

## A Commendable Effort

It takes a long time to bring excellence to maturity.—Publius Syrus, Maxim 780.

Again, the Birmingham Board of Education and school administration are living up to their responsibility of keeping the public informed.

Appearing in tabloid size as a supplement to this week's Eccentric is the annual Progress Report for the citizens of the Birmingham School District. We recommend that every resident of the district read this report.

A close perusal of it will reveal the thought behind school programs, the goals and standards which the school officials are trying to achieve. These can only be accomplished through the support and assistance of an informed citizenry.

WITH A THEME of "The Pursuit of Excellence," the report seeks to inform the citizens as to what the schools have done since 1961. And it presents a projection of needs through 1968 in the areas of personnel, curriculum, finances, buildings and enrollment.

It graphically discusses these six goals:

- "To provide each student, according to his ability, with as complete an intellectual offering as he can usefully absorb in the language arts, basic sciences, mathematics, social studies and the fine arts.
- "To establish a climate in which the pursuit of excellence in the areas of his interest becomes the goal of each child.
- "To honor the diversity of talents by providing training in basic vocational skills in addition to the core offering in the academic areas.
- "To encourage the development and use of creative thought and the ability to reason.
- "To develop a knowledge and appreciation of our cultural heritage.
- "To emphasize to each child the great

personal satisfaction which is derived from intellectual pursuits."

**CERTAINLY,** THIS outline of goals offers us an opportunity to better understand what our schools are trying to accomplish. What is education if it does not achieve such results?

In language that we all may understand, the report presents statements of school finances—where the money comes from and how it is spent—and of the building and bonding programs. Building policies which guide the school board and administration are listed.

These should be read and studied by everyone.

**HOW FAR** do we wish to go in this pursuit of excellence? This is a question all taxpayers, all parents of school children must consider. The answer will determine the quality and extent of the education offered in our schools.

As the Progress Report states, the pursuit of excellence entails:

- "Goals which guide the efforts of citizens and professionals.
- "Citizens interested in and informed about their schools.
- "Broad participation in school affairs, including studies in depth by citizens of various parts of the school program.
- "A willingness to follow through and financially support the recommendations..."

**THE BIRMINGHAM** Eccentric commends the board and administration for their continued efforts to inform the public. And the citizen groups that assist the schools in the various studies also deserve public commendation.

But their efforts are to no avail unless the citizens take advantage of them. It takes an informed public to assure continued pursuit of excellence.

## Taking a Step Against Polio

The polio immunization campaign in Oakland County is of extreme importance—to you, to your family and to your community.

You may ask: "Why? There hasn't been much polio around lately."

True. But the medical societies of the three counties—Wayne, Oakland and Macomb—point out that polio runs in cycles. Those cycles have been slowed down by polio shots. But they haven't been stopped.

The mass immunization program is designed to prevent any future outbreak in the metropolitan area... to twist a phrase, to lock the barn door before the horse is stolen.

**IF THE** campaign succeeds, if everyone over the age of one year takes the two doses of vaccine, our area will be free of the danger of any polio outbreak for years to come.

## From The Eccentric's Point of View...

Another triumph of modern technology, the musical typewriter, looms on the horizon. While we join in welcoming this gain for civilization, we have a hunch that some of its possibilities may have been overlooked by the inventors. Tapping out a series of letters on the typewriter produces a melody.—The "Whistler and His Dog" or the theme from "Fanninhaus" or what have you. This, it is supposed, will encourage children to learn typing. What occurs to us is that if they have an ear for music but can't get the hang of typing, the resultant cacophony may prompt them to hurt the machine to the floor and stomp on it. Another thought comes to mind. With musical typewriters, why not musical secretaries who produce dulcet sound along with the business letters? But there again, the chance of error is great. Also, if several typists are banging away at once, how would one go about getting them to play the same tune? As we suggested above, the musical typewriter has possibilities, but the inventors had better spend some time eliminating the blue notes.

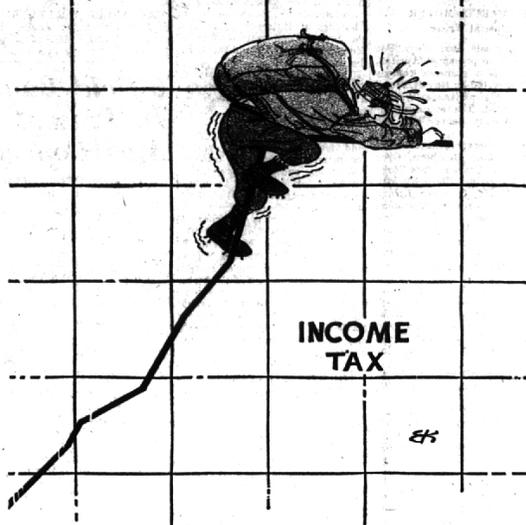
There is now operating in New York a restaurant which offers what it calls a cook-it-yourself service. The new service does not really involve cooking one's own food. It is, rather, a heat-it-yourself service. Customers, having se-

lected from a variety of frozen dinners, prepare them in small microwave ovens at the tables. This is the ultimate in something or other. Of course, it does need some refinement. There is nothing very elegant about hauling a frozen dinner out of a bin and carrying it over to a table for a quick heat treatment. We envision the restaurant of the near future. As the diner relaxes with an aperitif, a quiet servant will wheel to tableside a cold box in which many foods will be arrayed. The diner will select what he wants, the server will pop his choices into an elegant table oven. In five minutes, dinner! But we still don't think it will ever replace good home cooking.

To marbles and kites one may add, as signs of spring, the resurgence of the one-armed driver. This species, though not entirely dormant in the winter months, becomes far more active when balmy zephyrs begin to waft about. Without any wish to blight romance, we respectfully suggest to one-armeders that failing to give reasonable attention to the road is a prime cause of smash-ups. The stricture also applies to those with other than romance in mind—mildly adjusting her chapeau, or the fellow using his electric shaver between client calls—who drives with but one hand on the wheel. But our main concern is for young lovers: There are better places for embraces than a car hurtling down the highway.

## Whew! At Last a Plateau

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## PEOPLE'S COLUMN

### Editorial Speaks Out On Modern Art Evils

To the Editor:

It has been said that birds of a feather flock together (guess they have not heard of the Liberal party, as they still obey the Creator's natural law); so it is sometimes with humans who think alike—write alike.

When my letter to the editor of your highly esteemed paper appeared on March 12, denouncing the absurdities of so-called modern art, a publisher of LIBERATOR in Massachusetts printed on the same date an editorial which I wish could be reprinted in full so more people could have a better understanding of the evil forces that are working against everything that is fine and noble in this land of ours.

But for lack of space, I shall confine myself to few excerpts from LIBERATOR:

"THIS NEWSPAPER welcomes Rev. John B. Nix's forceful expression to a thought we have many times set forth in this newspaper: namely, that so much of what passes for modern art, modern music and modern literature is really a slight not only from reason but also from all cultural and ethical standards which the Judeo-Christian world has developed. "People dip their feet in paint, walk across canvases or shoot paint pellets from blowguns and call it art. . . . It is hoped that other religious and educational leaders will speak out as boldly as Rev. Nielson until we have exploded the fraud of what is called modern art, modern music and modern literature. Then, perhaps, once again mankind can return to the true, the beautiful in his quest for TRUE art, music and literature."

### Not So Plush, Maybe, But Still Respectable

To the Editor:

Ken Weaver's article on April 2, 1964, hit me pretty hard, mainly because I live in the "slum area." First of all, Mr. Weaver, what do you consider a slum building? Sure, my home isn't as nice as some of my friends who live in the "better part of town."

But, it's nothing to be ashamed of. There are lots of people who don't make much money but still keep their homes respectable looking in our neighborhood.

ADMITTEDLY there are a few houses that are in pretty bad shape, but I don't see where you get off

saying that the whole neighborhood is a slum area. Just what do you think can be done about this "problem"? Just because the people in this area are not as well off as the rest of Birmingham why downgrade us publicly?

THIS LETTER may seem a bit unfair. I don't know much about this whole business because I am just a freshman in high school, but I felt I had to take a stand. If I am wrong, please tell me, but I do not think I am.

A "SLUM CHILD"

FOR THE privilege of voting Here, elections come and go. Without the people noing.

Press and candidates toiled. Campaigned, and did their share. It is however evident. The People just don't care.

From the polls they stayed away. Seventy-two per cent. We should really ask ourselves. Exactly what this meant.

We praise our democracy. Preach it round the earth. Yet this is how we practice it. In the land that gave it birth.

JOHN McPHERSON  
1828 Bradford  
Birmingham

## Yesteryear Happenings

50 YEARS AGO  
April 17, 1914

Running north from Maple avenue, west of the village, a fine new boulevard will be built at once to connect with a street running south from the Quanton Road in Bloomfield Hills to Maple Avenue. This will be named Bloomfield Boulevard and, connecting as it does with the beautiful drive through the Endicott Farms, will make one of the loveliest features in the environment of the New Birmingham, which is destined to show the most rapid growth of any village in the state.

Deputy Sheriff Bray has been averaging about one wrong-doer a day for the past week. Brother Bray, the people say, must make his hay, from day to day, and get his pay, without delay, and picks up drunks where'er he may, hurrah, hurrah, for Brother Bray!

Everybody came to "Ye Old Fashioned Spelling Bee," to be held at the High School on Thursday, April 23. You are cordially invited to come and take part in the contest and try for the Prize of five dollars in gold to be awarded to the winner. Anyone may join the contest and those outside of school are particularly invited to join the ranks of the spellers. Music will be furnished by Mr. Saitter's orchestra and by the High School quartette.

30 YEARS AGO  
April 19, 1934

Baldwin High School will graduate the largest senior class in its history at annual commencement exercises June 12. A tentative list, issued by Justice H. Augustus O'Dell, includes the names of 95 students who will be eligible to receive their diplomas. This number exceeds by nearly 20 students that of any previous class graduating since he became principal in 1921, Mr. Hart said.

Burgams everywhere will greet shoppers in Birmingham this week end when local merchants join in offering their annual Spring Dollar Days festival. Both Friday and Saturday have been set aside for what promises to be the outstanding shopping event of the year. Hundreds of dollars worth of merchandise, at greatly reduced prices, will be offered for sale.

15 YEARS AGO  
April 14, 1949

George George Beek, founder of Cranbrook, in Bloomfield Hills, passed away early Monday at Harper Hospital in Detroit. He would have been 85 years old on Sept. 24. His passing removes from life a man who, in the realm of journalism, wielded widespread influence both in Michigan but nationwide. He was president of The Detroit News and head of the Both chain of newspapers. Funeral services were held yesterday.

(SEE HAPPENINGS, 8-9)

## Eccentricities

By HANK HOGAN

BITS AND PIECES

The response to my want ad of two weeks ago for a state legislator was amazing. There will certainly be an active primary if all of the persons who have written or called me follow through.

This is, of course, good for the district. One correspondent who was not applying for the position asked two questions. Why young? And why man? My ad requested a young man, and this gal raised the question, why not an older retired person? My answer to her is that unfortunately the legislature is full of retirees and lacks the young blood needed for balance.

Nine members of the House of Representatives are in their seventies. Only three members are under 35.

As to why not a gal, I didn't mean to exclude the fairer sex. Women in the legislature, with one exception, are ineffective; but this is an individual problem. It's not that they are women, it's just that the present elected woman representatives just are not forceful people.

A good gal could contribute much in Lansing. One problem is that all of the Oakland County Republicans in the House share an apartment in Lansing. If the gal is married she would either have to break tradition or have a broad-minded hubby.

CAPE KENNEDY  
While I was South last week, relaxing on the sunny beach, something caught my eye. I had to take a second look because my first impression was that they had mobilized Cape Kennedy (nee Canaveral).

Strolling down the beach was a gal with her hair put up in these new type curlers that look like the torpedo tubes on a PT boat.

I honestly looked like she was a walking rocket launcher. I know that some women have to spend a lot of time to be beautiful, but I just don't feel that's proper dress to appear in public.

The same gal probably wouldn't appear in public in her undergarments and to me hair up in curlers looks just as undressed.



MR. HOGAN

## City Beat

By KEN WEAVER

"You can lick off the floors of some of the homes down here."

"Where do you get off calling this a slum area? I'd like to see the inside of your house. I bet it's a mess."

"Whaddya mean calling us a slum area? Where'd you live? I bet it's a pig sty."

"Do you live in Bloomfield Hills? I've been inside some of the houses there and I can tell you there were a lot worse than these in our neighborhood that you wrote about. I bet your house is just as bad."

And so the calls went. Naturally, they were from irate citizens from the southwest portion of Birmingham. They berated me for saying that certain houses in their neighborhood qualified for inclusion in the term "slum area."

Like it or not, some of them do. Unfortunately. But, fortunately, something can be done about them, as spelled out here last week.

COMES NOW a suggestion from a respectable developer in town. "How about cleaning up the gutters, the streets and the alleys while we're at it?" he asks.

"Birmingham is so easy to keep clean; there is no reason not to."

The alleys, he says, are worse than the streets; though he'd at least like to see the gutters along Hunter and Woodward cleaned out.

For his information, plans are already afoot to do something about the alleys. As part of the Birmingham Centennial, there is an alley beautification committee to handle just such a project. It's headed by Jack Kershenbaum, vice president of Kay Baum, Inc.

It's my understanding that Jack rejoices at being given this task—an opportunity to actually pitch in and help accomplish something worthwhile rather than being asked for the customary donation of money.

EMPHASIS WILL be placed on cleaning up the alleys behind business establishments, not just those behind houses. And efforts will be made to encourage owners to take steps to renovate the rear entrances of their establishments to make them more attractive.

As one well-intentioned citizen declared, "Certainly there is a lot the police department could do. They are always giving out tickets for overtime parking; let them start ticketing people for violation of the litter ordinance for a change."

Homes, streets or alleys—this is the year to clean up, fix up, paint up and otherwise improve upon the aesthetics of our city. It will give greater meaning to our centennial observance.

Cigaret sales are making a comeback following the surgeon general's report. The smokers figure if anyone gets lung cancer it'll be the other guy.

Science seeks a way to predict earthquakes. But a wrong prediction might provide more of a shock than many earthquakes.

Goldwater supporters say Nixon is their second choice for president. Johnson supporters think the President will run away from everyone—even Bobby Baker.

A book by a Beagle is on Britain's best-seller list. It just goes to show how four centuries of Shakespeare will develop a nation's literary taste.

Khrushchev tells an audience "good goulash" is better than revolution. The big trick is to get the goulash without the latter.

The Johnson turn-out-the-lights campaign is evoking complaints about gloom in Washington. The only people happy with it are the flashlight manufacturers.

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