

from our readers

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care enough after the bell rings) seriously, or was it an example of tongue-in-cheek journalism?

You accuse teachers of being uncaring because they do not stay after school. In fact, you state that you can't get the picture of teachers and administrators dashing for the parking lot out of your mind. I guess you've never been in a parking lot before or after school — I am referring to the hours that teachers are not paid for. There are hundreds of dedicated staff members who give of their own time and talent to serve on committees, supervise athletic events and dances, take kids skiing and to outdoor camping facilities, lend a hand to student councils, and on and on. Teachers spend their own time putting up bulletin boards, correcting papers and meeting with parents. They often make efforts to accommodate the hours of working parents. Why — because they care. Even when millages are defeated, programs are cut, and staff members are pink-slipped, teachers continue to care.

I attended Farmington schools all of my life and was able to get a wonderful education and be exposed to many "heroes" and "mentors" during the normal school hours. Heroes do exist between eight and three, as well as after school. Why don't we ever hear about them?

I am also a teacher and a parent. I have gladly given many hours of my own time to help children in my school district. And at the end of my work day, I go home to the same responsibilities that all employed people go to at the end of their work day. I raise my family, cook dinner, keep doctor appointments, etc. And when my children go to school I will also have the responsibility of being a parent who is involved in their education.

I have two questions for you, Mr. Barnaby — Where do you dash off to after work, and are you any kid's hero?

Lisa Clarke Ellis
Farmington Hills

Where is objectivity?

To the editor:

As a Farmington High School teacher and a Farmington Public School teacher for 15 years, I strongly object to the way in which your Thursday,

April 14 issue portrayed Farmington High teachers.

Being the adviser to our school paper I have tried to teach objectivity and accuracy in reporting a news event. You were not fair nor impartial in your coverage of our school play, or in your headline on the lead story, "Teachers reject student plea for help in play production."

The lead story contains some material that is not even true. As I understand the students in the play wanted publicity, not something that would represent Farmington teachers as lazy and uncaring about their school. But, in this event so newsworthy that you also needed an editorial, a feature and a question involving it?

The list of Farmington High teachers involved in "extracurricular activities" is endless. The hours and time involved for some far exceeds "sitting in the back of the auditorium and grading papers."

Margaret A. Gagnik
Farmington

Articles anger Warner chief

To the editor:

In April 14's issue of the Observer, I read an article by Tom Baer and Crackerbarrel Debate by Steve Barnaby. Both articles left me feeling angry and frustrated.

Nowhere did either writer make any effort to ascertain how many staff members were working with students after class. The four children have a total of 50 years of public school and untold hours of personal attention by teachers.

I'm assuming Rita Piron has supervised many plays. One can assume she has strong feelings about sharing in the "copout." Neither writer made the effort to help her feel good about her past efforts.

All teachers have to make daily value judgments as to how best they might spend their time, talents and energies. I would surmise that Rita Piron made such a personal choice based on her rational allocation of time and energy.

Had both writers taken the time to provide an objective overview, they would have found a vast majority of

Farmington's teachers working with students after school. For instance the day the newspaper came out, 10 Warner Middle School teachers were helping Student Council members distribute \$15,500 worth of cheese and sausage.

Further investigation by the writers would have led them to know that Farmington Middle Schools do not have student plays. Warner Middle School is an exception. Why? Because two parents want to provide the students with the experience of producing a play.

Your reporting of the problems was legitimate; however, the contribution of many teachers disregarded by you was inexcusable.

Gilbert Henderson
Principal, Warner Middle School

For emergencies

The number for Farmington Hills Police and Fire Departments is 477-0911.

The number for Farmington Police and Fire Departments is 474-4700. The Poison Control Center's number is 494-5711.

I-696 eyed for repairs

Farmington Hills taxpayers are paying approximately \$27,000 of \$14-million worth of repairs on portions of I-696 crossing through the city.

In approving a contract with the Michigan Department of Transportation last week, City Council members agreed to share the costs with the state and federal governments for repairs on the highway, between Haggerty and Inkster roads.

Under the agreement, the federal government will pay approximately \$1.2 million of the project's total costs and the state pays the remaining \$191,000, said Thomas Biassell, Farmington Hills Director of Public Services.

"We're always continually keeping up the highway," Biassell said, referring to the city's 12.5-percent share of the project's bill.

Reconstructing shoulders, extending drainage structures and upgrading existing guardrails are this year's planned improvements along I-696, Biassell said.

Some of last year's repairs included repaving and putting up new guardrails and barriers, he added.



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