

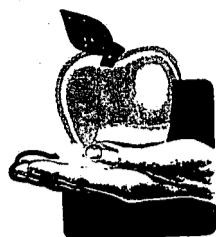
**Holiday Section**  
Special  
Thanksgiving edition  
filled with holiday  
ideas.

Next Week

**No More Wall**  
Area residents share stories of East Berlin.  
Page 24

**Education Week**  
Three Clarkston  
area women talk about  
learning.

Page 3



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# The Clarkston News

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Vol. 60 No. 15 Wed., Nov. 15, 1989

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2 Sections - 64 Pages 50 Cents

## Call for two resignations

# Residents demand action from board

BY SANDRA G. CONLEN  
Clarkston News Staff Writer

About 75 angry parents crowded into the Clarkston school board room Nov. 13 and demanded that the board set a date for a millage election.

In a three-hour discussion, about 20 parents voiced disapproval with the condition of Clarkston schools. One parent, William Bliesath, even called for the resignations of the school board president and secretary, while at the same time announcing his candidacy for a seat on the board.

After the discussion, the board voted 6-0 to set a Feb. 12 election when voters will be asked to approve an extra millage. The board did not set a millage rate.

Voting yes were President Janet Thomas, Secretary Mary Jane Chaustowich, Treasurer Thomas K. Howard and trustees Elaine Schultz, Paul VanKlaveren and Karen Foyteck. Vice-President John Needham was absent.

Bliesath read aloud a letter that said the board, especially Thomas and Chaustowich, suffer from the "Failure Syndrome" (see letters to the editor, Page 7).

The president and secretary are part of the "Old Board" and are part of the cause for Clarkston schools

poor financial and educational conditions, Bliesath said.

"The failures of these board members cannot be tolerated any longer," he said.

After the meeting, Thomas said she would not resign

from the board.

"I don't intend to resign," she said. "I represent more people than were in the room last night."

(See *SPRINGFIELD*, Page 4)



Photo by Sandra G. Conlen

CLARA WEBSTER (left) and Stacey Mercado enjoy the fruits of their labor from their

youth enrichment class offered by Clarkston Community Education.

## Independence man killed in accident

BY TRACY KING  
Clarkston News Staff Writer

An Independence Township man was one of two killed when a truck was smashed by a freight train near downtown Pontiac early Nov. 11.

A witness told police the truck was attempting to drive around the warning gates when the crash occurred.

The Grand Truck Railroad train reached the Franklin Road crossing about 2:48 a.m. last Saturday when a GMC pickup truck driven by James E. Draper, 19, of Pontiac, attempted to cross the track.

Draper and Robert E. Martin, 27, of Independence Township were both thrown from the truck and were pronounced dead at the scene, said Pontiac Police Sgt. Cornelius McLaurin.

The mangled remains of the GMC truck were strewn for a quarter mile from impact.

"It's one of the worst I've seen," McLaurin said, adding that the intersection was not a particularly dangerous one.

The truck had been waiting in the westbound lane of Franklin Road near downtown Pontiac. The witness told police the Draper truck attempted to follow another vehicle that had just skirted the crossing gate.

Martin is the son of Ronald and Donna Martin of (See *CRASH*, next page)

## Area man dies in car-train crash

BY TRACY KING  
Clarkston News Staff Writer

A multiple car accident on Dixie Highway resulted in the death of an Independence Township man Nov. 6.

James Morris, 20, of Mary Sue Street, died after the car he was riding in struck two vehicles and overturned.

The car was then struck by another vehicle heading north on Dixie Highway.

According to reports at the Oakland County Sheriff's Department, Morris was a passenger in a car driven by Tracy A. Gougeon, 28, of Waterford Township.

The vehicle was traveling north on Dixie near the I-75 interchange about 9 p.m. Monday when it struck the car in front of it. That vehicle was driven by Dawn Markus of Colorado; Markus was wearing her seat belt and was not injured.

After hitting the first car, Gougeon's vehicle went across the roadway, hit a parked semi-truck and flipped over, the report said.

Moments later, the overturned car was hit by another

vehicle traveling north, driven by Herbert Henry Person, 74, of Independence Township. According to police reports, the second collision did not cause Morris's death.

Person told police he looked away for a moment and when he looked up he was unable to avoid hitting the Gougeon vehicle. Person was also wearing his seat belt and was not injured.

Neither Gougeon nor Morris were wearing seat belts; they were transported to Pontiac Osteopathic Hospital where Morris was pronounced dead. Gougeon released himself from the hospital, according to hospital officials.

Morris had attended Clarkston's Alternative Education program and planned to attend Oakland Community College in January, said Ginny Farmer, assistant principal of Clarkston High School.

"This was a student that came to us from Sashabaw Junior High and basically became the leader of the Learning Center," Farmer said.

"He was class president of alternative ed.; he was just a marvelous student," she said.

# Residents concerned over growth, development

• BY SANDRA G. CONLEN  
Clarkston News Staff Writer

Growth, development and the government process are some of the concerns of Springfield Township residents who responded to a township survey in October.

The board voted 5-2 Nov. 9 to send a newsletter to township residents three times a year. Voting yes were Supervisor Collin Walls, Clerk J. Calvin Walters and trustees Nancy Strole, Dennis Vallad and Margaret Bloom.

Voting no were Treasurer Lois Stiles and Trustee Charles Oaks.

In casting his dissenting vote, Oaks said there was

probably a better way to spend \$2,800.

Before vote, Walls said the township information could be printed on the public-access channel once cable is hooked up in Springfield Township.

Gary Voelker, president of North Oakland Cablevision, Inc., said, 60 percent of homes are hooked up to cable already.

Stiles voiced concern for sending out a publication when the information could reach 60 percent of the homes at no charge.

Strole, who brought the newsletter idea before the

board last February, said four percent of Springfield residents responded to the newsletter. Of that four percent, only 10 percent said they didn't want the publication, she said.

John Campbell, an advertising executive, said the four percent response is higher than could be expected, and a response of four percent in his business would be used as a good indicator of a national trend.

The publication is to be mailed out in January or February plus May and September. The cost is about 25-27 cents per issue.

## Crash takes life

(CRASH, from previous page)

Meadowbrook, Independence Township, and brother to Larry Martin of Auburn Hills, Tony Martin of Clarkston and Kim Wilder of Lake Orion.

He was a 1979 Clarkston High School graduate and attended Oakland Community College.

According to his father, Martin enjoyed fishing, golfing, bowling, hunting and other vigorous activities.

"He carried everything in the trunk of his car in case anybody came along and wanted to do something," said Ronald Martin, adding that his son's death was difficult to talk about.

Robert will be greatly missed, he said.

"He was like a large flood light," said Ronald Martin. "When he walked into a room — no matter what the mood before — the room just seemed to light up. ... He'd have people smiling. He was kind of like a beacon of light."

He and his family appreciated the help from family and friends, he added.

"We're extremely fortunate, that way," he said. "We have a very large family. We have an awful lot of support."

## Corrections

A photo on Page 36 in last week's Clarkston News should have listed four Clarkston High School students as student council officers.

\*\*\*

An editorial in last week's Clarkston News should have said that members of the Clarkston High School Just Say No Club helped raked the lawn of Bonnie Valuet, the mother of a CHS student who was seriously injured in an accident.

\*\*\*

A story in last week's Clarkston News about plans for the Independence Township library addition should have said that a 20,000-square-foot addition was in the works for the building on Clarkston Road.

\*\*\*

In last week's Clarkston News, a story on Joe Sanders' Clarkston Community Education karate team should have said that Clarkston's 21 members took home 15 percent of the trophies awarded yet made up just five percent of the 460 people competing in the tournament.

\*\*\*

A story about new banners in downtown Clarkston should have said the Clarkston Rotary Club also contributed to the project.

## The Clarkston News

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Clarkston, MI 48016  
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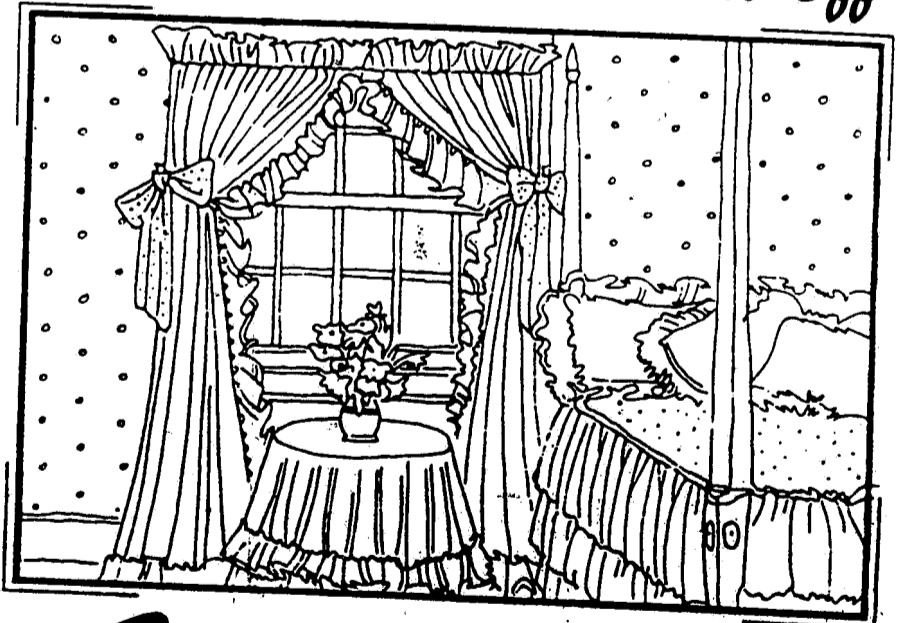
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# Education is the responsibility of all of us

BY THE REV. JENNI SCHRAM

Education is an area of concern for me. As the mother of school-aged children, as a pastor, as a member of this community, I become nervous when I hear how nonchalantly people consider the importance of our schools and the formal education of our children. When a community stops caring, the future is jeopardized. Education. It is a word tossed about in many circles,

yet we rarely take the time to consider the full impact of education upon ourselves and our children.

Often times, our understanding of education is limited to classroom academics, forgetful of the ways home and peers educate us. Our education exists in all area of our existence. It begins with our birth and ends with our death.

We put much blame for a poor education upon a school system, while taking credit ourselves for outstand-

ing performance by our children. But the education in our schools can only be as good as we — the parents and the community — make it.

The schools will prosper with our support. When we financially support our schools, when we instill in our children values of respect for persons and things. When our children know that they are loved and cared for by family and community, then the schools can be a place of learning and growth and development.

Without parental involvement in a positive way, and without community support for its programs, we ask the schools to do an impossible task.

Many of our current social ills are blamed on the schools — they have failed to teach our children love and respect and caring and upright morals. But it is not the responsibility of the school to build upon them for they should be taught at home from the time of birth.

As parents and members of the community we cannot expect the teachers to be superhuman social workers, solving all the social ills of our society as they impact upon our children in their learning environment.

As parents and members of the community we need to take responsibility for our children and to let the teachers teach, which is after all, the job they were hired to do. We do our children no favors when we expect teachers to be more than teachers and to provide the support students need but which should come from the home.

Our schools are a part of who we are as a community. The schools reflect our true attitudes and feelings about education. Our children reflect our true attitudes about education through the ways we have prepared them at home and readied them for formal education outside the home.

Our future lies in the hands of the young people of today. Each of us must ask whether we are supporting the development of the next generation and how we are involved in their growth and development. Or do we mainly stand on the sidelines pointing out the negative as we see it, highlighting the failures, destroying self-esteem and the will to achieve?

The future is our children — and they are our responsibility.



REV. JENNI SCHRAM, pictured with daughter Katie, believes the future belongs to the

children and parents should take the responsibility to educate them properly.

## Knowledge is part of youngster's entire life

BY PEGGY PALMITER

How do we get children motivated to learn? How can we fight the increasingly high illiteracy rates in the United States? How can we improve the reading abilities of our nations' school children? And how do we decrease the numbers of adolescents dropping out of our nations' high schools?

We look for someone to blame for these problems. Some point at the schools, for not teaching the right things, or not teaching them well enough. Others suggest that parents are not instilling the appropriate values to encourage children to learn.

What we are learning, in my research and others', is that the answer lies in the relationships between schools and families. The tasks needed to learn and succeed are taught in both homes and schools, with different tools and different teachers.

The approach that encourages learning is the ap-

proach that makes knowledge part of a youngster's entire life, not only in school. The ability to succeed is the ability to see learning as having an impact on everything else you do. Children must see the vision of knowledge as part of their lives.

This takes a team approach between schools and

### Be inquisitive; take challenge

BY DR. SUSAN E. COLEMAN

Education, what a powerful word. It can transform a young child or adult into a knowledgeable, valued individual capable of making tremendous contributions to self, family and society.

All that is needed is an inquisitive mind and the ability to dream. Question, then find the answer; dream and accept the challenge. Both provide long and lasting rewards for individuals (young and old), corporations, countries — the list goes on and on.

We can all see the benefits of education in everyday life. A middle-aged woman learns more about nutrition and exercise to better improve her health for the present and future.

A corporate executive is learning another language to better position himself and his company for changes in the business climate.

A young boy who loves math and the sciences pushes his teachers for more instruction. He wishes to absorb more knowledge, faster.

A young woman aspires to become a physician. This is her dream and one that she is determined to make come true.

A country once small is now large. Financially and (See EDUCATION, Page 19)

families. A team approach is more than appearing for a parent-teacher conference, voting for a millage, or telling a parent when a child fails a course.

It means parents, teachers and administrators being partners in the education of children. Instead of pointing fingers, parents play an active role in their children's education, both at home at at school.

Instead of shaking their heads about family situations, teachers care about their children's lives after they leave the classrooms. They know that their students' successes depend on the connections between what they are learning and the rest of their lives.

Parents, get involved in your child's education! What are their study habits, what are they learning, can you observe in the classroom? And teachers, put parental involvement high on your list of essential teaching techniques! Children will be the benefactors, as will we all.

### Highlighting education

To highlight American Education Week Nov. 12-18, the Clarkston Education Association asked three professional women, Clarkston residents all, to write a relevant piece.

Susan Coleman is physician specializing in internal medicine, and she's medical director of the Women's Health Center of Clarkston, Dixie Highway, Independence Township.

The Rev. Jenny Schram has been co-pastor of the Sashabaw United Presbyterian Church, Maybee Road, Independence Township, for six years and presently serves the Lakeshore Presbyterian Church, Port Huron, as interim minister.

Peggy Palmiter has been a practitioner, administrator and instructor in the area of child welfare. She is a past president of the Michigan Chapter, National Association of Social Workers and is presently working on an inter-disciplinary doctorate in sociology and social work at Michigan State University, East Lansing.



PEGGY PALMITER believes people must work together.

# Springfield man to run for school board seat

(SPRINGFIELD, from Page 1)

Chaustowich also commented after the meeting. "The people of Clarkston elected me," she said, said said, adding she would not resign.

Before the vote Monday night, representatives from parent-teacher groups at North Sashabaw, Pine Knob, Bailey Lake and Clarkston elementary schools presented petitions and letters, asking the board to set a millage election date.

Susan Sajtak, representing parents from Sashabaw

Junior High School, said children used out-dated textbooks and inadequate labs — just a few examples problems at the junior high.

Teacher Rosemary Lewis, speaking as "a concerned parent," urged the board to take action.

After the formal presentations, board members took turns with discussing why there was no definite millage plan.

"We are gathering information," said Thomas. "February is being discussed but not decided."

"We are perceived as sitting on our hands," said Treasurer Howard. "It's time to take our hands out and gloves off and start working."

The audience applauded his comments. Before the meeting, Superintendent Gary Haner said Clarkston faces an estimated \$2 million less in state aid this year, above the \$1.6 million cut from last year's budget.

Parents in the audience wanted the board to act that very night, while board members wanted to put off a decision about a millage election.

Trustee Karen Foyteck said the millage plan should include enough money for two or three years.

Haner said he would only recommend levying enough millage for one year because of the present variables: the Headlee Amendment to the state constitution, which automatically rolls back the millage rate whenever prop-

## Budget cuts could reach \$2 million

BY SANDRA G. CONLEN  
Clarkston News Staff Writer

In an emotional meeting Nov. 13, about 75 parents showed up to discuss a proposal to cut \$2 million from the 1990-91 Clarkston school budget.

Parents were angry that the board waited almost a month to discuss the cuts publicly.

Vicki Little of Deer Ridge, Independence Township said her school-age son has come home and discussed the proposed budget cuts, yet she knew nothing about it.

The proposed list of cuts were circulated throughout the audience, but one parent, Bill Bliesath of Fairchild Circle, Springfield Township, said it was rumored that the budget was not to be discussed.

"Is it true that you (the board) said to the administration and the superintendent that they were not to talk about this with others?" he asked.

One board member denied the allegations.

"We are not secreting information away," said Trustee Karen Foyteck.

Before the meeting, Superintendent Gary Haner said Clarkston faces an estimated \$2 million less in state aid this year, above the \$1.6 million cut from last year's budget.

Following is a list of items that could be cut from the 1990-91 school year and the amount of money it would save. The list totals \$2 million and was revised Oct. 18 by the school administration:

1. Eliminate one central office position (\$60,000): a) eliminates several central office services; b) redistribute most important job functions; c) actual position eliminated to be determined.

Reduce curriculum planning functions (\$110,000): a) eliminates summer curriculum work; b) eliminates subject area coordinators; c) eliminates substitutes for curriculum and staff development; d) eliminates all in

service and conference money; e) eliminates curriculum supplies.

2. Eliminate five custodial or grounds positions (\$125,000): a) less frequent cleaning of some areas; b) reduced grounds care and building maintenance.

3. Eliminate all remaining extra-curricular activities (\$200,000): a) includes all athletics b) includes athletic director and secretary.

4. Eliminate remaining elementary support staff and supplies (\$400,000): a) eliminates music and physical education; b) eliminates district reading and math support; c) eliminates librarians and media aides; d) eliminates gifted program.

5. Eliminates middle school and high school busing (\$400,000): a) special education required by law; b) reduce frequency of elementary stops; c) maximize the number of children on each bus; d) may require longer elementary runs.

6. Reduction to a five-hour school day for kindergarten through 12th grade (\$750,000): a) eliminates approximately 22 secondary teachers; b) eliminates secondary accreditation; c) eliminates middle school concept; d) eliminates some state incentive money; e) eliminates several hours of secretary or clerk time; f) eliminates hot lunch program - nutrition break only; g) eliminates most or all elementary recess time; h) eliminates all secondary elective choices (e.g. band); i) would not increase class size; j) close buildings at day's end to save utility costs; k) eliminates all Latchkey; l) eliminates most community education enrichment courses.

If a five-hour day, reduce special education services (\$100,000): a) may cause parent appeals; b) school will meet only minimal requirements.

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**"I don't intend to resign. I represent more people than were in the room last night."**

President Janet Thomas

erty values increase at a rate higher than the rate of inflation; the gubernatorial race; and CUT, a proposed school funding plan proposed by a group headed by L. Brooks Patterson and Richard Headlee.

Bliesath said he was certain that the community would back a millage plan now.

"The Realtors are crying now," he said. "The support and guilt are there now."

Ed Owens of Sun Valley Circle, Independence Township, asked the board to consider asking for enough money to make Clarkston schools an excellent school system and not mediocre.

"I have only been here one year, and my children are penalized by the community I choose to live in," said Owens.

Thomas said the people of Clarkston have consistently supported millage requests when given the facts and when they perceive a need.

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# Sheriff's Log

Monday, Nov. 6, a subject was arrested on an outstanding warrant after being stopped for a routine traffic violation on Waldon Road, Clarkston.

Monday, police were called to silence an alarm sounding on Bristol Park, Independence Township.

Monday, someone drove over a trash container in a driveway on M-15, Clarkston.

Monday, stereo and tapes worth \$1,800 were taken from a vehicle on Maybee Road, Independence Township.

Monday, a jewelry box and electronics were reported missing from a home on Rattalee Lake Road, Independence Township.

Monday, police were called to check out a suspicious person hiding in bushes near the Martin Country Store, Ember Road, Springfield Township.

Tuesday, someone failed to pay for \$9 worth of gasoline at the Clarkston Shell Service station, M-15, Independence Township.

Tuesday, a drill motor worth \$260 was taken from a vehicle on Brucedale Drive, Springfield Township.

Tuesday, a mailbox worth about \$35 was damaged at a residence on Ellis Road, Springfield Township.

Wednesday, police were called after a resident of Snowapple Drive, Independence Township, noticed several items in her home had been rearranged.

Wednesday, furniture and dishware worth \$800 was reported missing from a basement on Crosby Lake Road, Springfield Township.

Wednesday, someone tried to pry open a door at Holly Greens Storage, Enterprise Road, Springfield Township.

Wednesday, tapes worth \$260 were stolen from a vehicle on Chestnut Hill Drive, Independence Township.

Wednesday, \$2,800 in tools, stereo equipment and money were taken from a vehicle on Chestnut Hill Drive, Springfield Township.

Wednesday, threats were made to a resident of Algonquin, Independence Township.

Thursday, an assault and battery report was filed after a motorist was hit in the nose by an unidentified subject while his car was stopped on Dixie Highway, Independence Township.

Thursday, someone ransacked two bedrooms in a home on Langle Court, Independence Township.

Thursday, a resident of Woodland Trail, Independence Township, called police after her dog chased a man from her laundry room. The man was not identified.

Friday, threatening telephone calls were made to a residence on Greenview, Independence Township.

Friday, police were called about a wallet lost at The Liquor Cabinet Party Store, Dixie Highway, Independence Township.

Friday, obscene phone calls were made to a residence on Sally, Independence Township.

Friday, someone damaged the lawn at a residence on Klais, Independence Township.

Friday, telephone threats were made to a resident on Parview, Independence Township.

Friday, police were called to silence an alarm sounding at a residence on Bitterbush, Independence Township.

Saturday, a wallet was found on Oak Park, Independence Township.

Saturday, a resident of Longview, Independence Township, called police to report someone following him.

Saturday, police were called to Clarkston Road, Independence Township, on reports of a suspicious person asking directions.

Saturday, threats were made to a home on Buffalo, Clarkston.

Saturday, threats were made to a resident on Lakeview, Independence Township.

Saturday, someone drove into a west wall of the Clarkston Commons, Dixie Highway, Independence Township, causing \$3,000 damage.

Sunday, stereo equipment worth \$190 was stolen from a vehicle on Woodhull, Independence Township.

Sunday, a tool box worth \$300 was stolen from a vehicle on Washington, Clarkston.

The above information was compiled from reports at the Oakland County Sheriff's Department

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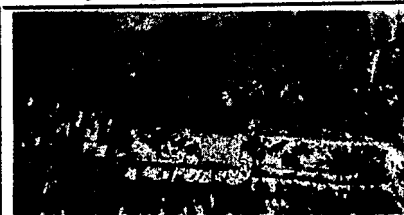
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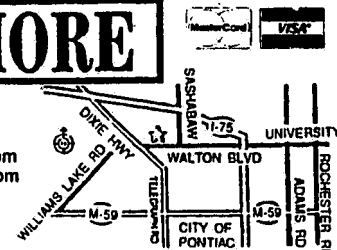
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## Opinions



Love those pork bellies

**Julie Campe**

I admit, I have always been a bit preoccupied with food. My first semester at Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, I dreamed about home-cooked dishes.

But it's been disheartening to learn that the true definitions for certain business-related terms have nothing to do with food.

In early childhood I conjured up vivid visions of such things as pork bellies, bull markets, prime rate, bear markets and blue chips.

I figured pork bellies, though they sound disgusting, were probably like bacon or hot dogs. Or if they weren't food, they were probably like a football — a pigskin, full of air. A pleasant, harmless and fun item.

In movies, when grown men in dark suits would get excited about them, I decided pork bellies must have something to do with sports and were not a food after all.

Still, that did not explain a bull market. But I figured out that one, too.

I pictured a Western, 4-H-type outdoor sale, where cowboys bought, sold or traded large, healthy bulls and other cattle.

Kind of risky getting into that market because you never knew what a strong bull would do — go berserk or just wait patiently for the slaughter or possible get sick and die from some unforeseen problem.

The prime rate probably had something to do with the bull market, I decided. Maybe it was the going price for the best meat available. I never could figure out all the fuss over this rate, though, because who's going to complain if their steak prices go up or down by 1 percent or so?

People who paid attention to that must be very good shoppers, I thought — probably clip coupons all week.

The bear market was a bit more difficult to explain. I didn't know anyone who ate bear. But maybe the animals were used just for rugs or oils, I thought.

I figured a bear market was especially dangerous — all those wild animals in one small area. If one acted up, they all probably would go haywire, maybe even killing each other. A bear market must be tricky, I thought.

Blue chips, I deduced, had something to do with cow chips and blue ribbons. Perhaps the feces of blue-ribbon cattle were as valuable as the cattle themselves. Or maybe they were just an indicator of how valuable a bull or cow was.

Of course, they could indicate the value of any animal.

Now, thanks to such informational items as the Associated Press Stylebook, I know the more traditional definitions of these terms.

Blue chip (derived from poker, a card game in which blue chips are the most valuable) describes certain stock in a company known for its long-established record of making money and paying dividends.

A bear market is a period of generally declining stock prices.

The prime rate is the interest rate that commercial banks charge on loans to their borrowers with the best credit ratings.

A bull market is a period of generally increasing market prices.

Pork bellies are ... what are pork bellies, anyway?

## Letters to Editor

### Wetlands are neither safe nor healthy

We are alarmed at the bullishness of the planning commission's endeavors to recommend restrictions on privately owned wetlands and wood-lots beyond the excessive controls already being imposed by the state and

county government agencies.

Two attempts to find and spell out essential exemptions without completely gutting their ordinance have failed.

Their claimed purpose for such an ordinance is to keep Springfield Township rural and to protect its health, safety and welfare (desirable and needed motivations), but the board's claim contradicted its actions of the past — the facts that wetlands and unkept scrub brush are not healthy or safe but degenerate our quality of life.

A few years ago, Springfield Township eliminated the most essential rural enterprise in the world (the occupation that gave meaning to the word "rural") from its plan and outlawed it with their ordinances: agriculture.

Recently they have been presented evidence that wetlands are not healthy, safe or desirable, but they refuse to listen.

Numerous property owners, citizens of Springfield Township, have attended both previous meetings opposing the ordinance addendum proposed, but still another attempt will be made on Nov. 21 to ram this dirty thing through.

The only supporters of such an ordinance are those who want other people's property controlled.

We have viewed the ultimate in ignorance — a smoking scientist trespassing upon privately owned wetland (advocating its preservation) so he might find a weed there to cure the cancer caused by the weed he was smoking.

Rabid rodent found in Springfield Township, a head-liner in the Ortonville Reminder — on Gibbs Road, a certified natural beauty road, but what about safety? health?

We are also alarmed that some members of the Springfield Township Planning Commission have residential roots no deeper in the soil of Springfield Township than the tire treads of their mobile home.

We think it is time for Springfield Township citizens — property owners — to respond en masse and perhaps generate some "hot wheels" to the commission's temporary residents.

Edwin E. Masters

## Guest Editorial

### Alcohol not just a teen problem

BY TONY PINHO

In society today, teen-agers accept an overabundance of the blame. Such is the case with the problem of drinking and driving.

Sure, drinking and driving is a problem for teen-agers, but it is also a problem plaguing adults. Everyday at 2 in the morning, thousands of adults drive home from bars drunk. Yet some adults still view drinking and driving as a teen problem.

I also dislike that some parents have the attitude that the school system should teach their kids about the dangers of alcohol.

My personal feeling is that this doesn't help a kid my age. By the time a child reaches high school, it's too late to teach them those values.

Plus, it's up to the parents to communicate with their children.

Tony Pinho is a 17-year-old Clarkston High School student.



**Jim Sherman**

## Jim's Jottings

When I told my friend, columnist Jim Fitzgerald I was going north to kill a deer he said, "You can't say that. You collect them." I remember when I got on DNR officials' cases when they talked about the fall "deer harvest."

I only used the word 'kill' to try to irritate him a little. He knew it, of course, and reacted in his usual peace-loving way.

In years past I've stealthed my way deep into the woods and swamps in search of that trophy buck. Then, as grey grew thicker on my head and reason took over, I strayed not far from a road. In case I had to defend myself against a charging buck or bear I didn't want to have to drag the carcass more than a minor heart-attack-producing distance.

This season I've decided to lean against a tree next to the car, which will be just off a trail. It's part of the aging process, I think. Only if a buck has a magnificent rack of 10 or more points will I sight him on the 30.06.

Part of this conviction comes from something Jerry Olrich said last time we hunted together. He passed up a buck with deformed horns. Why? He never let one go by in years past.

It has to do with grandchildren. He couldn't take home anything less than a well-formed 8-pointer for his grandsons to see.

I still have the hunting urge, but it has more to do with the season and vacationing than stalking. I

like being out of doors in the crisp air. After all, we wear enough clothes to hold out the antarctic cold.

And, when a snow has fallen and the pine bows are hanging from the weight . . . and the sun glistens off the flakes . . . and the raven calls and another answers . . . the 'hunt' is forgotten and 'it doesn't get any better than this' becomes the theme.

There's nothing wrong with sitting in silence, whether it be in the living room or a forest.

There are lots of differences, of course, like woods' silence is broken with chickadees flitting and chirping near the bill of your cap. The wind will rustle some stubborn leaves on the oaks. A squirrel will chat overhead, then dart to the next tree and look back at you.

And, some darn, road-hunting guy will drive his pickup within earshot. That isn't irritating, however, unless it wakes you up.

Which brings me to the greatest part of deer hunting . . . sleeping in the woods. It's wonderful how, even when laying in the snow, with the north wind swirling around your nose, and the temperature at 15 degrees, you can fall asleep in the woods.

Hunters don't sleep long, but, wow, a little bit is so refreshing. It's the best preparation for an evening in the cabin with friends, a toddy, a large meal, a fireplace and lounge chair.

That today, my friends is my kind of "deer hunting."

## Letters to the Editor

### Parent calls for two resignations

This is an open letter to the Clarkston Community Schools Board of Education, as read at the board meeting on Nov. 13.

Good evening. My name is Dr. William Bliesath. I am a parent with children in the Clarkston schools, and I want to express my concern about the present condition of our schools and the lack of leadership from this board in dealing with a crisis of this magnitude. I will keep this presentation short because of the large number of people who are equally upset and may wish to speak this evening.

I have been very active in our schools over the past several years and have, I believe, a good perspective about our present crisis. I am also a management professor at Mott College in Flint with a master of business administration in finance and a doctorate in educational administration, all of which help me to comment on the performance of this school board.

I would like to discuss tonight what Dr. Eugene Jennings of Michigan State University, East Lansing, calls the "Failure Syndrome."

The members of what I'll call the "Old Board" have a bad case of it. President Jimmy Carter had it, too, so it can happen to anyone. But it must be cured, or the performance of the organization will continue to fall.

We have fallen so far that our children are facing a major crisis of overcrowding, shortages of support staff, outdated textbooks and other unacceptable conditions, with more severe conditions on the horizon to possibly include half-day sessions, minimum busing, no athletics and the loss of accreditation.

What are the characteristics of the Failure Syndrome? We have plenty of examples right here. Let me cite several I have observed:

1. A total lack of trust, bordering on paranoia. The Old Board doesn't trust the parents, teachers, administrators or even some of the new board members.

As a result, they try to do everything themselves. The results are obvious. That's why so many are here in the audience to show their concern.

An example of this lack of trust is the almost total lack of delegation resulting in the high number of number of meetings held by this board.

While their efforts might be appreciated, one meeting per month should be sufficient. Subcommittees should perform all of the "grunt" work. This board has meetings all the time — a sure sign of a weak board — the Failure Syndrome.

2. This lack of trust further manifests itself through a defensive posture in all interactions. We see it at board meetings, for example, in shabby, disrespectful and condescending treatment of parents who care enough to come to these meetings to speak.

Such behavior, while characteristic of the disease, is inexcusable. I will state now that I or other concerned parents will be at all subsequent meetings and will rise up in support of any person who is being treated in a similar manner.

3. With failure comes a limiting of options. Those who are failing continue to curl in an seek guidance only from themselves rather than reaching out to those who can help.

The fact that our current crisis and the impending cuts were only added to tonight's agenda at the last minute by one of our newest board members is reflective of this reluctance to ask for help until it is too late.

Until "they" have "the" answer, they don't want to talk about it. Unfortunately, the process used and the answer generated will more than likely be the wrong one. Bad decisions keep getting worse.

4. The inexcusable expenditures to "study" among other things a new high school by the previous architect, which amounted to approximately \$600,000 without a contract in place were approved by these same members of the Old Board.

They spent approximately \$60,000 on a site study for land we didn't and won't ever own. They signed a contract over the objections of their own legal counsel with the same architects who consumed all of this money

(See MORE LETTERS, next page)

## 'If it Fitz . . .'

The charm is gone

Jim Fitzgerald



When I learned a huge conglomerate had purchased the (Lapeer) County Press, I drove 65 miles north to the County Press office and removed my award plaques from the wall. It was probably a silly thing to do, but there you are.

The County Press is the country weekly where I worked until 1976. For its first 151 years, it was owned by a succession of small-town printers and editors who attended cockfights, not meetings of a board of directors. As of Jan. 1, the owner of the County Press will be Capital Cities/ABC, the same corporate giant that owns radio station WJR and the Oakland Press in this area, and a long string of media properties across the nation.

It doesn't seem right. It's as though Len Ganeway got a clean shave and joined the Radio City Rockettes. The McCounty Press.

Len Ganeway is the pen name of Bob Myers, the final individual owner of the County Press. Around 10 years ago, after writing under his own name for 45 years, Myers changed his byline to "Len Ganeway, Staff Geezer." But every reader knows Ganeway is really Myers because Ganeway regularly announces it in his column.

So why bother with a pseudonym if you're not going to hide behind it? The only plausible answer is that Myers is one of the world's true eccentrics. His idea of a grand gourmet time is to drive to a Bob Evans restaurant and gorge on fried mush. He drives there in a Mercedes, dressed like a street bum.

When I began working at the County Press in 1951, fresh out of the MSU School of Journalism and proud of it, the newspaper was owned by Bob, his brother Bill and their father, Harry. My first big assignment was to go to Bill's house and help his wife move a freezer.

I was paid \$45 a week to sell advertising, write sports and deliver newspaper to post offices and retail outlets. My intention was to stay two years and then switch to a big-city newspaper and become famous. But I wrecked an uninsured County Press car while not on County Press business - I was on a fall color tour, counting how many arca saloons had green ceilings - and had to stay two more years so damages could be deducted from my paychecks.

By that time I'd become hooked on working for a newspaper that was published for its ordinary readers and no one else. If advertisers or governments didn't like our style, they could go bag it. Once a federal official not only forbade us to print a certain piece of news, he forbade us to publish his name. So we filled a portion of the editorial page with nothing but his name, reprinted hundreds of times.

I stayed at the County Press for 25 years, becoming editor in 1961 when Bob Myers became sole owner. We didn't agree on everything, but Myers never tried to curb me from being an anti-establishment, semi-clown, bleeding-heart liberal editor in a strictly conservative Republican county. A few years after I left, the Chamber of Commerce (justifiably) gave Myers its annual Man of the Year award. I like to think he'd never have won it if I'd stayed.

I switched to full-time column writing for shorter hours, better pay and the chance to fulfill a longtime ambition to reside in a downtown high rise (I've been anti-bucolic ever since living in an Army pup tent during World War II). That was 14 years ago, and I've continued to read the County Press regularly, despairing in its commercial excesses - car ads attached to the front page masthead, for Lord's sake - and exulting in its innovative independence. It is still America's largest rural weekly, and the best.

If you write for newspapers as long as I have, you'll win a few awards for the same reason a monkey will write a good novel if allowed to punch a typewriter long enough. I was content to leave my plaques at the County Press as long as it was owned by some bearded old character who puts nom de plume on his fried mush.

Capital Cities/ABC doesn't cut it. I've brought my awards home to remind me of 25 happy years spent working for more satisfaction than money at the fiercely rebel newspaper that just won't be the same with a drive-up window.

## From this perspective

All in the family

Tracy King



The American family may be disintegrating in other parts of the country, but at my house it just continues to grow.

We started normally enough: my father, mother, brother and I.

Then all too typically things changed, and a whole group of newcomers entered the picture. We added half-sisters, a stepmother, a stepfather, step-brothers and a stepsister to our family almost instantly.

At first, this seemed complicated to my brother and I only as we explained our new relationships to classmates. (Sure she's my real sister. We're just sort of diluted.)

As our reshuffled family began to move forward, however, things would get tangled.

Although we were strangers, my stepparents and I were faced with situations reserved for real parents and children. There were I-have-custody weekends to get through, borrowed cars to negotiate and instant siblings to accommodate.

Our comforting, familiar house took on a whole new appearance, and certain rooms were suddenly off-limits.

It took years to appreciate the patience and fairness of my stepfather, Jay. It has just been recently that I have begun to understand the intelligence and wise non-interference of my stepmother, Mary Anne.

After awhile, peace and organization did settle, just in time for in-laws.

Here was a complicated relationship. Not only did I inherit an extra set of parents (as if I needed any), but they were also my husband's parents, with all the protectiveness and caring that the relationship can bring.

To make matters worse in my case, these two were really good parents, the kind Dr. Spock would point to as "parents who knew what they were doing."

(Would they watch me raise my own children and snicker?)

After in-laws joined my family, I began to acquire stepsister-in-laws, stepnephews, second cousin in-laws and whole classifications of family that I couldn't even follow.

The yearly calendars sent to me by my mother (the real thing) became clogged with birthday reminders thoughtfully written in.

I became extra, extra broke at Christmastime. Holiday planning? It is nothing short of chaotic.

Despite the hundreds of complications that our growing family has faced, dozens of pairs of eyes have begun to turn to me.

"When will she increase our ranks, bear children of her own?" I hear them question, silently.

I begin to think of the relationships I may, someday, have to explain to my children.

("This is your second-step-aunt-in-law, dear.")

"Don't look at me," I say aloud. "I have to, first, get used to the family I have."

## More Letters

(MORE LETTERS, previous page)

and who may now sue us for a large amount of additional money.

Our new superintendent questioned these expenditures and has been given a hard time by the Old Board ever since. How much failure can we afford? I want to ask the superintendent under the freedom of information act whether these expenditures matched the deficits incurred during 1987 and 1988. I am sorry to say that I think they will.

5. We have a fine staff of teachers, administrators and support staff who have done so well with so little for so long. But when was the last time they were praised by this board? Did Dave Reschke or the Sashabaw Junior High staff receive even a phone call from this board for his staff's winning of a national award?

The morale in Clarkston is falling fast, due in large part to the venomous, hostile and always negative comments from this board. Yes, it's the Failure Syndrome.

I could list other examples, but the point is this: the parents of our children have had enough. I am, therefore, asking for the resignations of Janet Thomas and Mary Jane Chaustowich from the Clarkston Community Schools Board of Education for the good of the kids and our

community. The failures of these board members cannot be tolerated any longer.

Unfortunately, because the Failure Syndrome has clouded their judgment, they probably won't resign; so I am announcing my candidacy tonight for the school board position available in June, 1990.

Upon joining the board, my objective will be to provide sound and reasonable educational opportunities for our kids. I will also support a slate of candidates for the June, 1991, school board positions, as well.

William J. Bliesath

## Looking for help

Next week Holly Seventh Day Adventist Church members will be visiting people in Clarkston to enlist their help in the Denomination's relief organization.

First organized in Iowa in 1904, "Ingathering" has taken place all over the world every year, providing funds for local, national and foreign relief, education and health.

Sixty-four Community Service Centres all over Michigan help to feed, and to clothe the poor and victims of disaster. Bed clothing is provided for those suffering the loss of homes by fire, flood and tornado, and tents to house the homeless.

In the Centre in Holly, volunteer directors Evelyn

and Harry Wohlers and helpers — working 1466 voluntary hours — have helped 2,424 persons, providing over \$5,000 of food, 620 articles of clothing and 58 items of bedclothing this year so far.

They have also dispatched over nine tons of clothes, etc. to the Eastern ADRA relief center in Baltimore. ADRA, or Adventist Disaster Relief Association, was at work after Hugo struck and in San Francisco.

It was mentioned by the director of the federal relief agency on ABC the evening of the disaster. He listed S.D.A.'s with the Red Cross and the Salvation Army as an organization that could be depended upon to provide immediate assistance to those in need.

Besides disaster relief and help for the unfortunate, ADRA and Community Services provide Five Day Plan non-smoking clinics, cooking and better nutrition seminars and blood pressure testing facilities all over the nation.

Every cent you give goes to the recipient because, unlike many other relief organizations, all staff are either volunteers or are employees of the Seventh Day Adventist Church.

For the past 86 years Adventists have been going from door to door about this time of year, exchanging a cheery and encouraging greeting and a piece of literature for a donation. Please be liberal this year. The one you help may be yourself — one day!

G.E. Evans


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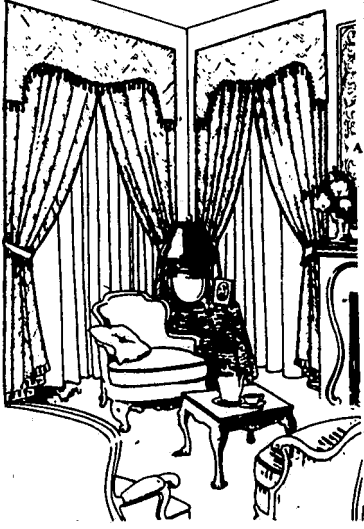
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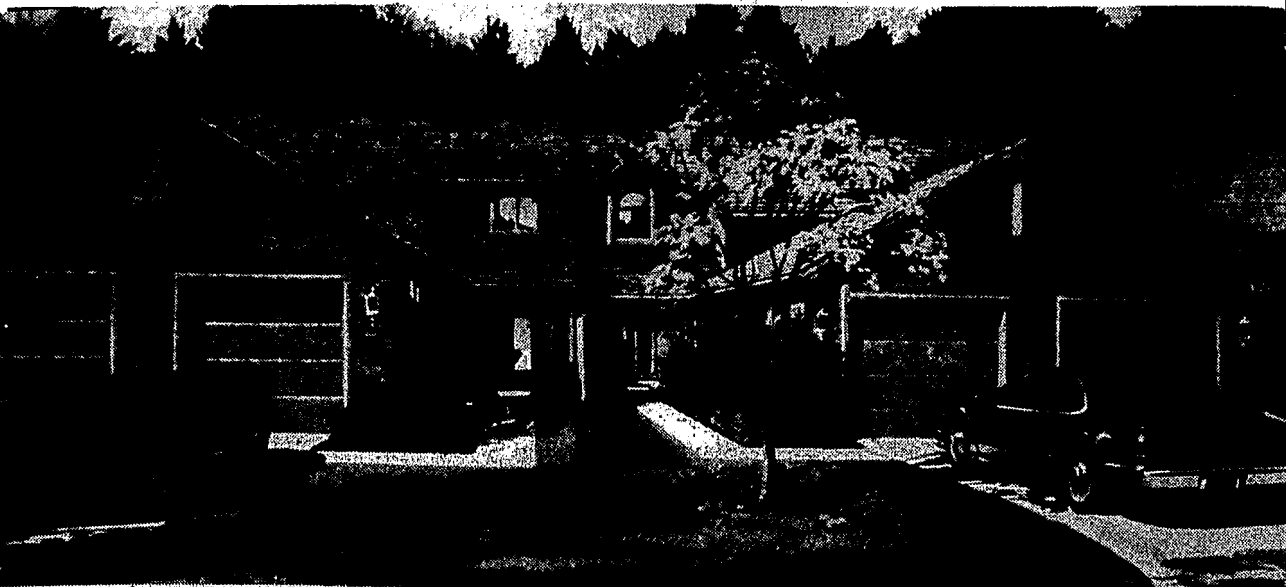
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## More Letters

### Call for part-time state legislators

Do we really need full-time legislatures? This Nov. 7 election showed us that when one of the most important situations come up, our legislators punt and put the education ball out to you and I to decide how we want to cheat the children of Michigan out of the education they deserve and to increase the already over-taxed citizens of Michigan.

The amount of money saved by having a part-time legislature would sure be a good start to revamping the education system of Michigan.

We were proud to say our education system was one of the best. Can we say that now? Yet we are spending more \$\$\$\$. Are we throwing money out that old proverbial window? Let's stop it now.

Lansing is filled with lawyers and teachers; you and I should be admiring them. Only problem is they seem to put their own needs (being re-elected), wants (more prestige) and desires ahead of common sense.

To give you an idea of some of the things that are costing you, I and the school children of Michigan money:

House Bill 4523 — Allow name changes after divorce; Senate Bill 75 (passed) — Establish Michigan Garden Week; Senate Bill 535 — Allow clergy to give premarital AIDS counseling; Senate Bill 539 — Prohibit city and village ordinance from preventing music lessons in private homes; House Bill 4164 (passed) — Township board to select person to assess damage by dog.

Others:

House Bill 5014 — Condominium association to enforce no pet rules; House Bills 4120-4130 and 5058 — Special assessment for parking, parks and subway (these are really scary); House Bill 4285 — Increase local tax rate for garbage collection; House Bill 4102 — No

weapons for illegal bus drivers; House Bill 4435 — Prohibit hunting while drunk; House Bill 5005 — Increase hotel-motel county tax rate; House Bill 4681 (passed) — DNR may increase park entrance fees when credit card is used.

This is just some of the very important work that is being done in Lansing.

This is only from 14 pages of the 58 pages of status report that Lansing has been working on.

I ask you, do we really need a full-time legislature? As you can see, very little is being done regarding education-property tax relief.

Hoping you voted no-no as I did,

Marie E. Remmert  
Oxford

### Penny Stretcher ads too jumbled

contains yourself jumbled you more first the it ask and paragraph paragraph which The as this version now words the sense? same reading are is you makes all the chaotic of like letter as ads.

The first paragraph of this letter — jumbled and chaotic as it is, like your ads, contains all the same words as the paragraph you are now reading. Ask yourself, which version makes more sense?

I frequently find a need for the Penny Stretcher when I am looking for services or an item for sale. As in the first paragraph of this letter, it is frustrating, time consuming and downright inconvenient to sort through everything to try to find what I want.

Recent services that I have been shopping for include: backhoe/trenching, topsoil delivery, sand delivery, cement contractor, rubbish pick-up and haul away, re-upholstery, drywall texturing, electrician, tool and equip-

ment rental, air conditioning service and auction sales.

Recent items for sale that I have looked for include: used car, radial arm saw, automobile parts, building materials, garage door sales, VCR equipment, used lawnmower, boating equipment, apple orchard/cider mill and boat storage.

If the Penny Stretcher categorized its ads, it would have been a very useful publication to help me locate what I need and want. However, it isn't (categorized) and it's not (useful). As a result, when it arrives, it heads straight for the trash. Please categorize those ads!

Stan Innis

### Village fathers should lighten up

I think it's a bunch of bureaucratic c--- that the owners at Carol's Village Grill have been told that they can't display notices of Clarkston area events, activities, meetings, etc.

Carol's has become a meeting place, sort of a town center, for learning all about what's happening in the community. Many times I've strolled past the restaurant, stopped at the front window, and learned about area craft shows, charitable events, picnics, etc. that my family and I can partake in.

I mean it's not as if they were displaying political posters or advertising. Quite the contrary.

I would suggest that the city fathers "lighten up" and let the folks at Carol's go back to doing what they did so well — provide a valuable community service by keeping area residents apprised of activities with communications in their front window.

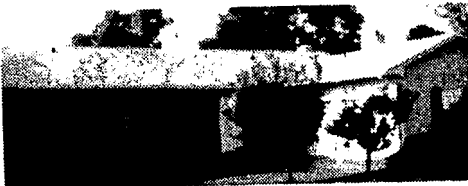
Len Bokuniewicz



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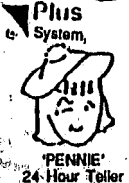
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