

Board secrecy is unfairest cut of all

Somewhere packed away at the Farmington library — could even be under the stairway in a box — is the wisdom of Jonathan Swift.

Well, somebody ought to check out a copy of Gulliver's Travels and give it to the Library Board of Trustees.

The English satirist put it this way:

"Providence never intended to make the management of public affairs a mystery, to be comprehended only by a few persons of sublime genius, of which there are seldom three born in a century."

Well you ought to know, the library's "geniuses" want to keep what's going on over at the library a mystery.

THE GURUS of library policy-making have decided that the less the pub-

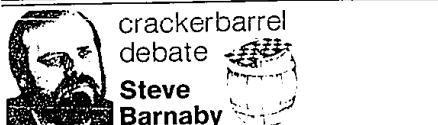
lic knows, the better. That's right. The library chieftains have decided you shouldn't know how your tax dollars are being spent or how your library is being administered.

Upon the advice of their attorney, they have refused to release the results of a secret concave they conducted on Wednesday — despite the fact that several legal experts quoted in today's front page story think the legality of withholding the results is questionable.

But KEEPING PUBLIC business, your business, a secret goes beyond interpretations of the law.

"C'mon gang, what's the big secret?"

Shrugging Gordon Lewis' sudden "vacation" — along with the accompanying library audit — in secrecy does



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nothing to solve the problems at the library, business, a secret goes beyond interpretations of the law.

The public is left with only two conclusions: The trustees want to hush up the truth because they didn't know what was going on in their own back yard and are embarrassed or, even

worse, they did know something and want to cover it up.

Library Board president Ernest Sauter does nothing to lend an air of confidence to the situation. In a recent telephone interview, he said:

"IN THE years that Gordon (Lewis) has been here, he hasn't made any moves without calling on the board."

Well, maybe he has and maybe he hasn't. But keeping the investigation a secret will only lend itself to rumors and unfair impressions of the individuals involved.

By maintaining secrecy, the board is being unfair to itself, the public, the library staff and to library director Gordon Lewis.

Lewis deserves a fair and open hearing. Throughout his tenure as library director, he has been a staunch advocate of library needs. His advocacy has made him less than popular in political circles.

YOU SEE, when it comes to budget cutting, politicians will consistently go after library money over, say, police money. So library directors are continually in a financial rear-guard action against the politicians.

As most library aficionados know, Lewis has done a fine job improving service in the Farmington system. This newspaper has supported his efforts a number of times in the past.

BUT NOW, the public has a right to know whether the rumors and allegations are true. While the issue of Lewis' administrative conduct still is important, equally important is the conduct of the library trustees.

Whether they like it or not, they are on trial in the court of public opinion.

from our readers

She's unhappy Former chief with article

To the editor:
I wish to correct an erroneous impression left by Julie Brown's article concerning the Farmington Community Library. My request for a leave of absence (a leave of absence, not a resignation) had nothing to do with Jill Lockett's resignation.

Furthermore, this request for leave was not to have been announced for two months yet. Seen it spread across the newspaper. In this manner has caused me personal distress, public embarrassment and professional humiliation.

I can only wish that Brown and the Farmington Observer had granted me the courtesy of an interview to get the facts straight before using my name in their article.

Silvia Makowski,
childrens librarian,
Farmington Community Library

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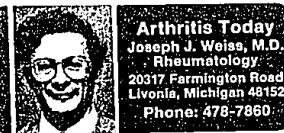
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If you have arthralgias, you have reached a point where inflammation is causing swelling and loss of function and immobility of a joint. If arthralgias indicates pain, the body's defenses are still working to keep broken down. You may feel a great deal of pain with arthralgias, but from a physician's point of view you have a better chance for future recovery than a person with less pain but frank arthritis. In fact, experience has shown that the longer you have arthralgias, but no arthritis, the better your chances of never developing joint swelling and immobility.

Therefore doctors are reluctant to treat your arthralgias with vigorous drug therapy or multiple injections. Since the underlying inflammation is under partial control, it is best to minimize inflammation and allow the body to continue with its partially completed task of orchestrating recovery.

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how much, who to get as a counselor,

how to establish goals, and how to

learn about investments before making the plunge and more.

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