

Religious Education Lacking In Public School System

To the Editor:
In your Eccentricities column appearing in the March 28 issue of The Birmingham Eclectic, you take the Bloomfield Hills School Board to task for issuing erroneous cost figures for transporting independent school children under the proposed Fair School Bus Bill. I heartily agree with you that their figures were both inaccurate, and issued in haste. However, in addition to the errors that you pointed out, you should also know that they did not propose to amortize the new bus costs over a five- or six-year period as they currently do on their buses.

Had they considered amortization of new buses in their cost study the estimated new bus cost would have been reduced by about \$100,000 for the first year and would have reduced their \$215,000 erroneous estimate by this same \$100,000.

IN YOUR column you also point out that you do not agree with this bill in principle and feel that people send their children to private or parochial schools because they believe their children will get a better education.

On this point I must disagree with your reasoning. First of all, we have put parochial and private schools into the same category as to why people send their children to either.

PERHAPS PEOPLE send their

children to private schools because they believe they will get a better education, but I send my children to parochial schools because I think they get a more complete education by getting religious training that is not available to them in public schools.

Frankly, I believe that secular education is as good in public school as it is in parochial schools but the religious education is lacking.

It is hard for me to understand why you believe that people who believe in good religious training for their children should stand extraordinary costs for this benefit.

SECONDLY, you and I both know that bus transportation of school children is not direct educational activity. Bus transportation was instituted for health and safety reasons and perhaps should well come under the department of health except that the administration of it is easier under school and school board supervision.

However, it is a health and safety benefit, and since it has no direct association with education, except to provide transportation to and from the schools, it should be provided to all school children, particularly if they are attending state approved and state accredited schools.

Certainly one state accredited school is as good as another and since the children must go to an accredited school by state law, then

they must be provided equal benefits as I see it.

THIRDLY, and in the next paragraph of your column, you mention that the state needs some control, and that beyond bus control that curriculum should come next.

Certainly, bus transportation of independent school children can be controlled by a state agency. Perhaps it should be the school board or perhaps the highway commission because they are transportation experts, or perhaps the health department because they are health and safety experts. These all deserve consideration and should be given it.

AS FOR control of independent school curriculum, the state now has an accrediting system which should be the right device for determining if the school meets the standards set by the state.

Perhaps I have not succeeded in convincing you that all children attending state accredited and approved schools should have a noneducational benefit, but I believe that you should be aware of my thinking as well as the thinking and belief of a large number of families in the area.

You are entitled to your opinion, but there can be only one set of facts concerning bus transportation.

KEITH J. ACKLEY
1090 Northview
Birmingham

Enough Boys For Leagues In B'ham

To the Editor:

It seems a shame for Babe Ruth baseball to allow themselves to become involved in a fund squabble with Little League baseball in Birmingham.

We, as parents, contributed \$20 per season for our son to play in the Major League of Little League. When the season was completed, he turned in the uniform and was able to keep the hat.

I am sure this money was enough to maintain the League and that they didn't need any Babe Ruth League help.

SOUNDS LIKE "sour grapes" to me that now a new Pony & Colt League is forming to give more of the 13- and 14-year-old boys a chance to play, that Babe Ruth is expanding to include six new teams. Why wasn't this done five or six years ago?

Thanks to the hard-working men for forming the Pony & Colt League. Seems like there are plenty of boys in the city to maintain all leagues.

A PARENT

THE FACTS of this matter are that the Bloomfield Hills Board of Education has for several years felt that it should not ask the taxpayers of the district for funds with which to build a swimming pool, and we have resisted proposals that we include money for a pool in our bond issues for new school buildings.

The only reason that a proposal regarding a swimming pool was on last summer's school ballot was that a group of citizens circulated and submitted to the board a petition calling on us to put a swimming pool proposition on the ballot.

UNDER THE laws of the State of Michigan, we were required to accept this petition and give the citizens of the district an opportunity to vote upon a pool.

The proposition was on the ballot only because Michigan Law requires it to be there following the submission to the board of a legal petition signed by a specified number of voters.

DAVID W. LEE

Board Took No Stand on Pool Proposal

To the Editor:

My attention has been called to Mr. E. Leo Koester's letter that appeared in a recent issue of The Eclectic under the headline "Condemns Hills Board on Action on Bus Law."

I'd like to begin this letter by congratulating Mr. Koester on speaking his views in this matter. As a long-time member of the Bloomfield Hills Board of Education, I am well aware of the fact that too few citizens speak their mind about public affairs, and, as a result, elected officials are not always able to determine the true sentiment of the community regarding current issues.

For Mr. Koester to express his feelings regarding the current school bus controversy is a public service.

HOWEVER, I do feel that when he makes statements about public officials, he should know the facts and state the truth. Unfortunately, he did not do this when he indicated in his letter that our board of education "had aspirations to build a magnificent natatorium" and we considered an expenditure of a half-million dollars for this purpose "reasonable and justified."

Also, the statement that we asked "the families of nonpublic school students" (or anyone else) to pay for a half-million dollar pool is incorrect.

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DAVID W. LEE

Disagrees with Hogan On Hills Board Action

To the Editor:

In Mr. Hogan's belated discussion of the school bus bill and the action of the Bloomfield Hills School Board with respect to it, he accuses the board of erring, if not of outright falsehood.

In view of the importance of the principle involved and of the gravity of the charge it is regrettable that Mr. Hogan did not choose to attend the school board meeting to enlighten its members as well as the many interested voters who were in attendance.

IN HIS closing paragraph, Mr. Hogan expresses the opinion that the result of the board's action would be a disenchantment of the parents of nonpublic and private children who could no longer hope for any benefit from their tax dollars. It is my belief that the parents of these children will continue to benefit from the school taxes principally in the same manner in which all of us benefit; namely, by living in a community made literate with the aid of all our school taxes.

IT IS only on the basis of this

The Nonpublic People Stand Double Cost

To the Editor:

I write you in regard to Mr. Hogan's March 28 column, Eccentricities.

First, I must congratulate Mr. Hogan for his effort to set straight the facts and figures as presented by the Board of Education of the Bloomfield Hills School District in its effort to defeat the Fair Play Bus Bill (Senate Bill 1144) being considered by the State Legislature.

The primary reason for my writing, though, is to take Mr. Hogan to task for his statement in the same column, "I don't happen to agree in principle with the bill. I feel that people send their children to private or parochial schools because they believe their children will get a better education. For this benefit, I believe that they should stand the cost."

IT SEEMS to me that this statement infers that, because of his personal opinion, Mr. Hogan will cast his ballot on this very important issue without due consideration of the wishes of at least one-third of the people he is sworn to represent.

Mr. Hogan says that the parents who choose to send their children to nonpublic schools should "stand the cost"—that, Mr. Hogan, they must, certainly do, in fact, it appears to me that they stand twice the cost.

AND NOW to come to the point. Just what makes Mr. Hogan feel he is best representing the interests of these parents, who pay the same school taxes as those parents who use the public schools; if, when they ask to use the transportation system financed by these school taxes, they must rely for representation on a representative who casts his ballot on the basis of a personal opinion and not on the basis of the expressed wishes of a large number of his constituents?

TERRENCE E. REYNOLDS
781 N. Elton
Birmingham

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Movie Guide Draws Praise

To the Editor:

Thank you for your efforts towards improving the character and morals of our youth by publishing the movie rating guide each week.

Dr. DeWindt of The Kirk gave a sermon last Sunday which in part was directed to what he feels is the extremely poor effect of a good share of our present day films and TV fare on young people.

I AGREE wholeheartedly and it occurred to me that you are doing what you can to at least let parents know what the film content is. I hope that perhaps through your publisher or editorial associations you can let other papers know that parents do appreciate such an effort.

ROBERT G. BEGLE
5881 E. Miller Way
Birmingham

They Bought Houses for Their Charm

To the Editor:

Under the pictures of the two houses in the March 28 Eccentricities "Community Values" someone made a big mistake and I wish to correct it now. The present owners purchased these homes (on Townsend in Birmingham) some 10 years ago and they were in very good condition.

No one has ever told us to "Fix 'em up or move out." That could apply very nicely to the other seven houses in the block.

WE BOUGHT them for their charm among beautiful shade trees and convenience to downtown Birmingham. These houses are called the New England corner, and we have taken great pride and much enjoyment dressing them up and hope most sincerely they will not be taken for a parking lot.

Two of these homes are in the April issue of "Better Homes and Gardens."

MRS. DAVE DE WOLFE

DIT Receives Accreditation, Special Week

To the Editor:

Three Birmingham-Bloomfield-area residents are serving on the Board of Trustees of the Detroit Institute of Technology for which Detroit Mayor Jerome P. Cavanagh proclaimed April 1-7 A.C.A. Accreditation Week.

The Institute was voted membership with full accreditation by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools on March 20.

RAYMOND F. Giffels, 929 Glen-garry, Bloomfield Township, president of Giffels & Rossetti, Inc., is chairman of the board.

Vice chairman is George A. Porter, 261 Warrington, Bloomfield Hills, vice president of the Detroit Edison Co. Bernard A. Chapman, 19320 Riverside Drive, Beverly Hills, executive vice president of the American Motors Corp., is a board member.

DIT was recently presented with a new "home," the seven-story Colony Club-Labor Temple Building in Detroit, which it will occupy in September.

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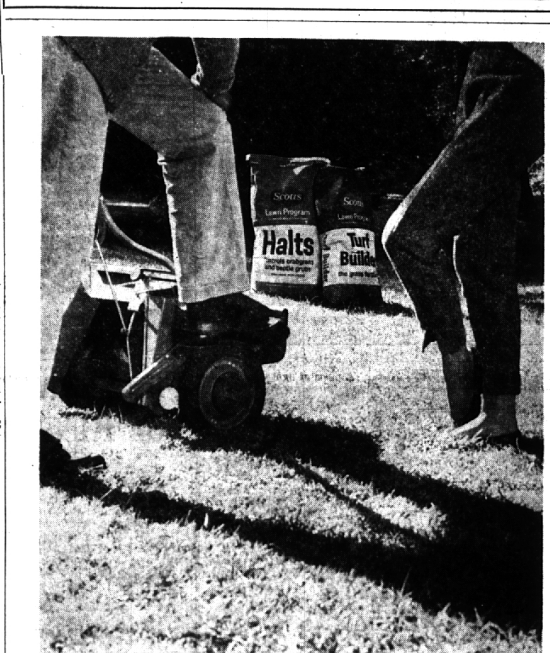
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