Farmington's top librarian tackles politics

By SHIRLEE IDEN
The first question G. Gordon Lewis
and his wife asked real estate agents
when they moved to Michigan was
which districts have the best school

which districts have the Desi Scientification of Systems.

Now four years later, the 33 year-old Ibrarian is a candidate for South-field's school board. He is contending with four other cardidates, two of whom are incumbents.

"The vitality of the schools maintains the vitality of the community," the stated. "It believe in good public education."

education."
Lewis also said he believes in being an activist just as he was in his high school and college days. He has three children, the oldest of whom is a first grader at Leonhard Elementary School.

gracer at Leomard Elementary
Echolic was questioned, as his oppowere of misters such as basic
education in the priorities
education for the gitter described
expected the properties and declining
eurollments.
Additionally, he talked about a
school board that he said should be
composed of people with diverse backgrounds to achieve balance.
His background is in public administration. He is the director of the largest library in Oskiand County in terms
of circulation, the Farmington
Library.

HE SAID library brograms have doubled during his tenure and his birary has won several awards. He is also employed as a consultant to other libraries.

Lewis holds an MA in education and another masters in library science. He is a native of Ohio.

Lewis finds an MA in soucation and another masters in library science. He is a native of Ohio. He maintains his top priority if elected would be to keep up the bedeational programming in the city. "Beyond that, 1'd like to improve contional elucation," he said: "Filteen per care finds a first of the control of the contr

He thinks declining enrollment can-not be allowed to diminish any child's right to an equal opportunity to learn. He contends the school board must be flexible about what action to take regarding school population.

LEWIS said one of the board

LEWIS said one of the board probeins is the meetings themselves. "There's obviously a problem," he said. "The meetings don't move along in a timely fashion and they frequently un very late. The agenda is organized so that an individual on the floor can monopolize the floor on incidental issues and important points are treated with dispatch."

Endorsed by the Southfield Educa-

tion Association and the Southfield Democratic Club, Lewis said his father was a school principal and he has had "a lifetime of educational dis-cussion."

russion. In terms of the handicapped, he said handicapped can be defined as "any individual whose needs are not being

individual whose needs are not being met."
"So schools can fail to meet needs if there is no ramp for a wheelchair or no challenge for the gifted," he said. "We can challenge the gifted without additional expense."
He explained that with more use of library facilities for independent stud-ies and small group interaction, gifted students can be stimulated.

"For the cost of one teacher, we can buy 1,500 books," he said. Concerning strikes, Lewis said, "teachers are people too."

"I don't particularly support manda-It out the particularly support manda-tory arbitration, but things do work out better when both sides come to bargain in good faith. The right to strike is part of the bargaining process and employers and employees both have rights. We souldn't take them away.

"Other than the military, police and firemen, people should have the right to strike,"



J. GORDON LEWIS

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Legal fund use prompts board's donation denial

Farmington school board trustees sent on a bit of good news and a bit of bad news to the Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB) recently, 'will be the Farmington board voted to retain membership in the organization, trustees voted against contributing 2050 to the MASB's legal aid fund. The fund has been used to protest such rulings as Title Nine, which gives an equal share of time and budget to girls sports in schools. In voting to continue membership in the organization, Trustee Michael Schpiece cited MASB lobbying efforts in support of greater state aid to school districts.

ALTHOUGH he was speaking for a losing cause, Trustee Mervyn Ross clude the fund an 'important part of the structure of the structu

Graduation ceremonies planned by Farmington

June is almost here and so are graduation ceremonies for Farmington School Districts three high schools.

June graduates for this year will rumber 1,234.

Harrison's graduation will be at 8 pm. June 18, in Ford Auditorium. The main speaker this year is state Sen. John Otterbacker (D-Grand Rapids). Distributing diplomas to the 42 Harrison grads will be School Board trustees Michael Shpiece and Mervyn Ross.

trustees Michael Shpiece and Mervyn Ross.

North Farmington will conduct eer-monies at 8 pm. June 14, also in Ford Auditorium. Scheduled as the main speaker will be senior class president Todd Schiller. Distributing the 420 scheepskins will be trustees Helen Pru-tow and Richard Wallace.

Farmington High School students, 422 of them, will receive their degrees on Irus 15 at 8 pm. in Ecrof Audito.

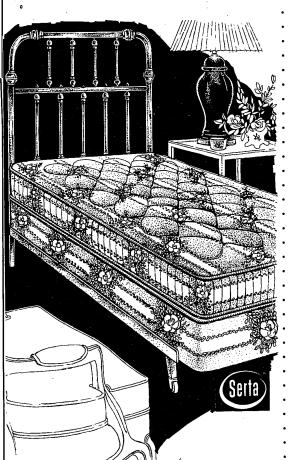
482 of them, will receive their degrees on June 15 at 8 p.m. in Ford Audito-rium. Speaking will be U.S. Rep. Wil-liam Brodhead (D-Detroit). Dis-tributing diplomas wil will be trustees

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