

Future 'pounding at our door,' WLS officials say

By Nechama Bakst
Staff writer

The Walled Lake school system has a vision — a blueprint for a future where its students are self-motivated, its teachers exemplary and its schools the best in the nation.

To school officials, that vision is no will-o-the-wisp issue to deal with in the abstract and dream of at leisure.

Officials are convinced that the necessity for change is real and imminent.

"The future is pounding at our door," said Superintendent James Geisler last week in summarizing the message of a two-day professional development consortium at Walled Lake's Western High School.

"We can't call on the excuse that the year 2,000 is 11 years away. We are forced to deal with it."

Speakers at the conference Future in Focus included Robert Lentz, principal of the Birmingham Groves High School, Ford Wixon representative William Evans, State Sen. Dan DeGraw and Douglas Heath, professor emeritus at Haverford College.

Walled Lake Consolidated Schools includes northwest Farmington Hills.

A FORUM of ideas revolved around the future of education. Experts agreed that schools must learn to adapt to a changing world and changing values in contemporary youngsters.

Amid the theories and figures, there gradually emerged an unflattering portrait of today's school-age child.

The experts cited apathy, defensiveness, lack of values and lack of em-

pathy as characteristics consistently found among these children.

But, although Geisler acknowledged the problems are evident and counter-productive to effective teaching, he called on the audience to share his optimism that change is possible.

"Maybe our kids are like that," he said. "But we still have them. We still have time to work with them. Rather, than feel depressed, I feel challenged."

If he felt challenged, others could easily have submitted to gloom as Heath relentlessly laced away at the very fabric of the American school system. A noted author, speaker and researcher who has conducted studies at hundreds of schools across the country, Heath sees himself as a catalyst.

"Some people call me a Cassan-

dra," he said. "I'm trying to get them to think, to provoke them."

The audience, which Geisler appreciated at Heath's wry humor, seemed willing to listen and to think and to be provoked.

"It (THE problem) is nothing new," said Sammy Ruetnik, Walled Lake school board president and president of the Bloomfield Hills teachers union. "But nobody's really articulated it."

Heath has amassed evidence to prove that more than 50 percent of students display characteristics that when taken as a whole mirror the pattern of a learning-disabled child.

"I read the data," Ruetnik said. "It's frightening."

A major weakness among children, often resulting in a decline of excellence, is that they only learn

what they're interested in, Heath said.

He advised teachers to teach their students self-motivation.

"Don't give in to becoming Cookie Monster," he warned, in a sharp jab at children's television.

Nor were teachers immune from Heath's scathing tongue.

"Where are we as role models?" he said. "Even faculty want to be paid for overtime. The majority of faculty see teaching as a job, not a calling."

The most effective area of change in curriculum planning as well as youngsters' attitudes is the ability to prioritize, Heath said.

He called on schools to set one goal at a time and try to achieve that goal.

"The board will very seriously consider what Heath had to say," Ruetnik said.



James Geisler
"Let's decide what we'll do and go about doing it," said Western High School principal Dennis Champagne.

Hills retains lawyer for dispute with Boys Republic

Continued from Page 1

with him last week to discuss a course of action toward a lawsuit filed by Boys Republic on Aug. 15, Sever said.

On Aug. 14, the city council ordered Boys Republic to stop campus renovations to improve security and to accommodate wards of the state ages 12-17 placed in the new assessment program. City leaders wanted to investigate the new program and the type of boys placed in it before allowing renovations to proceed.

The next day, Boys Republic filed an Oakland County Circuit Court petition to show cause why the stop-work order shouldn't be lifted. The private, non-profit, social-service agency is suing the city for \$3,700

per day for the two-week halt in renovation work, said Karen Piper, Boys Republic attorney.

Boys Republic claims damages may amount to \$50,000, Sever said.

"We feel the changes that are taking place represent a change in the use and we are concerned that this could be in violation of our zoning ordinance," said councilman Aldo Vagnoni. "We want to get Boys Republic back to what it was."

THE ASSESSMENT program houses boys sent by the state Department of Social Services to the medium-security facility for a four-week evaluation period before they are placed in a long-term treatment program.

Boys Republic officials maintain

that the 40 boys who'll be placed there for assessment committed the same types of crimes and are no more dangerous than the 22 boys placed there for long-term treatment. Best-of-up security, they say, is meant to control truancy and make the neighborhood safer.

None of the boys committed a violent crime or pose a threat to the community, they say. But many neighbors fear more dangerous felons now could be placed at the more-secure site.

Circuit Judge Jessica Cooper lifted the stop-work order on Aug. 19. Assessment unit renovations include security window screens, door locks, an audio monitoring system and fenced basketball courts.

Cooper said the city violated its

charter, and waived a review of building renovations and the new assessment program by the board of zoning appeals, said David Charadovoyne, Boys Republic attorney.

City planner Ed Gardiner issued a building permit to Boys Republic in December, after meeting with facility officials to review renovation plans. The assessment program, which neighbors contend is an expanded use of the land and thus requires city approval, wasn't discussed at the meeting, Gardiner said.

GEORGE ROBERTS, president of the Old-Town Homeowners Association, said Donohue had advised the group to request that the city council file a countersuit when the petition

was filed by Boys Republic on Aug. 15.

"If they (city officials) had done it right the first time, we wouldn't be in this mess," Roberts said. "Hopefully, the city will go along with a countersuit."

"The city is probably giving us as much support as they can without going overboard on spending," said

Walter Ream, a resident on Spring Valley and an outspoken critic of Boys Republic's new assessment program.

"But we (residents at southeast corner of Farmington Hills) don't feel like we are being heard," Ream said. "We have to fight the Legislature and the judicial system. Nobody seems to care."

Bomb found in truck

Continued from Page 1

rounds at 9 a.m. Tuesday, the truck had been parked in front of the manager's office since 8 p.m. Friday.

"Because Atkins had left the truck unattended at times on Tuesday morning, it's hard to pinpoint how long the bomb may have been rigged to it, Krause said.

IF GASOLINE from the bottle had splashed, the fumes could've been ig-

nited by a hot exhaust manifold or by a spark from a sparkplug, Krause said.

The threat of fire existed, but the bomb "certainly wasn't something that definitely was going to explode," he said.

He figures it was rigged "more to frighten than to cause a fire."

Evidence was sent to the Michigan State Police Crime Laboratory in Northville for analysis.

If the sitter doesn't show and you wanna go!

- Quality, hourly drop-in child care "where kids can have fun."
- A social club with children 2 months - 12 years in mind.

MY PLACE
Just for kids

32875 Northwestern • 737-5437
(S. of 14 Mile) • Farmington Hills
M-Th. 8 a.m.-10 p.m., Fri. 8 a.m.-1 a.m., Sat. 9 a.m.-1 a.m., Sun. 12-8

3610 W. Maple (at Lakeshore) 340-5702
Next to A & P • Birmingham
M-Th. 8 a.m.-10 p.m., Fri. 8 a.m.-1 a.m., Sat. 9 a.m.-1 a.m., Sun. 12-8

The EMPLOYEES of H.A. SMITH LUMBER will BEND OVER BACKWARDS to help you with any problem!!

We Want to Be Your Lumber Supplier.

H.A. SMITH LUMBER
FAMILY FOUNDED OWNED & MANAGED SINCE 1940

28575 Grand River Avenue near Middlebell Farmington Hills 474-6610

Where Your Business is Appreciated and Shoppers Are Our Friends WE Haven't Met
Hours: Monday-Friday 7:30 - 5:30; Saturday 8:00 - 4:30

GIRLS & COLLECTIBLES

VALENTE'S Gifts & Collectibles

GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION Saturday, Sept. 16

BOZO the CLOWN in person 1pm-3pm

REGISTER TO WIN A Precious Moments Figurine see details in store

FREE - Hot Dogs, Balloons, Soft Drinks - see our large selection of -

•Liardo •Hummel •Lilli Put Lane •Swarovski Crystal •Jan Hagara •Lowell Davis and many others

REDEMPTION CENTER FOR ALL CLUBS

Valente's 219 Hutton Northville 347-6200

Center Dumlup Hutton Main St.

Greg SHOES Serving the Community for 23 Years

Especially Fit!

- Ballet Slippers
- Jazz Shoes
- Leotards
- Tights
- Fashion Bodywear

FOR ALL YOUR DANCEWEAR NEEDS...

Orchard Mall Orchard Lake Rd., N. of Maple West Bloomfield • 851-5588

Evergreen Plaza 12550 Evergreen Rd. Southfield • 559-3560

GRAND OPENING

Beginning September 11th, 1989

NUTRITIONAL DIET CLINIC

50% OFF

Unlike the rest, we have an Experienced Registered Clinical Dietitian to ensure healthy, nutritious and successful results.

FREE CONSULTATION

We offer you...

- The right way to lose weight successfully.
- An Experienced Qualified Registered Clinical Dietitian.
- Personalized nutritional and healthy diet plans designed by our Registered Clinical Dietitian.
- Individualized Counseling Sessions.
- A stabilization and maintenance program.
- We accept physician referrals for any and all types of diets.

Dietitian hours Mon-Fri 7 a.m.-7 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Sun. 12 noon-3 p.m.
Make The Call That May Change Your Life

NUTRITIONAL DIET CLINIC
20000 W. 12 Mile Rd. Southfield 443-2929

FREEDOM FROM DRUDGERY Laundry

ENJOY...Freedom from housekeeping, chores and relief from maintenance headaches.

For An American House Near You -

BIRMINGHAM 1100 N. Adams • 845-0420

FARMINGTON HILLS 24400 Middlebelt Rd. • 471-9141

ROYAL OAK 22500 Chagrin St. • 545-1222

ROCHESTER HILLS 3741 G. Adams • 833-2330

AMERICAN HOUSE RETIREMENT RESIDENCES

日本語 Japanese Studies

Seminars for Managers

Working and/or doing business with the Japanese

- Japanese Language & Customs I Mondays, 6-9 p.m., 12 weeks. Begins Sept. 25
- Japanese Language & Customs II Wednesdays, 6-9 p.m., 12 weeks. Begins Sept. 27

Customized company training courses available.

Call 845-9619

Henry Ford Community College

Management Development Division Dearborn Heights Center 22500 Ann Arbor Trail Dearborn Heights, MI 48127-2598

HFCC is an AA/COC institution

Starting Today

you can fulfill many of the fashion fantasies you've heard about!

50-70% off

on better designer fashions

Thursday, Friday and Saturday only

Supt. 7, 8 and 9

bettime

29499 Northwestern Hwy Southfield 352-2530