

From our readers

Candidate defends Jaycee stand on separation of sexes

Editor:  
Certainly you have an opinion of the Jaycees and Jaycette organizations that you are entitled to. However, I am entitled to my own.  
For you and your readers who know little of the Jaycees or Jaycettes, they are both organizations with the same concept — individual development through community involvement.  
Neither organization is secondary to

the other. Both organizations participate in most fundraisers and work very well together, yet each club has its own independence and are very happy, thank you.  
Although there are some Jaycee chapters composed of both men and women within the United States, the Farmington Area Jaycees and Jaycettes wish to continue serving this community as individual chapters.

This discrimination issue is seen as "discrimination" and "nagging" only by yourself, Steve. Just ask the women.  
I am proud to be a Jaycee. I have served this community for six years as a Jaycee and was named one of ten outstanding presidents in the state of Michigan. I plan to use my leadership skills, as learned through Jaycees, to be an effective, informed and honest councilmember.

The "nagging issue" as I see it for the upcoming election is not Jaycees or Jaycettes, but a lack of leadership on the current city council. It is obvious to many who attend the Farmington Hills candidates nights that I have the ability and skills to serve this community well.  
Other nagging issues include the senior citizens and low income housing issue, the zoning height restrictions of

business and commercial buildings, community development funds, and of course, taxes and our \$11,600,000 budget.  
Certainly these issues command more space in your editorials than two community service clubs. In fact, I have a lot to say about them and I'll do my best to inform the public. As a council member I'll stand by my principals and fight for what is best for

Farmington Hills.  
The title of your editorial was correct. Leadership must be proved by example. I have a track record that I'll be glad to compare to any of the current candidates:  
  
TERRY SEVER,  
Farmington Hills

Jaycette organization stands on own merit

Editor:  
I read with much interest your Oct. 22 editorial regarding excluding women in the Jaycees.  
You stated, "women are relegated to a secondary role, forced to be members of an auxiliary."  
You go on to say, "such exclusion perpetuates and glorifies the chauvinistic mentality in our society."  
Your own chauvinistic interpretation of the purpose of a Jaycee auxiliary, or Jaycettes as we are now called, needs to be corrected.  
At present, the Farmington Area Jaycettes have membership of 26 women — single, married, divorced

and widowed. Approximately 85 percent have jobs outside the home. We meet once a month to carry out our planned years' program, which consists mainly of community service projects.  
We are involved with local community organizations (through donations and/or programs) such as Marillac Hall, Sarah Fisher/St. Vincent De Paul Orphanage, Farmington YMCA, Oak Hill Nursing Home Annex, Farmington Community Center, Botsford Hospital, Oakland County Association for Retarded Citizens, Farmington Area Advisory Council, shop shopping for food baskets to give families in need and much more.

In order to carry through with these programs, we raise money through our annual arts and crafts sale, art auction, and food concessions at the Jaycee projects such as the haunted house and Summerfest, to name just a few.  
We have participated in community awareness programs such as Reyes Syndrome Awareness, are involved in state and national Jaycette programs as Buckle Up Babes Safely, which is the rental of GM car seats to the public, and donating toward the purchase of the "Wonderful Washing Machine," a GM mobile home that is to be equipped with kidney dialysis machines so that children who require regular dialysis

treatments can go to camp like other children.  
As you can see, we are involved in many programs. But most importantly, Jaycettes promotes individual development. Women who have joined the Jaycette organization have found they can accomplish things for themselves, outside their jobs and/or homes.  
We take a "secondary role" to no one. We are proud of what we do and enjoy doing it — as a group of women.  
BARBARA KENERSON,  
president,  
Farmington Area Jaycettes

Jaycettes are equal

Editor:  
In response to your editorial of Oct. 22 wherein you were critical of Farmington Hills council candidate Terry Sever's membership in a sexist organization — The Farmington Area Jaycees — I must take exception.  
The Jaycees and Jaycettes are young men's and women's organizations dedicated to developing the individual through involvement in their community. To say that the Jaycees are sexist because women aren't allowed as members ignores the fact that the Jaycettes serve an independent role in the Farmington area.

cepted an honorary membership in the Jaycees complete with badge and pin.  
At that time you accepted the honor with dignity. You had an opportunity to criticize our sexual bias but chose to ignore the chance.  
Your criticism of our sexism while accepting an award from that same sexist body smacks of intellectual dishonesty.  
JAMES MITCHELL,  
president,  
Farmington Jaycees

Attack on Sever is unjustified

Editor:  
Never before has Steve Barnaby so aptly titled the deficiencies of his own editorial.  
This time he attacks a political candidate for the Farmington Hills city council on a democratic choice of the Michigan State Jaycees to remain a "young man's" organization, rather than the qualifications of the candidate.  
It is a yellow journalistic attack on an issue by attacking an individual.  
Jaycees started out first as a social organization for those who enjoyed dancing. Subsequently, those men who felt a greater commitment to community concerns reorganized as the United State Junior Citizens and later still as the United States Junior Chamber of Commerce before assuming the name, Jaycees.

Since those early beginnings they have expanded their purpose to include participation in community and social activities to promote civic betterment and their own unique leadership training.  
They have also expanded the guidelines of their membership to include open members, married women who aren't married to Jaycees and single women as well.  
These organizations, the Jaycees and Jaycette Auxiliaries, parallel each other. One doesn't conflict with the other. One doesn't exclude the other on bias. Each has its own purposes and goals.

Men who choose to have a sexually-mixed organization have every right to form one. But the integrity and principals of the Michigan Jaycee Auxiliary and the Michigan State Jaycees shouldn't be required to alter their methodology of expressing their respective purposes.  
I have challenged Steve Barnaby on his editorial dealing with the Jaycee Congress International's (JCIC) choice of South Africa for a past international congress.  
He stated then that the Farmington Jaycees should speak out against this choice for the site because of South Africa's stand on apartheid.  
He neglected to research the editorial properly. He didn't realize that the JCIC doesn't answer to the United States Jaycees, but is a separate organization composed of young men nominated from national Jaycee organizations around the world.

He neglected to research the fact that a number of Jaycee chapters in South Africa are multi-racial.  
The holding of the JCIC Congress in South Africa, if anything, reinforced the commitment in our creed "that the brotherhood of man transcends the sovereignty of nations."  
Terry Sever can stand proudly on his record of commitment to his community through both word and deed.  
A man is known by his words and deeds.  
By the same token, Steve Barnaby is known by his words and deeds.  
His words reflect how little he truly understands and cares to understand the issues he writes about in his editorials. He is as misguided as a man who peeks through the window of a home, sees a man and woman undress in the privacy of their bedroom and from that draws the conclusion that they are lewd and licentious sinners who are practicing nudism.  
Sadly, Steve Barnaby's deeds (of omission) speak louder. He doesn't attend a significant number of meetings of organizations he writes about. He doesn't sample a significant number of an organization's membership to determine their views.  
The pen is mightier than the sword. And an assassin doesn't have to wield a dagger to slay a reputation.

From your comments it is clear that you believe the two groups should be combined. This is not the feeling among women of the Michigan Jaycettes. In an article on that subject less than one year ago, then president of the Michigan Jaycettes, Joyce Julius said, "our leadership training opportunities are outstanding." (Detroit News, Dec. 17, 1978).  
She went on to say that she might not be an organization president if she had competed with a man.  
The Farmington Area Jaycettes maintain that same posture. If the women were required to be part of the Farmington Area Jaycees in order to become involved in their community, the women would lose their identity and would be overwhelmed by a membership of 181 Jaycees versus approximately 26 Jaycettes.  
I believe that the division of the group along sex lines does have its benefits and should not be attacked in the fashion you have chosen merely to create an issue during a political election.  
It should be noted that on Oct. 9, you accepted a plaque from our chapter for your distinguished service and assistance to the Jaycees through publicity provided by your paper. You also ac-

cepted an honorary membership in the Jaycees complete with badge and pin.  
At that time you accepted the honor with dignity. You had an opportunity to criticize our sexual bias but chose to ignore the chance.  
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JAMES MITCHELL,  
president,  
Farmington Jaycees

Heating assistance praised

Editor:  
With the passage of House Bill 4726 the Michigan Legislature is to be commended for taking the first step to ensure that thousands of senior citizens won't be placed in the untenable position of choosing between food and fuel. The bill establishes a home heating assistance program for persons with low incomes for this year, 1980 and 1981. A similar program last year helped almost 350,000 households, two

thirds of which were headed by senior citizens, absorb some of the winter's high home heating costs.  
We urge the legislature to move quickly to provide funding for this program by passing House Bill 4730. The bill proposes to amend the Severance Tax Act to increase the tax rate from 2 to 6 percent. The revenues from this increased tax would fund the Home Heating Assistance Program, as well as a State Weatherization Program

and an Energy Conservation Fund. We do believe, however, that a 6 percent increase is inadequate to fund all these programs and urge the legislature to increase the tax to 10 percent, as originally proposed.  
The home heating season is here now. Failure to act on HB4730 could mean no heat or worse for thousands of the state's older citizens.  
PETER KOK,  
Director,  
Michigan Office of Services to the Aging

My family and personal growth is more important to me than the country's economic fluctuations. Given the short time we have on this earth, and the security we must provide for ourselves and our families, whenever the opportunity to enhance this security arises, most of us will continue to move forward.  
In today's real world, one who is standing still is actually moving backward. So if you are fortunate enough to be a qualified buyer, then buy! You'll never regret it.  
ROBERT E. CRAVER  
manager  
Century 21 Hartford South  
Livonia

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'Price is not going down'

Mr. Richard:  
In response to your ridiculous article, I was surprised at how naive some people can be about the real estate profession. It is even more surprising that the Livonia Observer would allow themselves to print an article written by someone as misinformed as yourself.  
For example, you seem to think that real estate is a bad investment. Have you noticed the price of housing in the past one, three or 10 years? It has escalated at a rate much faster than your suggestion of putting money in a bank or savings and loan association.  
It is also the buyers and sellers that determine the eventual selling prices, not the Realtors as you implied. It is true that Realtors say "Buy now," because they know from past experience, economic conditions, inflation and a thorough knowledge of the real estate industry that the price of housing is going to continue to increase, whether you want to believe it or not.

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You'll never regret buying a home

Editor:  
It is rare that we are able to have bestowed upon us such "enlightening" journalism as that produced by Tim Richard on Oct. 11. In the article, "Contradicting the Realtors," Mr. Richard sets the stage by stating the obvious reasons why people enhance their investment by acting now, as opposed to later. He then squares off and establishes a position of "don't buy," based on a series of statements that are unsubstantiated personal opinions.  
Mr. Richard, we accept your ability

to write, but "sensationalism," in a time when we all must re-evaluate our wants and needs, is a misrepresentation of facts to your readers.  
Anyone can buy stocks and bonds, anyone can open a savings account, anyone can buy a time savings certificate, but you can only give a mortgage when you are qualified for it. When you're qualified, you are faced with an opportunity to increase your assets and net worth.  
The home fills the basic needs of a roof over your head, an environment to raise the family, and a form of security.

For those that want more, it also provides an investment superior to other forms.  
Your increase in income does not buy the better home in the better neighborhood; for the most part, wage increases are intended to help you maintain your present lifestyle. Your increased equity in your present home allows you to buy the new one.  
Your approach to the question of "to buy, or not to buy" lacks depth and perception. This is inexcusable in journalism and editorializing.

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'Buy now' has merit

Editor:  
It is unfortunate that you permitted the article by Tim Richard to be printed. Richard urges, "Don't buy now if you can avoid it. Save and invest." The siren song, "buy now" has more merit than Richard realizes. Since when does a reporter set himself up as an economist, advising people how to invest their money?  
From day one, real estate has been

considered a good investment and usually the largest investment one makes.  
Owning property and even paying on a mortgage is a form of savings. As for the "madness" of 20 percent down and 12.5 percent interest, what would Richard like? Less down payment?  
As for interest, we have been paying 18 percent on credit cards, etc., for a number of years. The government still gives us a break on allowing us to write off the interest on our income tax.

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