In Teaching, Quality Counts Most

EDITOR:

I am writing in reply to Ronald Jones of Plymouth. I am 28, married, a resident of Farmington Hills, formerly of Livonia and Detroit. I am now on maternity leave after teaching and substituting for 5½ years (not in Plymouth).

I feel that it would be a sad situation if residency were to be the main criterion for employment with any school system. Quality, not location, should be most important. The Detroit Federation of Teachers, of which I am a member, has been fighting this very attitude in Detroit.

As to Mr. Jones' argument that a teacher should have a knowledge of the community, that can be gained by diligent reading of local papers such as the Observer, not necessarily by living there. A board of education should hire the most qualified people, not on the basis of residency alone.

Forty and 50-year-old ladies are not old, nor would they be better off at home. Many of the older lady teachers that I have talked to must work; they also have families to support (they are widows, or never-marrieds, or divorcees, or have unemployed or ill husbands, or their husbands are still in school). Also, should not seniority (and familiarity with the individual schools) be considered, not just who has a family to support?

I also have been a sub and know of others who sub. Most are listed on the sub rosters of several communities, not just one, so they can work a full week more easily. The high school where I taught had a staff of over 150 teachers, yet there were many days when only five teachers were absent.

What training does Mr. Jones have and in what fields? Social studies and English are extremely over-supplied. Many systems prefer a master's degree for a high school position and some impoverished systems prefer hiring bachelor degree people with no experience because of the lower salary involved.

If Mr. Jones has been subbing, with an application for a permanent position in for 1½ years, perhaps he should being this to the attention of his local union or the local branch of the MEA. The Detroit board was recently ordered to give contracts to many subs who were filling vacancies after the DFT argued on the side of the subs.

Has Mr. Jones gotten any letters of recommendation from administrators in the Plymouth system that he has worked for as a sub (department head, principal, assistant principal) or have they been unhappy with his service? In Detroit, any sub working in any school over five days in a row is rated by his superior. A good subbing job could influence a particular administrator to contact the board about hiring Mr. Jones when a vacancy occurs in his building.

I wish Mr. Jones luck in finding a position in Plymouth or another school system.

MARIANNE NAGRANT
Farmington Hills

School Busing Still An Issue

EDITOR:

Parents in suburban Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties are as concerned as ever about the ultimate outcome of the busing threat. One state representative even suggested "voluntary" busing. What a joke! With luck there might be one bus filled.

If the NAACP attorneys would bother to poll inner-city parents, they would be shocked to discover they don't want busing either. So—just exactly whom are they representing? Their own legal egos?

No one objects to children getting an education, so what's wrong with inner-city schools if the youngsters aren't learning? Is it poor attendance, unaccountable teachers or discipline problems? Perhaps a combination of all three.

Has the Detroit school board ever considered employing some good-sized ex-football players humanitarian enough to tackle the job? Their mere presence would certainly be a deterrent to the mischief-makers.

The NEA and the MEA have endorsed busing. Have the suburban teachers objected? Nary a word. If they have, it's the best kept secret in the tri-county area. The progressive theme fostered in education today is for children to be creative, self-motivated, self-reliant, express independent thinking, etc. At what point does this individualism stop? When you obtain your first teaching position, start paying your dues regularly and let your leaders think for you? You can't all be single, childless and uncaring — where are you?

As parents wait and worry, we cannot help feeling the teachers have let us down.

MRS. BEVERLY CHIASSON
Livonia

McMillan Gets New GM Role

Donald C. McMillan of Northville has been named manager of distributor development for the Detroit Diesel Allison Division of General Motors.

McMillan formerly served the division as its Detroit regional manager after previous roles as regional manager in the Atlanta and southwestern areas.

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.

Says Jones Is 'Not Into '70s'

EDITOR:

I have much sympathy for the thousands of people like Ronald Jones who have studied for a particular profession and then find no job openings.

In Mr. Jones's case, however, he seems to believe that being 25 years old, male, married, and long-time resident of Plymouth are qualifications for landing a teaching job in Plymouth. Nowhere does he list a single qualification that I hope a principal or school board would consider relevant.

Mr. Jones is simply not into the 1970s. He is provincial to expect that a school system gives priority to home town boys; he is sexist to believe that "women would be better off at home, so that more subbing jobs would at least be available for young husbands like myself who have to support a family;" and he is indeed frustrated, as he admits, to refer to women in their 40s, 50s, and 60s as "old ladies."

Fortunately, this is a competitive time in education, for if Mr. Jones truly harbors the prejudices his letter indicates, I am thankful the youth of Plymouth are being spared his services.

JOANNE STEIN
Plymouth

Area Deaths And Funerals

HELEN M. HUDSON -- Services for Mrs. Hudson, 78, of Plymouth, were in the Schrader Funeral Home with reader Alexander Howell officiating. Burial was in Oakland Hills Memorial Gardens. Mrs. Hudson died Aug. 31 in the Dearborn Heights Convalescent Center. She came to Plymouth 35 years ago and was a member of the First Church of Christ Scientist.

Survivors are her son, Robert of Plymouth; daughter, Mrs. James (Patricia) Lewis of Olympia, Washington; sister, Mrs. Henrietta Drouge, and a brother, Norman Sallwasser, both of LaPorte, Ind.

NANCY B. WARNER -- Services for Mrs. Nancy B. Warner, 85, of 1096 Hartsough, Plymouth, were held in the Schrader Funeral Home with the Rev. Henry J. Walch, pastor emeritus of the First United Presbyterian Church of Plymouth officiating. Burial was in Riverside Cemetery. Mrs. Warner died Aug. 30 at Four Chaplains Convalescent Center, Westland. She lived most of her life in Plymouth and was a member of the First United Presbyterian Church of Plymouth and the Plymouth Historical Society.

Survivors are her son, Bruce Richard of Plymouth; daughter Mrs. Donald (Dorothy) Jewell of Plymouth; stepdaughter Mrs. Arthur (Jean) Blackburn of Cincinnati, Ohio and six grandchildren.

HARRY J. SCHAFFER -- Services for Mr. Schaffer, 61, of 11402 Rockland, Redford Township, were held in Holy Family Catholic Church after a rosary in the Harry J. Will Funeral Home. The Rev. Fr. Noel Patacconi officiated. Burial was in Mt. Olivet Cemetery. Mr. Schaffer died Aug. 15 of heart disease after a lengthy illness. He worked in the circulation department of the Detroit News.

Survivors are his wife, Agnes; two daughters, Mrs. Sandra Heitman of Romulus and Susan Schaffer of Mt. Clemens; a stepson, John Mahn of Southfield; four stepdaughters, Mrs. Elaine Roberts of Detroit, Mrs. Jean Krause of Warren and Mrs. Susan Reckinger and Mrs. Ellen Hohf both of Redford; three sisters, Mrs. Pauline Joyner, Mrs. Angeline Buhl and Mrs. Patricia Rosnica, all of Detroit, and nine grandchildren.

HAROLD V. PETERSON -- Services for Mr. Peterson, 66, of 16103 Southampton, Livonia, were held in R. G. and G. R. Harris Funeral Home and St. Maurice Catholic Church with the Rev. Fr. Thomas J. Cain officiating. Burial was in Toledo. Mr. Peterson died Aug. 27 at St. Mary Hospital. He was owner of Industrial Plating and Buffing Corp., Livonia, until 1971 when he retired because of ill health. He had lived in Livonia 11 years and was a member of St. Maurice Church.

Survivors are his wife, Estelle; two daughters, Mrs. Raymond (Janice) Aarsen and Mrs. Thomas (Marcia) Hayes, and six grandchildren.

HARRY B. BROWN -- Services for Mr. Brown, 84, of 666 Maple, Plymouth, were held in Schrader Funeral Home with the Rev. Paul M. Cargo officiating. Burial was in Riverside Cemetery. Mr. Brown died Sept. 2 at St. Mary Hospital. He was a lifetime Plymouth resident, a retired Ford Motor Co. employe and a veteran of World War I. Mr. Brown was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Plymouth; Plymouth Rock Lodge 47, F&AM, and Plymouth Chapter 115, OES. He was past president of the Plymouth Goodfellows and served as a volunteer fireman for 40 years. He also was a member of the Plymouth Grange, Senior Citizens, Plymouth Historical Society and Ex-Servicemen's Club.

Survivors are his wife, Myrtle; two daughters, Mrs. John (Betty) Pint of Plymouth and Mrs. Robert (Annabell) Gotts of Northville; a brother, Oro of Pontiac, and four grandchildren.

WILLIAM R. RICE SR. -- Services for Mr Rice, 47, of 32430 Barclay, Livonia, were held Sept. 1 in Ross B. Northrup Funeral Home, Detroit, the Rev. F. William Whitledge of St. Paul United Presbyterian Church of Livonia officiating. Burial was in Glen Eden Cemetery. Mr. Rice died suddenly of a heart attack Aug. 29 while vacationing in Kentucky. He had worked for 20 years as an accountant for Hoover Tool & Die Co. and was active in Boy Scouts and the Livonia Little League. He was a veteran of service with the U.S. Marine Corps.

Survivors are three children, William Jr., David and Karen, all of Livonia; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. William D. Rice; and two brothers, Jack and Robert.

EILEEN K. BURNS -- Services for Mrs. Burns, 44, of 31032 John Hauk, Garden City, were held in R.G. and G.R. Harris Funeral Home, Garden City, with burial in United Memorial Cemetery. Mrs. Burns died Aug. 26 after a long illness. She was a waitress.

Survivors are her husband, James; a son, David; her mother, Mrs. Ann Panchuk; a sister, Mrs. Rosemary Paschall, and one grandchild.

RUDOLPH F. MITTER -- Mr. Mitter, 69, of 31970 Bock, Garden City, died Aug. 25 at St. Joseph Hospital, Ann Arbor. Burial was in Evergreen Cemetery. He was a self-employed painter.

Survivors are four children, Gary, Terry, George and Randolph; two sisters, Mrs. Beatrice Gordon and Elinor Mitter, and five grandchildren.

DAVID M. STAPLES -- Services for Mr. Staples, 66, of 5887 Haggerty, Plymouth, were held in the R.G. and G.R. Harris Funeral Home, Garden City, with Elder Theodore R. Edwards of Parkside Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints officiating. Burial was in Knollwood Cemetery. Mr. Staples died Aug. 25 at Garden City Hospital. He was a Ford Motor Co. clerk and a member of Parkside Church.

Survivors are a brother, William O., and two sisters, Mrs. Lena S. Norman and Mrs. Rebie Hall.

HELEN NIEDOSPAL -- Services for Mrs. Niedospal, 85, of 844 Rahn, Westland, were held in Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church after a rosary in Schrader Funeral Home. The Rev. Fr. Francis C. Byrne officiated. Burial was in Riverside Cemetery. Mrs. Niedospal died Aug. 24 at Annapolis Hospital. Her husband, Andrew, died in 1944. She had lived in Westland since 1927, moving there from her native Pennsylvania.

Survivors are a son, John Urban of Plymouth, five daughters, Mrs. Sanford (Mary) Knapp of Plymouth, Mrs. Herbert (Ann) Kalmbach of Livonia, Mrs. Charles (Rose) Carter of Los Angeles, Calif., and Mrs. Harold (Leona) Brown and Mrs. Irene Curmi, both of Westland; two brothers, John and Frank Mandral of Detroit; two sisters, Mrs. Catherine Micknaz of Florida and Mrs. Rose Smith of Pennsylvania; 14 grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

MORRELL E. GILMER -- Services for Mr. Gilmer, 50, of 28704 Minton, Livonia, were held in the Harry J. Will Funeral Home with the Rev. William Wager of Aldersgate Methodist Church officiating. Burial was in Parkview Cemetery. Mr. Gilmer died suddenly Aug. 25 of heart disease. He had lived in Livonia since 1972 and was stationary engineer for Allied Supermarkets. He was a member of Loyalty Lodge 486, F&AM.

Survivors are his wife, Mary Jo; a daughter, Mrs. Henry (Sonja) Kursa of Detroit, and two grandchildren.

ROBERT L. SMALLEY -- Services for Mr. Smalley, 51, of 30835 Six Mile, Livonia, were held in Manns-Ferguson Funeral Home with the Rev. Dr. Bardett Hess of Ward United Presbyterian Church of Livonia officiating. Burial was in Glen Eden Cemetery. Mr. Smalley died Aug. 25 after a long illness. He had retired after 20 years of service with the U.S. Marine Corps and was a salesman for Master Pneumatic Detroit, Inc.

Survivors are his wife, Helen; two children, Nancy and Robin; his mother; Mrs. Elizabeth Smalley; and four sisters, Mrs. Jacqulyn Schurig, Mrs. Eunice Murto, Mrs. Neil Jordan and Judith Smalley.

EDITH RUEHLE -- Services for Mrs. Ruehle, 66, of Reseda, Calif., were held in the Harry J. Will Funeral Home with the Rev. J.M. Rauf of Pilgrim Lutheran Church officiating. Burial was in Glennie, Mich. Mrs. Ruehle died suddenly Aug. 14 at her home. She was a stenographer.

Survivors are a son, Emerson Savage of Livonia, and a daughter, Mrs. Norma Almas.

ANTHONY L. SEDMEYER -- Services for Mr. Sedmeyer, 79, of 31554 Hees, Livonia, were held in R.G. and G.R. Harris Funeral Home, Garden City, and St. Michael Catholic Church with burial in National Memorial Gardens. Mr. Sedmeyer died Aug. 25 of congestive heart failure after a long illness. He was a dairyman for Ira Wilson Co.

Survivors are three sons, Leonard A., Robert F. and James C.; a daughter, Mrs. John (Helen Grace) McKinney; a brother, Frank; three sisters, Mrs. Regina Nesbitt, Mrs. Clara Bennett and Mrs. Helen Berkebile; 20 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

KENNETH R. ADAMS SR. -- Services for Mr. Adams, 58, of 6715 Caribou, Westland, were held in R.G. and G.R. Harris Funeral Home, Garden City, with Sunlight Lodge 600, F&AM, officiating. Burial was in Evergreen Cemetery. Mr. Adams died Aug. 25 at Brent Hospital. He was a supervisor for General Motors and had played with the Don Pablo Band for 30 years. He was a past master of Sunlight Lodge of Dearborn.

Survivors are his wife, Alice L.; seven children, Kenneth R. Jr., John, James Martin, Mrs. Michell Gerstenberger, Gayl, Shawn and Tami; his mother, Mrs. Flora Adams; a brother, John L.; a sister, Mrs. Doris Conwell, and two grandchildren.

GENE A. WHITE --A memorial service for Mr. White, 58, of Birmingham, will be held Wednesday, Aug. 29, at 8 p.m. in Christ Church, Cranbrook. Private burial rites will be at Wood Lawn Cemetery. Mr. White died Aug. 26 after a long illness at his summer home at Orchard Lake. He was president of Cogsdill Tool Products Co., Farmington. Mr. White was a graduate of Wayne State University and Babson Institute, Wellesley, Mass. He was a member of Christ Church, the Orchard Lake Country Club, Detroit Athletic Club and the corporate board of Boys Clubs of Detroit. The family suggested that memorial contributions be sent to either Camp Oakland, P.O. Box 9, Oxford, Mich., or the Cranbrook Foundation in Bloomfield Hills.

Survivors are his wife, Margaret Jean; two sons, Stuart E. of Ann Arbor and Gordon A. of Birmingham, and two daughters, Miss Marilyn C. White of Birmingham and Mrs. Peter M. Perthou of Gloucester, Mass.

DAVID C. SAJDAK JR. -- Services for David Sajdak Jr., two month-old son of Mr. and Mrs. David Sajdak Sr., 28940 Pardo, Garden City, were held in St. Hedwig Cemetery Chapel under arrangements by the Harry J. Will Funeral Home. The Rev. Fr. William J. Pettit of St. Norbert Catholic Church officiated. The baby died suddenly Aug. 18.

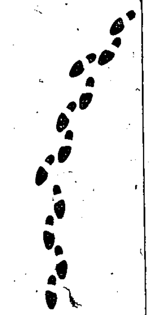
Survivors besides the parents are the grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Sajdak of Detroit and Mr. and Mrs. Francis Allore of Inkster.

MARJORY McNEILL -- Services for Mrs. McNeill, 67, of 38346 Roycroft, Livonia, were held in Fred Wood Funeral Home with the Rev. Gilbert Watson officiating. Burial was in Parkview Memorial Cemetery. Mrs. McNeill died Aug. 25 at Garden City Osteopathic Hospital. She was a homemaker.

Survivors are four children, James, William, Allen and Catherine McNeill; a sister, Mrs. Marion Eglinton; 11 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

ELIZA A. SMITH -- Services for Mrs Smith, 89, of 241 E. Liberty, Plymouth, were held in Schrader Funeral Home with the Rev. Paul S. Thompson officiating. Burial was in Riverside Cemetery. Mrs. Smith died Aug 27 at Nightingale Convalescent Home. Her husband, Edgar F., died in 1971. Mrs. Smith moved to Plymouth from Pleasant Ridge in 1970. She was a member of First Baptist Church of Plymouth and a life member of Eastern Star.

Survivors are a sister, Mrs. Alice Estep, and a niece, Mrs. Milton (Esther) Miller, both of Plymouth.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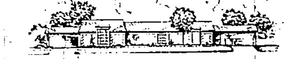
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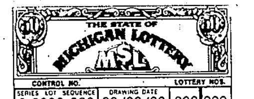

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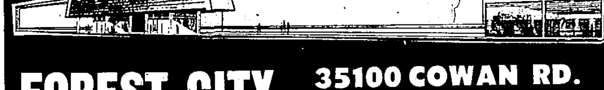

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