

Clarenceville Board Upholds HS Ban On Obscene Paper

By TIM RICHARD

If a Clarenceville High School student displays a copy of The Fifth Estate, a Detroit newspaper specializing in race, revolution and raunchiness, he will have his copy confiscated; his parents will be informed; and it will be up to the parent to decide if the youngster may read it.

In any event, the paper may not be displayed in Clarenceville schools.

The Board of Education Thursday backed Supt. David McDowell and Principal Anthony Marra in their order to teachers to confiscate the paper and turn in the student's name. (Since the rule went into effect several weeks ago, only about "four to five" students

had been caught with copies, McDowell told this newspaper.)

The board acted by unanimous voice vote after hearing Student Council representatives, parents and teachers at the question hour for nearly two hours before an audience of about 60.

STUDENT COUNCIL leaders had sought the board hearing after McDowell had refused to rescind the order when the Student Council condemned it.

As SC President Barry Sherman put it, the Student Council was split on the question of whether the paper should be allowed to be sold in the school, but the majority felt the school administration was violating basic U.S. constitutional rights in ordering teachers to con-

fiscate the paper.

Paul Fink, another Student Council member, complained that the order is "telling us we're second class or third class citizens."

Principal Marra, however, called it a "moral" issue that gets into the area of "obscenity and pornography... I don't know whether these parents want them (students) to have this in their hands." Outside of school, Marra said, the issue is between parents and children.

BOARD MEMBERS implicitly conceded that students probably would read the paper outside of school, but they asked the older students to "consider that" to "consider the effect on 13 and 14 year olds."

"Kids of 13 and 14," said Dr. Martin Wechsler, "are just becoming sexually alive," adding that The Fifth Estate is objectionable because it "explores 'weird and distorted sex'" and is "favorable to the use of drugs."

Dr. Wechsler asked students to understand that parents love them and feel responsible for "the moral climate, the moral atmosphere, with which you surround a child." He didn't think the revolutionary ideas in the paper were objectionable.

THE FIFTH Estate Newspaper, Inc., is published twice monthly near Wayne State University in Detroit. Its masthead says it is a member of the Liberation News Service and the Underground Press Syndicate.

Major articles in a recent

example were on Vietnam war protest, Negro battles with the Dodge plant and the United Auto Workers union, an interview with a "demolition expert for the Rebel Army" in Ann Arbor, Black Panthers and Vikings.

What seemed to have disturbed school officials were the frequent use of four-letter words beyond the mere "hell" and "damn."

Among the classified advertisements were: a male offering to pose nude and/or date "groovy" women; a bachelor seeking women for "erotic fun;" the Sexual Freedom League; and a publishing company selling male nude pictures.

THE Clarenceville Board of Education relied on its power under state law to act "in loco parentis" (in the place of parents) in allowing its appointed school administrators to decide what sort of published material could be displayed in the high school.

Administrators frequently used the word "displayed," making it clear they had no intention of searching students.

Student Council President Sherman pointed to a West Virginia case decided by the U.S. Supreme Court some years ago in which the court applied the first and 14th amendments to states (and their subordinate agencies, such as school districts).

Obviously disappointed at the school board's decision, Jeff Hiebert, a Student Council member, nevertheless said students wouldn't "walk out of school" over it.

Board President Dr. Samuel Prisk said that The Fifth Es-



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NOTICE OF REGISTRATION OF THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF CLARENCEVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF OAKLAND AND WAYNE COUNTIES, MICHIGAN TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Special Election of Clarenceville School District of Oakland and Wayne Counties, Michigan, will be held in the said School District on January 20, 1969.

TAKE NOTICE THEREFORE, that any qualified elector of said School District who is not already registered upon the books of the automatic District may register at the following places on the days and hours indicated:

PLACES: For those persons living within the School District and living within the City of Livonia: Livonia City Hall, 2000 Five Mile Road, Livonia, Michigan 48152

For those persons living within the School District and within the Township of Redford: Redford Township Hall, 1515 Bech Road, Redford Township, Wayne County, Detroit, Michigan 48227

For those persons living within the School District and within Farmington Township: Farmington Township Hall, 3155 Elevee Motor Road, Farmington, Michigan 48324

DAYS AND HOURS: Each day during office hours until December 20, 1968, until five (5) p.m. Local Time, and on Saturday, December 14, 1968, between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Local Time, and on December 20, 1968, until 5:00 p.m. Local Time.

LAST DAY OF REGISTRATION: December 20, 1968, but not after five (5) p.m. Local Time, on said date.

TAKE NOTICE that those qualified electors who have previously registered with the Clerk of the City of Livonia, or the Clerk of the Township of Redford or the Clerk of the Township of Farmington, may do so in the forthwith election. Those qualified electors who are not daily registered to vote in the area in which they reside within the School District need not re-register.

TAKE NOTICE that at said election there will be submitted a proposition to extend and increase the authorized tax millage as used exclusively for operational purposes within the Clarenceville School District.

NORMAN HUNT
Secretary of the Board of Education
Clarenceville School District

Dated: October 23, 1968
BY: HUSHE December 15 & 18, 1968

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Clarenceville elementary, junior and senior high musicians, numbering 630 will entertain the public at a holiday concert Thursday, Dec. 19, beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Louis E. Schmidt auditorium in the high school.

This second annual program will feature 140 elementary vocal students from Westbrook, Botsford, Grandview and Edgewood schools; 125 junior high vocalists; 110 senior high singers; 115 elementary bandmen, 75 junior high band members and the 95 members of the senior high band.

Junior and senior high vocalists will be under the direction of Miss Carol Hornung with Misses Geraldine Ricker and Grace Kuhns in charge of the elementary vocal groups.

John Nezek will direct the senior high band with Theodore Maltrés directing the junior high bandmen and William Kessler the elementary instrumentalists.

Concert tickets are 50 cents for adults and 25 cents for students.

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