

Wednesday, August 27, 1969

the conscientious objector

GRAHAM THREATENS C.O. WITH POLICE ACTION

NORTH FARMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL... Following is the second in a series on student rights and issues. Today, Howard Kohn looks at the underground press of North Farmington High School and the regular student newspapers and discusses issues and policies having ramifications on both.

Last spring, students in Plymouth publishing an underground paper were arrested for selling without a license. Other high schools have become alarmed about the appearance of "unofficial" publications.

Underground papers tend to challenge the communication effectiveness of the established student papers and prompt student editors to re-examine their performance and publications. This leads to questions about the role of a student newspaper and its rights to express student views without censorship.

And in this setting is the high school principal, who as publisher of the established student paper, must decide on the role of the official student press. Remaining in the background are students seeking expression—either the student paper or the underground press.

Clayton Graham, principal of North Farmington High School, would like to forget the school's underground newspaper. "This is done on their own time at their own expense," he explains.

Graham admits he doesn't like the Conscientious Objector (CO)—Farmington's first high school underground. But sometimes he simply can't ignore it.

IN APRIL, Graham sent a letter to parents of the underground editors. The letter warned the paper might be violating township obscenity ordinances. But township police say they have no obscenity ordinance and have no plans to issue warrants against the CO.

IN THE initial issue, March 10, CO editors stated: "We, the writers of this paper, feel that the time is NOW for students to assume their rightful positions. A stu-

The Underground Press

Seeks To Push

Issues Above Ground

underground papers," he says, "the school paper should be open enough to accommodate all students." Vagnozzi's son, Steve, was one of last year's editor of the Star.

Richard Frankel, also a trustee, has advocated changing the structure to make all students eligible for Star positions. "A school newspaper should be like any other student activity—open to anyone who wants to join," Frankel proposes.

Graham objects to Frankel's plan "because an open-ended paper probably wouldn't serve its public relations function for the school."

DR. RODERICK SMITH, superintendent of schools, agrees generally with Graham's position. "I can't accept 10th-graders being mature enough to make new judgment decisions," Smith says.

ALDO VAGNOZZI, board trustee, wants to remove many restrictions on the Star. "Students shouldn't have to resort to

board appointed radical students to editorial positions the last two years at the South End. The radicals have eliminated most reportorial news and replaced it with essays and editorials.

Both Graham and Geiger admit they're afraid their students might create another South End, the controversial paper at Wayne State University.

James Geiger, FHS principal, does not look at copy before it is published. But he does insist on tight controls by the advisor.

Both Graham and Geiger say they do not want to abdicate such power to a student-faculty board.

Ultimately, though, the board of education sets the policy for the newspapers. And several present board trustees promised in their election campaigns to expand student activities.

"Everyone concedes that today's students are more socially aware and politically conscious," says Vagnozzi.



Seniors pick class symbols... Garcia attends youth program in Washington... "but no one is willing to give them a chance to use this energy within the system."

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Oakland County Awards Bid For Service Center

OAKLAND COUNTY... Contract for the \$2.3 million Oakland County Service Center was awarded recently to E. E. Powell General Contracting Co. of Pontiac.

THE WORK will include construction of a two-level office building and an attached garage at the Telegraph-Pontiac Lake Rd. site northwest of Pontiac.

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