The Observer Newspapers

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Serving the rich Northwest Wayne County and South Oakland County Suburban markets with a group of affiliated newspapers in Livonia, Plymouth, Farmington, Redford, Garden City and the Townships of Plymouth, Farmington, Redford and Nankin.

Teen To Talk About

This week Michigan's Junior Miss Bonnie Britton leaves for Mobile, Ala. to compete for the national title.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Britton of Farmington Township, Bonnie is the kind of teenager who all too infrequently makes the news.

She is polite and active in both school organizations and community groups. She will appear in the upcoming North Farmington High School presentation of "The King and I" and just finished a part in the Farmington Players production of "George Washington Slept Here."

She likes clothes, boys, dates, and having fun. She isn't a grind — or is the term something else these days?

In short we think she is an excellent person to represent the teenagers not only of Farmington and Michigan, but of the country.

We are proud of her.

Along with our pride goes our support and best wishes for a successful trip to Mobile. We hope that when she returns the Farmington Jaycees will be able to think about adding the words "home of America's Junior Miss" to those signs that proclaim Farmington as the home of Olympic champion Rex Cawley.

Good luck Bonnie.

SUE SHAUGHNESSY

Bargaining Confusion

"Certainly, a school board member can observe bargaining sessions," the president of the Redford Union School Board says.

His remark provides a breath of fresh air in contrast to some districts where board-appointed negotiating teams have indicated that not even board members may watch the negotiations.

Negotiators representing administration and unions are overlooking the responsibility of boards to make ultimate decisions.

Panic has swept over many boards who are hiring high-priced lawyers and labor experts to help in their negotiations.

This is entirely unnecessary. It is making a mountain out of a mole-hill.

The new law, providing for negotiations, merely stipulates that such negotiations shall take place.

No board is bound to accept the results of any negotiation and cannot be forced to accept conditions with which it is not in agreement.

Instead of creating friendliness, the new law seems to be creating animosity: battle lines are being drawn.

Naturally, a board wants to establish good working conditions and establish employe high morale, but it only has so much money to spend.

Employes can threaten to resign over wages but you can't squeeze blood from a turnip. If only so much millage is available, it is all a board has to work with. It cannot by law operate on a deficit budget.

Every government policy board should advise all negotiators that it still retains control of the purse strings and has the privilege of being kept aware of negotiations.

Certainly, a high school principal can observe classroom proceedings without being kicked out by the teacher.

The same relationship exists between the bargaining agents of the board and the board.

And, to go one step further, the public should also have the right to know what goes on!

BILL GAIL

Loss To Farmington

With the resignation of Public Safety Director Maurice Foltz the City of Farmington has lost a valuable asset.

Foltz, who has headed the City police and fire forces, for the past two years announced his resignation last week to take a position in Sterling Township.

He is respected for the excellent job he has done in the City. Morale is good in his department and the police force is efficient and effective.

He is also open and fair in his dealings with all.

The position in Sterling Township is an excellent opportunity. He will set up a force—the first in that community's history—which will combine both police and fire protection for the residents.

We also expect him to do an excellent job there.

While we are happy for his opportunity, the community is also saddened that Farmington has to lose Foltz's ability and dedication.

The City of Farmington has a big job in finding a man to fill Foltz's shoes.

However, all the same, we wish him success and happiness in his new position.

SUE SHAUGHNESSY

No Room In GOP For Birchers

Seventeenth District Republican Chairman Louis Klei has revealed a documented study on the principles and tenets of the John Birch Society proving conclusively that Birchism and Republicanism are absolutely incompatible.

He made the announcement in the form of a resolution which was overwhelmingly passed at a District board meeting.

Whereas, The Republican Party, since its inception, has been a party of the people, premised on the right of freedom of thought and expression, grounded on the theory that decisions are arrived at after varied and adequate discussions, and,

Whereas, The tenets of the John Birch Society, as detailed in "The Blue Book of the John Birch Society" (Seventh Printing, Copyright 1961 by Robert Welch) are as follows:

"The John Birch Society is to be a monolithic body." (Pg 124, par 3, line 1)

"The John Birch Society will function almost entirely through small local chapters." (Pg 127, par 5, line 1 and 2)

"The men who join the John Birch Society during the next few months or few years are going to be doing so primarily because they believe in me (Robert Welch) and what I am doing and are willing to accept my leadership anyway. (Pg 126, par 1, line 3 through 6)

"The John Birch Society will operate under complete authoritative control at all levels." (Pg 124, par 4, line 7 and 8)

"Especially for the near future, and for the fight against Communism which is the first great task of the Society, it is imperative that all the strength we can muster be subject to smoothly functioning direction from the top." (Pg 124, par 4, line 14 through 17)

"Those members who cease to feel the necessary degree of loyalty can either resign or will be put out before they build up any splintering following of their own inside the Society." (Pg 126, par 2, line 1 through 3), and,

Whereas, The following is the avowed and declared purpose of the John Birch Society in the political area:

"In the political arena we shall try to make the word Americanism useful as a constructive opposite of Communism, and attract to our support many Americanists who may not be members of our Society. But the words Americanism and Americanists are simply semantic weapons, and have no direct connection with The John Birch Society." (Pg 126, par 5, lines 1 through 6 on page 127)

10. Finally, and probably most important of all these courses of action, we would put our weight into the political scales in this country just as fast and as far as we could." (Pg 84, par 4, lines 1, 2, 3)

Whereas, The John Birch Society, instead of organizing politically within its local chapters." (Pg 127, par 5, line 1 and 2)

It has endeavored and does continue to endeavor to insinuate its members into the Republican Party, with the intent to control and mold the party and its members to the desires and dictatorial wishes of an unrepresentative, self appointed leadership; unwilling to accept any but unquestioned obedience to authoritative control, and exercising the penalty of arbitrary expulsion for dissent and or the right to join with others in advocating one's own beliefs or convictions.

Be It Resolved, That although the Republican Party, traditionally, has embraced within its political spectrum a diverse and varied range of political beliefs and views, and although the Republican Party recognizes the right of every individual to exercise his right to belong to any group he feels expresses his personal convictions or beliefs, the 17th Congressional District Statutory Committee, officers of the 17th Congressional District and members of the State Central Committee do aver and attest that dual membership in the Republican Party and the John Birch Society and acceptance of the tenets and the requirements of membership in the John Birch Society are incompatible and contrary to the purpose, membership in and the political beliefs of the Republican Party.—M.C.

Worried About Your Heart and Cholesterol? Try Zerbo's Nutritional Program! Enjoyed by Hundreds of Happy People.

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A Teacher Speaks

Where Is This Utopia?

Poor Taste

Editor:

(Re: Letter from Mother of a Scout re: S. Vagnozzi-T. Nolan).

The lady isn't the only person who felt Tom Nolan's "quip" to a youngster was in poor taste. I did too.

But I thought the Observer placed the write-up of the incident in the front page in darker print to bring attention to the fact that Mr. Nolan's question was uncalled for.

Apparently there were several of us who misunderstood the meaning of the article.

I, too, am a Mother of a Scout.

R. Foley,
Farmington

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More School Use

Editor:

I do not think that our school facilities are being used prudently. The basic reason for the building is to educate our children. They are away from home most of the day, but are only being taught a little over four hours a day.

If one group of children attended morning classes and another group attended afternoon session, we would not need more school buildings. We would even save money on the cafeteria supplies and workers.

There certainly is no necessity for the considerable number of vacations during the years. Rather than giving our children a speeded-up and superficial education, use some of these vacation periods for more days of teaching during the years. The extended vacations hark back to our agricultural days when the children were required on the farms to help with the field work. Just because this was so 60 years ago doesn't mean we have to be stuck with such a schedule now.

Our school enrollment is increasing year after year, but our incomes are not yet. The teachers feel justified in demanding raises year after year. Where do they and the school board figure the money is to come from. How much longer will the home owners tolerate such attitudes and conditions?

I do not understand why the citizens of Livonia permit their tax dollars to be frittered away month after month on separate elections. We should have all elections in a year coincide and allow only one per year.

C. H. P.,
Livonia.

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Businessman Says

Editor:

So, Mr. McCann says "This is a foul blow to come up before an election. McCann's quotation comes from a zoning expose on a recent front page. Personally I can't think of a better time for such an article to appear.

I had a zoning request pass the Planning Commission by 100 per cent approval. At the City Council meeting, who should present a motion to reject the Planning Commission's recommendation? Mr. McCann, of course.

The Planning Commission's reasons for approval:

1. Adjacent to existing commercial zoning.

2. Intended use for this area is in the best interest of the City and will provide a needed service.

3. Intended use is low traffic generator.

McCann's motion for rejection.

1. existing zoning not being used.

2. intended use is not in best interest of City

2b. service would be rendered on two lanes and the commercial traffic would cause traffic problems.

How can Mr. McCann see things so completely different?

Wayne H. Jones,
Livonia

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Thanks for Soap

Editor:

It is with deep-felt thanks that we of the Northwest Detachment Marine Corps League and Auxiliary are extending to the Livonia School system and Kiwanis Club for the marvelous response to our soap drive for Vietnam.

The drive went over with a bang. We collected almost 7,000 bars of soap and we are keenly aware of the fact that real Americans came forward to be counted.

Again thanks.

Loren Good,
Commandant N. W. Detachment,
M.C.L.

Try Another

Editor:

I am writing in reference to your article of March in The Observer entitled "3 of 4 CARS ON ROAD NEED SOME REPAIRS." The article states "Three out of four cars on the road have at least one mechanical deficiency that increases driving hazards. The condition was disclosed by a statistical analysis of over a thousand cars that have passed through one of the nation's new automobile diagnostic centers."

It should be emphasized that statements quoted in the article refers to a "diagnostic" service performed by an organization which is in the business of correcting alleged mechanical deficiences by selling and installing auto parts at substantial profit. The results of this, or any similar statistical analysis, should not necessarily —be construed as being accurate or authoritative. The motoring public is already confused by conflicting opinions presented by both qualified and unqualified persons.

A recent "diagnostic analysis" conducted on my car reported several brand new parts in need of replacement and failed to report some of the parts actually in need of repair or replacement (including a six year old battery).

The motorist should be especially wary of unscrupulous or unqualified mechanics who recommend parts replacement on cars having low mileage. Anyone in doubt about replacing certain parts should proceed to other sources (including dealers) and determine if all sources have identical parts replacement recommendations.

Automotive Engineer

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Bid to Birch Meeting

Editor:

Perhaps after all the attacks from the Detroit Free Press, some of your readers may wish to learn more of the truth about the John Birch Society.

On Thursday, March 17, at 8:30 p.m., they will be holding one of their so-called "secret" meetings at the Hotel Fort Wayne Americana—Temple and Cass.

The American Opinion Speech Committee will present G. Edward Griffin, Staff, Major Coordinator of the John Birch Society, who will speak on: "The John Birch Society Looks At The U.N."

Mr. Griffin will autograph copies of his book, "The Fearful Master," at the reception in the Gold Room after the meeting.

Though virtually all Americans have heard the "popular" criticisms and the smear attacks on the Society, few have heard the John Birch Society side of the story. I recommend Mr. Griffin to all who wish to hear that story told by a man who has first-hand factual information and delivers it professionally.

Richard J. Heckert
Livonia

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Disagrees With Pupil

Editor:

If I didn't know better I'd think St. Michael's was on your list—your printing those two letters signed by names 5th grade, St. Michael School.

Obviously the letter about school taxes was written by the crank parent of the child. Incidentally my husband and I have always voted "yes" on all school proposals, although all five of our children attend, or have attended, St. Michael's all through the grades. Also, each assures me that they never once heard a nun or teacher ever mention public schools or school taxes. I, myself, attended Catholic schools for 12 years. The only indoctrination we received was charity for our fellow man and respect for authority.

The boy who wrote the letter about what he would do if a swimming pool were built across from Rosedale School (with that twisted sense of humor) doesn't belong at St. Michael's.

As you said in another spot in your letter column, Mr. Editor, please don't let us throw away the whole bushel because of two bad apples.

M.S.
Livonia

Editor's Note: I think this was a school project sent in by the teacher.

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Observing the Scene...

By MYRA CHANDLER

Do you like allegories? I'll spare you, this isn't about Batman and Robin. But in all good stories there have to be heroes and heels and so there is in mine.

• • •

Once upon a time through the land, in each rise and dale, there would sit seven giants. They ruled the little people of their rise and dale with an iron hand, looked down upon them disdainfully, and made heartless decisions with glee.

Occasionally one would step out of character and be sweeter than the others, and rule favorably for one of the little people, but that was because (unknown to the others) he had been slipped a large sugar egg in place of usual hard-boiled Eagle egg.

And then about every few years one or two would leave the rest, as sort of a penance, and go out with a giant needle and strong thread and mend the fences of the domain of the seven. After the holes were mended, however, he was soon back in his high seat, looking down on the little people and making lofty decisions.

But the little people don't really know the half of it. Because you see each of these giants also has a whipping boy who was kept up night after night every time the seven giants got together to plot and plan. In chains the whipping boys would march into their area to sit and wait for their turn to stand up and receive their appropriate number of lashes—

If they howled they got double. Night after night the giants met and the lashes could be heard down and across the street.

Until one night one of the whipping boys in one of the rise and dales said, "No more" — he reached down, and unfastened his chains — and walked away from the giants — to live happily ever after.

Now all the other whipping boys are looking after their departed one and are wondering about this too — and the giants of this rise and dale are wondering if maybe even they have made a mistake — Allegories don't have to have a morale — but maybe if more whipping boys stood up with dignity and protested it might be good for the giants — and ultimately the little people.

• • •

You are right, you smart reader. You guessed it.

And anyone who has ever been to a Council meeting, and witnessed the grilling some of our department heads have to take (on their own time) have felt compassion for them.

Councilmen come and go, but the whipping boys, err, department heads . . . remain to give continuity to the City—they are the technical advisers on whose talent we taxpayers rely — and from observation, their patience even surpasses their talent.

In Plymouth a couple of weeks ago, one Joe Bida, DPW head to the City over many long years of arduous devotion and accomplishments decided he had had it — and quietly surprised them all by resigning. A real loss to the community.

Giants of other areas might take heed.

Our Readers Speak:

A Challenge

Editor:

Your interesting article on page 10-B of The Observer proves that our state government is with the property owner, whether he own a shack or a mansion.

The state constitution, which was fought for and won by the taxpayers now has to be brought home to roost in our laps. If you own a home and keep it looking in decent order, the state says that you now will have to pay a 50 per cent assessed valuation of the true market price of that home and you may have to prove that exact value if you are in a position of getting any tax exemption like the Disabled American Veterans may get.

The big problem is to get any two appraisers to give the same value to the same property. With today's high living and great society, any house that has been bought in the last ten years is now worth over $10,000 assessed valuation.

The city of Livonia figures the assessment at 40% to property owners, which gives many people a fair tax bill. This 50% will also affect a lot of senior citizens, who this year think that they will get a little relief in their tax burden, as they too will be assessed at the new rate.

I do believe that our state government is doing this for all the business interests in the state, as the big businesses also get a nice big tax relief from the Board of Review, and when this is all totaled the property owner will really get a tax bill that will set him on his seat real hard.

All this means that the school tax will be figured on the new rate, and that will give the school board more money to be able to buy land to build the new parking lots for the students that drive better cars than the teachers, and build new school buildings that look like factories when they occupy land that is so dear to buy.

I find that anyone who thinks his tax bill is too large has the honor of appearing before the Board of Review to protest the new rate, and I am sure that the Board will be in session for a long time which in turn will hold up our tax bills again from the state and we owe all this nice progress to our government in the Capitol of Lansing.

If any Representative or Senator of our state can give the property owners a real good explanation of this new tax billing, I would like to hear it and be published in this paper.

W. MARTYNOW,
Commander, Disabled American Veterans
Livonia Chapter 114.

Against Parks

Editor:

HERE WE GO AGAIN!

The time has come again for me to speak out in regards to the forthcoming April 4th Election whereby the City of Livonia is for the 3rd time going to approach the Citizens in hopes of passing the PARKS PROPOSAL. Now we have defeated this proposal twice, but due to the change in the State Law which now permits a simple majority vote to pass such a Proposal the Mayor and the Parks Department are exerting all their efforts in attempting to sneak thru us the Voters their PARKS PROPOSAL. Let us unite at the polls again this time and fulfill the old slogan "Three Strikes; Your Out!"

My reasons for a Emphatic NO Vote is as follows: Based on the Parks & Recreations own admission, just recently you saw a picture of a Jet Fighter Plane, donated by the Air National Guard, being dismantled and thrown away, after it was supposed to be put in one of our Parks, but they say that due to Vandalism, this Plane was rendered useless and too costly to put back in good condition for use in a Park.

That, my good people, is what is happening at all Park Sites. There is nothing they have done to prevent it, nor do I see how they can prevent it unless they have a Policeman sit on the site 24 hours a day.

They tell you how many Ice Skating Rinks they have put to use this winter, but they never tell you how many of them have a good piece of Ice. After personally checking many of the rinks, I have found them cracked and broken, not kept up properly, debris of wood, milk cases, bricks, etc. frozen fast in the ice.

Whether it be Summer or Winter, Fall or Spring, even the present Parks that we do have are nothing to be proud of, but still they keep coming back for more parks. I don't care what it is going to cost, nor do I care whether the majority of funds comes from the Federal Government, don't they know that you and I are the Federal Government, and that the money comes from the Federal Income Tax we pay, how dumb do they think we are?

I could cite many more reasons but why waste valuable space. All I can say is let's settle this once and for all —NO.

John Molnar, Pres.
Merriman Estates Civic Association