



By Philip H. Power, Publisher

OBSERVATION POINT

Schoolcraft Anything But Jr. College

The other day one of the Detroit daily papers made the mistake of referring to that fine institution at 18600 Haggerty Rd. as "Schoolcraft Junior College."

It was a genuinely terrible mistake because (a) the term "junior" college implies that it's nothing more than the first two years of a liberal arts college course, maintained for those unable or unwilling to crack a four-year school right away, and (b) it fails to give due credit to Schoolcraft's interest in the Observerland communities it serves.

Consider some recent events.

THE SCHOOLCRAFT board recently awarded a three-year contract to a new president to replace the retiring Dr. Eric Bradner, who has guided the school so well in its formative years.

The new man is Dr. C. Nelson Grote, now at Morehead (Ky.) State University. Note well: Dr. Grote is dean of applied arts and sciences; he was director of industrial education for the Kentucky Dept. of Education; he has been president of the American Vocation Assn.

There's more, but the point is that Grote comes here with a strong background in vocational-technical education. If you have ever had an inept repair job done on your car, if you have ever had a poor meal in a restaurant, if you have ever heard of a shortage of qualified technical help in hospitals . . . then you ought to be

Sense And Nonsense

Oakland County parks officials have dropped a plan to acquire a dandy piece of park property near Upper Straits Lakes in Commerce Township.

The parks board acted after holding a public hearing in Commerce during which every nut in sight hollered that the township needed the land for tax base and that, anyhow, their outside folks ought to go to "Belle Isle or Palmer Park" for their recreation.

One wonders whether to condemn the Commerce residents for their ill-disguised snobishness and frightening bigotry—or the parks board, for holding the hearing in Commerce instead of in southeastern Farmington, in Southfield, in Royal Oak Township, in Pontiac.

interested in vech-tech education.

For reasons of tradition or perhaps snobishness, our educational system — and the pushy parents from the PTA — have had a strong bias toward the literary education. In recent years, the educational establishment, to its great credit, has been giving more honor to the vech-tech people, and Schoolcraft has gone whole hog by naming a vech-tech man as its second president.

Welcome, Dr. Grote.

BECAUSE ATHLETICS are more important than the arts (he said ironically), Schoolcraft still lacks a first-class arts center and major auditorium and won't have its complex finished until 1973, although the swanky gym is operating.

Meanwhile, the college is footing part of the bills for a half-dozen concerts to be given in high school auditoriums of the five member school districts.

The first is only 10 days away — on Dec. 11 the Northville folks will see "Amahl and the Night Visitors" and on March 17 the Western Michigan University Wind Ensemble will perform in Garden City East's impressive new center, just to mention two.

It's fashionable to think of suburbia as a place of fine lawns and two- or three-car families living in a cultural desert. But that simply isn't so. Although there are excellent local theater and music groups, it's becoming increasingly apparent that the best-funded programs are being sponsored or co-sponsored by the community colleges.

And in this field, Schoolcraft's board and faculty have said loud and clear that our community college will be a leader.

AND THEN there was that fantastic German dinner Schoolcraft put on a couple of weeks ago.

AND COMING UP Dec. 10 is a talk at Schoolcraft by Gen. Maxwell Taylor, who has been at the seat of immense power as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, ambassador to South Vietnam and a foreign policy advisor to three presidents.

AND WE CAN'T neglect the role that Schoolcraft College biologists are playing in the community effort to "Save Volk's Woods," that incredibly rare and beautiful forest in western Livonia that someone

wants to make into an apartment complex.

WE TEND to think of our "community" as being just Southfield or Farmington or Redford or Garden City or Livonia, so it's easy to overlook the two-year college that serves five school districts and accepts students from every community in which this column is circulated.

Education is more than academics. It's reaching out to a region in a thousand different ways to improve the quality of life. At least, that's how they're trying to do it at Schoolcraft College.

A Big Hand For Raiders

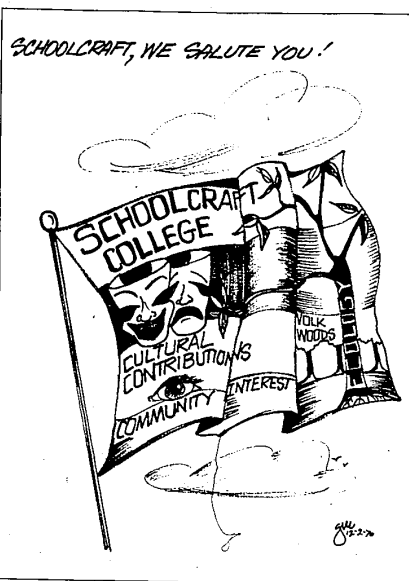
Rarely do the Observer Newspapers have an opportunity to doff their hats to a state championship high school football team from the seven communities covered by our circulation.

But this is one of those rare times, and we salute the Raiders of North Farmington High who have been acclaimed as the state's No. 1 team.

North romped through a nine game schedule without a defeat and showed so much during the season that its choice for the championship was unanimous.

The Detroit News and Free Press, the Associated Press and the United Press International all discovered in recent weeks what we have known all season—that North Farmington had a team capable of going against and beating any other high school eleven in Michigan.

AND COACH Ron Holland



HE'LL HAVE THAT opportunity in the next week or 10 days when Harold Schram, scholastic sports writer for the Free Press, who knows more about schoolboy activities in Michigan than any other individual, steps to the podium in the North Farmington High auditorium and presents the trophy symbolic of the 1970 state championship.

North has reached a plateau that no other school in Observerland has achieved. The team and school stand there at the top of the heap.

What else can one say but congratulations on a job done better than any other team in Michigan? The Raiders deserve all the praise one can offer. They started the season as a winner, and they'll go down in the record books as one all the way.

—Observer Newspapers

R.T. Thompson writes

Glenn Students Are Right

Students at John Glenn High in Westland, part of the Wayne school district, are doing quite a bit of howling these days. Not the type of noise that is generally associated with students in these modern times but rather a real cry for a football stadium.

It isn't that the high schoolers want a stadium of the type needed for the Detroit Lions or the University of Michigan, but they would like some permanent stands with a seating capacity of 3,000 or 4,000 to take care of crowds at home football games.

For seven long years, football teams at Glenn have worked out nightly on the present field and then had to travel to Wayne Memorial High to play games.

THERE ARE SOME wooden bleachers at Glenn, but the seating capacity is less than 200, and that harks back to days of yore when high schools had enrollments of about 500 and few came out to view the games.

Then, too, there is the matter of a fence around the present field. As things are now, there isn't a fence and little if any space in the small bleachers.

Perhaps the cry of the students could best be described as a "let's grow up" outburst.

There isn't any question that Glenn has one of the most modern high school buildings in

the area, has an excellent gym for basketball and outdoor facilities for baseball and track but just a gridiron for football.

The student body feels the school should have lights for night games, a public address system, a modern scoreboard and all of the things that other schools enjoy in the area.

THEY ARE EVEN willing to join in a fund raising drive to reach these goals if the Board of Education turns down their plea on the grounds of "no money" for such expenditures.

They are just waiting for word from the board one way or the other—to approve the much sought facilities or approval of a fund raising campaign.

It seems a shame to those who attend games at the various high schools in the seven communities in Observerland that a comparatively new building doesn't have all of the facilities needed for a rounded athletic program.

Livonia's Churchill High, which is now in its first year of full use of the new building, has permanent steel stands on both sides of the football field, excellent turf on the gridiron and quartermile, all-weather cinder track.

True enough, Churchill lacks a scoreboard, but it does have a public address system

and is slated to have the scoreboard come another season.

IF LIVONIA can build a new building and have complete facilities, then why can't Wayne do the same thing for John Glenn?

It certainly doesn't strike us that in this day and age a football team should be required to dress at one school, bus to another to play a game in rain, snow and sleet and then bus back to the school in the sodden uniforms for a shower and change of clothing.

Like the students, we feel it's time John Glenn has a stadium and football facilities just like any other modern high school in the area. And the sooner the better.

Sense And Nonsense

Our W.W. Edgar, better known to readers as "The Stroller," received this neatly typed little note t'other day:

"Dear Mr. Edgar: I don't know if it was in your column or in Judge Arnett's so will write to both of you. The statement was that it was a great concession speech that Mrs. Romney made on election night. You forgot to add, that she had three months to write it. Thank you."

DISSENT

View points expressed in DISSENT do not necessarily reflect those of Observer Newspapers Inc., but are presented in the belief that publication of all segments of thought on a public issue is a prerequisite to understanding and progress.

By MARIO DIPONIO
Plymouth

I object to the banner headline in "Readers' Forum," Wednesday, Nov. 25, 1970: "Teachers' Want Money But Ignore Discipline." It would seem to me that by attaching a 36-point type to that page because of one letter you were trying to do one or more of the following:

- 1 — Create a news story.
- 2 — Create sensationalism.
- 3 — Support one reader's viewpoint.

All three of the above have no place in responsible journalism.

As for the views expressed in the letter, let me point out that teachers are not trained in karate, do not bear arms, and have not served apprenticeship with a narcotic squad. It is not the teachers' job to discipline and teach manners, nor is the function of the school that of a penal institution.

The parents, the police, the courts, and the jails are those who are directly concerned with enforcing laws and manners. Teachers are trained in specific fields and their function is to teach.

The letter seems to imply that parochial schools do a better job in enforcing discipline. This is probably true, but parochial schools are selective; they do not have to take every one who wishes to attend.

The expulsion process for an unruly student is quicker than in public schools. But do you know where the discipline problems of parochial schools go? To public schools. The expulsion of a student from public schools is a herculean task. The process is complicated by laws and school politics.

TEACHERS IN public schools do not ignore discipline. They are trained and hired to teach; therefore they see teaching as a primary goal.

Furthermore, in spite of paragraphs 340.756 and 340.757 of the Michigan School Code (1955), which give school officials the right to use physical force to maintain proper discipline over pupils, most teachers carry liability protection in the event that legal action should be taken against them.

Also in 29 per cent of large U.S. cities, teachers are assaulted and their property damaged. Assaults have increased since last year by approximately 30 per cent.

I would like to comment briefly on three more points. Teachers' unions and associations are not strong when compared to other unions and associations.

Teachers are not paid handsomely for what they do. During a school day a teacher is called to comfort a student whose parents are getting a divorce, or a pregnant girl, or talk to a student concerning personal matters on a parent's request.

This is done before or after school or during lunch. A conscientious teacher takes work home. Many teachers go through lengthy training (four to seven years of college). They sponsor clubs and supervise other school activities. Also at times they do act as policemen.

No one can demand attention from a student. Attention is given. Staring at the teacher should not be confused with paying attention.

There are many valid criticisms of our public schools but those expressed on Nov. 25 are not valid. I am grateful for what many teachers do for many children including my own. I regret they are not paid more.

Editorial & Opinion

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