

Labor Dept. Offers Advice To Teen Jobseekers

EDITOR:
The July 9 issue of your newspaper included a letter to the editor with respect to the problem of 17-year-old high school graduates seeking employment in "hazardous" factories. The writer suggested letters to "our leading automakers" with regard to the complaint on non-hiring below the age of 18. The editor's note advised that "there are federal laws that must be changed to make the allowances suggested above" and he suggested letters to congressmen and senators with respect to the situation.

This office is responsible for the enforcement of the Fair Labor Standards Act and related Federal Labor Legislation, including the Walsh Healy Public Contracts Act.

Each statute includes provisions with respect to the employment of minors under the age of 18. Sixteen years is the minimum age under both statutes for the employment in most jobs. But minors must be 18 to work in occupations found hazardous by the Secretary of Labor.

Since the effective date of the Fair Labor Standards Act in 1938 a total of 17 hazardous occupation orders were made effective after detailed studies of safety factors and injury frequency and severity rates. These are listed in the Guide to the Child Labor Provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act, dated January 1969.

I would suggest that through misinformation or lack of information 17-year-old minors who might otherwise be employed are denied employment in the belief that most occupations involving operation of power-driven machinery are prohibited.

Specifically I would call your attention to Hazardous Occupation Order No. 8 which covers power-driven metal forming, punching, and shearing machine occupations. The order lists a very large group of metal working machines known as machine tools which are not covered by the order, and thus are not subject to the 18-year-old minimum age restriction.

These include a wide variety of milling, planing, grinding and boring machines in the metal working industry.

I will be happy to meet with you or any organizations, employer, employee, or public, which may desire more information of the provisions of the federal statutes with respect to child labor, minimum wage, overtime, equal pay, or age discrimination.

Our office is open during the week to answer any inquiries, whether by phone calls or visits to the office. Literature on various provisions of the statutes enforced is also available without charge to interested parties.

FRANK C. MODETZ
AREA DIRECTOR

offices. We've tried employment agencies, but we have been on our own. Various bills are sitting around...late, our diet consists primarily of kool-aid and macaroni. We have less than one dollar left.

That's it, no money put away (we have exhausted that supply), nothing! Our gas tank registers empty. So no transportation for job hunting. We shouldn't be driving anyway, our insurance has been cancelled for lack of payment.

It looks as though we will be stereo-type dropout hippies. We have no choice as perhaps many of them haven't. In our desperation maybe we will turn to drugs...selling them.

WE WANT NO REPLY, ONLY SOME REALIZATION.

High Praise For Observer Newspapers

EDITOR:
Just a few words to offer my congratulations on your paper earning an honorable mention certificate through the National Newspaper Association competition.

Do you realize that having earned 14 editorial awards within a two year period averages more than one award every second month? You must be setting some kind of new journalistic record.

Hurry for you, The Livonia Observer, and site staffers. DEL VANDY, Assistant Director Citizen Information Fund, Metropolitan Fund, Inc., Southeast Michigan Council of Governments

Mom Takes Issue With James O'Neil

EDITOR'S NOTE: Following is a letter sent to James O'Neil, member of the Michigan State Board of Education and a resident of Livonia. The writer also sent a copy of the Observer Newspapers with a request that it be included in the Readers' Forum column.

Mr. O'Neil:
It is of great concern to me that my children's education should be determined in any way by your political ambitions. You were in attendance at the Human Growth Program at our Board of Education meeting on June 23 in Livonia. You heard the evaluation -- saw the presentation of this unit -- and yet at the state board study session you still insisted that films showing animals and humans in the sex act is being shown to our children.

You also heard that 80 to 90 per cent of parents of our second graders involved gave permission that their child may take part in this program and their evaluation of this unit has been positive. Also -- in the Cleveland School sixth grade program had 100 per cent parental consent. This program was not held in the evening with the parents in attendance (as per one of your guide lines) but in the classroom with boys and girls segregated.

These parents have approved these programs. We would very definitely want this to be an optional program and would not deny any parent who objects their right to place their child in the alternate unit. By the same token, why should anyone be allowed to deny us our right to have this program for our children. We have confidence in our school board -- Principal and teachers do not see why we should have to become a vocal and belligerent group of parents when our evaluations have been sent to our school board and that should be that.

READERS' FORUM

Letters must be limited to 300 words. Letters must be signed with the writer's address. Names will be withheld only at the writer's request and for good cause. Please type or write plainly. The editor reserves the right to reject unsuitable letters.

do not see the need to make a lot of noise and unfortunately many of these people are not really aware of what is going on behind the scenes. But we are all here. As a result, I for one am sick at the distortion of facts and the attacks on good people (such as your attack on Dr. Ira Pollak at the State and meeting Tuesday night) I could not even go into all of this with our parents without feeling somewhat dirty myself.

But one thing I will do -- I will know my candidates at every election and campaign vigorously for the candidate who is a man of integrity and principle. A man strong enough to stand against the beckoning and readiness of these people to some of your fellow constituents had to endure. I commended them on their composure.

MRS. LESLIE D. WOLFE

Senior Citizens Need Better Break

EDITOR:
I am writing this letter on behalf of Senior Citizens. Recently, my Mother, along with other Senior Citizens, received a form letter from John D. Dihan (City Manager of Farmington). The letter explained that Senior Citizens tax assessments had been raised by the Oakland County Equalization Commission. As a result, she, along with other Senior Citizens, do not qualify for the Homestead Tax Exemption. The total tax assessment on property valued at \$10,000, is \$10,000 is totally unrealistic on today's real estate market.

According to Mr. Dihan "real estate values have increased 40 per cent in the past four years." It is inevitable that property values will continue to increase. The \$10,000 minimum should be raised to \$15,000 or \$20,000 level.

I urge all interested people and victims to write to Governor Milliken, their state representative and state senator at the Capitol Building, Lansing, Michigan.

Let's give our Senior Citizens a break!
WILLIAM KETTENBEIL
FARMINGTON

Will Last Lesson Be Her Best?

EDITOR:
How many of us wonder these days why the youth of today seem confused, disillusioned and at times unwilling to accept adult responsibilities?

Consider the recent case of Mrs. Ruth E. Williams, who is being fired by the Livonia Board of Education. Mrs. Williams' services were terminated by the board of education because she committed the unpardonable offense of refusing to pay \$50 dues to an organization to which she does not even belong. Shame on Mrs. Williams. Doesn't she know the really important things about educating children in a democracy?

How many of us as parents, teachers, administrators and board members remember the not-so-long-ago days when it was almost impossible to fire a teacher for incompetency, insubordination or long standing inefficiency? Remember the Tenure Commission who insisted that a teacher's behavior be proven immoral or morally irresponsible before they would even consider allowing a teacher to be fired. Nowadays, however, a teacher may be irresponsible, professionally inadequate or

Some Gripe, Many Gripe in Westland

The secretary of the union was quoted as saying Mrs. Williams is a "fine teacher whose professional qualifications were never in question." It is dismally to be the fate of all competent teachers who do not always agree with the views of their local bargaining organization?

This would seem to have an ominous sound, Shame on Mrs. Williams? Shame on an educational philosophy that rewards conscientious competent teaching in such a manner.

Shame on a teaching profession which promulgates such a situation, Shame on a board of education that condones it, Shame on a Tenure Commission which lets it happen. And shame on a court of law which upholds it.

You may have taught your last lesson in the Livonia schools, Mrs. Williams, but hopefully, in the long run, your last lesson will be your best.

WILLIAM E. WILSON
Livonia

John Boychuk Appointed To Red Cross Post

John D. Boychuk, of Detroit, has been appointed manager of the Northwest Regional Office of the American Red Cross located at Five Mile and Merriman Road, Livonia. His territory includes Northville, Plymouth, Garden City, Redford and Livonia.

Prior to joining the Red Cross, Boychuk was an assistant supervisor of budget stock for the J.L. Hudson Co. He is a graduate of Wayne State University.

In my opinion, the majority of the City Council is not voting for the best interests of Westland. I urge all residents of Westland to attend at least one of the City Council meetings. I'm sure that if you did, that you would attend more.

In closing, I would like to say that we, in Westland, do have an excellent police and fire department, even though they both are under-staffed.

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Get ready, get set, go... for the most fun you ever! Boys and girls will be on the move in this sturdy constructed 3-wheel cycle with "longhorn" handlebars. It features rear wheel racing slicks, "mag" type front wheel and low slung suspension. Cycle is safe, goes only 80 feet, at children pedal.

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Three pairs of natural hair lashes in heavy, medium and light thickness. Black or brown.

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Delicious soft caramels, coffee, hazelnut and flavorful hard candies.

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White Cotton Sock Socks
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Men love the comfort of long-wearing socks. 10-13.

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Attractive Cereal Bowls
Reg. 37¢ Each

Morning brighteners! Porcelain bowls with colorful design and solid beaker.

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Damask Pattern Table Cover
Reg. 2.23

Festive-looking wipe-clean white vinyl cover is 72" x 70". Flamed backing prevents wrinkling, won't slip.

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Wild 'N Wacky "Water Wiggler"
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Get back Water Wiggler to the boat. One watch out! He flies through the air for the greatest fun splash ever!

1.68

Shiny Stainless Steel 2 1/2-Qt. Tea Kettle
Reg. 3.29 - 3 Days

Kettle with copper bottom conducts heat quickly for fast boil.

2.88

AREA DEATHS AND FUNERALS

JAMES McLAUGHLIN, Services for Mr. McLaughlin, 61485 Rockwood, Livonia, were held Saturday morning at the John Sauter and Son Funeral Home, Garden City, and at St. Luke's Church. Burial was Holy Sepulchre at St. John Cemetery. Ypsilanti.

Mrs. Potts died July 12 in St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Ann Arbor.

She is survived by: one son, John of Port Orange, Fla.; one daughter, Mrs. Margaret Mary of St. Pierre, Fla.; one sister, Frances McMahon of Grand Rapids; one brother, Jerome McManis of Livonia; eight grand-

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PLYMOUTH
Main at Ann Arbor Trail

GRANDLAND
SHOPPING CENTER

★ LIVONIA MALL
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FARMINGTON
PLAZA

WAYNE
35004 Michigan

★ WONDERLAND CENTER
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