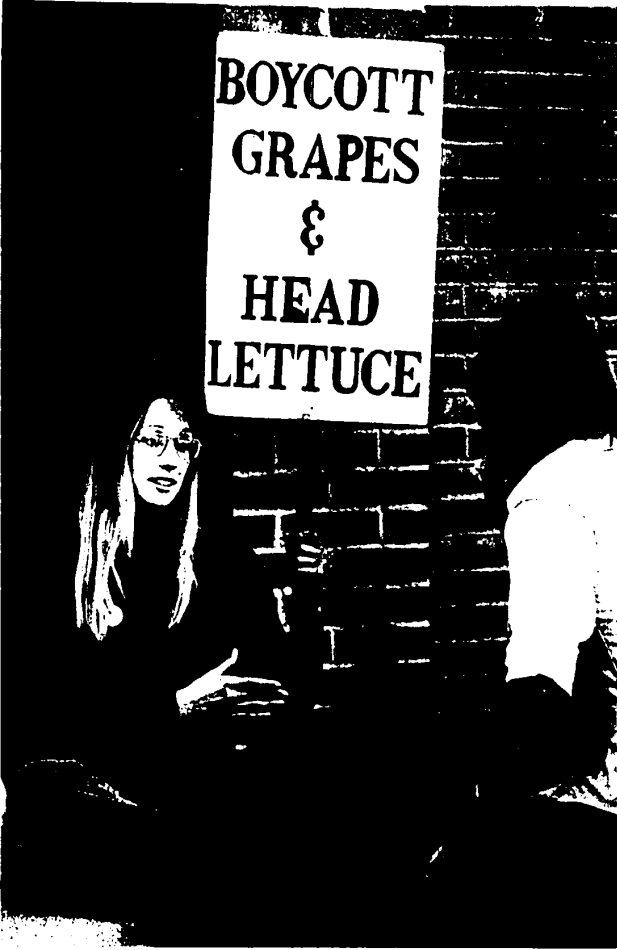


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Mary Schwartz of Farmington, who recently went on a fast in support of the United Farm Workers, explains her cause to a passerby. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

Candidates debate as election nears

By SUSAN AVERILL

Questions for Farmington City Council candidates at the Thursday night League of Women Voters candidates' night dealt with the historic district, revitalization of the central business district, and income disclosure.

Each candidate first introduced himself, described his involvement with the city, and gave his interpretation of its problems and solutions.

"I have not been to active in city government until the last couple of years," said James Moore, recently appointed to his second term on the planning commission. "Gites such as ours are complexes of people who need someone to think of them, someone to lead them."

William Hartsock, who has served a two-year term on the council, said, "My history in the city dates back four years. I ran an unsuccessful campaign in 1971 and was elected to a two-year term in 1973.

"I think it's only fair for any incumbent to go back and discuss why or why not (campaign promises) were implemented."

LAST TIME, HE ran advocating a dual-ride system for the city. This was partially accomplished with a senior citizen cab program, he said.

His promise of more efficiency in city government was fulfilled partially because of an expansion of city hall and partially to the purchase of a new mini-computer, he said.

Al Holm has been active in Rapline, the Beautification Committee and Drake Heights, his subdivision association.

"People who live in Farmington chose to live here because it is residential. If we change the complexion

enough, we could have another Southfield. If the people wanted big city life, they would have moved to Southfield," he said.

Alton Bennett was similarly concerned with the quality of Farmington life.

"I moved to Farmington because it was a city I really wanted to live in. I like Farmington and would like to see Farmington continue to be a place for people to come and enjoy their life."

Current Mayor Ralph Voder has been on the city council more than 10 years. While he sees no "burning issues," he said, "We do have problems which will have to be confronted in the future."

The council, he said, must continue to ensure the highest amount of service at the lowest possible rate, work for the separation of the sanitary sewers from the storm sewers, and work with other communities to solve the problem of rubbish disposal.

BENNETT WAS ASKED what he would do about the revitalization of the downtown area. "I do not profess that I'm going to have an answer for it," he replied. "But we have to know who who we are serving and what kind of service we want to give them."

When Holm was asked about the historic district and consolidation he said, "I have my own opinion about them, but they are strictly my own opinions. I would go out and meet with the people who have the problem. If these are the issues, I have to find out what your opinions are before I can serve you."

All five candidates were asked whether they would reveal their financial holdings annually when House Bill 5220 becomes effective next year.

All answered yes, but Hartsock was the only one who gave a brief on the spot description of his sources of income.

Another questioner demanded to know each candidate's feelings about the revitalization of the business district.

"I guess they're strictly personal ideas, but there are a couple of eyesores along that strip (the north side of Grand River). We have a shabby-looking cement block building which would better serve us as a parking lot," he said.

Bennett said rapid business turnover in that area was a problem which should be checked into.

"I think, partially, this is because these buildings aren't functional for the businesses. They don't serve the residents."

"We need to take a serious look at those businesses. I know some which I would like to see there," he said without naming them specifically.

HARTSOCK SAID HE met with area businessmen a year ago to research the high turnover problem.

"We encourage all businesses—it's a question of the relationship to the downtown area, the access and their viability, which should determine which businesses will go there."

"It's a question of the businesses being successful or not successful," Holm said. "Is there an environment where you can have modern shops? The parking is being used by employees and owners. I don't see the City of Farmington should underwrite parking when what is there is being misused."

Moore said, "When it comes to parking the people today are people they want easy in and easy out."

Hunger strike launched by Farmington woman

By CORINNE ABATT

For 14 days, Mary Schwartz, 20, of Farmington fasted, taking nothing,

but a drink of distilled water now and then.

As a supporter of the United Farm Workers boycott of grapes, head lettuce and Galia wine, Ms. Schwartz used her vacation time from her job at the Farmington Nursing Home, to dramatize the cause.

Each day while fasting she handed out leaflets and talked to people in a demonstration in front of a Farmer Jack store on Detroit's East side.

"My fast is to call attention to the boycott and the unfair labor practices," she said adding, "it is not easy. I feel weak and tired and I am at the store every day from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. when it closes."

Feeling she has been at least partially successful in her appeal, she said many shoppers have stopped to read her sign saying she is fasting.

"They will come up and comment that I am not eating, ask what's happening and why the boycott."

FAR FROM ALONE in her fight,

Ms. Schwartz comes from a family all of whom are active in the protest. Her brother, Mike, is staff organizer of the boycott.

When she is not with the protesters or working at the nursing home, Ms. Schwartz is attending classes at Oakland Community College. She will shortly transfer to Michigan Tech to continue a course in pre-med. She was graduated from Farmington High School.

The fast ended Sunday, Oct. 26, at a boycott rally when Ms. Schwartz had her first taste of food in two weeks. Actually, it was soup and juice because as she said, "You can't start right in eating."

She said, "I stopped fasting because I had to go back to work."

She feels confident others will carry on where she left off.

"Here in the Detroit area there are many people fasting on behalf of the boycott—five days a week, some one day at a time."

School chief fights 'spanking' law

By CORINNE ABATT

If there are any spankings in the old paddle sense of the word, going on in the Farmington School District, Supt. Marus Van Ameyde is unaware of it.

Reacting to the Supreme Court ruling allowing teachers to spank and the State Board of Education support of a bill which goes even further, the superintendent said his teachers and administrators are very aware of his objections to any emotional violence by anyone to a child.

Saying he had not seen any official documents on either the Supreme Court ruling or the State Board's endorsement, he stated his concern about allowing school personnel other than teachers—bus drivers, janitors, cafeteria workers—to use physical force on children.

"If the law was too broad, too liberal, it would concern me," Van Ameyde said, stressing that if such a bill was passed, it would be necessary to screen such personnel in terms of style, temperament and attitude.

In comparing teachers and other school personnel, he said, "I presume we have some right to assume, by training, teachers have had a great deal of exposure to responsibilities involving children."

Speaking of corporal punishment in the schools in general and spanking in particular, Van Ameyde said, "I don't think it changes anything, it may force children to conform, but it doesn't change them."

While there is no printed statement on corporal punishment for Farmington district teachers and prin-

cipals, Van Ameyde said the principals' handbook contains a section related directly to the state law including the last clause on liability which says the school district is not liable unless physical harm is done.

However, Van Ameyde said, "We are not troubled by liability because corporal punishment is almost nonexistent here."

He recalled the old days when paddles were kept in plain sight as a threat to misbehavers adding, "but our staff has changed since those days."

Teaching is challenged by a fast-paced world

By SUSAN AVERILL

"We think Farmington is a tremendous place to live. I think Farmington is a tremendous place to work," said Nick Abid enthusiastically.

Abid is principal of William Grace Elementary School, a position which he finds "challenging."

"The school program is geared to accommodate the wide range of abilities and needs here. I think it's very interesting to meet that kind of challenge. The kind of things that are happening today make this work interesting—men on the moon, President Kennedy's assassination, the president resigning and the bicentennial. Things are happening so fast and furious. We're continually trying to meet the challenges of education."

Abid has been at William Grace for 15 years and has lived in Farmington for 14. He has five children, three of whom are already married.

LIKE MANY OTHER administrators throughout the district, Abid



NICK ABID

has seen many changes in education and discipline.

"It's interesting, he said, that the Supreme Court recently permitted spanking in the classroom. "It's been a long time that youngsters here in this school have been disciplined in that way. Teachers have become more informed in behavior modification techniques. It's amazing how kids respond to that. The physical punishment is almost ineffective in comparison to this."

"I think the thing that maintains discipline in the classroom is the type of approach used in the class—one that involves both the kids and the parents."

"We have a lot of parent involvement; we believe in it. The total staff believes in open lines of communication." Parents have become involved in the Title I program, planning committee, as teachers' aides and media center helpers.

Involvement is his byword, too. "I believe everyone should offer some kind of community service. My most recent one is to serve on the ad-

visory board of the Sarah Fisher Home."

William Grace Elementary houses many unique or unusual programs. It is the unofficial headquarters of the Head Start program in Farmington. It is one of the few district elementary schools which offers a pre-primary class "to help those who haven't mastered the readiness skills."

IT IS ALSO ONE of four district schools to take part in the federally-funded Title I program.

"These federal dollars are used to help identify children who are having a difficult time in language and math. We want to identify youngsters who are struggling with a skill as early as possible. Basic to the Title I program is self-image. It's to help them feel better about themselves and about school."

The school also participates in the Cycle IX program, where teacher interners from Oakland University supplement the educational activities of the children.

Abid received his BS and secondary

teaching certificate from Western Michigan University in 1957. He earned his elementary teaching certificate there in 1950 and five years later earned an MA from the University of Michigan. His most recent degree—education specialist—came from Michigan State University in 1967.

He began his educational career as

an elementary teacher in Warren's Van Dyke Public School in 1950. Seven years later, he became principal of Clarenceville's Central Elementary School for a year before taking an additional principalship at Edgewood Elementary School.

He has been principal of William Grace Elementary since 1960.

inside

<p>News Section A</p> <p>Obituaries Section A</p> <p>Community Calendar Section A</p> <p>Editorials Section A</p> <p>Sports Section B</p> <p>Farmington Suburban Life Section B</p>	<p>Column 10</p> <p>Column 10</p> <p>Column 10</p> <p>Column 10</p> <p>Column 10</p> <p>Column 10</p>
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