

Farmington Observer

Successor to the Farmington Enterprise

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oral quarrel

What should we ask?

This week's Oral Quarrel asked our readers what questions they would like to ask. Following are your ideas and then some:

First of all, what do the readers of the Farmington Observer think of the paper? Secondly, how can it become a better paper?

This is two-part question. Do you think a teacher in a particular elementary school in Farmington Hills should be fired because 20 parents want her removed because they, a very small minority, claim incompetency? Second part of question: If as a result of this action, the school board is found guilty of harassment or discrimination, should the taxpayers of Farmington Hills pay damages to said teacher, or should these parents who initiated the action take full responsibility for damages?

The paper is called the Farmington Observer. My question would be, do people really believe that the Farmington Observer is covering the news of Farmington and could there be more news and less advertising and also more information of activities in Farmington and not other communities?

I would like to know what kind of citizens people are who use the dumpster behind Dunlevy's Bar for their rubbish and also using the dumpster behind Godmar's Drug Store.

I would like to have people call in about various complaints regarding Farmington Hills politicians, Farmington Hills employees and perhaps various eyesores around the area of which we have quite a few.

Why does the Farmington Observer favor Harrison High School over the other two high schools?

Farmington and Farmington Hills are both considered cities. They are both without public transportation and with many shopping areas that cannot be used by people who do not drive. We need bus service. Many buses could serve the purpose only on regular basis. Hopefully, we will get some action on this.

In view of the increasing controversy and importance of the issue, the question I would suggest would be: What do you feel about the nuclear arms race one way or the other?

Who are people who were born on July 14, 1972, which happens to be my birthday.

The questions I would like to see are questions pertaining to communities of Farmington and Farmington Hills and anything that goes on in them and not things outside our community.

I would like to see the question whether people think that the Oral Quarrel amounts to anything more than a hill of beans.

I have a couple of questions.

Ketchup on apple pie?

They don't make 'em like they used to

One of the first things a writer usually does when each new edition of the paper comes off the press is to turn the pages to see how his contributions appear on the printed page.

But not The Stroller. The first thing I was to find the page featuring all sorts of desserts and other delicacies with the hope that he can find there a story on a sandwich that has been on his mind since his early youth.

Back in those days our family operated a small lunch counter. It was our only means of support after The Stroller's father died.

THIS WAS long before hamburgers became the most popular of sandwiches and when ham-and-cheese combinations were the most often ordered.

For that reason mother kept a plate of sliced ham and sliced cheese ready for serving at all times. The kind of cheese she used had only the slightest of holes and often was referred to by the Dutch housekeepers as "rat" cheese because it was the kind of cheese that was used in rat traps.

Then one evening she got a big surprise. A newcomer walked in, took a seat at the counter, and asked if she would make him a special sandwich. Always one to oblige, she asked just what he wanted.



the stroller

W.W. Edgar

"I'd like an egg sandwich with a thick slice of Spanish onion," he said. "And I'd like to have it toasted."

THIS WAS a strange combination, but Mother acted unconcerned and went about the task of satisfying the customer.

She had never heard of that combination. And it kept puzzling her to the point where she put together such a sandwich just to learn how it tasted. It was not all she thought it would be. But she said nothing.

One night a week or so later the same gentleman walked in and after taking his seat at the counter, said to Mother, "You were kind enough to make me a special sandwich the other night. Will you try another of my favorites?"

This time the customer asked that mother toast the bread, place a thick slice of Spanish onion on the bottom, add a thick slice of

orange and then cover the orange with peanut butter.

MOTHER looked dazed, but she went about her work to satisfy the customer. But to the day she passed away she never could understand such a combination.

Another time a chap took his seat at the counter and, after being served an oyster stew, poured ketchup into the stew. Mother shuddered but said nothing.

A few nights later the same fellow walked in, looked at the blackboard that listed all of the major league baseball scores, and ordered a slice of homemade apple pie.

AFTER BEING served, he reached across the counter, took the ketchup bottle and started to pour ketchup on his pie. That was too much for mother. She yelled, "Not on my good apple pie."

But the customer went right on pouring. He said he enjoyed this combination and he came in and enjoyed it several times a week.

These are some of the reasons why The Stroller keeps looking on the feature page hoping he might find one of these combinations.

So far he hasn't succeeded. They might be worth trying by somebody else — but not him.

Be wary of fund-raising organizations

MORE THAN 1,000 charitable organizations in Michigan are licensed to solicit contributions from you. Other organizations which appear to be charities actually are not — but also ask for public funds.

It can be downright annoying to be solicited by phone or by some eager young man or woman who comes to your door and tries to hard-sell you into subscribing to a magazine to help put the solicitor through college.

Your charitable donation can help a worthwhile cause or it can be wasted. You may never get that magazine subscription. You could get "Dog Life" instead of the "Playboy" you ordered.

Worse, yet, the would-be college student or do-gooder who high pressures you to pay cash up front may take off for the boonies and spend your "charitable donation" for fun and games.

Then there are the police and fraternal organizations that are often social groups or unions which may or may not use some of your donation for charity.

MANY OF these organizations allude to the

misleading fact that police officers support or benefit from the supposed charity. Usually not so. When in doubt, check with the department.

Some police organizations will try to sell you circus tickets over the telephone. The proceeds allegedly will benefit the families of officers who have been disabled in the line of duty.

Circuses sponsored by charities have very high overhead expenses. This could mean that very little of your donation is actually spent on charitable programs.

If you simply want to be entertained and the price is right, you may want to buy a ticket anyway. But if you think you're buying tickets to help a philanthropic cause, you may be mistaken.

According to Attorney General Frank Kelley, when you base your charitable giving on reliable information about the activities of the organization, your contribution will be used for a worthy cause. A mismanaged or fraudulent charity can't exist without your donation.

SO IF you've got a big heart and want to help but not get ripped off in the process, here are some handy, dandy tips:

Find out if the charity's licensed, what service it provides in your area, if it's tax exempt, how long it's been in business and if the solicitor, who must have identification, is a

volunteer or paid by a professional fund raiser.

Don't commit yourself during the first call from a telephone solicitor. Ask the same questions you'd ask a door-to-door solicitor and request written information.

If you're solicited by mail, check out carefully the out-of-state charity that has no program in Michigan and a name you don't recognize. Mass mailing costs mega bucks. You may be spending your money for mailing. You can keep unneeded trinkets mailed to you without donating money.

BEWARE of telephone solicitations followed immediately by a runner who wants to pick up your donation. Beware of solicitors who refuse to identify themselves and the name and address of the charity.

Don't be afraid to say no or that you need time to think it over. Call Kelley's office to check on the organization. You can help with Kelley's charity fraud investigation by writing down details of any solicitation of which you're suspicious.

If you decide to donate, don't give cash. A check is helpful for tax purposes and makes it harder for beneficiaries to misuse your gift.

Anyone who misleads you into thinking they and you are giving aims doesn't deserve your generosity.



Jackie Klein

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