

Youth's Idea of Wages Distorted

EDITOR:

The reason young people do not have jobs is their idea of a fair wage.

I hired a young man who advertised free in your paper. I wanted him to paint a small room. I supplied the paint and tools.

I asked him what he would charge me. He said "anything you want to pay."

He was extremely slow but did a neat job. One coat rolled on the walls, two on the ceiling, and the woodwork. It took him parts of three days - 18 1/2 hours.

When I asked him how much he thought I owed him, he said "\$53."

Now I could get a professional painter to do the room in less than a day and the job would have been better and the price would be less.

So, I have called a professional to do the other rooms I want done. And I hesitate to hire another high school student again.

Do you wonder why? Wake up students, and realize you are beginners and will be paid accordingly.

I did pay the young man \$50, but I feel that I have been had.

MRS. M. McKELVEY
Farmington

He Likes Drug Column

EDITOR:

This is to commend you for a feature which appears in your paper and is, to the best of my knowledge, unique in the Metropolitan Detroit area - "P.O. Box Drugs."

Although many books have been published and are available on the subject of drug abuse, this column is the only place one can learn of the latest drugs being abused - the ones in use right now.

It's factual but presented so that both parents and their children can become informed without being "turned off" by too technical terminology.

My only complaint is that it's becoming increasingly difficult to locate the column in "The Observer." Would it be possible to have it appear on the same day each week longer.

READERS' FORUM

Letters must be limited to 300 words.

Letters must be signed, with the writer's address. Names will be withheld only at the writer's request and for good cause.

Please type or write plainly. The editor reserves the right to reject unsuitable letters.

and, if not on the same page weekly, at least in the same section?

This would seem to be one column that deserves to be readily accessible to our readers.

Thank you.

D.J. CONSIDINE

Dedicated Teachers

EDITOR:

Regarding the letter written by Joanne L. Thorne that appeared in your paper of July 8, 1971: I would like to reply to her, and to the others like her, that I have been hearing recently who consider themselves experts in the field of education, even with "limited experience."

The writer states that teachers feel that they are "baby sitters" and that they are either incapable of or unwilling to motivate. As a teacher myself and the wife of a teacher, I take strong exception to that. There are many, many fine dedicated teachers.

I make this statement with experience, both as a parent and as a teacher (four years in three different schools and three years of substitute teaching in all areas in two different school districts). Perhaps you, the newspapers, are partially responsible for people not knowing about these fine, dedicated teachers.

I could tell you about what one teacher in Livonia has done with his sixth grade class during these past two years alone and the list would make this letter a full page longer.

lawyer how to handle her case, or even her mechanic how to fix her car-is she, indeed, even a parent?

THE SIXTH GRADE teacher I referred to above is only one of many. He worked with other teachers on many projects and many projects were conducted by other teachers. As his wife, I can safely say that he is not asking for personal recognition; he has already received the Detroit News' Teachers Award.

He would probably not even approve of my writing about him using him as an example. It is, however, frustrating to see and hear comments like those made by Joanne.

You may or may not publish this letter - I doubt it. Maybe if you did it would encourage people to write and say more positive things about teachers for a change. Or wouldn't that make interesting reading?

Why not have a campaign to have parents tell about some of the dedicated teachers their children have had? People rarely take the time to write letters about the good teachers they know of, only the poor ones.

There are, I am certain, many children who have been helped through difficult times by teachers working with parents and that many teachers have done a lot of group and individual "motivating." There are, also, many parents who would be willing to tell about it. I don't know why they don't, perhaps it just is not fashionable in this day and age. Let's give them a chance to write those letters and let's give the teachers some encouragement.

RUTH GOSMAN
Livonia

Sex Education Is Needed

EDITOR:

A 17-year-old girl thinks she can get pregnant by kissing a

guy. A sophomore girl in college believes French kissing will cause her to become pregnant.

But even after hearing of experiences like these, there are still those who think that a sex education program is not needed in our school system.

If those opposed to sex education and those that remain non-committal about the matter would open their eyes they would see that many of today's youth are misinformed or just plain lied to about sex. Children from watching television and movies see distorted views about sex, including prostitution, illicit love affairs, and broken marriages.

A child without a healthy background of what sex is about, could find it very difficult to come to valid opinions about these matters.

Many parents say they are trying to protect their children

and their innocence by not completely informing their children about sex.

Obviously this hasn't worked since many pregnancies that are out of wedlock are by those who don't understand all the facts. Even high school girls are buying one birth control pill at the price of \$1 thinking this will give them one night's protection. How misinformed can you get?

It's a nice theory that facts about sex should be taught at home, but it is just that - a theory. Many parents have admitted to being afraid or not capable of teaching their kids about sex. These are the parents that convince me that sex education should be taught in the schools so children won't grow up misinformed about sex or thinking that it is dirty or unnatural.

JANICE ROSENBERG

Atchley Chosen For Program

Dr. Ralph Atchley, Schoolcraft College chemistry instructor, was among six college teachers selected to participate in a chemistry research program at the University of Colorado which began June 14 and will run through Aug. 20.

The program, which is funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation, is designed for teachers from colleges where there is little opportunity for research.

Participants spend 10 weeks working in the CU research laboratories, gaining laboratory experience and developing projects which they can continue at their home college with undergraduate students.

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