Did Uncaptioned Pictures Express That Much?

EDITOR:

I was disappointed by the comments that accompanied the photos of the Livonia youth in last Sunday's Observer. How presumptuous of you to judge Livonia high school students' future performance as parents and citizens by the type of clothing and hair style they choose to wear. Many youth already believe that adult values are too often superficial and your comments only helped to reinforce this belief.

If a dress code could be guaranteed to instill responsibility, honesty, and morality in youth it would indeed be desirable. Unfortunately, there is no simple answer to character building. As parents and adults we have the opportunity to help shape the character of youth by our example, by our trust, and by allowing young people to ask questions and make choices that do not infringe upon the rights of others. Fashions and fads come and go only to be replaced by others.

How much more useful and informative it would have been had you interviewed these same young people and asked them how they felt about brotherhood, peace, citizenship, and the kind of parents they hope to be.

MARY LOU LIVELY
Livonia

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Better reread the text, Mary Lou. Not one unfavorable word was said about the students. Nor did we even identify the schools in Observerland where the pictures were shot. Careful readers noted that the text was culled from educators' comments we've heard over the years--not from kids' comments.)

Will New Program End Local Schools?

EDITOR:

I have just finished reading your latest article in the September issue of the Livonia Observer regarding the new school reform package about to be revealed in October.

Your whole editorial covers the money question only. Why don't you advise the readers about the rest of the package which involves school district consolidation or are you going to plead ignorance on the subject?

Articles appearing in the Detroit News indicate that consolidation of school districts are part of the plan with the strong possibility of Wayne County becoming one large district.

It would appear the suburban school system is about to be destroyed and the neighborhood school concept along with it. Under the Federal government's demand for racial balance in districts, I as a parent will no longer have the privilege in selecting my children's school associations.

Why don't you be frank with the suburban citizens and tell them the whole story???

I find it hard to believe you don't know what is going on with your newspaper connections in Lansing.

JOHN STRUBANK

Maybe Now Parents Will Show Interest

EDITOR:

When the heat of the battle has cooled down and our children are back to a normal full day of school, I am sure that at least one good result will emerge from the present confusion.

I fully expect that Livonia taxpayers (including myself) will take a new interest in future school board elections and, because of this, will select qualified individuals who understand that all of us on occasion have to institute austerity programs.

How many of us have not had to forego a pay increase or even taken a cut in pay on occasion while our company retrenched its position?

Increased budgets for salaries and expenses are good and necessary, however, there is nothing to stop us from tightening the school budget belt for a year while permitting all children a fair opportunity for a good education.

S. T. ZIMMERMAN,
Livonia

What Would Happen If OLGC Closed?

EDITOR:

Your article reporting on the Plymouth Community School administrators' suit filed against the teachers mentions "the Board also states that damage will be done to the parochial schools who depend on the public bus transportation..." The sudden concern on the part of the Plymouth School Board for parochial schools is most hypocritical. Last Spring they voted unanimously to oppose State Aid to parochial schools.

The article further states that the Board and the teachers are $123,000 apart. The Board claims they don't have the money. If Our Lady of Good Counsel School in Plymouth was forced to close for the lack of a small amount of State Aid, where would the Board come up with the additional $400,000 to educate the 600 children who would then enroll in the public schools?

In my opinion the citizens of the Plymouth Community are suffering for the past excesses of Supt. Rossman and his empire building philosophy. It appears that he and the so-called financial experts on the School Board unfortunately measure the success of the a new Superintendent and a new Board.

The teachers are being made the scapegoats, the children of the Plymouth Community are the innocent victims.

WILLIAM R. PENRICE,
Plymouth

Reporting Put Riot In Perspective

EDITOR:

I'm most grateful to you for sending me a copy of what had to be a carefully thought out and certainly was a well executed piece of reporting of writing on "Two Years After."

It always has seemed to me that we do not often enough step back and take a long look at a situation and then put competent reporters to work putting it into long range perspective.

"Two Years After" does just that and does it well. Congratulations.

CLEM BROSSIER
The Associated Press

(EDITOR'S NOTE: "Two Years After" traced the progress made since the Detroit riot in July of 1967).

Move Mettetal, Restore Tranquility

EDITOR:

Dr. Ralph Atchley wrote about the Mettetal Airport in the Aug. 27 issue. I support his arguments about moving the airport, and would like to add my own observations.

My house lies a couple of miles from the north end of the runway, and the heavy air traffic on weekends is most disturbing. Planes come flying in almost constantly, and in case of a midair collision or a forced landing, damage on property and even human life could be considerable. Furthermore, the TV reception in the evening is badly disturbed and the noise most unpleasant.

My neighbors have the same complaints, and I think the airport should move to an open location.

PETER ATTALAI
560 Parkview Drive
Plymouth

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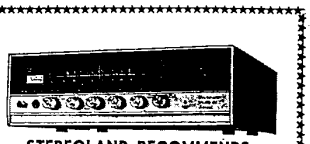

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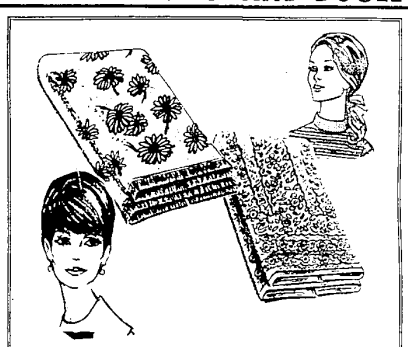

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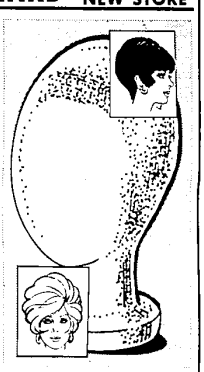

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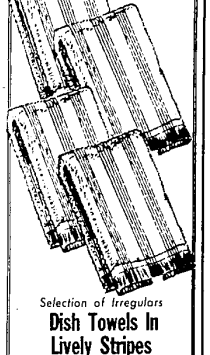

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