

## Letters To The Editor

### Teacher Explains Consultants' Role

#### EDITOR:

The remarks are primarily directed to those people who voted "no" in the Aug. 23 millage vote and to those qualified residents who had the opportunity to come out and vote but didn't.

May I give a brief resume of myself so that you will have an idea about where these comments root from. The Farmington Board of Education hired me to work with elementary teachers and their students in the fall of 1966, and my job had been that of a consultant in two elementary schools until this past June.

(My task had been to work with all students on a regular basis with the exception of kindergarten youngsters. My schedule has been about the same as the other nine consultants who worked weekly with new classroom teachers and their students and bi-weekly with the experienced staff and their students.)

BECAUSE OF the number of classes in each of our two schools, we were unable to

work more than every other week with classes and once a week with classes with teachers new to the system. This same type of schedule applied to elementary vocal music consultants who were also pressed for time to meet with all their teachers and students.

As specialists we provided ideas interested classroom teachers and taught art or music in their classrooms. Having worked with elementary children and youths in two other school systems before coming to Farmington, I had about the same schedule. Here in Farmington we were added to the classroom teacher and added to their repertoire of ideas in art or music.

So, it was a shock to me in May when the principal at one of my schools informed me that there would be, among other reductions, a reduced art consultant staff, and that I would be eliminated along with four other art consultants leaving a total of five art

consultants to visit the 18 elementary schools in our school district.

This same pattern is repeated in the elementary vocal music staff, I understand—that of reducing special services to one-half because of lack of funds.

Although many classroom teachers do an excellent job of teaching art or music on their own it is my belief that children need the specialist with experience and with resource materials at his or her disposal to supplement the elementary child's schooling and to help "round out" the child a little more fully.

NOW, these services are going to be cut in half. The children and youth are going to get along with one-half of what seemed to be a minimal art or music program for them. The Farmington Board of Education personnel director has been able to get most of us transferred to existing vacancies in the junior and senior high schools.

But the elementary children who seemed to look forward to having art and music on a regular basis will receive their art or music for only one-half of the coming school year from the consultants.

BRUCE GABEL  
Farmington

Let's help each other...



#### the Farmington Enterprise Observer

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### Let's Accept Defeat

#### EDITOR:

While I may or may not feel regret that the additional millage proposal for the Farmington schools was defeated, I do most strenuously object to the childish attitude of R.T. Thompson and others who are taking the stand: "You didn't do what we wanted you to do, now just wait and see what will happen."

It has always been my impression that youngsters attended school to get an education and that the extra-curricular activities were just that -- activities in which a minimum of students were personally involved and the majority of students took vicarious pleasure in watching. Not "earth-shaking events," not "keep you out of college events," not "keep you from earning a living" events and certainly not "guess I'll drop out of school now that they don't have them any more" events.

Let us adults accept defeat gracefully, make the best of the situation as it is and thereby teach our children that we don't always get what we want but we do keep on working for it. Let R.T. Thompson do away with the "sour grapes" attitude and try to find something in Farmington to "cheer about," to build up interest, to let of steam" in the coming year.

And don't worry about the drop-outs -- sports and music lovers are not potential drop-outs. Let all the youngsters hit the books this year (that's what school is all about anyhow) and who knows? -- maybe next year they'll "get that "frosting on the cake."

ELAINE A. ROEBRIG  
Farmington

EDITOR'S NOTE: The quotation from the first paragraph did not appear in any editorial of this newspaper.

A GOOD CAUSE GETS a helping hand from a Farmington resident, Mrs. Russell D. Smith (at right), who will act as tri-county residential chairman of the 23rd annual United Foundation campaign to be held Oct. 12-Nov. 4. Looking at this year's poster with Mrs. Smith is Mrs. William Matthews of Belleville, who will serve as region chairman for house-to-house solicitations. The two women recently attended a workshop for top leaders of the campaign's west residential unit.

### Milliken Heads Unit

FARMINGTON F. J. Milliken of 23776 Gill, Farmington, has been appointed a team chairman of the 1971 Torch Drive metropolitan unit drive.

Milliken, plant distribution manager of Lincoln-Mercury Division, Ford Motor Co., will direct the unit's canvass of small businesses in Farmington.

Bernard R. Brown, Jr. of Detroit will be section

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### Asks For Volunteers

FARMINGTON Parents of students at O.E. Dunkel Jr. High School, 32800 W. 12 Mile Rd., are being urged to volunteer their services at the school during the 1971-72 year.

Gil Henderson, principal, said parents' help is needed in several areas. According to a newsletter to parents, they should fill out a questionnaire to be returned to school with their sons and daughters, or visit the school office any weekday.

Parents are needed to chaperone student activities, drive cars on field trips, host a

coffee klatch, type, man telephones and work in the school office.

Anyone wishing further information should contact Henderson at the school.

Local News

By MARIE LONG  
GR 4-3114

The Senior Drop-In Center held its pot luck luncheon Aug. 9 with a large turnout for the delicious food. Thanks to those lovely ladies who do so much for so many in the kitchen at the club. Don't forget every Monday and Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Masonic Temple for cards and conversation. Bring a sandwich; coffee is furnished by the club.

Don't forget the class reunion on Oct. 16. Farmington High Class of '55 will hold its 15th reunion at 8 p.m. in the Dunham Hay American Legion Hall on Nine Mile Rd. Contact Chuck Snyder of 29175 Eldon, Farmington.

William Miller of Hillcrest Dr. is now home convalescing after surgery at New Grace Hospital where he was hospitalized for 15 days.

DON and BARBIE Shires are now settled in their new apartment on Grand River in Farmington after their wedding in the chambers of Judge Michael Hand.

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