



EDITOR'S NOTE: A newspaperman by trade takes a detached, stand-offish approach toward a man in politics, but it was hard for many not to like Aldrick Bellaire, Redford Township supervisor who died last week. ...

By DENNIS PAJOT

"Al" Bellaire is dead. A nice guy is gone. The news is shocking, but not surprising to those close to him. Al had been in poor health for more years than even I know.

My first hint of a serious problem lurking was the day I noticed the air purifier on Al's desk in the supervisor's office at Redford Township Hall.

early in my stint as editor of the Redford Observer.

"WHAT'S THAT FOR?" I asked bluntly.

"Oh, I keep it in case the room is full of smokers," was all he replied.

I started to put out my own incessant cigarette in the smoking stand (which he provided right beside the purifier).

Ashtays were prominently placed beside the other chairs in his office, also. To tell the truth, I never noticed the purifier running, no matter how large the crowd became.

SOMEWHAT LATER, just about the time the elections battles of the Fall of 1968 were in full swing, Al displayed obvious signs of even greater discomfort.

A Personal View

Al Bellaire's Courageous Fight

"This is what I like to do. I do a good job. What should I do--sit around and wait to die?"



ALDRICK BELLAIRE

He'd often get red-faced and more than usually fidgety in his chair during board meetings. When he'd realize he couldn't hide it, he'd excuse himself from the room and disappear, only to return a short while later in somewhat better form.

When asked about it, he'd say he was seeing doctors, and they couldn't agree on what his problem was. Then, after

orders to "really" recuperate.

When he returned to full-time duty at the supervisor's office, he seemed fit and robust, ready to tackle anything in his typical head-on, innovative fashion once again.

He told me the doctors had recommended that he get out from under emotional pressure. Most obviously, his illness was traceable, then, he told me, to inflammation of the spleen, which stressed tend to aggravate.

"Why don't you give up public office and go into something less frustrating?" I asked him more than once.

"This is what I like to do, and I think I do a good job of it. What should I do, just sit around and wait to die?"

IT WASN'T LONG and Al confided to me, swearing me to confidence (newspaperman or not) that the doctors had fi-

nally determined that he had a low level case of leukemia.

Incurable. He said they told him he'd probably be all right if he'd take life easy.

"What? And just sit around and wait to die?"

"Oops, I'm sorry." And I'd start to put it out.

"NO, DON'T." It won't bother me," he would say.

I don't remember that Al ever really told me the nature of his respiratory problem. I think he said it dated back to a severe bout with pneumonia.

A nice guy is gone.

C'ville Adult Classes Offered

Clarkeville's second semester of adult education classes will begin the week of Feb. 16.

Registration will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday, Feb. 10-12 in the high school, according to Robert V. Young, program director.

Classes offered will include powder puff woodshop. This class will be given on Monday evenings from 7 to 10 p.m. with the fee set at \$15.

Classes offered will include powder puff woodshop. This class will be given on Monday evenings from 7 to 10 p.m. with the fee set at \$15. The class covers project construction, repair, refinishing and antiquing. Ad also will be supplied for the assembly and finishing of most commercial kits.

OTHER MONDAY evening classes include the following: Typing I. Emphasis will be on parts of the machine, learning the keyboard, correct posture and fingering and basic letter styles.

High School Development Test At OCC

The General Education Development Test will be given by Oakland Community College on Feb. 13-14 at the Orchard Ridge Campus in Farmington.

The testing session begins on Friday at 6 p.m. and ends at 10 p.m. It resumes on Saturday at 9 a.m. and concludes at 4:30 p.m.

A certificate of high school equivalency will be awarded by the Michigan Department of Education to persons passing the examination.

Applicants must be a minimum of 18 years of age and the testing fee is \$5.

For an appointment or information, please call 476-2820.

Westbrook PTA Meets Feb. 16

Clarkeville's Westbrook elementary school PTA will meet Monday, Feb. 16 at 8 p.m.

American Field Service foreign exchange students will present the program Nancy Creed, Clarkeville High School senior, will relate her experiences in Turkey last summer, and Xiomara Vivas, Clarkeville's exchange student, will tell of her native Nicaragua.

Plans are underway for the seventh annual pancake supper Wednesday, April 15.

Heavy Actress

Carol Bruce, cast as a designing woman in the daytime television serial, "Love of Life," has often portrayed a "heavy" on Broadway, and enjoys it. "They're generally the meatiest roles," she says. "You may not get a lot of applause, but you'll get a lot of kisses. And if that happens, you know you're succeeding as an actress."

HUD Doubles Grant To Council Of Govts.

By DENNIS PAJOT

After complimenting the Southeastern Council of Governments as the nation's foremost regional-scale planner, a federal official Saturday announced a \$400,000 grant to the six-county agency.

That grant, from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, doubles the federal program grant awarded to SEMCOG last year.

HUD Undersecretary Samuel Jackson also said that SEMCOG applications for supplemental grants "have been received but not yet approved, any act to Merriman, a major KEYNOTE SPEAKER of the third annual organizational meeting of SEMCOG at Cobo Hall, Jackson said HUD grants \$100,000 to the agency to help it plan all that.

Although his suggestions were made public, Mathewson urged that SEMCOG understand that his remarks were directed to the Metropolitan Fund board of directors.

"It is time now to make comprehensive planning relative to the problems of the '70s," he said. "The change is not going to be felt drastically in Southeastern Michigan because your plan has in it basically what we are trying to achieve."

The major challenge, he suggested, is how to use the dynamics of planning processes and arrangements to end divisiveness between the races. "We have to find ways to bring ourselves together," he said.

Another \$70,000 in grant money was presented to SEMCOG Saturday by a man who was roundly criticized by leading SEMCOG figures earlier in the week for suggesting popular elections of SEMCOG leadership and regional taxing powers.

Kent Mathewson, president of the Metropolitan Fund, cau-



SAMUEL JACKSON Undersecretary, HUD

tioned his critics to take his "State of the Region" comments "in their entirety."

"The job of a research organization, which is what we are, is to look 10 to 20 years down the road. My remarks were made in that context," he said.

Mathewson urged that SEMCOG understand that his remarks were directed to the Metropolitan Fund board of directors.

A METRO FUND DIRECTOR recently elected its vice chairman, and also an executive committee member of SEMCOG, Richard Austin earlier in the day said the Metro

Fund directors did not endorse Mathewson's suggestions and would be taking a critical look at them.

Likewise, newly elected SEMCOG Chairman Mel Ravitz and SEMCOG's Executive Director E. Robert Turner earlier disavowed Mathewson's suggestion.

Nonetheless, they gladly accepted Mathewson's checks for \$16,700, \$23,800, \$18,100 and \$10,000.

The first was from Metro Fund as the second part of its \$20,000 SEMCOG general support money for the year.

The second was from Metro Fund for support of the Detroit Metropolitan Transportation Authority (DTPA) which begins this year is totally administered by SEMCOG.

The third was given through Metro Fund by several large area business, industries and the UAW labor union, for TALLIS.

The fourth was from Metro Fund to the Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority (SEMTA), which next year will be an adjunct to SEMCOG. ISEMCOG will appoint most SEMTA board members, who are all currently appointed by the govern-



DONALD D. O'DOWD took over this week as chancellor of Oakland University after being named to that post by Michigan State University trustees.

Previously provost and vice chancellor, O'Dowd, 42, succeeds D.H. (Woody) Varner, who had served at the Rochester campus since it opened in 1959 and is heading to the University of Nebraska. A psychologist, O'Dowd earned his degrees at Dartmouth (one) and Harvard (two), coming to Oakland's campus in Rochester in 1960.

SEMOG Rule: Elected Officers To Be Delegates

The primary SEMCOG delegate of each member government unit must be an elected official.

Appointed officials, such as city managers and school superintendents, may continue to serve as alternate delegates with the power to vote in the delegate's absence.

This new rule was approved by an overwhelming vote of the 65 voting delegates attending the third annual organizational meeting of the Southeastern Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) Saturday.

THEY TURNED DOWN an alternate proposal - that both delegate and alternate should be elected officials.

During the first two years of formal operation SEMCOG allowed both the delegate and alternate to be anyone duly designated by the local member unit.

The change was proposed last year by the SEMCOG by-laws committee in response to members' discussion of what seemed to be a lax policy.

THE MORE binding proposal came from Mrs. Alice Schenoltz of the City of Royal Oak, chief spokesman among the membership of strong conservative politics.

Mayor Harvey Moelke, Livonia's delegate attending his first meeting of SEMCOG, supported the by-laws committee method. He said he believes any appointed official in his city adequately represents his views when serving in his behalf.

Plymouth City Manager Richard Blodgett, attending as an alternate with the city's delegate, James Jabara, council member, supported the new rule also. He said he'd rather have the elected officials there whenever possible.

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Offer Adult Driver Ed

FARMINGTON Farmington's adult education department announces the formation of a class in driver training for adults to begin on Feb. 10 at 7 p.m. in Room 114 in Farmington Junior High School.

Designed to equip the student with the necessary to procure a learner's permit, the course includes four hours of classroom work plus six hours of actual driving instruction.

Registration is required with the fee set at \$60. Registrations are being accepted in person or by mail at the adult education office, 3250 Shilohwase. Checks should be made payable to Farmington Public Schools.

Cadet Promoted

LIVONIA Cadet Ricardo G. Joseph, son of Dr. and Mrs. Ramon R. Joseph, 17528 Golfview Dr., Livonia, has been promoted to private First Class at Howe Military School, Howe, Ind.

OUTFITTER TO THE SPORTSMAN PIERRE'S OUTPOST

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