

## Level of Care Increases In Village With EEJAD Paramedic Coverage

Council agreed joining Fairfax, Madison Place and Columbia Townships in the Eastern Emergency Joint Ambulance District increases the level of EMS care and fire coverage in the village. Safety Committee Chairman Rusty Wilson reported new agreement would provide village a higher level of paramedic care and give Terrace Park's winter fire and EMS personnel additional run experience.

EEJAD will provide Terrace Park with 24 hour back up paramedic coverage for \$15,000 annual and daytime fire coverage free of charge. Terrace Park EMS volunteers will now respond to all runs out of the Newtown Bridge, and EEJAD will respond with paramedics.

The area east of Newtown Bridge will be jointly covered evenings and weekends by Terrace Park and EEJAD fire fighters. Wilson noted the cost is not as important as the level of care which is increased by this agreement. Terrace Park had previously contracted with Milford for fire coverage for \$1000 a year.

Village employees agreeing to a PPO, which reduces their liability and slightly increases their deductible, will save Terrace Park \$1000 annually in health insurance coverage. Finance Chairman Tim Brown noted pre-existing conditions are not affected as the village is staying with Guardian Insurance.

Brown reported the village has a .5 mill levy expiring in May. The decision to put a levy on November's ballot must be made by Aug. 21. Brown explained the village would have had to pay the entire cost of a May election if it placed a levy on the ballot then.

The saga continues. Culvert bridge repair on Elm continue to be delayed by ODNR requests for more information. Council member Dan Startzman voiced his displeasure with ODNR, saying, "It's a nice bridge, but we have to pay for it." Council passed a resolution of intent to award a contract pending decisions of ODNR. Representing Village Walker and Assoc., the village engineering firm, George Kipp said, "We're lucky the contractor isn't backed out of it since it was a winter project."

Council accepted Lanier's proposal from the Garden Club to contract with Nature's Way to clean up the hillside on Madison Place and Elm for \$614 and area directly across from the

Post Office down to New St. for \$981.45. Proceeds from the Garden Club's house tour and plant sale last year will pay for the projects for one year.

Mayor Jennifer Comfort proclaimed Apr. 25 National Arbor Day when the Garden Club will give each first grader at Terrace Park Elementary School a yellow wood sapling.

Council approved paying Davey Tree \$1,595 for planting 13 trees in the village right of way and two at the Log Cabin. Council also approved \$800 for the Terrace Park Recreation Committee's Summer Fun program. A \$7,848 contract with Pioneer Concrete for sidewalk work was also authorized by Council. Terrace Park residents Antoni Gambetta and George Kipp, Jr. will return to work on the sidewalks this summer.

John Finnigan will follow up on Rumpke's offer to charge \$1 per household for picking up yard waste, which is now allowed by a change in Ohio law.

In other action Council authorized the state of Ohio to study traffic on Wooster Pike and had the first reading of an ordinance authorizing contempt of court fines for no-shows at Mayor's Court. Police Chief Bob Bacon noted last month's docket included 83 people, but only 22 people appeared in court.

Milford's retired Chief of Police Dan Chilton was sworn in as an auxiliary officer. Chief Bacon explained that Chief Chilton is retiring April 30 after 33 years of service, which includes police chief of Fairfax and Milford. Council also agreed to sponsor David Boehm as a new recruit to the Police Academy.



## Wanted In Terrace Park For "Smash And Grab"

Terrace Park Police Chief warns village residents to be on the look out for a slender, young man in his twenties that resembles the above artist's rendering. He is wanted for theft, which was a "smash and grab" at 10:50 a.m. on April 17 in Terrace Park. After breaking the car window and grabbing a purse, the black male, with medium skin, close cropped hair and a two to three weeks growth of beard and mustache, was seen heading west on Park towards Wooster Pike. He was wearing dark clothing and possibly a light weight jacket. After grabbing the purse he entered a later model, gold Pontiac Fiero which

## TP Swim Club's Lap Pool To Open On Schedule



Construction of Terrace Park Swim Club's new lap pool (above) is a little ahead of schedule and will be open Memorial Day weekend. The landscaping, however, may not be completed which could create a little mud. The new lap pool provides a better practice area for the swim team and a quieter swim area for adults without children resulting in less crowding in both pools. The dirt removed to create the new pool was used to build a berm, creating a natural bleacher stand for swim meets. The membership, limited to 350 and now at 324, voted over nine to one in favor of the project. The construction, costing close to \$425,000, should be completed without an assessment.

## Supreme Court Effects On Mariemont Unknown

Superintendent Gerry Harris said he and district treasurer Natalie Lucas will attend a seminar this week in Columbus to explore the possible effects of the Supreme Court's 4-3 decision declaring Ohio schools unconstitutional. Little is known at this point as the Governor's Task Force has just begun its weekly meetings.

Harris did tell board members at their April 15 meeting that the court's instructions appear to be favorable to districts like Mariemont. The decision required legislators to avoid Robin Hood funding by taking funds from wealthier districts to pay for poorer ones. The decision also said districts should be able to pass additional levies if they wished.

Mariemont got more good news this month as its seniors placed third in the state in passing all sections of the 12th grade Proficiency Test.

Continuing to spend district funds conservatively, due to the Swallens closing and decrease in state formula funding, the board did not renew the contracts of the non-tenured classroom aids. They will be hired back on a seniority basis, as the district is more certain of its financial status.

The board also honored Terrace Park residents for their contributions to the school district. Terrace Park Elementary Principal Jerry Sasson presented plaques to Kim David, David Troller, Susan Amis, Terre Voegeli and John Wenstrup. David's contributions include OM, the Pumpkin Festival and classroom volunteering. Troller was honored for his efforts in caring for the building while running the basketball program. Amis and Voegeli created the junior high's first year book and Wenstrup wrote, directed and performed in "Return of the Pod People" to raise funds for the fine



Improvements to the existing pool included deepening the diving area and adding a one meter board, with no change in insurance costs. Making the pool (above) handicapped accessible, the club installed a ramp going down the east end of the pool. Semi-circular steps were added at the end of the pool near the tennis courts. Construction also includes additional concrete work and decking near the concession stand and a new entrance between the pool and the tennis courts. Tennis co-chair Randy Phillips reported Jerry Howard will return to direct the tennis program. Mike Fry, who was assistant manager of The Beach last year, will manage the Terrace Park pool this summer. For the first time, this year the concession stand will be leased to Katy Barnhill.

## TP Garden Club Annual Plant Sale

The Terrace Park Garden Club hosts its annual plant sale on May 9 and 10 on the Village Green, rain or shine. Many hanging baskets and annuals will be for sale, just in time for Mother's Day. All pre-orders must be picked up at this time. Please support your community - come to the TP Plant Sale! Karen Ballinger (831-784) can answer any questions.

**Terrace Park  
Recreational  
Fall Soccer Sign-Up  
Saturday, May 17  
9 a.m. to Noon  
TP Elementary Cafeteria  
Questions?  
Call Theresa Bain  
831-2032**

## Valuables Are Not Safe In The Hospital

Police Chief Bob Bacon reminds residents to leave their valuables at home, not to take them with you if you have to go to the hospital. An elderly Terrace Park resident had thousands of dollars in checks stolen from her room when she was recently hospitalized.

## Mariemont Needs Coaches

The Mariemont schools need a girl's varsity soccer coach, a girl's assistant varsity basketball coach and seventh and eighth grade volleyball coaches for the 1997-98 school year. If interested, contact Jeff Watterson, athletic director at 271-8310.

## Terrace Park Newcomers Tour Microbreweries May 17

The Terrace Park Newcomers are sponsoring a Microbrewery Tour and Sampling Sat., May 17. The group will test samples and hors d'oeuvres at three of Cincinnati's finest microbreweries. Buses will leave Terrace Park at 6:15 p.m. and return at midnight.

The cost is \$20 per person before May 3 and \$22.50 per person May 3-9. Discover the latest in brews and explore the fascinating Main Street area of downtown Cincinnati hassle free! Contact Kathy McKeown (248-4345) for more information.



## Teenie Beanie Babies Can Make a Meal Happy!

Terrace Park children picnicking in the front yard of the elementary school April 11 didn't even notice the cool temperatures. They may not have even noticed their lunches. They had seven of the Teenie Beanie Babies McDonalds starting packing that morning in its Happy Meals. The plush little animals stuffed with polyvinyl chloride pellets are a smaller version of the Teenie Beanie Babies introduced in 1994 by Ty Inc. The TP picnickers proudly show off their Teenie Beanie Babies, including Patti Platypus and Pinky Flamingo.

## Country Day Holds Auction May 10

Cincinnati Country Day School's annual fund raising auction will be held on the school campus May 10. The theme of this year's Country Day is The Past, The Present, The Promise, which emphasizes the importance of parents and teachers in the lives of children as they grow to meet the future.

Terrace Park resident Lanie Grever is working on the acquisitions committee which secures donations for the auctions.

## Garden Club Hosts May 6 Luncheon

Plan to attend the Terrace Park Garden Club's luncheon and meeting May 6 at noon in the Community Building. New officers will be installed and table decorations will be judged. The hostesses will be the outgoing board members. For reservations call Jane Allan (831-3943).

## TP EMS Seeks Volunteers

The Terrace Park Emergency Medical Service is looking for people interested in joining the corps of EMT's that currently provide Terrace Park with 24 hour emergency medical care. Day and evening classes are available starting in May. Please contact Maggie Tobergte (831-7166) or Connie Wilson (831-8288) for further information. **YOU can make a difference!**

## Dulcimer Workshop, Concert Set For 26th in Terrace Park

The Cincinnati Dulcimer Society's "Continuing Education and Concert Series" presents dulcimer teacher and performer Lois Hornbostel Apr. 26 at the Terrace Park Community House. The concert begins at 8 p.m. with admission \$5 and children under 12 admitted free.

The 10 and 11:30 a.m. workshop features Jam Session Primer and Repertoire for Mountain Dulcimer addressing players of all skill levels, while the 1 and 2:30 p.m. workshops with Flatpicking and Crosspicking are suggested for intermediate and advanced players. Workshops are \$15 each. For more information and workshop reservations contact Nan Cook (752-0136) or Jean Ruwe (871-5395).

## TP Swim Club Organizes Diving and Swim Teams

Terrace Park Swim Club is recruiting members 18 and under to join the new diving team. Renovations to the diving well are complete and a one meter board will soon be installed. The diving Coach will be Steph Hogue.

Anyone interested in joining the swim team or the new diving team please contact Laura Colston (831-6321) or Julie Morgan (248-1488).

## Fifth Grade Team Places Second in OM Regionals



Bringing back an OM trophy for the Terrace Park Elementary showcase are, from left, Kevin Mealy, Brooke Richart, Sandy Buban, Zach Smith, Patrick McCormack and Jessica Pardue.

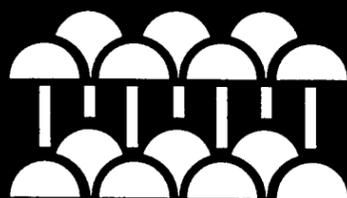
Terrace Park Elementary School's fifth grade team took second place at the Odyssey of the Mind Regional Competition March 15 at Glen Este High School. The team's long term problem, which they started working on in November, was Double Trouble, a balsa wood structure with two sections. Terrace Park's structure held the ten pound crusher and an additional ten pound weight before it twisted. The team noted it just needed more reinforcement on the side as the structure never actually broke.

The spontaneous problem, which they hear for the first time at the competition requires fast and creative thinking on your feet. Terrace Park's problem was to suggest ways to move a cup of hot chocolate without touching it. One of their many solutions was to place a crane on a pink elephant's back to move the cup. The team explained their coach Terry Pardue had told them to think of a pink elephant when they run out of ideas and something will just naturally pop into their head. Pardue was assisted by Brett Richart in coaching team members Jessica Pardue, Brooke Richart, Kevin Mealy, Patrick McCormack, Zach Smith and sixth grader Sandy Buban.

Kim David served as the OM co-ordinator for Terrace Park's seven teams. Cindy Rix coached Kindergartners Josie Rix, Parker Bell, Stewart Kerr, Emily David, Molly Umbarger, Luke Schneider and Gabrielle Smith. First graders Eric Smith, Tess Pendery, Chris Porst, Drew Troller, Natalie Helmrich and Ellie Date were coached by Kelley Smith.

The two second grade teams included Caroline David, Spencer Cowan, McKenzie Bell, Henry White, Julieanne Smith and Sam Hyer coached by Scott David and his assistant Missy Cowan and Sarah Donley, Paige Dolan; Blythe Pardue, Meredith Brown, David Bittner, Johnathan Olson and Evan Kokoruda coached by Mark Donley and his assistant Jack Brown.

Holly McCormack assisted by Catherine Ryall, coached third graders Anne McCormack, Julie McCormack, Christina Ryall. Maeve McGoff, Jane Lindahl, Hayley Porst and Shane Smith. Isobel Date coached fourth graders Alice Date, Aiden Williams, Jamie Sullivan, Dayna Wood and Lauren Rix.



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## Letter to the Editor

### Spirit of Volunteerism Impresses TP Resident

To the Editor:

I am continuously amazed and impressed with the spirit of volunteerism that is found at all levels in our community. As a father of three, I would like to publicly offer my appreciation to all of those who so generously give of their time and talents to coach, lead, mentor and just be there for our kids.

If I had to single out one such volunteer, I would tip my hat to Dan Dever. Dan has a real gift for coaching. I have watched Dan over the past two years and have been amazed at his ability to take a group of kids and mold them into a team. At the end of each season, every child seems to end up as a better athlete and as a better team player. In addition, the kids are gaining first hand knowledge of a very basic concept - hard work and discipline, whether on the ball diamond, in the classroom, or in the world of work-leads to success.

Thank you Dan, and all the others for caring about our kids.

Dennis Glaser  
Floral Avenue



Scout Masters Tim Harth, right, and David Lewis present second grader Nick Crosswell of Den 12 with the champion's trophy as his car was the fastest of 75 entries in the March 23 Pinewood Derby held at the Terrace Park Elementary gym. Sportsmanship was stressed with reminders to abide by the rules, have positive attitudes for teams as well as winning and losing. Contest winners included: Tyler Glaser, silliest car; David Dillman, most realistic; Erik Rugh, best paint job; George Heffner, the most creative.

## Scouts Race In Style At TP Pinewood Derby



Fifth grader Doug Fletcher watches his second place winning car come down the track with his dad, Steve, and brother Grant. Den winners for the fastest cars included: fifth graders Kyle Hynden, Den 8, and Kevin Mealy, Den 9; fourth graders Ben Schneider, Den 7, and Robbie Cottrell, Den 3; third grader Bradley Carman, Den 2; second graders Evan Kokoruda, Den 11, and David Bittner, Den 13; and first graders Grant Koszycki, Den 1, and Will Kippens, Den 2.

### Woman's Club Features Houses In May Display

The houses of Rugby Avenue and the Robinwood-Circus Place area will be featured at the Memorial Day display of the Woman's Club House Survey. The event will be at the Community House and will be open after the ceremony at the green until 4 p.m.

Rugby Avenue was chosen because there is a wide variety of houses- from pre-1900's to the 1950's and 1960's. There is also a Pease pre-cut, a Gunnison pre-fab, and the popular '50's Better Homes & Garden plan. Other Gunnison's and BH&G's in the village will be identified also.

Circus Place was chosen because of interest in the old Robinson house and the circus lore surrounding it.

The House Survey Committee plans to feature Pease houses at its Labor Day exhibit and asks those who live in one to help by filling out a survey form.

Survey forms for any house in Terrace Park are available from Carol Cole (831-6771).

### Mariemont Describes Intra-District Policy

The Mariemont City Schools District will outline its intra-district school policy at its annual policy meeting May 20 at 6:30 p.m. in the Junior High Library. The district will explain how students may select which school in the district they wish to attend.



Fourth grader Chris McGoff shows off his "third fastest" car to Sam Amis, left and Erik Debbink, right. This year's Pinewood Derby was organized by Pat McGoff, with lots of help from David Lewis, Keith Grope and Riley Hummler. These photographs were taken by Joddy Parry.

### High Tea To Follow Evensong April 27

The St. Thomas Choir of Men and Boys are hosting an English High Tea featuring proper British scones in the Church Undercroft following the April 27 Evensong which begins at 4 p.m. The Sunday afternoon Evensong is open to the public without charge, while the High Tea is given as a fund-raiser with an admission charge of \$10 per adult and \$5 per child.

The ensemble's 20 boys meet several times a week, including a weekly intergenerational rehearsal with the 16 men, who sing the lower choral parts. Many of the boys, who range in age from eight to 13, come from Terrace Park. The choir's men come for the entire metropolitan area. The Choir continues to welcome new members in both the boys and men's sections. Boys eight and older, with unchanged voices, are admitted on the basis of natural inclination towards singing, with no previous experience necessary. Men with choral experience are invited to audition in the counter-tenor, tenor and bass sections. For further information contact the Choir's director, Charles Olegar at 831-2052.

### Terrace Park Police Sponsor Skate Night

The Terrace Park Police joined the departments from Fairfax and Mariemont in sponsoring an evening of skating for middle schoolers at Castle Skateland in Loveland April 21. The Village Views apologizes for not publicizing the event but loosing everything on the paper's computer hard drive

### "Everybody Counts" Needs Materials

The Everybody Counts Committee of the Terrace Park Elementary School PTA is asking the community's assistance in accumulating its own materials. Any resident who has a youth or adult size walker or a hearing aid that they are no longer using, please take it to the elementary school office.

### Sounds of Sousa Band Presents Benefit Concert

Terrace Park residents Jack and Joyce Van Wye are members of the Sounds of Sousa Band which is presenting the Stars and Stripes Benefit Concert May 11 at 3 p.m. in the recently restored Memorial Hall. Tickets ranging from \$10 to \$25 may be purchased from the Van Wyes (831-2059) or at Music Hall Box Office. The concert benefits the Greater Cincinnati Arts and Education Center.

### St. Thomas Starts Flood Relief Fund

St. Thomas Church seeks contributions for its Flood Relief Fund. The contributions will be forwarded to Inter Parish Ministry, where its director David Meredith will oversee its use. An outreach organization supported by many churches in the area, Inter Parish Ministry was established in response to the 1964 flood.

Anyone wishing to contribute to the Flood Relief Fund may make a check payable to St. Thomas Church and earmark it "flood relief." The contribution may be mailed or brought to the church office or placed in the offering plate on Sun-

### Village Views Deadline

The deadline for the next issue of *Village Views* is the second Tuesday of the month. Anyone wishing to submit an article may send it to the editor at 107 Marian Lane. All letters to the editor must be signed.

### Village Views Staff

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# Letter To The Governor

Dear Sir:

First let me complement you on your efforts to fund Ohio's Head Start Program. I applaud your vow of January 9 to enroll every eligible Ohio child in Head Start before you leave office. When you came to office in 1991 state funding for Head Start was \$18.7 million and in the current two year budget it is \$145.6 million. Thank you for your proposal to spend \$159.4 million on the program in 1998-99.

You should be proud that Ohio, with 54,645 children enrolled in 56 programs across the state, leads the nation in Head Start programs for pre-schoolers. Since studies, including one done at the University of Cincinnati by the Arlitt Child and Family Research Center, indicate Head Start eventually saves money by trimming the welfare rolls, you deserve a standing ovation. You might, however, want to monitor the programs a little more closely as The Legislative Office of Education Oversight staff's report has indicated "Ohio is not a leader in ensuring the quality of Head Start Programs."

With a growing body of research confirming the early childhood years are most crucial in a child's mental development, your Head Start support is most practical as is your proposal to finance all day Kindergarten in Ohio's biggest cities.

Education's share of your total General Revenue Fund spending is most revealing, however. According to Office of Budget and Management Director Greg Browning's testimony in February before the House Finance and Appropriations Committee education's share of the proposed biennial budget grows to 23.7% of total GRF spending.

Do you remember your proposal (I hesitate to call it a campaign promise) in the fall of 1990? You proposed increasing state aid to public schools from 27% to 30% of the total state general fund expenditures by 1994? Education's share of the Ohio budget is currently the lowest in 30 years.

According to the Legislative Budget Office analysis of the General Revenue Fund, the Local Governments Fund and lottery disbursements from 1975 to 1995, education was not anyone's political priority. In those 20 years the education budget increased at an annual

average of 7.1%, and the corrections budget at 12.9%, while the Consumer Price Index averaged a 5.4% increase. As a percentage of the state budget over the same period education decreased 21.5% while corrections increased 125%.

Ohio's politicians refuse to throw good money after bad. They talk about high school graduation rates but I never hear them basing investment in prisons on recidivism rates. And didn't the 1993 Lucasville prison riot cost Ohio taxpayers \$68.6 million, including \$4.1 million for the nonrioting prisoners? Prison dollars just keep growing, without any demands for prison performance. According to its June 17-23, 1996 issue the *Cincinnati Business Courier's* analysis of the 1994 U.S. Census Bureau data ranks Ohio 22 in the nation in per capita spending on its penal system. Ohio ranks 41st in the nation, however, in education spending per capita at \$799, far behind Kentucky's 15th place with \$1,005 per capita.

Now, to get a little personal, let's talk about the documentary "Children in America's Schools", which first aired on PBS Sept. 13, 1996. The documentary was to cover education inequities nationwide, but Ohio became the focus after the producers saw the state of our schools. Bill Moyers, in fact, moderated a statewide town meeting on education Sept. 7. You declined their invitation to participate. According to the Dec. 29, 1996 issue of *The Akron Beacon Journal* you also declined all year to be interviewed by them about education.

We have heard from you since the Supreme Court shocked you with its 4-3 decision finding Ohio schools unconstitutional. Maybe you should have maintained your silence. Whining that the court overstepped its bounds in telling the legislature how to finance schools and then complaining that the court didn't explain how it was to be done is not good PR prep for your upcoming Senatorial race.

You have been given the opportunity of the century. *The Beacon Journal* reported, "Most of the 132 members of the Ohio General Assembly, in an anonymous survey, said they aren't sure the legislature can fix school funding problems without a court order." You've got the order. Now you can really improve the education of Ohio's school children and, if necessary, blame the court for any tax increases.

Ohio voters in 1998 will remember how you meet the court's challenge. Voinovich, the education governor... is that to be fact or fantasy? It's time for you to choose. Respectfully,  
Ricki Schmidt

## Why Press Appears Anti-Public School?

Wondering why the local press appears to be anti-public schools, I decided to ask where the members of the editorial boards of *The Cincinnati Enquirer* and *The Post* went to elementary and secondary schools and where their children are educated.

Since the board members are listed on *The Enquirer's* editorial page I called each individually. They were both receptive and open with their educational backgrounds, which by and large were mixed. Some went to public schools while their children attend parochial schools. Some even have one child in public school and one in private.

Since *The Post's* board members are not listed in the paper, I started with Editorial Page Editor Bob White. He faxed me only the names of the members of *The Post* editorial board, adding "As to where we and our kids attend(ed) school, we've concluded that if we're going to offer that up it would be more appropriate to do it on our own pages."

Panel members appointed to the governor's Task Force on School Funding, which is charged with proposing changes to Ohio's school funding, have varied backgrounds. Gov. George Voinovich went to parochial grade school and public high school, while his children did the opposite, attending public elementary school and parochial high school. Senate President Richard Finan was educated in parochial schools as were his children. The remaining five members of the Task Force, including House Speaker JoAnn Davidson were educated in public schools as are their children.

I even wondered about the members of the House and Senate education committees. There again school attendance was mixed, with a majority going to public schools. The only surprise there was the number of education committee members that did not have children.

The Village Views editor? I'm a mixed bag. I went to parochial grade school and public high school and my children have gone to all sorts of schools. They started in private schools in England, which are called public. They then went to Mariemont schools until we moved to Venezuela, where they attended a private international school, where I served as president. Returning to the U.S. one child went to private school.

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## You Didn't Read This In *The Enquirer*

Where does a resident of Southern Ohio, the bastion of conservatism, go for the facts about education? The Governor's facts on education are easily accessed in *The Cincinnati Enquirer*.

In addition to the news reports you find a fount of facts on the op ed pages. On April 9 *Enquirer* Associate Editor Peter Bronson asked Ohio's leading gubernatorial candidates, "Ohio now spends about \$3,500 per student (state only); so exactly how much more is needed to make all schools adequate and equal?" Well, Peter, since the state of Ohio actually spent only \$2,488 per student (state only), exactly \$1,012 or 40% more is needed. Your mythical figure of \$3,500 is the Foundation Formula amount the state guarantees a school district will get for each student when local moneys and state aid are added together.

Reading his editorial, I pounded my fist on the kitchen table in irritation and then used my bruised hand to dial *The Enquirer*. I got editorial writer Linda Cagnetti and questioned the accuracy, really the inaccuracy, of the figure often used as the basis for *The Enquirer's* argument that the state is more than generous. Much of their information, she said, comes from the Governor's office. I told her I got mine from Assistant Director Jim Payton and Daria Shams in the Office of Policy Research and Analysis at the State Department of Education. She had never heard of them, but I offered to bring her a copy of their Simulation Unit: "Breakdown of Revenue By Source for Ohio Public School Districts, FY96."

The good news is she was very interested in seeing more information. Maybe we can blame their blatant errors on misinformation and not a dastard attempt to intentionally mislead the public. Ah, the irony... the ignorant leading the discussion on education.

*The Akron Beacon Journal's* look at Ohio education in its Dec. 29, 1996 issue painted a less rosy picture than *The Enquirer's* editors. *The Journal* reported:

- "Today, Ohio labors under some of the lowest academic standards in the country, its teachers are less educated than the national average, and each of its neighbors - West Virginia, Kentucky, Indiana, Michigan and Pennsylvania - spends more per pupil to educate its public school children. Five years ago, only Pennsylvania spent more."

- "And in the 1995-96 school year, the lowest spending West Virginia district spent about \$5,220 on each student. More than half of Ohio's school districts spent less."

- "Since 1989, Ohio has spent about \$400 million in state money on school building assistance, compared with \$800 million spent in West Virginia. Ohio has six times as many schoolchildren."

- In 1989-90 total local and state spending averaged \$5,325 per student in Ohio while Kentucky spent \$4,387. By 1995-96 Ohio had increased its per pupil spending only 8% to \$5,749 while Kentucky increased 36% to \$5,972.

- "Over the last decade, 100 of the state's 611 public school districts have effectively gone bankrupt."

- "In the 1993-94 school year, 500 school districts did not have enough money to cover expenses, and 100 districts had less money - after inflation-to spend per pupil than they did ten years earlier."

## Ohio Tops Nation Pogo Knows: The Enemy Is Us In Building Needs, Private School Aid

Ohio led the nation in the GAO studies revealing \$112 billion is needed to repair America's school buildings. A 1990 study commissioned by the Ohio Board of Education found \$10.3 billion in problems with the state's school buildings. The legislature's solution after a decade of warnings that buildings were in serious disrepair was to exempt schools from the most stringent parts of the state building code. That cost a lot less money than fixing them.

The legislature, however, has not been so reticent in the private sector. Ohio spends more public dollars on private education than any other state. In fact, several local suburban schools receive less in state formula funding per student than private schools located in their district get per student from the state.

According to information supplied by George H. Phillips, the Area Coordinator for the Department of Education, for the 1996 school year Cincinnati Country Day School received \$515.42 from the state for each student, including \$365.42 for auxiliary services and \$150 for administrative costs. In the same year, the Indian Hill School District received \$326 in foundation formula funding for each student. Sycamore Schools got \$266 per student in state funds while each student at Moeller and Ursuline Academy received \$515.42 from the state.

Department of Education Assistant Director for public and non public funding Dave Hauff reported \$131,701,150.42 was spent by the state of Ohio in 1996 on 232,201 non-public students. Transportation costs were \$16,378,941 for an average of \$70.54 per student, which could be added to the \$515.42 spent for each student at Country Day, Moeller and Ursuline

Pogo must have studied the public education system in Ohio long and hard when he said, "We have met the enemy and he is us."

Parents, politicians, press, teachers, administrators, business leaders, and yes, even students are all part of the problem facing Ohio's public schools.

Parents fled the inner cities for the suburbs in droves. The "me culture" of the '80's reinforced parents rationalizing, "I'll take care of MY CHILD, yours is not my problem," or "I'm paying tuition to educate my child, why should I vote for YOUR tax levy."

Politicians, who recognized taxation as the work of the devil, were reluctant to ask citizens to part with their cash. Ohio's elected officials preferring crisis management to leadership, introduced the sales tax in 1934 only after the school system had been devastated by the Depression. Then in 1971 to stem the tide of schools closing in bankruptcy they agreed to establish the personal income tax. Somehow, what was established in the holy name of education always found its way into the lobbyists' trough. Education's share of both sales and income taxes consistently declines year after year.

The press, vehemently condemning pouring good money after bad, paints such bleak pictures of Ohio's schools they couldn't be worth saving, certainly not worth raising taxes. This painting by the press is done in such broad strokes you'd think there is not one decent public school in the entire state. There are known enemies, according to the press. Teachers, even the ones who spend their own money to buy materials and supplies for their students, are the bottom feeders in the food chain.

These teachers, especially those organized in unions, sometimes appear to have only one goal, the maintenance of the status quo. Capitalists tend to distrust anyone who doesn't want to be judged and subsequently paid on the basis of merit. The better the work the better the pay, it's the American way.

As the numbers of students decreased, administrators increased by convincing the public that schools needed scientific management, which required the exclusion of parents. The first step was to eliminate communication, which was quickly accomplished by replacing English with "educational jargon." Administrators saw parents as taxpayers, not partners in education.

The business leaders were willing to serve on commission after commission, trying to solve the problems of education, while managing to reduce the business share of Ohio's tax bill from 55% to 45%. These same leaders remind parents, teachers and administrators of their proper rolls in education while securing millions of dollars in tax abatements for their corporations.

Students are not to be ignored in this mess. They bring more baggage to school than ever before. Some in the inner cities come to school from homes that may have hunger and violence, but not much hope. Those in the suburbs are not problem free, as alcohol and drug abuse escalate.

Looks like we're all in the same boat; we're all guilty. Since we're all in this boat together, maybe it's time to stop wailing and start bailing. We could begin by turning this debate about public schools into a dialogue. You know, that's where you exchange ideas and opinions with a view to reaching an amicable agreement. Public schools play a vital role in maintaining a healthy democracy; they are worth saving.

In public schools, it appears, as Pogo suggested, that we are the

## Technology

Ohio ranks fifth from the bottom among the 50 states in student access to multimedia computers.

In "wild and wonderful" West Virginia, where two-thirds of public school children have new or remodeled classrooms, all Kindergarten through sixth grades have a minimum of four computers.

Ohio, whose \$500 million state funded technology program began in 1994-95, only includes K-4. Just one third of the program dollars have been spent, partly because many of Ohio's schools lack the modern wiring computers require. More than 50% of Ohio's school buildings are not ready for computers and networks.

In Jan., 1996 the Mariemont school district was eligible for \$120,082.63 in the School Net Program. The second year, with little explanation or fanfare, the state reduced Mariemont's School Net payment to \$6,213.98 and after July, 1997 Mariemont will have access to \$5,178.31 School Net funds.

**America has been the land of opportunity with economic class mobility because of its public schools. They are worth saving. Hopefully this Village Views can help us seriously consider Ohio schools, and their future.**

*Ricki Schmidt*

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