

Geake Stirs School Aid Bill Dispute

READERS' FORUM

Please type (or write clearly) and limit letters 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.
- The editor reserves the right to reject unsuitable letters.

Wilson Barn Worth Saving

EDITOR:
A matter has come to our attention which we consider to be very important to the city of Livonia. It is with this in mind that we ask for the attention of the residents of Livonia.

The Wilson barn located on a five-acre site at the corner of West Chicago and Middle Belt, is scheduled for commercial rezoning unless the citizens of Livonia exercise their collective voice. This site is well worth our attention because, not only is it of historical and artistic center for our city.

We feel that a city that allows its past to be obliterated puts its future in jeopardy. We also feel that the civic benefits of having this proposed cultural-art center are limitless.

We ask you to consider the

significance of this property and lend your support to its preservation by signing a petition asking our local, state, and national officials to investigate offering the barn property. You need only be 18 years old and a resident of Livonia to sign.

Let's join together behind something of which our city can be historically and culturally proud.

PHYLIS COWDEN
KAREN CAREY
Co-chairmen
Livonia Jaycee Auxiliary
Wilson Barn
Petition Committee

Four local legislators have taken issue with what they call an "irresponsible, inaccurate and misleading statement" made by Rep. R. Robert Geake (R-Northville) regarding the school aid bill.

The legislators include Reps. Thomas Brown (D-Westland), William Keith (D-Corbin City), John Markes (D-Westland) and John Bennett (D-Redford Township).

Geake had criticized the four for switching their votes and helping pass a Democratic school aid plan. Originally, the four representatives were among 10 suburban lawmakers who didn't support the plan but changed their votes after a Democratic caucus produced changes in the bill. It passed on a party line vote, with Democrats for and Republicans against it.

The school aid bill was sent to a conference committee because of major differences between the House and Senate versions. It is not expected to be reported out of the committee until fall.

Geake had criticized the bill as being \$79 million over

the Senate version, adding that the Democrats attempted to balance the budget by striking \$83 million in retirement money.

The four Democrats said that "according to House Appropriation Committee figures, the total cost of the House version of Senate Bill 119 is actually \$1.3 million less than was passed by the Senate."

"In view of the fact that the House was able to make reductions in other areas so as not to exceed the total Senate cost of the package, we consider the allegation (by Geake), misleading and inaccurate."

Markes criticized Geake's statement which "suggests that we have given from the school district of the City of Detroit an unduly large sum of money which it did not deserve."

"That is, in fact, not the case. As the House passed Senate Bill 110, it provided that low millage districts—that is, districts with less than 22 mills for school operations—would be able to compute debt retirement and capital outlay in the comput-

ation of the district's millage rate for purposes of state reimbursement.

"If Rep. Geake had taken the time to compute Detroit's present millage rate-based on legislatively imposed millage, plus a local school district income tax, he would realize that Detroit's actual millage rate is 24.76 mills and that this provision of the school aid act does not even apply to Detroit."

Bennett noted that Redford Union will receive an additional \$210,000 under the House version which will allow the district to reduce property taxes.

Clarenceville will be able to reduce its millage by nearly a mill because of an additional \$99,000 it will re-

ceive under this version, Keith added.

Brown said that Livonia will receive the same amount under both the House and Senate plans and that Westland will receive \$635,100 which will allow it to reduce millage by 1.63 mills.

The four stated in a press release that the House version "at least takes into account the problem which many suburban, as well as rural districts, face in terms of high or low operating millages."

"It is our hope that in the future we will be able to provide further relief for those districts."

"We in no way can accept Rep. Geake's statement that we have 'sold out' our school districts."

Beach Stench Reduced

A few Great Lakes allewives are making their annual, early-summer appearance on the beaches, but state park rangers-armed with mechanical beach sweepers-say allewife numbers won't be great enough this summer to create a

stinky nuisance for swimmers and sunbathers.

Department of Natural Resources' fish biologists say the small, silver allewife-a major food source for salmon and lake trout-seems to die from some sort of spawning stress.

A SPECIAL SALE!

OUR ANNUAL SIDEWALK CLEARANCE SALE IS HERE!
JULY 19, 20, 21

And we have published a special Table of contents included in this Focus of the **OBSERVER**

Read It, Enjoy It, & COME OUT FOR THE SALE of the YEAR!



LIVONIA MALL
MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION, INC.
7 Mile & Middlebelt in Livonia

WSU: To Have 40th Birthday

EDITOR:
For many years Wayne University gave special attention to adult students. I am planning to write the story of the non-matriculated student at Wayne University, from the early 1930s to the late 1960s. It would be very helpful for me to correspond with some of the old "non-matric" about their recollections of Wayne University during those times.

I would also like to remind your readers that on Aug. 8 of this year we should recognize the 40th anniversary of the creation of our municipal university, in an act of personal bravery as well as of civic good judgment.

On that date in 1933, the Detroit Board of Education passed a resolution establishing a university to be known as "The Colleges of the City of Detroit" - the name Wayne University came a year later.

It was a brave act for the members of the board to take as it was for Supr. Frank Cody to recommend. With sharply declining revenues, the board could well have left the several municipal colleges to operate on fee-income alone - literally to sink or swim. It was fortunate for our community that they took this step, as their action assured many citizens the opportunity to invest part of their under-employed hours gaining additional higher education.

All appropriate materials collected in my research will ultimately be deposited in the Archives of Wayne State University, as a sincere and I hope useful gift in remembrance of the 40th birthday of our university.

JOHN R. BELLAFLUR
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Logan Heads Managers

William F. Logan of Livonia has been elected president of the North Detroit Management Chapter.

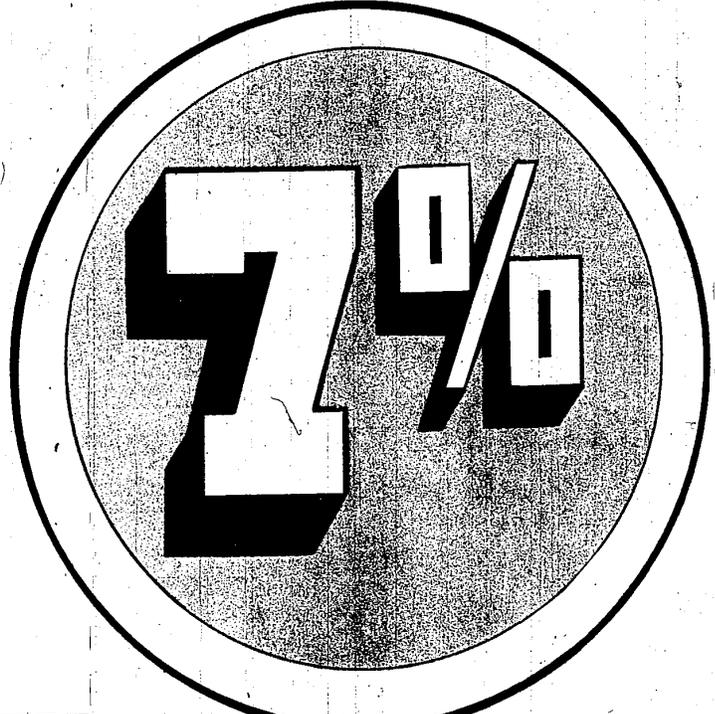
A 22-year employee of Ex-Cello Corp., Logan has held various club offices in his six years of membership. The chapter is a branch of the International Management Council and affiliated with the Highland Park YMCA.

VA Cares

The Veterans Administration now has 80 nursing homes for care of aging and disabled veterans.

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