

# C'ville Issues: Mobe, School Paper

Should the Clarenceville High school paper be censored? Should a controversial Students Mobilization Committee be allowed to function as a high school group and meet in school facilities?

More than 100 Clarenceville School District residents received an insight into the thoughts of the five candidates for Board of Education in a "Candidates' Night" program Wednesday in the high school cafeteria.

The program, sponsored by the Livonia League of Women Voters, gave candidates a final chance to express their views and gave voters an opportunity to get answers to questions prior to Monday's election.

THE FIVE ARE candidates for two trusteeships, each for a four-year term. The group includes incumbent Robert Erickson, Arthur

Kopelman, Melvin Kuehn, Daniel Malone and Sauveur DeBono.

Each was allowed five minutes to express his views on school district financing and curriculum before the meeting was turned into a question and answer session—high spot of the evening.

Queried as to what they thought the board policy should be in regard to the SMC and high school group, all were in agreement with the proposed board policy to some extent. The proposal is to bar such organizations from Clarenceville High.

Erickson said he was in accord with the board's planned policy, pointing out that as a trustee he had joined in the discussion although not a member of the committee making the proposal.

"I back the board in its proposed policy," he said. "Polit-

ical action groups, such as the SMC, which express views in only one direction shouldn't be allowed in high school. "Political discussion groups, which talk over both sides of an issue and give members a chance to learn, should be allowed."

DeBONO FELT that the SMC should be barred completely. "I'm against such groups as the SMC," he stated. "I feel students should learn the facts about issues but should not be allowed to take an active part in deciding them."

Kopelman explained that he believed political talks are good for the high school students but that he agreed in theory with the proposed policy.

Kuehn came out flatly against the SMC as a high school organization.

"I have no time for the SMC and don't believe it should be permitted to meet in a school facility," he said. "If there is such a group, then it can meet elsewhere as far as I am concerned."

OPINIONS VARIED on the question of censorship of school publications.

"It is my feeling there should be censorship," explained Kuehn. "But I believe it should come from the parents after they read the publication. If moms and dads find things that are objectionable, then they should make it known to the administration and to those in charge."

"The articles should be censored to a degree by the teacher in charge. Censoring is fine and should be used when articles tend to sensationalize or the use of objectionable words. . . These should be abol-

ished immediately," said Kuehn.

Erickson was of the opinion that good guidance would eliminate the necessity of censorship.

"If teachers and sponsors do a job in the classroom, issues won't develop," he said. "It has been my experience that good guidance rarely needs censorship."

FROM THE FLOOR came the question about ways of improving communication between the board and administration and parents, going back to a recent inquiry by a resident over inability to get a copy of the board agenda.



MELVIN O. KUEHN



SAUVEUR DeBONO

ance at board meetings has picked up considerably since we started sending out the newsletters two years ago," he said. "If we tried to mail an agenda in advance to every resident, the cost would be so prohibitive that we would probably have to stop it almost as soon as we started."

He indicated copies of the agenda are available at the administration offices at least two days in advance of meetings at all desiring one.

Kuehn's reply was that there probably was need for a closer relationship between the

board-administration and parents and that it was working in that direction.

"There is the problem of agendas and board minutes," he said. "Folks complain that they never see a copy of either, but I have to tell them that the agendas are available at the administration office almost immediately after being approved."

THE FINAL question, presented to all five, was aimed at the amount of time each had devoted to school activities over the years.

Erickson answered that he was completely involved as a member of the board for the past three years.

Kuehn told of his years of attendance at board meetings in his 13 years in the community and of his work with the various parents groups.

Malone, a past president of a PTA group, pointed to his record as a member of various community organizations and several school committees.

Kopelman has been a member of the band parents organization, following the musicians to concerts and competition in all parts of the state. He said it wasn't until recently that he had decided to get more involved and picked the school board as one of the places to start.

DeBono admitted he had little personal exposure to school district activities but had followed programs through his children who are students in the schools.

Bede Found Error

The Venerable Bede, an Anglo-Saxon monk, announced in 729 A.D. that the Julian year was 11 minutes 14 seconds too long making a cumulative error of about a day every 128 years, but miscalculation was done about it for over 800 years.

## Editorial

### Erickson, Kuehn Are Standouts In Clarenceville

Hard-working Robert Erickson, the lone incumbent in the race, and energetic Melvin Kuehn, who has been a regular attendant at Board meetings for most of his 13 years in the community, have the endorsements of Observer Newspapers in Monday's school board election in Clarenceville.

The pair seems to stand out head and shoulders over the three other candidates for the two four-year terms.

AFTER LISTENING to all five at the "candidates night" program Tuesday, the Observer editorial board came out with strong endorsements for Erickson and Kuehn.

Each seems to have complete knowledge of the problems facing the school district. Each was able to field all questions fired at the candidates and each came out with flying colors.

Daniel Malone, a newcomer to the field of politics, is a very well qualified candidate but appears to lack the knowledge of the top contenders.

It is the opinion of the Observer board that Malone will become a strong candidate in another election if he continues his interest in the school programs and problems.



ATTEND POLITICAL CLINIC—Franklin High counselor John Ort and Allen Herrmann, industrial arts teacher at Bentley, were among area educators who attended a recent three-day political action clinic in Chicago of 300 educators from 23 states. The clinic was sponsored by the citizenship committee of the National Education Association. Pictured above at the clinic are (from left) David McMahon of Trenton, Bill Mettern of Garden City, Ort, Bill Wainwright of Garden City and Herrmann.

## Nature Notes

### Everyone Pets Swifter, And He Loves Worms

By LEM MESEEE

A family across the way is having the finest time with the friendliest little pet anyone has ever seen.

The pet goes by the name of "Swifter" and he's a garter snake, about 16 inches long.

It was young Jamie's idea. He has been reading up on snakes and thought he'd like to have one.

SWIFTER'S original abode was around some rocks behind a garage in a residential section of—get this—Detroit. He didn't take too kindly to captivity at first, but today he just loves people.

Jamie said they didn't go too close to Swifter for a few days, until the little fellow got used to them.

Now everyone—including grandpa—pets Swifter on the back of the neck (he doesn't have ears) and scratches him on the belly as if he were a hound dog.

Swifter's home is a converted aquarium. There is dirt in the tank and he likes to dig holes in it, a box, under which he can crawl, a clump of sod, and a dish of water.

I WONDERED what a garter snake liked for chow until Jamie caught me coming in from fishing and asked if I had any bait left—specifically, worms.

Swifter likes worms, the fatter and juicier, the better. He starts at one end and swallows, bit by bit. Jamie says the snake consumed 13 at a sitting one day.

Slugs, those gray things that look like snails without shells and live under rocks, are another diet favorite. A book says garter snakes also like toads, a toad would have to be pretty small for Swifter to swallow him.

Swifter has no ears, but he can feel vibrations. If you want to catch a snake, you can't stomp around, or he will be certain to feel your presence and head for his burrow.

HE DOESN'T smell in the conventional sense; rather he tastes with his tongue, according to the book. That's why his

thin red tongue is always darting out.

A garter snake like Swifter is a dull green with yellow stripes going down his back and sides. They're virtually harmless and nice to have around a garden. You may even have some in your garden.

Swifter's home won't be in

Jamie's room for long. This "Born Free" business got to the lad. One of these days, he will let Swifter crawl around his neck for the last time.

Then Swifter will have a new home somewhere in Kensington Park.

That's quite a trip from Detroit for a little snake.

### Area Reserves Host Canadians

Army Reservists of the 70th Division (Training), based in Livonia, will celebrate Canadian-American friendship day in Detroit Sunday, June 7, with a traditional "Hands Across the Border" parade and ceremony with the Essex and Kent Scottish Regiment of Windsor, Ontario.

The ceremony has been an annual event since 1929 and is the only one of its kind in the world where foreign troops

under their own flag are invited to march down the main street of a city and take part in friendship ceremonies. Canadian-American friendship day marks the official birthday of Queen Elizabeth II.

Officers of the U.S. Army Reserve division will meet their Canadian counterparts at 2:45 p.m. at the foot of Woodward Ave.

THE TROOPS will march from there to St. Paul Episcopal Cathedral for a memorial service at 4 p.m. led by the Rt. Rev. Richard S. Emrich, Episcopal bishop of Michigan. The address will be given by the Honorable Paul Martin, leader of the Canadian Senate.

About 30 British, Canadian, Scottish, Welsh and American organizations will be represented at the service, including many World War II veterans of the Essex Scottish Regiment Association who held a reunion in Windsor June 5, 6, and 7.

The Essex and Scottish have attended the service every year since 1929. This service was first held in 1924 as the English Day Service and was later called the Commonwealth Day Service.

Enroute to the service, the battalion will come to a halt at the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument to place a wreath in tribute to members of the U.S. armed forces who died while serving their country.

Major Gen. Carl J. Dueser, commanding general of the 70th, will review the troops as they pass Grand Circus Park at 3:15 p.m.

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DAVID E. BROWN, of 28056 Kendallwood Dr., Farmington, has joined Induction Process Equipment Co., Madison Heights, as director of systems development. Brown has spent the last eight years in industrial engineering with General Motors.

### Jupiter, Venus In June Sky

June's evening skies will be marked by a pair of planets, two bright stars, and one of the few constellations that actually looks like the animal it is supposed to represent.

University of Michigan astronomer Hazel M. Losh notes that Jupiter and Venus will be the two brightest planets during the month.

Jupiter will be just west of the star Spica in the constellation Virgo. Venus will appear just south of the two-day-old crescent moon on June 6.

THE STAR Vega will be the brightest object in the northwestern sky, appearing there at twilight. Truly an evening star, it sets two or three hours after the sun. Prof. Losh reports.

Early in the month it can be found in Gemini below the stars Castor and Pollux.

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