the Cypriot refugees. We appreciate your assistance in communicating our message of the suffering of the Greek Cypriots to the public.

Thank you for your time to conduct the interview and for writing the article.

MARY LAFTER

Congress of American Hellenic Organizations of Michigan

Family was Christian

Editor:

I think how you wrote about the Jakko family was terrible. It talked too much about money. The family has a \$110,000 home. "Jakko bought the 1960 model plane which sells for about \$200,000 new"—"one instrument cost \$12,000."

What do we care how much things cost? The fact is that a family died. Money isn't everything. I think you put all the importance on money, not enough on how Christian that family was. What a great loss the relatives had. You made it sound like what they died was important than what they were.

MARY CHARTER
Farmington Hills

Decorum needed

Editor:

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PEGGY SUGRUE
Farmington Hills

Decorum needed

Editor:

Bob Kipper, in his article "Board Decorum Arrives" in the Jan. 16 issue of the Farmington Observer & Eccentric, ridicules decorum and the new

rules under which the Oakland County Board conducts its meetings. He seems to believe decorum is childish.

It is disturbing to read Mr. Kipper's comments that one commissioner called the new rules "kid's stuff," and that Commissioner Bernard Lennon of Ferndale put it best when he said their language sounded more like a Boy Scout handbook than a plan for grown men and women to follow.

The Boy Scout handbook is an integral part of a program to develop leadership, a sense of good citizenship and good character as stated in the Scout Law and includes, among other things, being trustworthy, courteous, thrifty and reverent.

I ask, "What's childish about that?" Important ideas or concepts do not have to be expressed in a verbose manner, or in sophisticated terms to be pertinent.

Perhaps Mr. Kipper and Commissioner Lennon are not aware of the objective of the Boy Scouts of America. I hope that being a good citizen and being trustworthy, courteous, thrifty and reverent are considered desirable characteristics by Oakland County officials.

The United States, as it prepares to celebrate its Bicentennial, needs grown men and women who have not forgotten "Boy Scout" principles.

LEE SMITH
Farmington