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# The Birmingham Eccentric

BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN

DECEMBER 3, 1964

EDITORIAL  
SECTION B

## 'The Birmingham Plan'

Continuing its pursuit of excellence, the Birmingham Public School District has announced a research and development project to be known as "The Birmingham Plan."

Money for this program, \$1,256,500, was allocated following voter approval of an increase in operating revenue in the June, 1964, school election. As Supt. John Blackhall Smith has pointed out, the school system is unique in that it has set aside two per cent of its budget for "improvement of the product."

We believe that this is sound planning to prepare for the future excellence of our educational system, and we encourage other school districts to act likewise. The children of our community have the promise of continued quality and high standards.

TWO MAJOR developments are likely to emerge from this modernizing of our school system: Use of the team-teaching method and the ungraded school.

Team teaching is the use of more than one teacher in a classroom. Thus, the students profit from the talents of several rather than one instructor. It affords an opportunity for more than one teacher to observe the progress in a student's work. There are no precise plans at this point for utilizing the ungraded school system; it is a process that could emerge from the team-teaching method.

WE KNOW that Dr. Smith has earned a national reputation for his efforts in pioneering the concept of team teaching. It is gratifying to see that Birmingham stands now to share in further development of that process.

Dr. Smith is instructing a group of vol-

unteer teachers in team teaching. Some of them will be placed in the new elementary school at Evergreen and 13 Mile, which will be devoted entirely to this method of teaching.

The pursuit of excellence has become the trademark of the Birmingham Public School System. "The Birmingham Plan" is further evidence of the desire and determination to maintain a system of top quality and high standards.

WE CONGRATULATE the school administration and school board on their far-sightedness in devising this plan. It is in keeping with the confidence that the citizenry of this community has consistently placed in its school officials.

We trust that the citizens now will have faith in the plan and will display the courage that is necessary to help assure success whenever a new project is undertaken.

The students who will attend this new school will help to make educational history in Birmingham. And we believe they will profit the most from it, by achieving an even better education than is now possible.

THAT THERE must be change and progress goes without saying. But change in an educational system is not easily acceptable. Too often in our society, the attitude is "what was good enough for me is good enough for my children."

Fortunately, this is not the attitude of parents in the Birmingham Public School District. Rather, it is one of expectation of better results than the past produced. Here, we have a burning desire for excellence.

And in the Birmingham district the pursuit of excellence is never-ending.

## Why Do They Hide?

Birmingham stands pat on a self-conscious reputation for being sophisticated. Birmingham also basks in having once been called the cultural hub of the Middle West.

If there's a grain of truth in either of these labels, we can't help wondering why there isn't more wholehearted acceptance of a national program combining both sophistication or, if you will, worldly-wise awareness, with seminar-type prohibitions into the culture of suburban mores.

The National Suburban Homemaker Contest, sponsored by this newspaper in conjunction with the Suburban Press Foundation and the National Dairy As-

sociation, follows a format familiar to most thinking women living in progressive communities: It's a golden opportunity for communication, listening, an exchange of ideas.

PERHAPS, THEN, it's the word "contest" and its connotation of corny-ness that makes local women shy away from an experience which ordinarily would prompt participation.

In spite of the fact that the competitive aspect of the Homemaker Search has been emphasized in favor of its importance as a research study, statistics show that Birmingham doesn't "buy" like the rest of the nation.

Statistically, Birmingham has never had more than 18 entries as opposed to 189, for instance, from a St. Louis suburb.

Statistically, Birmingham has had three honorable mentions—never a national winner.

THE ECCENTRIC is firmly convinced, however, that our community has the stuff of which winners are made, be it a cash prize or an intellectual contribution to a national roundtable concerned with family living.

Proof of the pudding lies in the caliber of women entered locally in this year's contest.

Each makes positive contributions to a town which prides itself on its schools, its community activities, its 80 or more churches. Each is concerned with wholesome living for kids, programs in geriatrics and the humanities, local and national politics, service clubs, AFS, YFU, Operation Friendship.

EACH, OF course, is well-grounded in homemaking basics, but prefers to call these simply the "tools of her trade."

Her major concern is equipping her youngsters with proper values, the better to contend with the nuclear world in which they live.

With this kind of dynamic thinking and action, again we wonder why our girls hide their light?

Chicago will be waiting to hear from them in next year's contest.

### PEOPLE'S COLUMN

## Hopes Barry Goldwater Will Run Again in 1968

To the Editor:

I was ready to cancel my subscription to The Eccentric, when you blandly endorsed Lyndon Johnson, and I felt that no "thinking American" could possibly make such an endorsement. But upon sober reflection, I decided this was a hasty step and would hurt no one but myself. I keep track of the travels and activities of many friends and acquaintances and their children through the pages of The Eccentric.

Then the editor partially vindicated himself by publishing the article entitled "Erosion of U.S. Constitution Aided By Complacency." Also for the past two weeks, several letters from "thinking Americans" such as Diane Dave, Janice Browne, Janet Gates and others have been published.

NOW I find that I, like most of my neighbors and friends, have through the pages of The Eccentric, shared a measure of grief and a factor of loss in being unable to get Barry Goldwater elected to the presi-

dency. He would have restored honesty, integrity and moral courage to the office of the presidency.

I have voted in nine presidential elections and never have I been so completely dedicated to any other candidate, as I have been to Barry Goldwater. He has inspired the very highest confidence in more than 26 million Americans.

I hope someone will be able to persuade Barry Goldwater to run again in 1968, and maybe by then, if we all work hard, we can acquaint the masses of the American people with "the facts of life."

IN THE MEANTIME, the best thing we can do is to deluge our congressmen with letters, and let them know our feelings on the important issues. We want to maintain peace through strength, and not by constant appeasement of the Communists. We want the Communists cleared out of our State Department (starting right at the top). We want some morality brought back into our government (and

the wheeler-dealers like Hobby Baker, Billy Sol Estes, et al, kicked out and prosecuted).

We would like to have fiscal integrity in running our government restored, and we'd like to regain our individual liberty and have Federal authority limited. (If we all write letters to our congressmen, and ask our friends to do so, too, we will give all of the politicians in Washington a mandate from the people!)

IN CLOSING, I would like to salute the 410 "thinking Americans" (I counted their names) who thoughtfully made a decision, and published it in The Eccentric on Oct. 23, just prior to the election.

They "staid in on the line" for all to see, and were very proud to endorse Barry Goldwater. I am proud to be in such fine distinguished company, and hope that they, too, will write their congressmen, and let's get our country back on the right track!

L. E. ZEBEDEE  
19411 Warwick Drive  
Birmingham

## What Price Peace? A Communist World?

To the Editor:

"PEACE AND PLENTY" sounds very enticing! Slogans are catchy and the public likes them as they are easy on the IQ.

It must have been father Divine's "PEACE IS WONDERFUL" who taught our politicians their value. Of course, peace is wonderful, but as long as our American sons and husbands are lingering in war prisons, as long as they are shot down in Yugoslavia, blown up in Viet Nam, hacked by savages, we cannot claim we are at peace with the world.

The so-called COLD WAR has been plaguing the sorry humanity since Communism came to power. Communists do not savor any other kind of war, because they know that their chances of winning a war are nil.

THE ENSLAVED and captive nations would take advantage of the only chance "to be liberated. These slaves would sabotage and desert their oppressors as soon as the hot war gets going.

Red oppressors know that well and our politicians are willing to go along with the Reds and ready to give up here and compromise there and piece by piece give in to the bloody demands, as long as they leave us in peace.

They have double-crossed on numerous occasions, but we are still hoping the Communists will give up their design for world domination.

But the day of reckoning is not far off and we shall discover that we have lost the pieces and the PEACE too.

AS TO THE slogan of "PLENTY and PROSPERITY," please, someone tell us how long our economy can be sustained on deficit spending without going into bankruptcy?

Cong. Glenn Cunningham reported on Aug. 7, 1962, that our

various obligations had reached the astronomical sum of ONE TRILLION 242 billion and we have not stopped spending or supporting foreign nations, who in return tell us: "YANKEE GO HOME." Yet we still send them our dollars and our boys.

Is it not time we Americans stop having good fun and soberly contemplate who and what is being done to our country. With America down and out, the hope of the world for the peaceful future will go down, too.

DIANA DAJE

## Yesteryear Happenings

50 YEARS AGO  
December 4, 1914

Prohibition in Oakland County likely to be a winner in the coming election. Messrs. Becker, Smith and Hanna were out Monday last getting signers and they never returned. Police Commissioner begins to look upon a drinking man as a disgrace to himself and his community, as well as a drawback to decency. Great corporations now almost to a unit will not engage a booze fighter.

The \$18,000 left to the Polly Robinson estate will be divided between Austin H. Parks, Mrs. Polly E. Bray and Edgar A. Parks, of Birmingham, and granddaughters of the late Mrs. Robinson. Mrs. Robinson, who died in 1888 left an estate valued at \$60,000 to two daughters. The husband of the other daughter, Eugene Brooks, of Birmingham, claims he is entitled one-half of the remaining amount of the estate, though the will provided that in case of death to the daughters, the remainder will go to their children.

The Bloomfield Hills Seminary has forwarded to the Belgian Relief Committee in London, a box containing 200 articles, besides 700 yards of handkerchiefs and a dozen pair of blankets. The work has been done by the teachers, children and friends of the school.

30 YEARS AGO  
December 6, 1934

Birmingham's streets will swarm with Goodwills from early morning until far after sundown Saturday, when busy business men, policemen, firemen and postal carriers drop their regular chores, grab up an armful of newspapers and take part in the seventh annual crusade for a Christmas for every child. This year the quota has been set at \$800 and from 40 to 50 men will do their share Saturday through Tuesday as it is obtained.

The names of 35 members of the senior class at Baldwin High School are included on a tentative list of students who will receive their diplomas at mid-year commencement exercises, to be held in Baldwin auditorium Jan. 24, 1935. The commencement speaker has not yet been chosen. Fourteen of the probable graduates are girls, and 21 are boys.

One of the most disastrous football seasons in Baldwin High School's history came to a close on Pierce Field last Thursday morning when the Maples lost a 10 to 2 verdict to their age-old rivals, the Acorns of Royal Oak High. The crowd of 3,500 fans which saw the game was one of the largest ever to attend the annual Thanksgiving Day encounter.

15 YEARS AGO  
December 1, 1949

The headquarters office of the Ford Industry company, the country's largest independent radio and television station operator, will be moved to Birmingham and officially opened here on Monday, December 6. The new office, located at 159 Pierce, will house the executive personnel of the company. The offices formerly were located in the New Center Building, Detroit. (See HAPPENINGS, Page 7-B)

## Eccentricities

By HANK HOGAN



We're fortunate in this town not to have to rely entirely on taxicabs for transportation and when we need one they are available, courteous and inexpensive.

It seems as though I've spent the last couple of months living out of a suitcase, and each town I visited there was always some cab problem.

We were in New York with a group of five and every time we wanted a cab we had to find one with a "5" on top. Apparently, some insurance regulation prohibits regular cabs from carrying over four.

It's bad enough trying to get any kind of cab in that large metropolis without having to be selective.

ONE DAY WE waited for about a half-hour on a street corner haggling in every direction with no luck. Finally, one of the members of our group saw a moving van parked idly by the side of the street and went over and negotiated with the driver whose name was Warren to take us where we wanted to go.

It was the cheapest, most relaxed ride we had in New York and no one, but no one, gets in the way of a moving van.

Speaking of relaxed driving, I have a friend who has to take a sedative before riding in a New York city cab. The stops and starts affect her more than ocean crossings. I have another friend who gets airsick in the airport limousines, but I think it's kind of psychological.

THE CHICAGO CAB system brings out the worst in me. On the bottom of the meter there is a little lever which the driver flicks if there is more than one passenger. It seems the law allows him to charge an extra 20 cents for each additional passenger.

This offends me because the cab company's costs are no greater with more than one person, and it refutes the old adage that it's cheaper to take a cab than a bus because the group shares the cost.

ANOTHER THING that gets to me is when you are sitting nonchalantly at a red light and the meter ticks an extra 10c. You know that you are paying 40 cents for the first 2.5 mile and 10 cents for each additional 1/4 mile or some such mathematical formula and it's just hard to understand when you are standing still how you can log these miles.

I'm sure it has something to do with waiting time, but that doesn't seem like it should be considered waiting time.

The answer, of course, to all these problems is to send your chauffeur ahead with the car, and then he can transport you around these cities.

But then not all of us have our own chauffeurs.

**City Beat**  
By KEN WEAVER

If nothing else, Career Day created an awareness among the 2,000 students at Seaholm of the availability of the many job opportunities.

Dr. John Blackhall Smith, superintendent of Birmingham Public Schools, made this observation in an informal discussion last week about the Career Day program at the school.

It was agreed that the project at least makes students aware of the fact that there is such a thing as a career and of the need to make a decision.

This was the second biennial Career Day at Seaholm. Next year, Groves will have its biennial. The event is sponsored each year by the Birmingham Rotary Club and rotates between the two schools.

BUSIEST MAN at the Nov. 23 activities at Seaholm was unquestionably Merle Smith, counselor in charge for the school. He was the man who coordinated the efforts of the Rotarians, the consultants, the teachers and the students.

For a while his headquarters in the school library appeared much like a busy army command post or a corporation executive's office. Questions were coming at him from all directions.

Never once did he become flustered or lose his temper. Indeed, he remained calm and smiling throughout the hectic morning.

SMITH HAD things so well organized that when advisers showed up with movie equipment who had not previously been scheduled extra rooms were already equipped and waiting for them.

When one consultant failed to arrive at the prescribed time, Smith merely merged one group with another in that same category. And when the latecomer did arrive, there was a panel discussion instead of two separate speakers.

This year, the Rotary Club is augmenting its role with a continuing service of assistance and advice. Students desiring to arrange a personal interview or tour or visitation may do so by addressing a letter or card to Rotary-Careers, Community House, Bates at Townsend, Birmingham.

OR THEY may call the chairman of Career Day, Clarence Kraft, who resides at 544 Oakland, Birmingham. Kraft, who has been the guiding light for this program for three years, drew praise from the school officials and advisers for his efforts.

This follow-up service comes as a direct response to the challenge issued a year ago by Dr. Smith, who said it was one thing to introduce students to career opportunities and another to offer them a steady source of information.

THE CAREER category attracting the most interest this year was the Peace Corps, with 267 students gathered in the Little Theater to hear Jeffrey Jenks. Jenks was a volunteer in the Philippine Elementary (See CITY BEAT, Page 7-B)

## From The Eccentric's Point of View

Some congressmen not re-elected seem to be bent on serving the people even after they get back home. How else would you account for their undertaking fact-finding trips to some of the world's greatest capitals?

A grand jury indicts the promoters of Krebiozen. Krebiozen zealots will read that "persecutes" instead of "indicts."

The House Un-American Activities Committee is asked to investigate the Minutemen. Their name just reeks with Americanism—but their philosophy just reeks.

Johnson pledges to check federal spending but says the budget should not be "stagnant." Translated, this means: The trend is still going to be up.

The U.S. and Russia agree on a water desalinization project. After that, something harder may be attempted—making Harry Truman's remarks less salty.

There's lots of year-end advice about juggling income to minimize taxes. And lots of people wouldn't mind taxes so much if there were more income to juggle.

The U.S. coin shortage forces collectors to hoard foreign coins. But most Americans still would like to accumulate more of the kind minted in this country.

In 1962 Americans spent three times as much on liquor as on schools. It seems that complaints about the high cost of education are all wet.

## The Birmingham Eccentric

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## The American Way

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