

POINTS OF VIEW

# New strike guidelines may emerge for teachers

**Q**uestion: I am a white-collar worker who has made good money over the years but who has not had a raise in two years. We have fine teachers and I vote for mil-lages. With the economy as it is, do you foresee teacher strikes this coming school year?

**A**nswer: Teacher strikes will occur in some Michigan communities this fall. However, under the present leadership in Lansing with its purge of school budgets, I don't perceive any value in a prolonged strike other than a histor-ical, symbolic gesture.

If Engler's philosophy on property tax cuts is supported by the public, I predict new guidelines regarding teach-er strikes will emerge.

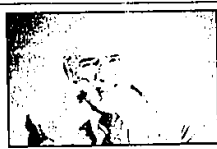
Following are some new teacher strike guidelines that are emerging in other states. I am talking about states such as Pennsylvania with long-standing labor/union driven cities such as Pittsburgh.

The philosophy behind the new teacher/strikes legislation in Pennsylv-ania says such things as: "Legislation will set a proper and necessary balance between the needs of students and the rights of teachers to bargain collective-ly."

In Pennsylvania, their new Senate Bill 727 includes several major points:

- It bans selective strikes in which teachers hold sporadic work stoppages (the Blue Flu syndrome) without giving administration a 48 hour notice to allow a school district to hire replacement teachers.
- School districts may hire replacement teachers, if an arbitrator's decision is rejected or when the 180 days cannot be met by June 15.

This, in my opinion, is just one step to docking the salaries of those teach-ers who took a hike because the re-quired number of school days in Penn-sylvania will have been met via substi-tutes . . . by June 15. Extending the school year into July to make up strike



Doc DOYLE

**■ If Engler's philosophy on property tax cuts is supported by the public, I predict new guidelines regarding teacher strikes will emerge.**

days is down the drain. School ends June 15 — with or without the regular staff.

And this legislation also allows the

secretary of education (State Superin-tendent of Schools) to request the court to stop any extended strike when it is impossible to ensure students receive the required 180 days of in-struction . . . within that June 15 deadline.

But there is more! A detailed and specific timetable for public school em-ployees' collective bargaining sessions will be established. No sitting around during the school year and playing a Mexican Stand-off, by either side, is an option anymore.

There will also be mandatory fac-tinding, i.e. who makes how much (for the public to view). And if things get tough, an arbitrator's final offer is a mandate to be implemented.

Now, we're not talking about ultra-conservative Nebraska and Utah. This is Pittsburgh, one of the most powerful union cities in this country during its Bethlehem Steel days. Times are changing!

Most startling is the composition of

the School Cooperation Committee which developed the legislation. Was the committee made up of business, in-dustry and angry citizens? Hardly.

Pennsylvania's Governor Robert Cas-ey said, "This legislation provides new and important protections against prolonged public teacher strikes."

And he praised members of the School Cooperation Committee who developed Senate Bill 727: the Penn-sylvania State Education Association (PEA), the Pennsylvania Federation of Teachers, the Pennsylvania School Boards Association and the Pennsylv-ania Association of School Administra-tors. State Teacher organizations and school administration working togeth-er, in the best interest of children. Let's give them all a hand!

James "Doc" Doyle, a former teach-er/school administrator, university in-structor, is president of Doyle and As-sociates, an educational consulting firm.

LETTERS

A big thank you

**N**ow that the banners, chalk, ta-bles and tents are put away for another year, it is time for my annual big thank you to all those who helped make the 28th annual Founders Festival a success.

We have higher powers to thank for the weather, but the following deserve our applause: Farmington DPW, Farmington Public Safety, Farmington Hills Recreation, Farmington Hills Police and Fire, Eric Johnston, Anna Lifsey, Sarah Lifsey, Cheryl Zajdel, Diane and Denny Lis, Jon and Debbie Grant, Andy Rosenbaum, Farmington Area Radio Club, Kent Nichol, John Akouri, Russ Tuttle and Rusty Soronen.

Hopefully I have not forgotten any-one. My apologies if I have. Notes are being made for next year's festival. I hope we will enjoy the same kind of community spirit in '93.

Jody Soronen, Festival administrator  
Chamber of Commerce

What about academics?

**W**hat an impressive sports complex is the architect's rendering of the new Troy High School.

If you take away the football and baseball fields, the gym, swimming pool, theater, tennis courts, parking lot, you end up with a school the size that I went to many years ago. It was called Log Cabin High School. It was a brick building despite its name.

It looks to me that about one tenth of one percent of the budget will go to academics and the rest to extracurricu-lar activities facilities.

Could this be part of our problem why America is having a difficult time producing engineers and scientists to compete with the rest of the world?

Paul Hansen, Farmington

He likes libraries

**T**he Farmington Community Li-braries have by far been my most used and valuable public facility. And I go way back.

I remember as a kid using the small library when it was housed in the northwest wing of the old Town Hall at Farmington and Grand River. There have been a lot of changes and growth since then.

Probably most residents take our li-braries for granted. They are always there, friendly, hospitable and loaded with information and knowledge.

Now, as the years have passed, my children have grown and used the li-braries, and we still count on them as

valuable resources in our lives. I hope they remain forever, like the Rock of Gibraltar.

Kenneth Kemp, Farmington Hills

Pilot program great

**T**he Farmington Board of Educa-tion voted in favor of excellence when it supported the North Farmington High School schedule re-structuring proposal.

This pilot program, developed by Debbie Clarke and her dedicated staff of professional educators, is a first step in a journey designed to end with a school system prepared to meet the challenges of the 21st Century.

As a parent and as president of the North Farmington High School Boost-er Club, it has been gratifying to see the outpouring of support from the community, the administration and the educators.

It is always easy to find persons will-ing to criticize and complain: it is rare, however, to see a concerted effort to bring about positive change.

It is fitting that the proposal was ap-proved during the baseball "All-Star break" since Deb Clarke and her staff are truly "educational All-Stars." The community is blessed by their dedica-tion, competence and enthusiasm.

David L. Haron, Farmington Hills

It's about those signs!

**I**n her July 6 column regarding po-litical signs, Ms. Judith Doner Berne stated, "Communities that deny them on the basis of aesthetics have a strange sense of what is beauti-ful."

It is difficult for me to believe that anyone with an ounce of brains would make such a statement. Those hun-dreds of campaign signs that litter our local area landscape are nothing more or less than "visual pollution."

I suggest that Ms. Berne pack a lunch and spend the day driving through West Bloomfield if she loves campaign signs so much. She will be absolutely ecstatic by the time the sun sets behind all of her beloved signs.

Fred J. Milburn, West Bloomfield

Fully fund Head Start

**T**he budgetary slighting of Head Start in the emergency urban aid bill is a sad indicator of our government's predisposition to putting Band-Aids on social problems while settling aside long-term poverty and neglect. The fact that a large majority of eligible children still do not have ac-cess to Head Start because of funding

shortages is testimony to our govern-ment's continued willingness to sacri-fice our most precious resource for the future.

Oakland Family Services (OFS) is a major local agency, and we believe very strongly that the families in this country must be strengthened if we are to have any hope of reducing crime, vio-lence, early pregnancy, poor school per-formance, child abuse, abuse of alcohol or other drugs and other serious prob-lems that are endangering our society.

OFS also is a member agency of Family Service America Inc., the oldest international non-profit organization dedicated to strengthening family life through services, education and advo-cacy. We see national programs like Head Start as being able to empower families with hope, skills and a healthy start to a better life, thereby strength-ening not only their lives, but that of our communities and our country as well.

Congress should make increased funding of Head Start a key part of their next urban initiative. Such a move should also represent a signifi-cant step toward fulfilling the federal government's commitment to fully fund the program.

William G. Fry, president  
Oakland Family Services

FAMILY READING CHALLENGE 1992

Calling All Reading Challengers!

## It's 'rap and rhyme' time!



**Yes!** I have read at least:

3 newspaper articles and 3 books and discussed them with my parent(s) or guardian or another adult.

SIGNATURE OF YOUNG READER \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE OF ADULT \_\_\_\_\_

**1992 FAMILY READING CHALLENGE RULES:**

1. You must be in grades 1 through 8 to enter.

2. Print clearly or type the information on the entry form.

3. Entries must be signed by you and an adult and postmarked by August 28th. The drawing will be held September 2, 1992. Winners will be notified by mail.

4. Void where prohibited by law or where restricted. All federal, state and local rules and regulations apply. No purchase necessary.

Questions? Call (313)953-2155

Please send me a "Readers Are Leaders" bumper sticker and register me in the September 2nd drawing for one \$50 gift certificate or one of the twenty-five \$10 gift certificates from Borders Book Shops in Birmingham and Noul.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

STREET: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

GRADE: \_\_\_\_\_

MY NEWSPAPER: \_\_\_\_\_

**BORDERS BOOK SHOP**  
BIRMINGHAM - NOVI

**The Observer & Eccentric**  
NEWSPAPERS

Return with stamped self-addressed envelope to:  
READING CHALLENGE, OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC NEWSPAPERS,  
36251 SCHOOLCRAFT, LIVONIA, MI 48150

Choose a story from today's newspaper that interests you. Read it carefully to make sure you understand the information. Now use what you've read to write a rap song that you can perform for your family.

If you don't want to rap, how about a rhyme? Try a poem or limerick. If you feel like being really creative, set the words of your rhyme to a familiar tune, like "Happy Birthday."

(Note to adults: This is the eighth in a series of activities in the Family Reading Challenge 1992 Contest. Use this page to share some educational summer fun with your child.)

