

The Farmington

ENTERPRISE & OBSERVER

Vol. 81, No. 75

Sunday, June 8, 1969

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

32 pages, 4 sections

15c a Copy

Philip H. Power, Publisher

today's hot line

what's inside

Teachers Endorse

The Farmington Education Association has endorsed Mrs. Patricia Smith, Jack Garcia and Richard Frankel as preferred candidates for the school board. Last Wednesday, The Enterprise & Observer announced its endorsements of Jack Garcia, Richard Frankel and Aldo Vagnozzi. The story on the FEA endorsements may be found on

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Hunters To Build

The Huron Valley Hunt and Fish Club is planning to build a clubhouse facility at Farmington and 9 Mile Roads. Their plans, city council action, and other council activities are reported upon.

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Pop Record

The "Mercyaires" of Mercy High School, with girls from Farmington, Livonia, Redford and Plymouth, have moved into the pop record market with a contribution to a new release being heard on the airways. Here's the story of how they did it.

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One Bus Line?

That's what's being proposed for southeastern Michigan, but how does a private bus operator see the situation? Tim Richard went to see the operator of Northville Coach Lines, which now or in the past has served most of Farmington, and got his ideas on how a consolidated bus system should work.

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Church Sounds

Special concerts by musicians from church-sponsored colleges are the order of this week in several Observerland churches. See the church pages to learn where to go for good sacred music.

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upcoming

SENATORS AND the attorney general are squabbling about whether enough is being done about the Mafia and organized crime. We'll have an exclusive story with local implications in Wednesday's edition. Watch for it!

EXTRA
MUSICAL
INSTRUMENTS?

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OBSERVER TWIN-ACTION WANT AD.....

Observer Want Ads
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12 Vie On Monday's Ballot

Candidates Take Stands On Grades, Protests, Sex Ed

By HOWARD KOHN

Candidates might win a seat in Monday's board of education election with less than 1,500 votes.

Nine candidates are crowded into the race for two four-year terms; and three more are running for an unexpired one-year term.

On the basis of previous elections, between 5,000 and 7,000 voters can be expected at the polls which open 7 a.m. and close 8 p.m. Assuming 5,000 voters cast their ballots equally, each candidate would get 1,500 votes.

Last year 5,844 voted in a three-way race for two seats. Richard Frankel and Gary Lichtman won with 3,465 and 2,782, respectively.

Monday's results should be much closer than that 680-vote span, probably going as low as 40-50 between some candidates. According to school officials, 21,245 voters are registered for the election. Broken down by precincts, there are 6,034 in precinct one, 4,206 in precinct two, 3,340 in precinct three and 5,665 in precinct four.

On the ballot for the four-year terms are Ronald Enders, Jack Garcia, Burton Levy, Irving Lichtman, Kenneth Perrin, Patricia Smith, Aldo Vagnozzi, Byron Waller and George Westlund. Mrs. Smith is the only incumbent.

Seeking the one-year opening are Richard Frankel, Stuart Rankin and Lucille Samuels. Candidates have been meeting in public forums. During the question-and-answer session before the League of Women Voters they tended to separate themselves into three distinct groups.

Levy, Vagnozzi, Frankel and

Rankin identified themselves with liberal policies. Mrs. Smith and Westlund with moderate policies; and Enders, Perrin and Waller with conservative ones.

Garcia, Lichtman and Mrs. Samuels were absent. Garcia explained he missed the meeting because of an athletic banquet honoring his son at North Farmington High School.

Nearly all candidates took stands on the following three major issues.

UNGRADED MARKING SYSTEM — A faculty curriculum committee is currently studying a plan to introduce this system into the elementary grades. The ungraded system is being used right now in four schools. The committee is expected to submit a recommendation later this month.

Rankin: "There are many kinds of grading systems that may be better than the A-through-F one. Possibly the best one I ever saw had the teacher writing out individual comments for a single student each night, rather than lumping all the grading into one day. I think a good grading system makes the parent aware of individual differences between children."

Frankel: "I have students who work for me on co-op. I give them written descriptions and then a teacher has to translate that into a letter grade. I don't think that's objectively possible."

Westlund: "Students are going to have to learn to compete against each other. I'm against an ungraded system."

Perrin: "I was a comfortable traditionalist on this subject. But I've changed my mind and now I think a combination graded and ungraded system would

be best."

Waller: "I'm afraid it. Parents need a guide to see how their children are progressing compared to other children."

Vagnozzi: "I don't want an ungraded system to be just a checklist. I'm in favor of having many more parent-teacher conferences which might be the best way to find out what your child is doing."

Enders: "I think we should bide our time until all of the junior highs, high schools and colleges have ungraded systems. Then it would be fair."

Smith: "I think we will know more when we get reports back from the schools, and the committee. I will wait and see what they recommend."

STUDENT PROTESTS — All-mot 300 students joined picket lines and 93 were later suspended at North Farmington this spring in a demonstration against dress regulations. At this point the dress rules are still in effect.

Waller: "This parading up and down in front of school is completely unwarranted. I feel very strongly about this. These kids disrupted our whole school system. They have to learn to accept rules the way they are because that's the way it is."

Levy: "Many teachers and administrators will spend more time on how a student looks than on what the student is learning in the classroom. In fact some administrators don't even know what is going on in the classroom. This particular incident should have been settled at the conference table long before it reached the point of confrontation. This is largely the administrators' fault. I believe that a principal can be just as wrong as a student."

Vagnozzi: "These students

exhausted all of the normal avenues of expression before they started to picket. I wish they hadn't carried it to the point they did but most of the blame must lie with the administration."

Rankin: "We are going to have to learn to deal firmly with both symptoms and causes of protests. Many kids have been sitting in the back of the room with their hands raised and nobody listening. Okay, now they're trying something loud and cheap and I think we better listen, because changes are needed. If a student if he can communicate with his counselor or his teachers. Find out how or we will have more protests instead of fewer."

Westlund: "I agree we need more outlets for students, but I think first we must deal severely with those who break the rules. That's the important item."

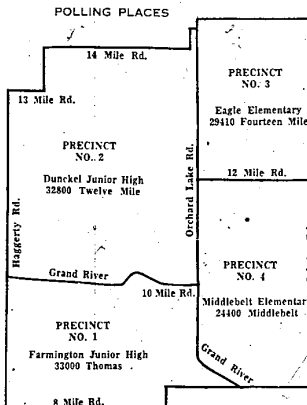
Perrin: "I agree with Byron Waller. Sex is a bad word."

Enders: "I don't have all the facts. But I support the administration's decision generally."

Frankel: "When my daughter graduated from North Farmington last year she told me of the communication problem there between students and the administration. Sophia thing did not happen all of a sudden. And I don't think it needed to happen if someone had been aware. As far as the allegations go, it was a good idea to involve the parents. And I understand that most students supported the demonstration."

Smith: "Once the administration is for representative, the board is for it."

SEX EDUCATION AND CADAEMIC FREEDOM — Farmington school presently have a limited sex and family life



program but no continuing sex education courses. A citizens' advisory committee is studying the issue. Teachers are also worried whether the board would support them if they answered sex or drug questions in unrelated classes.

Westlund: "I've heard that some teachers use obscenity in explaining sex to students, so I don't want teachers to have the freedom to say what they please. Any mention of sex in school should be closely monitored."

Enders: "I completely oppose sex classes or questions in school. The reason you educate a kid about sex, the sooner he's going to be tempted."

Rankin: "I would support the maximum amount of freedom for teachers although I wouldn't give them carte blanche powers. I think Farmington needs sound, sensible sex and drug courses."

Frankel: "If sex could be introduced in school as part of

normal life instead of placing it in that never-neverland, we might have less problems with unwanted pregnancies. Sure, I'd like my children to learn about sex in the bridal chamber, too, but that's not the way this world is. So I'd much rather have them learn about it in school than in the backseat of a car."

Perrin: "I don't think a teacher should ever bring up the subject. And I don't think unmarried teachers are qualified to answer questions on sex at the upper grades. We have to be very careful in this area. I've heard of a teacher who told her kindergarten students there was no Santa Claus. That sort of teacher would be a disaster in a sex education course."

Smith: "I am waiting for the advisory committee's recommendation."

Levy: "Maybe if we had regular sex and drug courses, students wouldn't have to bring up the subject in other classes."

1,008 Seniors Stage Walkout

The biggest day in the lives of 1,008 Farmington young people is almost here—it's the day they receive their high school diplomas, the ones it took 12 years to earn.

North Farmington High will graduate its largest class to date, 514 seniors. Farmington High's graduates number 410. Our Lady of Sorrows will graduate 84 and Our Lady of Mercy, whose enrollment covers a widespread area, will present diplomas to 298 graduates.

THESE ARE some changes this year.



RAIDERS SWING — North Farmington seniors enter the auditorium Thursday afternoon for the school's annual pre-graduation swing out.



THE FALCON LINE — Farmington High School seniors line up outside the school Thursday morning.

school's annual pre-graduation swing out.

(Evert photo)

ing waiting for the beginning of swing out.

(Evert photo)

SWINGOUT for both public high schools took place on June 5. Senior awards were announced at Swingout.

North Farmington's commencement will be at 8 p.m. on June 8. Russell Wentworth, of the Michigan State University admissions department, will be guest speaker.

Farmington High's class will receive diplomas on June 9 and hear an address by Dr. A. R. Baralt, vice president of the University of Detroit.

SORROWS' commencement will be at 4 p.m. on June 8. The class will be addressed by the Rev. George Duffy, of Blessed Sacrament Cathedral, former priest at Our Lady of Sorrows. A mass for all parish graduates will be celebrated by the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Thomas P. Beahan at 10 a.m. that morning.

Valedictorian of OLS's 1969 class is John Abowd and Dennis Halfey is salutatorian. Our Lady of Mercy will hold graduation at 2:30 p.m. on June 8, with Thomas Brennan, chief justice of the Michigan Supreme Court, as guest speaker.

Mercy has three valedictorians — Patricia Brennan, Virginia Locker and Theresa Schaefer. Salutatorian is Mary Dreyer.



OUR LADY OF SORROWS HIGH SCHOOL'S 1969 valedictorian is John Abowd (at left) and salutatorian is Dennis Halfey.

(Evert photo)