

the Farmington Enterprise & Observer

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Women, Youth Freshening Politics?

By SANDRA ARMSTRUSTER before the May 16 primary.

FARMINGTON
Have the women's liberation movement and the young, first-time voters affected Farmington's political parties during this election year?
The Farmington Enterprise & Observer interviewed representatives of both parties and asked their assessment of the participation of women and young people in the party.

"WE'VE TRIED to encourage young persons and women to file as precinct delegates," responds Aldo Vagnozzi, 19th District Democratic chairman, whose party sports a woman president of its local club. "Young people were reluctant to file because they didn't know what was involved in becoming a precinct delegate, but more and more women are becoming involved."

"It's an educational process. We have to do more education in the future," he explains. About 25 per cent of the Democrats filing for precinct delegate were women. At least five young persons (22 years and younger) filed including one student, Theodore D. Smith of 23075 Mooney, who will not be 18 until two days

background

according to Mrs. Livingston. "Women operate with the total party when needed. They are very well versed. Women give speeches and conduct delegate seminars."

Isabel Haynes, a long-standing Republican in the township, hopes that women will have more participation in the party and hopes that more will be running for the national convention.

Republican youth have also been invited to join in party functions. "We have welcomed them really," comments Mrs. Livingston. "It's a good sign when they come into our meetings."

High school informational talks and offers to help were made by Republicans to encourage youth involvement in the party.

ACTIVE participation by women and young persons in the Democratic Party is on the rise.

One case in point is Mrs. Annette Sipher, who is heading George McGovern's presidential campaign here with Mrs. Joanne E. Smith, president of the Farmington Democratic Club.

The Siphers always worked together on various campaigns, but formerly Mrs. Sipher's husband filed as delegate. This year was different, however.

"It was almost a toss up. If Lindsay was a candidate (whom her husband supports) in the primary, he would have run. I decided I should run, that maybe it was time for a

woman who is committed to McGovern," she explains.

There are also more Democratic women coming to light on boards with leadership roles, according to Mrs. Sipher. "There is more evidence of women coming forward and not afraid to take a position of power."

Reviewing women's past party roles, Mrs. Smith explains: "In some instances women were given all the work and no power, all the work and no glory."

She admits women haven't always been "eager for glory." However, "they haven't always agreed with decisions. Women have their own solutions. Decision making belongs in the hands of women, too."

"Some men are reluctant because they don't want to give up power," Mrs. Smith observes that women will have to "get over their hesitancy," get some "toughness" and stop "wearing their hearts on their sleeves" when they become involved in politics.

WITH WOMEN expanding their political outlooks, Democratic youth are also looking for opportunities within the party.

Mrs. Sipher notes that McGovern delegations

probably consist of 50 per cent women, young persons and members of minority groups.

Women and youth both "have got a long way to go" in the party concludes Mrs. Smith. "The party has given a lot of lip service including this past year."

"When it comes down to the nitty gritty, men don't want to give up the vote. The party wants to invite us in, but they're scared silly of us."

Mrs. Sipher sounds a warning citing the rise of the Human Rights

Mrs. Sipher sounds a warning citing the rise of the Human Rights Party in Ann Arbor. "If the Democrats are unresponsive this time, young persons are not coming back."

"And I, speaking as a woman, say if Democrats are unresponsive, I'm not coming back either."

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Advisory Vote Asked On Township Tax Fee

FARMINGTON
Aldo Vagnozzi, a leading Farmington Township

Democrat, plans to ask for an advisory question on the May 16 ballot on whether Farmington Township should continue imposing the one per cent tax collection fee.

Vagnozzi, member of the Farmington Board of Education, will appear before the all-Republican township at its regular meeting Monday night.

The collection of the fee raised a storm of protest when it was imposed for the first time this year. In past years, the township board waived collection of the one per cent fee but this year decided against waiving the fee to get the extra income.

VAGNOZZI says the tax collection fee advisory question could be added to the ballot since the board, by a 4-3 vote at its March 27 meeting, has placed a busing advisory question on the ballot May 16.

"As you remember," comments Vagnozzi, "there was substantial opposition to the tax increase at the time that news of its imposition reached the taxpayers."

"There was also a series of questions raised as to the legality of proper notice to the taxpayers that such a tax increase was being adopted. "Others, like myself, felt that the collection tax was an improper notice to the tax-

payers that such a tax increase was being adopted."

"HAVING studied the history of the legislation which provides for such a fee, it is clear to me that such a fee was meant only for townships which did not have a paid treasurer's office as a means of reimbursing an unpaid treasurer."

"An advisory vote on this issue would serve to clear up the questions which have been raised about the collection fee and give the township board an indication as to whether it should be imposed again in the future."

Vagnozzi says the busing advisory questions approved by the township board mean little because the township lacks authority over school integration and any busing plan imposed.

"But the township board does have authority to decide whether the tax collection fee should be imposed, and so it makes more sense to have an advisory vote on this topic rather than on one which the board can do nothing about once the votes are taken."

The May 16 election will be to select precinct delegates and express preferences for presidential candidates. Also on the ballot will be the cityhood question, election of charter commissioners, renewal of the Detroit Edison franchise and the busing advisory vote.

Residents Want Busses Rerouted

FARMINGTON
Residents living in Woodcroft subdivision in the City of Farmington are upset because school busses and mothers driving pupils to Longacre Elementary are driving on Annand St. through their sub to get to the school.

This traffic pattern creates a safety hazard, they feel. Subdivision representatives have approached both the city council and Farmington Board of Education and asked for alternate routes to be used.

City councilmen Monday night said some problems are being resolved, and the school trustees Tuesday night referred the matter to the school board's safety committee for study.

IT IS expected city and school representatives will be meeting in the future to seek a final solution to the common problem, but the solution

might have to wait until at least next fall.

Woodcroft residents would like school busses to be routed down Drake Road with children unloaded at the Drake Park parking lot to walk about 80 feet to the school. Longacre is directly behind (east of) the Drake Road Park.

Before this re-routing can be considered, however, Drake Road must be paved; the city must add a paved parking lot for Drake Park, and a sidewalk must be built connecting the Drake Park parking lot with the school.

The city already has formalized plans to pave Drake Road and construct a paved parking lot for Drake Park. Councilmen indicate they are willing to negotiate with school authorities are sharing the costs of a concrete sidewalk.

Robert Deadman, acting

Continued on Page 6A

Frank and Bob say:



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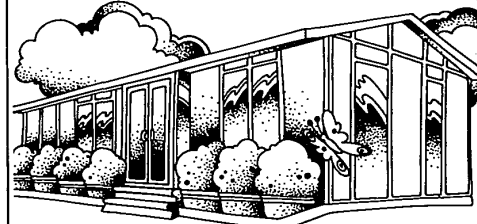
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