

# QUID NUNC?

COUNTRY CLUB HILLS CIVIC ASSOCIATION, FAIRFAX, VA.

APRIL 28, 1966

## OUR SCHOOL SYSTEM

by Robert M. Miller

On July 12th the registered voters of Fairfax City will vote in a referendum to decide the immediate future of the City school system. The purpose of this article is to present the most pertinent facts which are available about the referendum.

The City-County agreement (dated 4/7/65) provides for the county to run the city schools with either party having the right to terminate this agreement by giving 18 months notice as of January first of a given year. Further, the agreement states "the City agrees to conduct a school bond referendum . . . at such time as the purchase price of \$5,836,795.79 . . . does not exceed the city's committed legal debt limit."

The questions to be asked are not yet worded exactly, but will deal with the following subjects: (1) Authorization for the city to borrow \$1,000,000.00 to build and additional elementary school. quoting again from the City-County agreement

- "... the responsibility for housing additional elementary students in the City will be the City's. The City will construct and own such additional elementary schools and provide the same equipped to the County School Board for operation and maintenance . . ."

(2) Authorization to purchase Sidney Lanier School (approx. cost \$1.3 million) The supposed intent here is to permit the city to borrow funds to convert Lanier into a high school to replace over-populated Fairfax High, which in turn could be used as an intermediate school. (3) Authorization to buy all the schools as provided in the City-County agreement but do it now. The approximate cost of purchasing the six schools in Fairfax City which are county owned is approximately \$5.8 million.

Pertinent information relative to the probable referendum questions is summarized below.

We now have 5512 city students in city schools, with the possibility that we may have up to 7500 students by 1970-71, at which time the city will be saturated. At present, the city contains some 3800 acres (6.3 square miles) with only about 10% of these acres being vacant. Thus, the city population, and particularly the school population, will shortly level out and become nearly constant. This is in sharp contrast to the county situation, where the school population is 102,000 and now increasing at more than 7000 per year.

quoting from the "Superintendent's Message" to the Fairfax County School Board in the "Proposed School Budget for 1966-67, January 4, 1966"

".... all indications show an additional 7000 pupils per year in the foreseeable future. The time is far in the future when additional financial emphasis in our school

(continued on page 2)

## MAY FESTIVAL SATURDAY

Plans have been formulated for the May festival to be held on Saturday, April 30, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. If you have any used toys, books, plants, handicrafts, white elephants, barbecue items, paintings, sketches, prints, objects d'art, baked goods, and any items for the Country Store, which you would care to donate, please phone Lynne or Dick Zaffarano at 273-2533. They will be gratefully accepted.

There will be pony rides, balloons galore, barrel painting, a puppet show, and your caricature while you wait.

Baby sitting will be provided for Moms and Dads who want to browse.

Flowering shrubs or tree branches needed for decorations. Call 273-2533, and they will be picked up.

Remember the date - April 30 - the May Festival at John C. Wood Elementary School! Come and join us for all the gay festivities in the morning - remain for a luncheon snack - and try your luck at the auction and door prize drawings in the afternoon. It's going to be fun so please plan to come!

There will be parking at Layton Hall School, St. Leo's, First Christian Church, Assembly of God, and the Joseph Willard Health Center. Please do not park on the grass, and do keep your pets at home.

## SPRING DANCE

PLANS ARE BEING FORMULATED FOR THIS YEAR'S SPRING DANCE. BILL WEEMS HAS BEEN SELECTED CHAIRMAN. WE'LL BE GIVING YOU MORE INFORMATION.

PLANT SALE - MAY 7th

SCHOOLS (continued)

budgets can be solely directed toward improvement.

As citizens we will want to know in detail the anticipated cost as compared to current costs, as well as the cost of making improvements in such things as:

(a) curriculum

(b) teacher's salaries

We also need to consider whether we wish to have more direct control of the physical environment (walks, landscaping, etc.); recreational facilities (such as gyms and pools); and school schedules (opening; closing).

A vote to retain the current City-County arrangement for the present will not, as explained above, prejudice a future change of heart by the voters of the city. However, a vote to run our own city school system implies a desire to have a voice in our children's education.

It should be understood that we cannot expect to run the system at a lower cost than the county does but rather would have to phrase the question something like "How much are we willing to pay to improve the educational opportunities made available for our children."

SCHOOL REFERENDUM

A MEETING OF THE COUNTRY CLUB HILLS CIVIC ASSOCIATION WILL BE HELD IN LATE MAY (tentatively the 4th Tuesday) FOR PRIMARY PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING DETAILS OF THE UPCOMING SCHOOL REFERENDUM. IT IS HOPED THAT A PANEL OF CITY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WILL BE ON HAND TO PRESENT THE MAIN POINTS OF THIS VITAL ISSUE AND TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS WE MAY HAVE. MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND THIS MEETING.

ADDITIONS FOR YOUR DIRECTORYNEW AVON REPRESENTATIVE

Toni Walt  
10105 Cornwall  
273-1533

NEW LISTINGS

James Smith  
10103 Cornwall  
(Jim and Ginny) 591-5994

James Carson  
10109 Cornwall  
(Jim and Marty) 273-6772

CORRECTION

Thomas Walt  
10105 Cornwall  
(Tom and Toni) 273-1533

Found

Kennedy half-dollar in a frame:  
suitable for key chain or bracelet.  
273-0388

WANTED: House to rent in CCH - Please call 273-5910.

PLANT SALE

THE COUNTRY HILLS GARDEN

CLUB WILL HAVE ITS ANNUAL

SPRING PLANT SALE ON

SATURDAY, MAY 7th. THERE

WILL BE A VARIETY OF

BLOOMING ANNUALS AND

AZALEAS. FOR THOSE SHADY

SPOTS WE HAVE A NICE

SELECTION OF CALADIUM BULBS.

COME ON MAY 7TH TO SPRING

LAKE TERRACE AT BROOKWOOD.

FAIRFAX COMMUNITY THEATRE

The Fairfax Community Theatre has joined in with the more than 100 groups who now comprise the American Playwrights Theater.

The American Playwrights Theater is composed of amateur, professional, and college groups. For a specified fee, they are allowed to read original plays written for them by wellknown professional authors. Once fifty or more groups agree to do a certain play, it is released to them for production. In this way, the play escapes the hit-or-flop philosophy which prevails on Broadway, and the author is assured of an income for his play.

Groups of varied talents and means put on the same play and expose it to a wide audience who otherwise would never get to see it.

Currently, a new play by Paul Osborne, Tomorrow's Monday is under consideration by the Fairfax Community Theatre and the other member groups. If enough member groups decide to put on the productions will start on October first and run throughout the year at different theatres from Seattle to Boston.

Seth Hawkins, President of the FCT says that the decision to join the APT was made after long discussions about the aims and scope of a group such as theirs. The Board of Directors feels that the wonderful thing about community theatre is that it allows creative persons to express themselves and to develop talents which would otherwise go unchallenged and perhaps unnoticed.

For further information on-  
The Fairfax Community Theatre, Inc.  
Patricia Hawkins - 273-0383