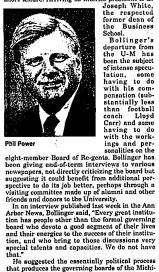
Idea of visiting committee has merit for U-M Regents

School. Bollinger's departure from the U-M has been the subject

Tis the season, and just in time for the New Year, they're changing the guard at the Univer-sity of Michigan. Leaving (for the presidency of Columbia Un-versity) is Lee Bollinger, who was a popular and visionary leader at the U-M during his relatively short tenure. Arriving as interim president is B. Joseph White,



States elect members of their university boards.
Gov. Engler says he wants to appoint board members, perhaps subject to confirmation. Sen. John Schwarz says a better system would be to add seven appointed members to the eight-member elected boards, thereby producing a hybrid board of 15. In either case, changing the way boards are selected in Michigan would require amending the Constitution, not an easy matter. So maybe Bollinger's ideo of an advisory visiting committee has some merit. I saw a version work well while I served as a Regent. Farris Womack, then the financial vice president of the University, created an investment advisory committee to advise him in managing the U-M's

Like any other small board they need all of the help and advice they can

portfolio, stocking it with business and invest-ment heavyweights. The advisory board had two purposes. One was to advise the vice president about investments. The other was to educate individual mimbers of the board about the complexities of financial and investment strategy.

The other was to educate individual members of the board about the complexities of financial and investment strategy.

Everything worthis has a hidden agenda, of course. And the hidden agenda in this case was to intimidate into silence one particularly obtuse and unknowline regent who had a long history of trying to mercumange investment elections. Watching AI and the man bluntly tell this guy be didn knowled and the was talking about is one of the heavest memories of my time as a Ruffer of the course of the course

Phil Power is chairman of HomeTown Communications Network Inc., the company that owns this newspaper. He welcomes your comments, either by voice mail at (734) 953-2047, ext. 1880, or by e-mail at ppower Chomecomm.net.



over ho-ho-hopeless **bus-radio battle**

Parents out of touch

A couple of weeks ago, the golf course I frequent had a Christmas party for the children of the

The party went fine, other than the fact that Santa could have been a little crisper. Not that the surrogate St. Nick was beozed up or dressed in green, but his suit was a little tattered and everything else was rough around the edges. In other words, Edmund Gwenn in Miraele on 34th

St., he weam't.

A few days later, the owners of the course got a call from a parent whose 10-year-old child attended the party. The parent explained that their child was currently in that age of confusion about Santa's existence and that the party's Ratty Ol' St. Nick confused the kid even more.

The parent vented for another 10 minutes and concluded by blaming the course owner - trying to be a nice neighbor by having a party for the neighborhood kids - for adding to their child's confusion.

to be a nice neighborhood kids - for adding to their child's confusion.

Until last Thursday, I thought this the singular most oblivious-to-the-rest-of-the-world act by an over-protective, over-coddling parent.

Ladies and gentlemen, we have a new winner.

The new award goes to the group of Farmington parents who want the district's school bus drivers banned from listening to the radio, while they get paid next to nothing for carting their pampered little tykes to and from school every day. (Guess you've pretty much figured out which side of this fence I'm on.).

For the uninformed, there are two factions of parents on the same side of this fight.

One just wants to be sure that bus drivers be a little more compizant of what they are listening to with the Yessa around.

And while I'm against censorship, that group has a point. I wouldn't exactly want my T-year-old listening to the flatulent humor of WRIF's Drew and Mike in the morning. It's bad enough that I listen to it. Nor would I want them listening to rap lyries like "First, we gonna "A\$% all the #%75"6%, then Asc '(3&8.%, then take the \$%78"6%, then have lunch.

It is the other, more militant group that wins the award for trying to bully their desires on the less-vocal majority.

This group wants no music, no news, no sound, no how on any of the buses. It's kinda like the Taliban, except they dress better and drive more expensive vehicles.

One parent complained about that well-known offensive patter on National Public Radio, since NPR had the temerity to broadcast terrorist information. ("Mommy, guess what I learned on the bus today? I learned how to adapt the principles of a Daisycutter bomb to the engine block of Daiddy's Beemer!")
They object to listening to Jim Harper and his morning crew — which under normal circum; stances would earn them applause for having; togot taste — but if there is any more easy listening, pump—the-sugar-right-into-my-veins, unobjectionable programming, it would be that.
And one parent said that her children are: allowed to insten to rock and roll. (And now, we bring you another golden oldie - Rachmaniand?'s version of "De You Know the Mallow and the said of the said of

and roll. (And now, we bring you another golden oldie – RachmanianG's version of "Do You Know the Muffin Man?")
Hey, people. Allow me to introduce you to two new concepts – reality and diversity.
Give the bus drivers some credit. Unlike some purents (and yes, many of the drivers also wear that hat), they can be entirely capable of realizing what is and lan't appropriate for a group of children. A lot of them even have common sense, which puts them one up on these parents.

which puts them one up on these parents.

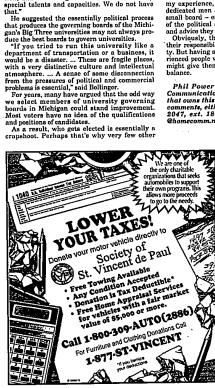
Life is a classroom, not a ocooon. You want to sholter your kids from drug dealers, from robbers.—I'm right there to help. You want to keep your kids from watching MTV, VH1, BET, CMT or anyother music video station at home, go ahead.

You want to bully others because you choose to keep your children's head in the sand until they turn 38, I have a problem with that. The people carting your kids around are just looking for a little peace of mind while dealing with your angels yelling, screaming, fighting and playing. Believe it or not, there is a whole new world outside the front door. Learning new things is why most parents send their children to school in the first place. Learning deemt end in the walls of the school. Learning is interaction with people, with places, with sounds and smells. And yes, part of learning is dealing and responding to the had and the good.

The smart parents know that and teach their ballows execution.

The smart parents know that and teach their children accordingly.
The others probably won't change, no matter how the rest of us ho-ho-hope they do.

(Paul Beaudry is a member of the Observer editorial department and can be reached at (734) 953-2122 or by e-mail at pbeaudry© oe.homecomm.net.)



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