

Ban

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out of the taxpayers' pockets."

According to Goss, the issue is clear-cut.

"This behavior just isn't conducive to a downtown business district," he said. "There's not a whole lot else to say."

Skateboarders, however, don't understand what the big deal is. "They say they need a place where varied jumps and tricks can be accomplished, such as the Downtown Farmington Center. There are ramps, curbs, decks and stairs wells providing challenges. A relatively flat area, such as Shilawasse Park, wouldn't cut the mustard."

"The terrain is half of it," said 17-year-old Russell Fertig, who gave a short speech to the assembled skateboarders.

Beverly Brown added that the downtown center region appeals to the skateboarding crowd because of its central location and "cool shops. There's a lot of stuff here."

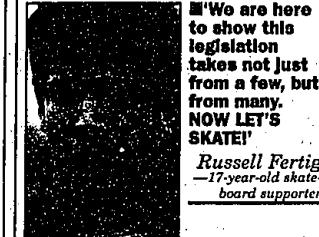
"This behavior just isn't conducive to a downtown business district. There's not a whole lot else to say."

Gary Goss
director,
Farmington Public
Safety



"We are here to show this legislation takes not just from a few, but from many. NOW LET'S SKATE!"

Russell Fertig
17-year-old skateboard supporter



Brown and several others emphasized that, if downtown is off limits for skateboarders, the city ought to provide a skate park. That would allow participants to continue an activity that they say keeps them busy, and out of trouble, after school lets out.

"It's something to do," said 16-

year-old Andrew Knepley, also a FHS student. "It's kept me from being bored."

In his speech, Fertig was to the point. "We are here to show this legislation takes not just from a few, but from many. NOW LET'S SKATE!"

Those who came to the fountain expressed concerns that a skateboarding ban would derail a fun activity that brings friends

together and helps them let off steam. But at least one business could be put in jeopardy, said FHS student John Robinson, 16.

"If they don't let us skate out, how's it going to put them out of business," said Robinson about the Pro Skate Shop, adding that many of the skateboarders rely on the nearby shop for wax and other supplies, let alone a new board if the old one breaks.

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Dentist in the 90s

by Herbert M. Gardner, D.D.S. &

Martha P. Zinderman, R.N., D.D.S.

ANTIBIOTIC UPDATE

Patients with heart conditions have long been advised to take their conditions known to dentists. On the other hand, dentists have been advised to prescribe antibiotics before visits to prevent bacterial endocarditis (bacterial infection). The latest recommendations from the American Heart Association, however, show that the precaution may not be necessary in all cases. The AHA continues to recommend that patients with congenital heart conditions, detectable by the heart valve damage, a previous diagnosis of bacterial endocarditis, or have an artificial heart valve. On the other hand, patients who have mitral valve prolapse that does not involve

valvular regurgitation or thickened leaflets can forego the antibiotic.

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Learning problems are getting statewide attention!

Governor Engle is stating all children should read by the third grade. Many children are still struggling with the basic skills needed for reading. The Michigan Department of Education is trying to improve schools and solve the learning problems. Teachers are concerned with the large number of children that need help.

Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) is widespread. In many schools, children line up at lunch time to receive their dose of Ritalin. This has many parents and doctors worried.

Local parents are still waiting for answers. They are still waiting for help with their children. Or they just wait it all together.

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Dr. John Jacob, director of the Vision Therapy Center, in Livonia, is often overlooked, and can be a cure all for ADD.

Systems of various difficulties and ADD are similar. Parents, teachers, in fact all of us, need to know the symptoms of vision problems.

The problem is a child whose learning difficulties are not related to reading. These vision problems are usually not detected by a child's teacher, doctor or parents.

1. A avoids reading and near work, cannot sit still or finish a task. This is often caused by double vision and eye strain, to be seen, sit, or visually concentrate.

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Dr. Ellie Edelman, author of *Successfully Successful Eyes*, adds this good news, "In almost every case of a child with a vision problem there is a solution.

3. Tilts head while working on close, covering an eye, develops headaches after reading and reading is slow. All signs of problems with eye teaming. Children typically do not report poor vision, they usually just see the way that they do," notes Dr. Jacob.

4. Poor handwriting can also be the result of poor eye coordination. Many of our patients have poor handwriting skills.

5. Poor spelling. The child may even pass the test but cannot recall the words one week later.

Reversing letters, sometimes identified as dyslexia, is often the result of poor visual memory and visualization.

The Vision Therapy Center doesn't claim to be a cure all for ADD. Their role is to correct vision problems that create these symptoms.

Another organization, the American Academy of Optometry (AAO) states that ten million U.S. children under the age of twelve have vision problems that make it hard to learn at home and in school. These vision problems are usually not detected by a child's teacher, doctor or parents.

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