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Bike Marathon Produces Flat Tires, Thirsts, And-Sore Muscles

A rash of low tires, sore legs, and thirsty teenagers were in evidence at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, as the first annual Charlie Newman Bike Marathon riders pulled in to the school after a 30-mile bike hike through the hills and dales of Central Jersey. If all those 300 to 350 riders rest a bit, then hustle on out once again to collect the money their many friends and supporters pledged them per mile, the Charlie Newman Fund will be \$10,000 richer!



Bike-A-Thon organizers Tom Allen and Sue Kilgannon seek routing and traffic advice from Sergeant Bill Bedson of the Scotch Plains Police Department.

The Marathon was an overwhelming success, according to co-chairmen Sue Kilgannon and Tom Allen of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High. The riders, mainly junior and senior high students, had a clear out a windy day for their jaunt, which took them from Scotch Plains to the Great Swamp and back. They biked through Harding and Watchung, through Green Village and Chatham Township, stopping at various checkpoints along the way.

There were lots of flat tires, Miss Kilgannon said, but these were taken care of when the cyclist

was picked up and driven to a checkpoint where volunteers fixed flats. The only problems of the day were the thirst of the riders and the lack of sufficient rest room facilities. Wind presented a bit of a problem to some riders, who felt as if they were riding uphill when they were actually riding into the wind on flat stretches.

Just about everybody completed the 30-mile course, and four to five hours was the average time. The kids who made it as far as Seeley's Pond hit paydirt

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Schnitzer Is Out As Athletic Director

When the Board of Education voted last week on a lengthy list of about 400 professional teaching and administrative contracts for the 1975-76 school year, Raymond Schnitzer's contract as Assistant Principal of Scotch Plains-Fanwood was renewed. However, it was only his administrative contract which was renewed, in contrast with past practice, which has seen Schnitzer reappointed to both the Assistant Principalship and the Athletic Director's post as a package. It has become known this week that the Athletic Director position has not yet been filled for next year. No public vote has yet been taken on approval and/or rejection.

Is Schnitzer being dumped as Athletic Director? He definitely is, he says. Schnitzer personally claims he has been told, only this week, that he would no longer hold the title, which pays \$2,500 per year.

"My notification of the fact that I will not be Athletic Director next year came as a complete shock to me, particularly in view of the fact that no dialogue had taken place between me and my superiors concerning even the possibility of such an action. As a matter of fact, I did not even know that my role as Athletic Director was under

scrutiny. Had a discussion taken place prior to my notification, I might be able to look upon the move as anything but political."

In contrast, Board of Education President Bard said that "no viable decision has been made on whether to renew Schnitzer's contract as Athletic Director." Bard expressed his personal view that the two positions - Vice Principal for Discipline and Athletic Director - should not be combined as a package. The Athletic Directorship is similar to coaching and advisory positions in Bard's mind. In other

School Board Reduces Salaries By \$533,444 In Big Budget Slash

Police Ask Cooperation

Scotch Plains Police Chief Joseph Powers has requested increased citizen cooperation in the Police Department's efforts to apprehend those persons responsible for break-ins and entries in the community.

Burglary, breaking and entry is the fastest growing crime in America with someone's home or business being entered every fifteen seconds. Over 400 million dollars worth of goods are stolen annually and a mere 5% of it is recovered. Serious crimes against persons also come about from failure to protect your home against illegal entry.

Chief Powers suggests that, if you are planning to go away on a vacation, you take the following actions.

1. Stop all deliveries of mail, papers, etc.
2. Have interior lights on a timer to conform to your normal activities.
3. Arrange to have parked vehicles moved occasionally.
4. Notify the Police Department that you will be away and leave a key with a neighbor or relative.
5. Request several of your neighbors to keep an eye on your home.

All residents are asked to be alert for suspicious persons and vehicles in the neighborhood. If you have any doubt, call the Police Department at 322-7100 and they will check the person or vehicle out. Don't hesitate to call, no matter how trivial the incident seems to you it may be important to your neighbor.

All solicitors are required to have a permit issued by the Police Department and must exhibit it when requested. If someone comes to your door and fails to show this permit, call the Police Department. Phony solicitors and/or repairmen are often responsible for the commission of burglary.

Chief Powers urges that, in all cases when you observe something suspicious, you call the Police Department immediately.

With the help of all our citizens, during the upcoming vacation season, your Police Department can more effectively deal with the burglary problem.

words, the job should fall within the "extra services" list - extra pay for extra services. This is traditionally voted on every May.

Bard refused to discuss personalities with regard to the Athletic Directorship, but he did express the opinion that it might be very difficult for an Assistant Principal to fill both positions. A realignment of personnel and

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Discontinues Some Major Job Titles, Makes Changes In Staffing Procedures

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education took a mighty swipe at the 1975-76 school budget during a special meeting last Thursday, eliminating a total of \$533,444 from salary accounts. The money represents a sizeable chunk of the \$820,000 which is to be removed from the defeated school budget for next year. The saving was accomplished through discontinuation of several major job titles as well as through a few changes in staffing procedure.

The predominant impact was made by elimination of virtually all the Office of Instruction. Six directors (titles of Mathematics, Social Studies, Reading, Language Arts, Media, Science, were cancelled. Similarly, the Board voted to eliminate six coordinator posts from the job roster. However, since coordinators presently teach for half their time, they will not lose their positions entirely, but will return to full-time teaching slots. The Coordinator titles are in Health and Physical Education, Music, Health Services, Business Education and Vocation and Career Education. Further job cuts came through elimination of two secretarial jobs within the Office of Instruction and through the elimination of the Office of Media Processing - an office, at Muir School which has handled processing and repair of books, staffed by a librarian and a secretary.

A total of 13 teaching slots have also been eliminated. However, eight of these are elementary posts which had been earmarked much earlier and the cancellation of which had been built into the budget before its defeat. The elementary jobs are being eliminated due to enrollment drops anticipated next year. Five secondary teaching slots were erased, but these came as a surprise on Thursday night. The senior high school will be minus one reading teacher, one industrial arts teaching post, one business education slot, while the junior highs will lose one music post which had represented a sharing by Park and Terwill. The fifth intricate job change will mean the elimination of a language teacher for half time at the high school, but switching that half time to park.

One of the three high school assistant principal titles will be erased. There are three assistant principals - for Instruction for Discipline and for Guidance. Thomas Tiktin, Assistant Principal for Instruction, does not have tenure, and it is assumed this post will be the one eliminated.

The final job eliminations include seven custodial, maintenance, and grounds people.

Another method of savings employed was adjustment of contractors. All school secretaries were to have been changed to a 12-month contract, but will remain at 11-plus-1, as will guidance counselors, librarians, and cooperative work experience teachers. Further reductions will

be effected by reduction of overtime. In adjusted accounts and reduction of overtime, a total of \$61,000 will be realized.

When the Board received the list of staff contracts for approval, there were suggestions from Philip Labasi and Robert Carlson that they were disturbed by "certain" personnel receiving tenure when Board members had not been alerted to the approaching tenure date. It is believed that the references were to the tenure of Michael Kluck as Assistant Superintendent for Business. Mr. Kluck received credit for the months in which he performed the task of Assistant Superintendent on an "acting" basis.

Labasi and Carlson indicated they plan to pursue the issue legally.

The elimination of the jobs was approved generally by Board President Richard Bard, and Board members Robert Carlson, Thomas Fallon, Frank Festa, Vincent Snanni and Philip Labasi. Carlson, who had heretofore generally aligned himself with the trio of Henry Schwiering, Darrell Brownawell and Roscoe Mason, who voted against the changes, was a surprise. Carlson said that although he would personally have favored realizing

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Teachers Ask Investigation Of Budget Cuts

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Education Association met on Monday, and authorized its leadership to take various steps following last week's massive budget cuts for next year. The full membership of the local teacher group authorized the Representative Council to direct the Executive Board to engage legal counsel. The purpose of the engagement would be advice as to possible legal actions to be taken with regard to reductions effected by the Board.

The Executive Committee has further authorized to institute actions with PERC with regard to changes in terms and conditions of employment.

According to Education Association President Joan Feldman, the Executive Committee will prepare a position paper, presenting the Association views on the budget reductions.