

Wallace, Ditzhazy best for Farmington board

We urge Farmington School District voters to cast their ballots for incumbent trustee Dick Wallace and newcomer Helen Ditzhazy in Monday's school election.

When it comes to education in this district, far too many taxpayers have opted to show little interest in its present predicament or future challenges.

Such public apathy has adversely influenced board members' demeanor toward the electorate. Neither group's attitude enhances the educational well-being of this community.

In recent years, trustees have taken pride in what they say is a cohesive and harmonious board unit. They jokingly refer to themselves as "dull but efficient."

Unfortunately, this board's pride in ignoring, and being ignored by, the public is little source of pride. In the coming years, K-12 education will face its biggest challenges. As we rush to the end of the century, families with school age children are continually on the decrease.

Today, only 1/2 of Farmington School District families have children attending public school. Rather than taking a low profile, the board should strive for more public exposure, urging the growing

number of disinterested residents in becoming involved in the educational process.

THE PUBLIC in turn, has the obligation to look after its own educational house. By the few persons running for board seats, it's obvious few residents care much.

Even the two incumbents were less than enthused about seeking an additional term. But at least their obligation to public service won out over the urge to join the apathetic masses.

They are to be commended for making the run. Wallace is a fine board member who represents a large portion of Farmington School District voter philosophy. A conservative, he studies and weighs each issue before making a decision. He economic expertise also is important to district affairs.

Mrs. Ditzhazy has obvious qualifications. An educator for many years, she is an administrative assistant for curriculum and instruction in the Novi School District.

We hope Mrs. Ditzhazy goes a long way toward breaking up the clique attitude which presently haunts the board table so that significant public debate over educational issues once again becomes commonplace.

Voters should support Clarenceville millages

VOTERS IN THE Clarenceville School District will be asked to renew 10 mills for school operation on Monday.

The tiny district has done a commendable job of budgeting over the years. School officials have been fiscally prudent and at the same time offered a balanced educational program for students.

Voters in the Clarenceville School District, which includes parts of Livonia, Farmington Hills and Redford Township, have a good track record of supporting public education. We urge that voters continue to support the millage renewals on Monday's ballot.

The millage proposals will be presented in two separate ballot questions.

One proposition seeks one mill for five years. The single mill (\$1 per \$1,000 of state equalized valuation) was approved by voters in September 1980. The Clarenceville Board of Education at that time asked voters to meet the district's 1980-81 financial crisis. After preliminary budget review,

school officials believe the dollars are essential to maintain programs over the next five years. The mill would be levied at about \$125,000 in 1981-82.

The second proposal asks voters to renew nine mills for five years. The nine mill levy was approved by the electorate in January 1969.

The 10 mills represent about 24 percent — more than \$1.2 million — of the district's budget. The money is vital to even maintain the current program. Without it, school officials will have to start curtailing some fine but already thinly-funded programs and services.

In light of this region's depressed economy and the recent push for tax limitation, it's may be a bad time to ask voters to consider any type of tax question.

Nevertheless, we urge voters to support the renewals. Clarenceville officials have gained the confidence of taxpayers in the district because they've managed well over the years. In order to preserve any semblance of the current program, it's important that this support continue.

SC standouts:

Hayward, Kadish and Toy

Three candidates in the field of six stand out as having a strong previous interest in Schoolcraft College.

Two trustees are to be selected in the June 8 election on the same ballot as trustees for school boards with kindergarten through 12th-grade enrollment. Schoolcraft trustees serve six-year terms without pay, and usually without thanks.

Incumbent trustee Richard Hayward deserves re-election.

With 30 years in the structural steel industry, Hayward, 52, brings a knowledge of building and of labor-management relations to the community college board.

Dry-witted and independent, Hayward panders to no group. He thinks in terms of solving problems rather than political posturing. His independence may cost him support from special-interest groups, but the college is better for having his cool objectivity.

Hayward calls education "my avocation." It's true. His life history shows continual efforts at self-improvement and in the education process of public schools, private schools and training programs.

IT'S GOOD to see Paul Kadish running again. Kadish served from 1971-79 on the Schoolcraft board in years of money frustrations, maturing of the college and some labor problems. He took two years off and returns to the scene refreshed.

Kadish, 44, is president of an insurance underwriting firm. He has acquired political skills, in the highest sense of the word, in the district and in Lansing. He has a high sensitivity to the art of political and labor-management negotiating. Kadish joined the Schoolcraft board when it was politically polarized and left it unified. He didn't do the job alone, but he was certainly a chief ingredient.

THE SCHOOLCRAFT board is losing trustee Mark McQuesten, the only former student who ever served in its ranks. Laura Toy could bring the board a student perspective.

She graduated from Schoolcraft with an associate in arts degree and earned a baccalaureate at the University of Michigan.

On campus she was active in student politics and sports. As an alumna, Toy, 29, has worked on millage campaigns and in advisory groups for such programs as the Women's Resource Center. Her 1977 campaign for the Schoolcraft board was highly visible and almost successful. She likes work.

Now owner of a gift shop, Toy lacks the labor-management experience of Hayward and Kadish, and her political activity in women's groups could suggest a one-issue orientation. But other candidates have come onto the Schoolcraft board with lesser credentials and grown into the job.

TWO FOOTNOTES:

During their terms, the two trustees elected June 8 will help appoint a new president, at least two vice presidents and probably a number of deans if there are promotions from within. Persons who are interested in Schoolcraft College should vote wisely and watch the board carefully.

Schoolcraft encompasses five K-12 districts, but all six of the current crop of candidates are from the Livonia district. Four of the other five trustees are Livonia district residents. Clarenceville, Garden City, Northville and Plymouth-Canton residents stand accused of ignoring the college they helped create and are paying for.

discover Bill Stockwell Michigan

Did you know that high gasoline prices are affecting traffic on waterways as well as on highways? The number of sailboats is increasing; power boats, decreasing. On Lake Michigan, for example, sailboats have doubled from 26 percent of the transient boating population to 52 percent since 1973. Michigan has the largest boating fleet of any state in the union.

School elections Monday



Censorship vs. freedom

Censorship. Even the sound of the word is repugnant to anyone reared in a democratic tradition.

Our culture has taught us that through the clash of many different ideas, we find truth. At any time in history, ideas can be unpopular — voting by blacks, religious freedoms and gay rights.

Yet there's another side to the issue: At what point do young persons have the maturity to handle sexually explicit or excessively violent material? It's a dilemma local libraries and school districts face every day.

MOST LIBRARIES and schools have specific guidelines about reading materials for those under 18.

Public libraries in Livonia, Garden City and Redford restrict books through two methods. Books considered to be sexually graphic (anatomy books and marriage manuals) are held at a central desk. Parental permission is required of anyone 18 and under who wishes to use them.

Other restrictions are placed on less graphic books. These can be freely read in the library, but anyone under 18 must have parental permission to take them home.

Usually any book on school library shelves can be taken home. But that is only because librarians pre-screen books before they are purchased. This is often called inside censorship.

THE PENDULUM between censorship and total freedom has been swinging back and forth as long as this world has been around. The debate will never end. But frequently the direction of the pendulum changes.

As this country becomes more conservative, the climate is right for those who want to censor what we read and view. Far-right groups like the Moral Majority are now flexing their collective muscle. And that can only send chills down the spine of any freedom-loving person.

For example, Georgia recently passed a law



Nick Sharkey

which prohibits the display or sale of certain books and periodicals to minors. It has the effect of censoring many publishing materials for Georgia readers.

Few persons would argue that everyone has the right to read or see everything. I don't permit my children to watch all programs on television. In my view much of TV programming is drivel, some is too violent and some is too sexy. The result is that I actively censor the material my children can view.

I have no qualms about telling my children to turn off the television set. Yet I am uncomfortable about someone deciding which books are suitable for them to read in a library.

CENSORSHIP VS. total freedom is a battle which neither side can win. The best we can hope for is an uneasy truce.

Perhaps Dr. Margaret Grazer, professor of library science at Wayne State University, as found a fine line between censorship and freedom. She recently told the Friends of the Library in Livonia:

"The difference between censorship and selection (of library books) is that the selector looks at the item as a whole and decides on its merit as a whole. The censor picks things out of context and looks for things to which people might object."

When I turn off the television set my children are watching, I now think of myself as a selector and not a censor. It's never easy straddling the line between censorship and freedom.

Business, politics prosper

Has Consumers Power Co. ever got a bad deal for you?

"Next winter will bring higher heating bills. Budgeting payments makes bill paying easier. Now is the time to join the equal monthly payment plan."

The gas company sends out these notices in May. They arrive when you have just finished paying big winter bills and the warm weather months are ahead.

Suppose your "equal payment" bill is \$60. Suppose, too, your usual summer bill is \$5. In June, July, and August, you would be giving Consumers Power interest-free loans of \$55 a month. It's a good deal for Consumers Power.

A good deal for you would be to join the equal monthly payment plan in September — if Consumers Power would let you.

SHERIFF JOHANNES Spreen has pulled out of the Democratic race for governor a year before it begins in earnest.

Spreen blames his Republican colleagues in Oakland County government for trying to make him



Tim Richard

look bad on an issue of deputies' overtime.

This is the same sheriff who, in running for re-election in 1980, cussed out the Republican prosecutor, but hardly knew the Democratic candidate and certainly failed to campaign as a team.

This is the same Spreen who, in his 1978 campaign for a gubernatorial nomination, was so badly organized that he failed to get enough signatures to qualify for the ballot.

One must suspect Spreen's campaign was doing very, very badly and that he got out to avoid embarrassment. The man just isn't a team player, and he doesn't try to deal with members of the other team either.