

The Lowell Ledger

Volume 21, Issue 48

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, October 18, 1995

MEAP Awareness

Staffs at all schools begin a more focused approach on the objectives needed so that students can be successful on the MEAP.

By Thad Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

If the state is going to evaluate schools through their MEAP results, then the test will be taken seriously.

So says Lowell school district leader, Bert Bleke.

"I think the MEAP test is a good test. I think it is a difficult test and deserves to

be used as a

benchmark in

which to measure

schools," said the Lowell superintendent.

"If our students can do well on the

MEAP test,

then they can do well intellectually and academically."

During the month of October,

approximately 260 fourth-grade and 270 seventh-grade

Lowell students will sharpen their number two pencils as they prepare to take the

MEAP test.

The results of the challenging 4-5 hours of testing are usually fodder for just how serious the test should be taken.

"I think a number of schools haven't taken it seriously,"

Bleke said. "I think they developed an attitude that this is just another thing the state is doing to schools and/or this is just another test."

Bleke said he has never shared that view. "I think if a

school uses its curriculum to prepare students the right way and if it uses good instructional practices, MEAP scores will improve," he said.

"Success cannot be found if schools are only spending two weeks preparing students. It must be a year-round effort. If you practice playing basketball four nights a week and then play a football game on Fri-

state standards which are in line with the MEAP. "The MEAP test is drawn from the state standards," he says. "By having our curriculum in line with state standards, we are then preparing students for the MEAP year-round."

White conceded that the high expectations from communities and the state have put some pressure on school administrators and teachers.

"The MEAP test is foremost on our minds because of the interest in what we do," White said.

"However, I don't think the schools should be judged solely on MEAP scores."

A Lowell Middle School teacher who preferred not to be identified, said such pressure for high MEAP scores gives the impression that MEAP scores are the sole reason for a school's existence.

"I am not sure that is in the best interest of the kids. I think there is a lot more to school than test scores," the LMS teacher said. "This approach will reach and work for some kids. It is not going to reach and work for all kids."

The teacher added ideally the MEAP, curriculum and the teaching approach will blend together and complement each other.

MEAP, cont'd., pg. 8

I think if a school uses its curriculum to prepare students the right way and if it uses good instructional practices, MEAP scores will improve.

Bert Bleke

day night, you're not going to do very well."

Lowell High School counselor Barb Pierce said she believes there is a more focused approach on behalf of the staff. "I think all teachers are more aware of their part in preparing students across the curriculum in writing and reading," she says. "I think it is important that teachers across the curriculum are focused on the objectives needed so that students can be successful on the MEAP."

Pierce said these objectives are also the focus in the school improvement outcomes at the high school.

Lowell curriculum director Jim White says the core curriculum is in line with the

36th St. residents fed up with dusty and hazardous road; paving desired

By Marc Popielek
Contributing Writer

When summer time rolls around, many residents open their windows to let the fresh air in, but for a portion of residents on 36th Street, summer is time to shut things up.

"We can't open our windows because the dust from the road is so bad," said Gerald Dykstra, 13845 36th St.

Because of the dusty summers and hazardous winters, Dykstra circulated a petition in May to have the road paved by the Kent County Road Commission.

The Lowell Charter Township Board recently accepted his petition and has put it on their road work agenda.

"We have two streets on the list before it, but if one or both are turned down then we can use this in their place," said township supervisor John Timpson.

Timpson used the recent decision by residents of Kissing Rock Avenue as an example for putting the project on the list.

"If people on Timpson (one of the two road projects on next year's list) don't want the road paved we have another project to go to," he said.

Timpson, Dykstra, and 30 other residents along the 2-mile stretch of 36th Street be-

tween Segwun Avenue to Montcalm Avenue signed the petition.

Dykstra said only one family in the area didn't sign the petition.

Timpson signed the petition in support of his neighbors and to help out his apple business.

"When the road is dry, I have to transport my apples over a washboard road, which is not good for the apples," said Timpson.

For Timpson, improving the road would make the transport of his apples easier, but it would also help out school buses in the winter.

According to Timpson at the east end of 36th Street, just before Montcalm, there is a steep hill that causes buses to lose control in icy conditions and turn cross ways on the street.

"I've asked the county to improve it before, but they said they wouldn't do it unless the road was paved," he said. "Now I hope they can widen and pave that section to make it safer."

Dykstra is hoping the road can be paved as soon as possible.

"The road is not going to get any better," he said. "And I don't believe the road commission takes care of it as much as they used to."

Mill Isle proposal asks city to share some cost

By Thad Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

A proposal from Mill Isle Estates subdivision developer Fred Kamminga to move the Gee Drive outlet street to Ridgeview from Jacqueline was met with the question of feasibility.

Kamminga asked the council to consider it along with financial participation.

City manager Dave Pas-

quale said the proposal would have to be reviewed to see what the city could do.

Kamminga said the city's cost in sharing in the expense of alterations would cost from \$100-\$150,000, but the benefits would be long range.

Involvement has been proposed on the part of the city for drainage work within the Ridgeview right of way, sanitary sewer extension from Alisha Way to Gee on Ridgeview, and intersection widening at Gee and Ridgeview.

Kamminga said the alterations would allow for a more gradual grade to Gee Drive and provide opportunities to address drainage issues facing this area of the city.

Councilman Jim Hodges said while the new project is important, the city must look to the downtown work which

is scheduled to begin next spring. "We must assess that project and others that have been on the burner," Hodges said. "I am sure there will be a surprise or two."

Kamminga then noted that the first phase of the development would bring in 21 new homes. "That will bring about \$50,000 in tax revenue," he said.

If the city decides to wait until a later date to undergo the project Kamminga proposed be done while the Ridgeview Drive extension is being completed, the cost of bringing the machinery back would be about 30 percent of the project. Hodges noted it could save by doing it now.

However, Kamminga would like to get started within the next 2-3 weeks.

Hodges and Mayor James Mill Isle, cont'd., pg. 8

Pedestrian injured in Alden Nash/60th St. collision



A pedestrian suffered what was believed to be a broken leg and abrasions in an accident at 60th Street and Alden Nash.

Timothy Benedict, of Wyoming, was northbound on Alden Nash when he slowed to turn west onto 60th Street. He turned in front of an oncoming southbound car driven by Brent Richards, of Ada.

The collision sent Richards' car into the bushes on the southside of the road where he clipped Kathleen Miller, of Kentwood, who was out walking.

Miller was transported to Blodgett Hospital by Life Ambulance.

INSIDE THE LEDGER

Soccer team defeats EGR, pg. 18

"Breach" to play at Orbit Room
pg. 24

Lowell is the site for state athletic
events, pg. 21

OBITUARIES

FEUERSTEIN - Marie Feuerstein, aged 74, of Ionia, died Sunday, October 15, 1995. Funeral Services will be held Wednesday (today) at the Roth-Gerst Chapel.

GALBREATH - O. Faye Galbreath, aged 94, of Lowell, passed away Sunday, October 15, 1995. She was preceded in death by her husband Leonard and daughter Marion Miller. Survived by her children Floyd (Jenny) Galbreath of New Hampshire, Stanley (Helen) Galbreath of Lowell, Merle (Marilyne) Galbreath of

Grandville High School and was employed for 33 years with McInerney Spring Wire. She was preceded in death by her husband Arthur Rood Sr. on May 7, 1988; her parents John and Addeelyn Dykhous; her brothers John, Robert and William Dykhous. Betty is survived by her children Larry and Barbara Botbyl of Greenville, Arthur and Rene Rood of Steilacoom, WA, Susan and John Pape of Denver, CO, Jeffrey Rood of Ft. Wayne, IN, Laurie and Michael Pifer of Lowell; her grandchildren Kristi, Krystal, Amie, Sarah, Jamie, Michael, Jeremy, Angie, and Bryan; her brother and sisters, Irene and Wilbur Wilson and Thelma and Bob Dryer both of Grandville, Eugene and Mary Dykhous of Brimley, MI; and additional family, Mrs. Marge Dykhous of Grand Rapids, Mrs. Janet Dykhous of Grandville, Mrs. Linda Dykhous of White Cloud, Mrs. Katherine Polonowski of Belmont, and Dorothy and Dan O'Brien of Grand Rapids; and nieces and nephews.

ROOD - Mrs. Betty A. Rood (nee Dykhous), aged 71, of Grandville and formerly of Rockford, passed away on Saturday, October 14, 1995. Betty was a graduate of

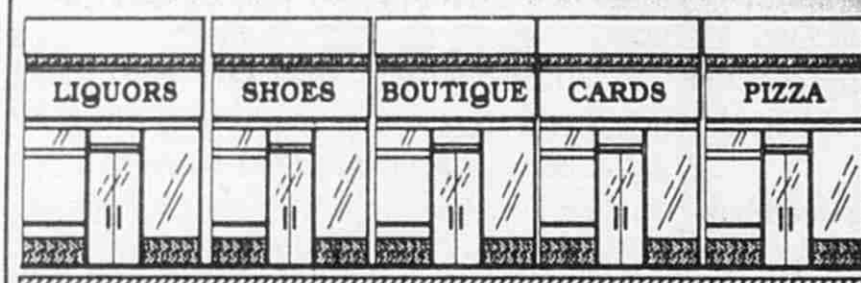
Lowell woman injured in Main Street collision



A Lowell woman was transported to Metropolitan Hospital following an accident at 749 W. Main on Oct. 7. Teresa Hoag stopped in the eastbound lane of W. Main so that she could turn north onto Pleasant Street. Gabriel Hugh Hernandez, 19, of Lowell, also traveling eastbound, was unable to stop his vehicle before striking Hoag's Chevy Cavalier in the rear. The impact of the hit sent Hoag's car into the westbound lane where it struck a car driven by Ionia's John Byers. Hernandez was cited for being unable to stop in an assured, safe distance. Sally Lou Martin, a passenger in Hoag's vehicle, was not injured. Hoag, however, was transported to Metropolitan Hospital where she was treated and released. Byers was not injured.

The true way to be deceived is to think oneself more clever than others.
—Francois Duc De La Rochefoucauld

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The Water Department will conduct a hydrant flushing program of the complete water system. Flushing will occur from October 23 through November 6, 1995.

Some customers will experience low water pressure and possible rusty water.

Lowell Township Water Department

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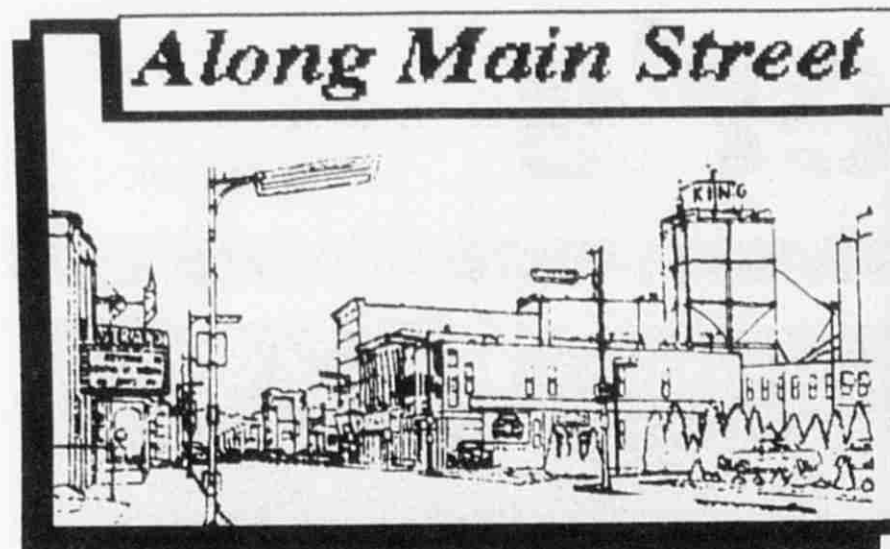
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CHILDREN'S HALLOWEEN PARTY

The Lowell Moose will have a free children's Halloween party on Sat., Oct. 28, noon-2 p.m. at the rec hall. Costumes preferred.

VOLUNTEER COACHES NEEDED

The YMCA is still in need of volunteer coaches for the upcoming fall basketball season. Please call 897-8445 for more information.

SPOOK HOUSE

The Lowell Moose Lodge 809 and Women of the Moose 1388 will sponsor a spook house at 210 E. Main on the following dates: Friday, Oct. 20 and 27 from 7 to 11 p.m.; Saturday, Oct. 21 and 28 from 1 to 5 p.m. and 7 to 11 p.m. and Sunday, Oct. 22 and 29 from 1 to 5 p.m. Admission is \$2.

HERE'S WHERE IT'S AT

The Lowell Area Arts Council is happy to announce its cookbook "Brunch and Beyond" is hot off the press. Over 140 pages of great recipes are found inside—everything from appetizers to soups, chinese and great desserts.

This book makes a great Christmas gift or stocking stuffer!

"Brunch and Beyond" may be purchased at FMB State Savings, East Main; Lowell Ledger/Lowell Litho; Rupert's Drop and the Art Center Gift Shop.

YMCA ADULT FITNESS CLASSES BEING HELD

The Lowell YMCA is holding adult fitness classes for adults! A high/low impact class is being held on Mon/Wed/Fri at 9:15 a.m. This is a fun upbeat class for all fitness levels. A low intensity class is being held on Mon/Fri at 10:30 a.m. Babysitting is available!

All classes are being held at the First United Methodist Church in Lowell. Call 897-8445 for further information.

YMCA MEN'S OPEN GYM BASKETBALL

Men's open gym starts in October and will be held on Monday evenings from 7:30-9:30 p.m. Open gym is being held at the Lowell Middle School. Cost is \$2 per person per visit!

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOOK SALE

The Friends of the Lowell Library will hold a used book sale Friday, Nov. 3 from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the FMB bank on Main Street.

All proceeds to benefit the library building fund. For more information contact the Lowell Library at 897-9596.

SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENTS' MEETING

The first parents' meeting of this school year will be Thursday, Nov. 9 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Board of Education meeting room at the Administration building of Lowell Schools, 300 High Street.

A video, "Learning Disabilities and Social Skills: Last One Picked...First One Picked On" will be viewed. The video will provide parents with information and guidance related to the development of social skills for children with learning disabilities. Please call Carol Briggs at 897-8415 by November 6 to register.

Child care will be provided for parents who make arrangements with Carol.

LOWELL CHRISTMAS PARADE

Entries are needed for the Lowell Christmas parade. It will be held Saturday, Dec. 2 at 10 a.m.

For more information contact Dee Brown at 642-9820.

OFF THE BLOTTER

A 16-year-old juvenile from Lowell was slightly injured in an accident while riding his bicycle Sept. 27 when he failed to stop for the stop sign and hit the side of a car driven by Howard Acheson, 72, of Lowell, on Lincoln Lake at Foreman.

Katherine Price, 71, and a passenger Donald Hekman, 44, both of Lowell, were injured in an accident Sept. 28 when Price turned left off Main Street near Alden Nash into the path of a pickup truck driven by Allen Miller, 22, also of Lowell.

Lowell officers assisted D.E.A. agents in arresting on a warrant; James Eckelstafer, 37, of Lowell, Sept. 25.

Michele White, 33, of Lowell, was involved in a property damage accident Sept. 25 when her vehicle was struck from behind by a semi-tractor at Main and Hudson driven by Dennis Mooney.

Jeffrey Brown, 30, of Saranac, was arrested on a warrant issued out of Ionia County Sept. 26.

Katrina Reed, 19, of Lowell, was arrested on a warrant issued out of a Kent County court Sept. 29.

Bert Deleon, 24, of Sheridan, was arrested Sept. 29 on warrants out of Oakland County and Central Michigan for failure to appear in court and a third warrant for larceny.

Terri McPharlin-Harper, 44, of Lowell, was arrested Sept. 30 on a warrant out of Kent County's Friend of the Court office.

Lowell officers investigated 13 accident complaints in the month of September, six of which incurred injuries.

MEAP, continued.... From Page 1

ment one another.

The MEAP test is intended to show the students' level of competency.

Sue Beute, Cherry Creek Elementary math teacher, said teachers from across the curriculum have joined forces to make sure the curriculum, which is aligned with the MEAP, is being taught suffi-

ciently.

One step that has been taken in the area of math is rearranging the math calendar by content. "The emphasis of MEAP in the area of math lies in conceptualization, problem solving and application," Beute says.

Beute added that in years past, the reviews for MEAP

testing have been deficient.

"We're now familiarizing students with the phrasing and wording used on the MEAP. In-service days are being used to help show teachers how to present this to students," she says.

Pierce said she thinks the importance Bleke has placed on the MEAP has brought about a higher level of awareness.

Pierce points to criteria reference tests used in all departments as data that can be used to support across-the-curriculum awareness of the objectives.

White noted that a new language arts curriculum is much more aligned and focusing on the reading and writing skill objectives tested by the MEAP.

"Looking at the MEAP and state standards is part of our regular curriculum review practice," White said.

"This year high school juniors and seniors are retesting. Beginning in the spring of this year, all 11th-graders will take the high school proficiency test. It will replace the

MEAP test at the high school level.

"The proficiency test is harder than the MEAP and is aligned more with the state curriculum," White said. "It will serve as a better indicator to schools as to where students are at."

Lowell Middle School seventh-grade English teacher Carmen Reynolds said getting teachers, students and parents on the same page as to understanding the importance of the test is critical.

"Our approach is going to change. That process has started. The idea is to get the whole staff consistent in their approach with one another," Reynolds said.

Mill Isle, cont'd.... From Page 1

Maatman concurred the proposal makes sense. However, they were not sure how to do it and have it be financially feasible.

Public works supervisor Art Gall said the proposal by Kamminga would benefit the developer. He had reservations about the city splitting the cost with the developer.

Kamminga is going to meet with city officials and a member of the planning commission and city council to discuss the proposal and then bring it back to the council in two weeks.

FMB invites community to warm up to winter season by donating coats to those in need

FMB-State Savings Bank is inviting local residents to help make sure everyone stays warm during this winter season.

The community may donate gently used parkas, jackets, and coats at any FMB branch location during business hours on October 19, 20, and 21.

"It is disturbing to think of members in our own community who do not own a coat and cannot afford to buy one," said Jim Bosserd, president of FMB-State Savings Bank. "We are inviting people to give a coat and get a warm feeling this season."

FMB is partnering with WCUZ and In the Image, a nonprofit agency in Grand Rapids, which will distribute the coats to people who need them.

The FMB Community Coat Drive is a corporate-wide effort with coats being collected at more than 70 branch locations from Sault St. Marie to Dowagiac, Michigan.

FMB-State Savings Bank is an affiliate of First Michigan Bank Corporation, a \$2.9 billion diversified financial services company. Headquartered in Holland, MI, FMB consists of 13 bank affiliates and 82 branch offices.

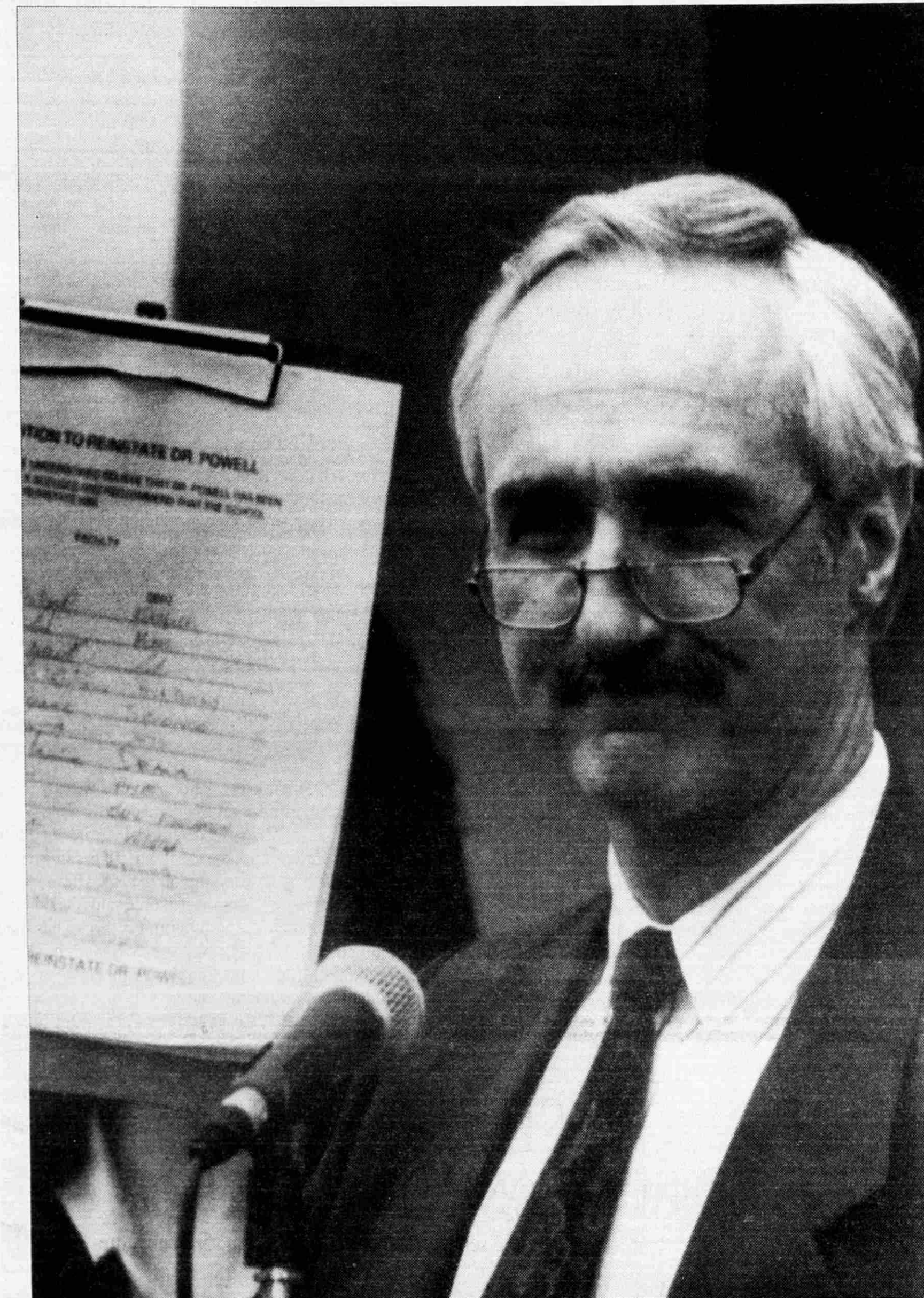
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FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 20 THRU OCTOBER 26

Michael Gross stars as Gordon Powell, a high-school principal who becomes the focus of a psychologist's (Stephanie Kramer) attention when she learns he may be having illicit affairs with students and teachers in *Deceived by Trust: A Moment of Truth* movie, premiering Monday on NBC.

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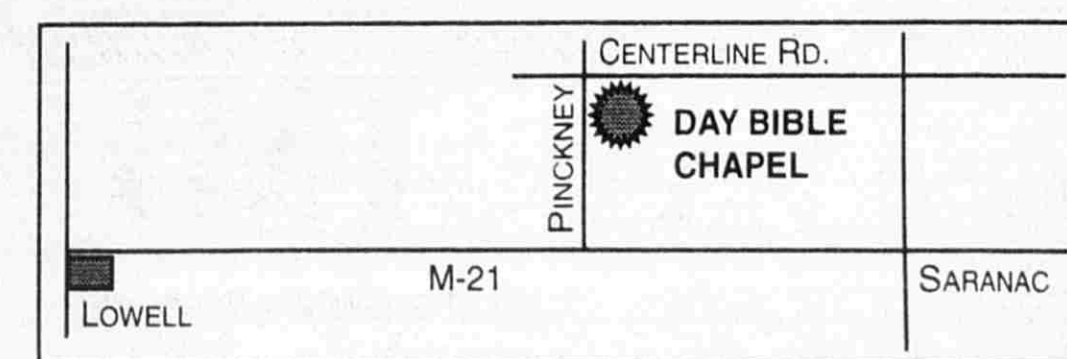
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FRIDAY LATE NIGHT OCTOBER 20, 1995 12:00 12:30 1:00 1:30 2:00 2:30 3:00 3:30 4:00 4:30

SATURDAY MORNING OCTOBER 21, 1995 5:00 5:30 6:00 6:30 7:00 7:30 8:00 8:30 9:00 9:30 10:00 10:30 11:00 11:30

SATURDAY AFTERNOON OCTOBER 21, 1995 12:00 12:30 1:00 1:30 2:00 2:30 3:00 3:30 4:00 4:30 5:00 5:30 6:00 6:30

SATURDAY EVENING OCTOBER 21, 1995. Broadcast stations: WWMT, WOVU, WGVU, WOOD, WILX, WKAR, WZZM, WSYM. Cable stations: TBS, FAM, FX, USA, DISC, WGN, ESPN, CNN, NICK, A&E, TNT, NASH, SCIFI. Premium stations: DISN, HBO, MAX.

SATURDAY LATE NIGHT OCTOBER 21, 1995. Broadcast stations: WWMT, WOVU, WGVU, WOOD, WILX, WKAR, WZZM, WSYM. Cable stations: TBS, FAM, FX, USA, DISC, WGN, ESPN, CNN, NICK, A&E, TNT, NASH, SCIFI. Premium stations: DISN, HBO, MAX.

SUNDAY MORNING OCTOBER 22, 1995. Broadcast stations: WWMT, WOVU, WGVU, WOOD, WILX, WKAR, WZZM, WSYM. Cable stations: TBS, FAM, FX, USA, DISC, WGN, ESPN, CNN, NICK, A&E, TNT, NASH, SCIFI. Premium stations: DISN, HBO, MAX.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON OCTOBER 22, 1995. Broadcast stations: WWMT, WOVU, WGVU, WOOD, WILX, WKAR, WZZM, WSYM. Cable stations: TBS, FAM, FX, USA, DISC, WGN, ESPN, CNN, NICK, A&E, TNT, NASH, SCIFI. Premium stations: DISN, HBO, MAX.

SUNDAY EVENING OCTOBER 22, 1995. Broadcast stations: WWMT, WOVU, WGVU, WOOD, WILX, WKAR, WZZM, WSYM. Cable stations: TBS, FAM, FX, USA, DISC, WGN, ESPN, CNN, NICK, A&E, TNT, NASH, SCIFI. Premium stations: DISN, HBO, MAX.

SUNDAY LATE NIGHT OCTOBER 22, 1995. Broadcast stations: WWMT, WOVU, WGVU, WOOD, WILX, WKAR, WZZM, WSYM. Cable stations: TBS, FAM, FX, USA, DISC, WGN, ESPN, CNN, NICK, A&E, TNT, NASH, SCIFI. Premium stations: DISN, HBO, MAX.

MONDAY EVENING OCTOBER 23, 1995. Table with columns for time slots (7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30) and rows for Broadcast Stations, Cable Stations, and Premium Stations.

MONDAY LATE NIGHT OCTOBER 23, 1995. Table with columns for time slots (12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 1:30, 2:00, 2:30, 3:00, 3:30, 4:00, 4:30) and rows for Broadcast Stations, Cable Stations, and Premium Stations.

TUESDAY EVENING OCTOBER 24, 1995. Table with columns for time slots (7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30) and rows for Broadcast Stations, Cable Stations, and Premium Stations.

TUESDAY LATE NIGHT OCTOBER 24, 1995. Table with columns for time slots (12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 1:30, 2:00, 2:30, 3:00, 3:30, 4:00, 4:30) and rows for Broadcast Stations, Cable Stations, and Premium Stations.

WEDNESDAY EVENING OCTOBER 25, 1995. Table with columns for time slots (7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30) and rows for Broadcast Stations, Cable Stations, and Premium Stations.

WEDNESDAY LATE NIGHT OCTOBER 25, 1995. Table with columns for time slots (12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 1:30, 2:00, 2:30, 3:00, 3:30, 4:00, 4:30) and rows for Broadcast Stations, Cable Stations, and Premium Stations.

THURSDAY EVENING OCTOBER 26, 1995										
	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
BROADCAST STATIONS	33 WWTM Wheel of Fortune	34 WTVT Highway Patrol	35 WGVU Newshour with Jim Lehrer	37 WXTM Home Improvement	38 WOOD Extra (In Stereo)	39 WLNS Entertainment Tonight	40 WKAR Star Trek: The Next Generation "Code of Honor"	41 WZZM Newshour with Jim Lehrer	42 WZZM Entertainment Tonight	43 WSYM Home Improvement
CABLE STATIONS	11 TBS Funniest Home Videos	12 FAM Waltons "The Prize"	13 FX Under Scrutiny	14 USA Wings "This Old House"	15 DISC Beyond 2000	16 WGN Family Matters	17 ESPN (6:30) Sportscenter	18 CNN Moneyline	19 NICK Doug (In Stereo)	20 A&E Rockford Files "Dwarf in a Helium Hat"
	21 PASS Red Wings Hotline	22 TNT In the Heat of the Night	23 NASH (6:30) Club Dance	24 SCIFI Twilight Zone	25 DISN MMC (In Stereo)	26 HBO Movie: "Batman"	27 MAX (6:00) Movie: "Major League II"	28	29	30

THURSDAY LATE NIGHT OCTOBER 26, 1995										
	12:00	12:30	1:00	1:30	2:00	2:30	3:00	3:30	4:00	4:30
BROADCAST STATIONS	33 WWTM (11:35) Late Show	34 WTVT (11:30) Charlie Rose	35 WGVU (11:30) Stephanie Miller	37 WXTM (11:35) Tonight Show	38 WOOD (11:35) Late Show	39 WLNS (11:35) Late Show	40 WKAR (11:35) Tonight Show	41 WZZM Current Affairs	42 WSYM Gabrielle	
CABLE STATIONS	11 TBS (10:20) Movie: "I Come"	12 FAM Bonanza: The Lost Episodes "Clarissa"	13 FX Mission: Impossible "Nerves"	14 USA Forever Knight "My Boyfriend Is a Vampire"	15 DISC Wild Waterfalls - The Natural History (R)	16 WGN (11:30) Simon & Simon	17 ESPN LPBT Bowling	18 CNN NewsNight	19 NICK Bob Newhart	20 A&E Biography "Dracula"
	21 PASS Motorsports Hour	22 TNT Movie: "The Heidi Chronicles"	23 NASH Loretta Lynn & Friends (R)	24 SCIFI Quantum Leap (In Stereo)	25 DISN Mickey Mouse Club	26 HBO Movie: "Extreme Justice"	27 MAX Movie: "Carnosaur 2"	28	29	30

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Sharing The Vision

BERT R. BLEKE
Lowell Schools Superintendent

Edgar A. Guest once wrote a poem that began with this line, "My son beware of 'good enough.'" Simple, straightforward, yet good advice that we all should consider. This same warning is also being heeded by our schools as we continually attempt to work with our community to improve the quality of education for all of our children.

I am absolutely sure that "good enough" is not good enough for you as a parent. That is why over the past few weeks, so many parents have become involved through volunteering, parent-teacher conferences, and open houses to spend their valuable time to work with our teachers and administrators to find ways to improve the quality of our service to young people.

VOWS SPOKEN



Theodore and Michelle Sprank III

Bonnie Lou Dietz is proud to announce the marriage of her daughter Michelle Mae Dietz to Theodore Henry Sprank III. They were married in Las Vegas, NV, on September 25, 1995, surrounded by family and friends. The couple now resides in Lyons.

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No being satisfied with "good enough" is why last evening, over 100 parents came together at the high school to begin an intensive study of the Lowell Area Schools to find ways that we can improve. Dozens of people, all with busy lives, hectic schedules, and many obligations, have stepped forward to help us with their most valuable assets, their time, and their expertise to help find ways in which we can get better. It is this continuing and growing partnership between our parents and our schools that will create an ever-improving Lowell school system.

We continue to be thankful for all of our parents and citizens who devote their time and effort to help. By the way, if you are wondering how that poem did end, the final line is, "Only the best is 'good enough.'"

Your comments about this concern or any issue would be greatly appreciated. Send to Bert Bleke, Lowell Area Schools, 300 High St., P.O. Box 269, Lowell, MI 49331.

Capitol Commentary, continued., From Pg. 6

with its businesses exporting \$28.5 billion in goods and services in 1994.

- Since 1990, Michigan's population has grown by 200,000 people.
- Michigan's income tax per person is nearly eight percent below the national average.
- Michigan's property taxes are nine percent below U.S. and regional averages.
- Michigan is among the nation's leaders in growth of personal income.

When you combine this information with the fact that our credit rating has been improved to AA, the best it has been in 25 years, the Federal Reserve Board in Chicago ranked us the strongest economy in the heartland, and Entrepreneur magazine cited Michigan as an "economic hotspot," it's easy to see why I consider this to be an exciting time in Michigan.

All of this economic strength we are witnessing is no accident. Some people have said that this is all due to a good automotive year, but that's not the case. We all can remember good automotive years in the past that didn't translate into the economic success we're seeing today. The truth is, this prosperity is a result of the hard changes in policies that we made more than four years ago.

This economic strength comes courtesy of difficult decisions we knew we had to make to remove Michigan's high-tax, big government environment of the 1980's. By cutting taxes and reducing government spending, we created a state that welcomes business and encourages hiring. Families are much better off, businesses are prospering and job providers are actually having trouble finding enough people to fill the jobs available.

The Michigan recovery is proof of what effect taxes have on a state's economy. We learned a powerful lesson: By giving families and businesses more freedom and less of a tax burden, we have made our state the "jobs engine" for the national economy. No longer are we the head of the rust belt, but the head of the high-tech manufacturing revolution.

Local libraries hold special birthday parties for Frances

Come celebrate Frances the Badger's birthday during a special party at your local Kent District Branch Library. Listen to stories, watch a film-strip, do a fun craft and eat bread and jam, of course.

This program is for children ages 3 1/2 to 5 and is scheduled for the Lowell Library on Monday, Oct. 30 at 1 p.m.; the Alto Library on Thursday, Nov. 2 at 2 p.m. and the East Grand Rapids Library on Tuesday, Oct. 31 at 10 a.m.

Registration is required. For more information, contact the Lowell Library at 897-9596; the Alto Library at 868-6038 or the East Grand Rapids Library at 949-1740.

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VFW scholarship gives students a chance to have their voices heard

By Thad Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

The Voice of Democracy Program is a national program designed to give 10th-, 11th- and 12th-grade students the opportunity to voice their opinion on their responsibility to their country.

The program centers on a patriotic theme. The 1995-96 theme is: "Answering America's Call."

The program, started back in 1946, was originally sponsored by the National Association of Broadcasters with assistance from the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

In 1960 the Veterans of Foreign Wars in partnership with the Ladies Auxiliary took the initiative and became the sole program sponsor.

The deadline for student entry is Nov. 15th.

The national audio essay scholarship contest requires

students to make an audio tape no less than three minutes long and no longer than five minutes.

Each state winner is provided with a five-day all-expense-paid trip to Washington D.C., plus the opportunity to compete for the national scholarships totaling over \$114,000. The national first-place winner will receive a \$20,000 scholarship - first place being judged on delivery, originality and content.

The delivery should be on a cassette tape and in a natural style. The voice should be normal and conversational, not oratorical. There should be no background music or other enhancement.

"Students win more than

awards and scholarships when they participate in the VFW Voice of Democracy Scholarship Program," said Commander Gordon Marshall of VFW Post 8303, in discussing the audio essay program.

Some of the fringe benefits according to Marshall include the student's increased self-confidence and poise, experience in communicating with others and valuable training in self-expression.

"One of the greatest benefits to young people who take part in the program is that by thinking, writing and speaking up for their country, they gain a better appreciation of their obligation and freedom in America," Marshall said.

Mankind, by the perverse depravity of their nature, esteem that which they have most desired as of no value, the moment it is possessed, and torment themselves with fruitless wishes for that which is beyond their reach.

—Francois De Salignac De La Mothe Fenel

"Breach" competes in KLQ hometown rock search semifinal



Pictured left to right, counter-clockwise are members of Lowell rock band "Breach": they are Richie Tindall, Scott Mikulski, Chris Goggins and Curt Hines.

The KLQ Aris Hamper Hometown Rock Search reaches the semifinal stage on Thursday, Oct. 19, at the Orbit Room in Grand Rapids.

The search began with 137 "hometown" bands and has been reduced to 30 for the semifinals.

Included in the final 30 is Lowell's very own rock group "Breach."

Members of the band are Richie Tindall, Scott Mikulski, Curt Hines and Chris Goggins.

The winners of the semi-final competition will compete in the finals on Oct. 26 at the Orbit Room.

Experience makes fools wise.

—Daniel O'Connell

Delay is preferable to error.

—Thomas Jefferson

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LOWELL SCHOOL BOARD BRIEFS

REGULAR MEETING - OCTOBER 9, 1995

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT - Jenny Jansma, Student Council President and Representative on the Board of Education, reported on the food drive beginning at the end of October and ending just prior to Thanksgiving. She also reported that the Student Council is sponsoring a Blood Drive scheduled for January.

ACTION ITEMS -

- Ms. Susan Bristol was hired as 3/5ths high school social studies teacher due to increased enrollment.
- The Board approved the transfer of land south of Riverside School for \$1.01 to the City of Lowell for the purpose of building a public library.

CONSENT ITEMS - Approved were:

- September 25, 1995, Dialogue Session minutes.
- The following payment of bills:

Athletic Fund	\$64,953.56
Food Service Fund	\$83,469.89
Trust & Agency	\$ 6,254.21
1990 Building & Site	\$25,464.40

- Maternity leave of Juli Dick, music teacher at Bushnell and Cherry Creek School.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES - The Board approved the September 11, 1995, Regular Meeting minutes.

PAYMENT OF BILLS - The Board approved the General Fund bills in the amount of \$747,910.85.

1990 BOND ISSUE EXPENDITURE OPTIONS - Superintendent Bleke presented four options for the remaining monies available from the 1990 Bond Issue. The second community forum for reviewing these monies will be held on Thursday, November 2, at 7:30 p.m. in the Administration Building Board Room. It is hoped that a decision can be reached at the December 11, 1995, Board meeting.

REVISION TO BOARD POLICY #9350.4 ENTITLED "VOTING AT BOARD MEETINGS" - Pete Gustafson, Chairman of the Board's Curriculum/Policy Committee, reviewed the revision to this Board policy.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - Mark Blanding reported on the recently held 5th grade camp. The time and efforts by staff and volunteers was commended and the kids received a very sound educational experience.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - Bert Bleke reported that the Education and Business Plan kick-off will be Monday, October 16 at the high school. There will be approximately 130 volunteers working on this improvement process which will conclude on April 22, 1996 at a special Board meeting. The October 23 Board Dialogue session will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the high school

cafeteria. The 7 block instructional time model will be discussed along with the bond issue review. The student count is approximately 3400 which is a 3.6% increase. The MEAP test will be held this month for 4th and 7th grades in reading and math. The high school testing has changed in structure and will take place in March.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Monday, October 16, 1995 - 7:00 p.m.
Education and Business Plan Kick-Off
High School Performing Arts Center

Monday, October 23, 1995 - 7:30 p.m.
Board Dialogue Session, High School Cafeteria

Thursday, November 2, 1995 - 7:30 p.m.
Second Bond Issue Review - Community Forum
Administration Building - Board Room

Monday, November 13, 1995 - 7:30 p.m.
Regular Board Meeting
Administration Building - Board Room

The Lowell Area Schools "Action Line" (897-1219) is a phone service available to anyone who has a question or wishes to leave a message for an administrator or members of the Board of Education.