

School May Start Parent-Teacher Group

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inappropriate for school, such as short skirts, pajamas, and slippers. A discussion to tighten the school's dress code was debated enough that Ms. Martin suggested the issue be brought before the school's Public Relations Committee for a recommendation.

Evaluation of Staff

The school's tenured teachers have not been evaluated in recent years, said Dr. Schrock. He plans to get back into evaluating tenured teachers by

spring. Non-tenured teachers are evaluated three times a year, one requirement in the teachers' contract.

Tenured teachers include elementary teachers Karen Allen, Laura Eiseler, Vicki Urman, and Liz Staats-Burt and high school teachers Susan Bennett and Lance Greenlee.

"This is not going to be a punitive system," Dr. Schrock said. "It's a way to set goals and objectives to help them improve their skills. We'll be looking to find what kinds of

professional development opportunities they need or want."

Overall, he said, the meeting produced a lot of positive feedback.

"I think the discussion went very well and I was pleasantly surprised with the turnout. I heard loud and clear that we want a foreign language teacher, and I liked the idea of a parent-teacher organization and restarting the school improvement team.

"This was a good milestone check for us," he added.

Students Enjoy Fun in the Snow



Fifth-grader Paul Wandrie (left) and fourth-grader Mackenzie Bean, along with other students from Mackinac Island Public School, work their way up a snowy hill.

Michigan Politics by George Weeks

Memories of Ford Family on Island

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remarks.

Dick Ryan, retired Washington senior correspondent for *The Detroit News*, wrote "she brought a vibrancy and brashness to the role of first lady that had been missing since the days of Eleanor Roosevelt."

Governor Jennifer Granholm called her "a leader in her own right" for speaking out on women's issues, and said: "She has fought for the Equal Rights Amendment and has demonstrated to women and the country that it is OK to fight for what you believe in, even if your husband is the president of the United States."

The Betty Ford Fan Club includes former Michigan First Lady Helen Milliken, who was in the ERA, abortion rights, health, and other trenches where Betty Ford fought.

"She was a leader in her own right," she said of Betty Ford.

Now It Can Be Told

After Ford's death, some important comments were revealed, including criticism he once expressed, to be revealed only after his death, to the *Washington Post's* Bob Woodward about President Bush on Iraq.

At a less profound but nonetheless interesting level that can be understood by any housewife, now comes Helen Milliken, willing to discuss the Kitchen Clash that happened during the Fords' overnight visit in 1975 to the Governor's Summer Residence on Mackinac Island after Jerry and Betty Ford attended the National Cherry Festival in Traverse City.

In canvas bags, the Millikens and their Lansing resident cook, Helen Marin, had brought to the Island provisions for the four meals that they would serve the Fords and assorted other guests in the 24-room, three-story Victorian house on a bluff over-

looking the Straits of Mackinac that the state purchased in 1945.

The steward who traveled with Ford had his own idea about what should be served when, and there were inevitable conflicts on this and such matters as flower arrangements. But nothing approached the level of the Rumble at the Refrigerator, won by Marin.

About 10 days before the presidential visit, the Ford advance team deemed the mattress in the master bedroom too soft. It was replaced. Strips of tape were put on the bathtub off the master bedroom to guard against a presidential slip. Loose bricks were firmed up along steps leading to the second story.

Another now-to-be-told story:

When Ford visited Northern Michigan University in the winter of 1978 for a lecture, he had these ringing words: "There is a certain determination and tenacity in the people of the Upper Peninsula. ... John Adams would have felt right at home in Marquette, Houghton, Sault Ste. Marie, Crystal Falls, or just about any community the length and breadth of the Upper Peninsula."

Turns out these were not words his staff had prepared. He was unhappy with their draft. So, at the suggestion of Matt Surrell, then secretary of the NMU board and former press secretary of U.S. Senator Bob Griffin, then-NMU News Director Jim Carter, rewrote the speech.

Carter, feeling free now to fess up to his role as presidential ghost-writer, told the *Marquette Mining Journal*: "It will always remain a high point in my experience as a writer."

George Weeks retired last year after 22 years as political columnist for *The Detroit News*. His weekly *Michigan Politics* column is syndicated by *Superior Features*.

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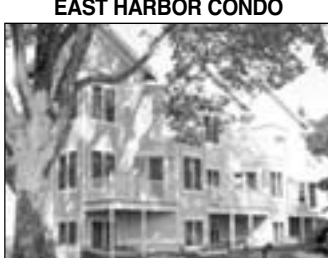
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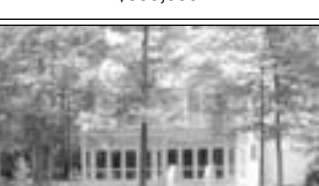
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