

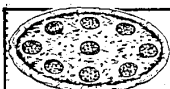
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Conference explores teaching alternatives

By DIANE SANDS

Teachers were given a glimpse of an instructor at his worst, courtesy of Dr. Steven Dunning, keynote speaker

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at a conference of the Oakland Council of Teachers of English held recently at Rochester High School.

Dr. Dunning, a professor of English and education at the University of Michigan, is also president-elect of the National Council of Teachers of English.

He used apparent lack of confidence, poor speaking habits and ineffective teacher aids to alienate his audience during the beginning of the lecture.

The teachers in attendance seemed to be having doubts about the well-known author of K-12 text books, when Dunning abruptly changed his manner, made his voice clear and audible and recaptured the attention of his audience.

HIS BEHAVIOR contrasted the mannerisms of the effective and ineffective instructor. He offered several suggestions to the teachers on how they can make a similar transition in their own classrooms.

"Evaluate yourself on a scale listing the qualities of an effective teacher and then become that kind of teacher."

"Become a totally different kind of person. Change your voice, your lesson plans or whatever is necessary to regain the interest and attention of your students," Dunning said.

Dunning also said the unexpected at a convention of English teachers. "English as a teaching discipline is failing in its methods of instructing today's young people."

"We have to deal with the problems of today's world, readjust imperatives and become more intellectually enticing," said Dunning.

He urged the English teachers to abandon traditional teaching techniques in favor of alternative teaching methods which actively involve students in the learning process.

Following Dr. Dunning's "Do things you've never done before" lecture was a series of alternative method workshops which the teachers were invited to attend.

Progress slow on welfare reform

OAKLAND COUNTY—Despite his ongoing and well-publicized crack-down on "welfare cheaters" in the county, Prosecutor L. Brooks Patterson said his office has been able only "to make a dent" in the overall problem.

Last week, Patterson announced

EXPERTS IN the areas of composition, reading and alternative routes to teaching offered a variety of new ideas in 20 presentations ranging from language encounters and elements of style to "Fairy Tales revisited" and "Yoga in the English Class."

"Advice from Momma to Doonsbury" was an alternative method workshop, dealing with ways to reclaim student's interest in reading and style through the use of comics.

Dr. William E. Hoth of Wayne State University and Evelyn Knott, educational director of the Detroit Free Press explained how comics can be used. They can introduce the effect of irony in humorous writing as well as how they serve to reflect the values of society, illustrate stereotyped sex roles and demonstrate the need for precise writing in presenting a story idea.

In "Fairy Tales revisited," N. Paul Silverman of the Oak Park Schools, illustrated the use of well known stories in role playing situations. Students instructed to work together are told to develop a novel ending to an old children's tale, or shed new light on evidence presented in the story.

For example, were Hansel and Gretel really in danger when they wandered into the gingerbread house deep in the woods? Or was it really a case of juvenile delinquents harrasing an old woman with the intention of destroying her property?

In this method of teaching, students are actively involved in a learning process which requires them to use their imagination in developing a new plot.

This year's chairman of the conference, Douglas Leveseur, explained its purpose as an opportunity for English teachers to share successful new teaching ideas and stimulate professional growth.

This was also the first time in the five year history of the conference that teachers from the Macomb Council of Teachers of English were invited to attend.

that 20 new felony warrants had been issued against 24 persons suspected of welfare fraud, bringing the total of warrants issued this year over 60.

Although that's ahead of last year's total of 45 warrants, Patterson said as many as 36,000 incidents of welfare cheating could exist in Oakland, one of the richest counties in the state. Investigating more of those cases would require additional manpower, the prosecutor said.

Currently, one investigator with the prosecutor's welfare fraud unit and two with the county's inspector general's office check out suspected welfare violations.

THE 24 PERSONS named in last week's warrants allegedly received a total of \$63,069 in fraudulent payments.

Of those 24, almost half were from the Pontiac area, which led all other Oakland areas in the number of charged violators.

Other cases involve residents of Ferndale (five), Keego Harbor (three), and one each from Rochester, Farmington, Southfield, Hazel Park and Holly.

Most of the warrants involved suspected failure to report employment income, direct support income or unemployment or social security benefits.

One Pontiac woman was charged with receiving \$18,400 in fraudulent payments. All but six of the persons were charged with receiving fraudulent payments of \$1,000 or more.

"We can no longer afford the welfare cheater," Patterson said.

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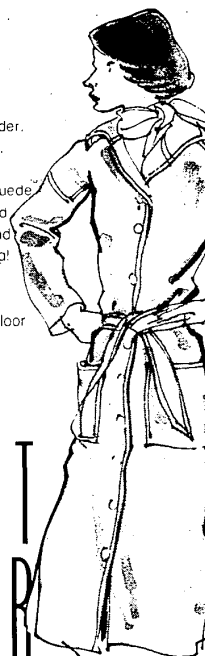
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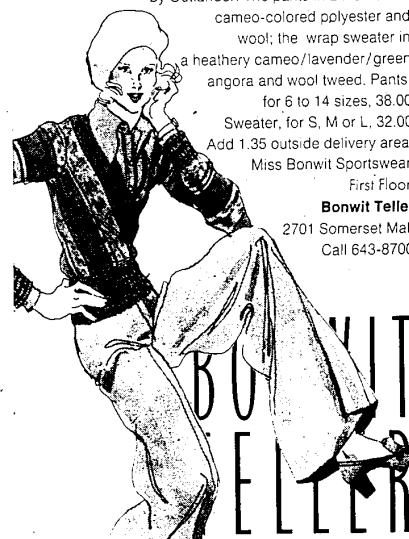
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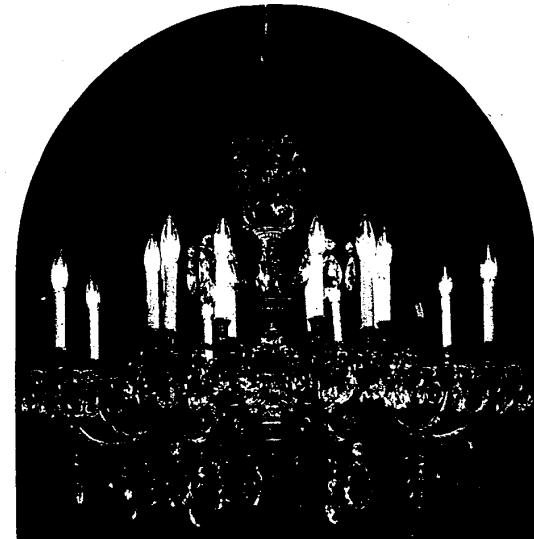


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