

Farmington readers' forum

Letters must be signed, original copies and include the address and telephone number of the writer. None can be returned.

Names will be withheld from publication only for sufficient reason. Letters should be limited to 300 words in most cases. We reserve

the right to edit them. Send letters to Readers' Forum, Farmington Observer, 33203 Grand River Ave., Farmington 48024.

Jaycees set the record straight

To the editor:

This letter is in response to an editorial written by Steve Barnaby and appearing in the Sept. 25 edition of the Observer entitled "Stick With Jelly, Jaycees."

Unfortunately, Mr. Barnaby has done a disservice to the Jaycees as a whole, and in particular the Farmington Area Jaycees, by using his column to paint an image of the Jaycees as a group of "scrub-scrub" solicitors, "weirdos" and a group of "er-stables."

Mr. Barnaby states that the Jaycees are "out of their league" with their newest project, which is to solicit petitions for a Constitutional Amendment to balance the federal budget. It is most unfortunate when you consider that the Jaycees, like other public service organizations, rely upon a positive public image in garnishing the support of the community for their numerous public service projects.

Excuse us, Mr. Barnaby, while we try to set the record straight.

The Jaycees are a community service organization whose theme is "leadership training through community service." The Jaycees run a variety of fund-raising projects, not the least of which is the Haunted Store to run beginning Oct. 18 at the Mulwood Shopping Center, at the corner of Drake and Grand River in Farmington.

The Jaycees use the proceeds from these successful projects to perform other community service projects. For example, this year the Jaycees will organize and run a Christmas "tree lighting" ceremony in the Farmington area. The Jaycees' main asset is "person power." For the Jaycees is but a group of individuals between the ages of 18 to 35 who together provide the labor and enthusiasm to run these successful community service projects.

In terms of expression, the Jaycees feel that no one group or person has a monopoly on political thoughts or ideas and the Jaycees are one of the few organizations that, as a group, can effectively voice the ideas and concerns of people between the ages of 18 to 35. One of these concerns is the present federal budget deficit. Fortunately, the same constitutional guarantee of freedom of speech which Mr. Barnaby relies upon in printing his views allow the Jaycees the freedom to express their views.

The need for a Constitutional Amendment to balance the federal budget is being, and will continue to be, debated wherever there is a group of people

concerned about the future of this country. To discourage such debate is neither productive nor problem solving.

Certainly, if he were to evaluate his own personal budget, Mr. Barnaby cannot deny that deficit spending creates economic problems if continued for a long period of time.

While Mr. Barnaby and others seek to place blame for the problem on one political party or the other, the Jaycees are stating, "We don't care who caused the problem at this point, let's work together to find a solution." This falls under the auspices of "leadership training through community service."

You are welcome to attend our next meeting, Mr. Barnaby, as well as anyone else who may be interested in being of service to the community. Perhaps first-hand experience will give some insight for future constructive articles on the Jaycees and their projects.

Mark Bosler, Vice President
Farmington Area Jaycees

Autism not related to sex psychopathy

To the editor:

I am writing to express my concern over an unfortunate flaw in an otherwise interesting and realistic article by Richard Lech in the Sept. 25 issue of the *Eccentric* about the difficulties of treating persons who sexually assault children.

The error is in the quote from Gary Stollak that suggests that sexual psychopathy is a mild form of autism. Whether intended or not, the statement clearly implies that persons with autism have an extreme form of the same problem that causes child molestation and murder.

In fact, persons with autism are markedly vulnerable, with disabilities in many areas of life. Parents of autistic individuals have waged a difficult and thankless battle to achieve basic educational and social programs that can meet the needs of their unique children.

To suggest, even metaphorically, that there is a connection between the enormous multiple problems with which autistic persons must deal, and the very real problems of the homicidal child molester is to provide the public with ludicrous reasons for denying services to the autistic by developing the perception that autistic persons are like murdering child molesters, only more so. This is an erroneous,

and, I am sure, unintentional disservice to persons with autism.

Norman DeLisle, area supervisor,
Michigan Protection and
Advocacy Service

Analysis hits the mark well

To the editor:

I hope Tim Richard's column on Thursday, Sept. 19, "Two very different execs," doesn't turn out to be an "I told you so" if Lucas does become the Republicans gubernatorial standard bearer.

His analysis of Murphy and Lucas is as plain and simple as it is clear and logical. Dan Murphy should be our next governor, not some Johnny-come-lately who is as clever as he is ruthless.

Richard says it all when he voices his perplexity: "I can't understand why grown men and women in the Republican Party are promoting Lucas for governor." Well, neither can I.

But Lucas' character flaw is not that he can't deal with legislators; his tragic flaw is his arrogance, disdain and contempt for people. Case in point: About 10 years ago, my senior English class invited Sheriff Lucas to be the graduation speaker. They wrote to Lucas and I wrote to Lucas. They phoned Lucas and I phoned Lucas. All to no avail. My students were terribly disappointed. Here was a black role model totally ignoring black students. I tried to assuage their chagrin, but I never forgot nor forgave Lucas.

Now, as a past Republican precinct delegate, I am expected to accept and endorse this oily politician, who just recently crossed party lines to represent me as a Republican candidate for governor because some misguided party muckys-mucks say so.

As a grass-roots member, I would renounce the party rather than accept that Communist philosophy which embraces any means to an end. In this case, win the governorship race at any cost.

I hope that Mr. Richard's column is taken to heart by party leaders and that they not repudiate Dan Murphy, a man who deserves to be our next governor.

Al Rosen
Farmington Hills

Health center sought

Southeastern Michigan Imaging Center Corp. has applied for permission to build a magnetic resonance imaging center in Farmington Hills.

The \$2 million project would be a joint effort of five Sisters of Mercy Health Corp. hospitals and Southfield-based Providence Hospital. All would participate in the venture through financing and patient referral. Projected completion date is February, 1987.

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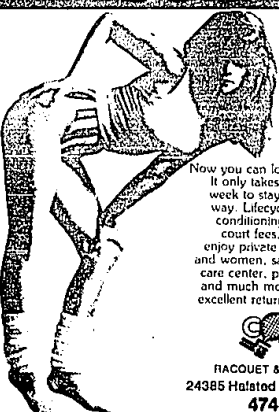
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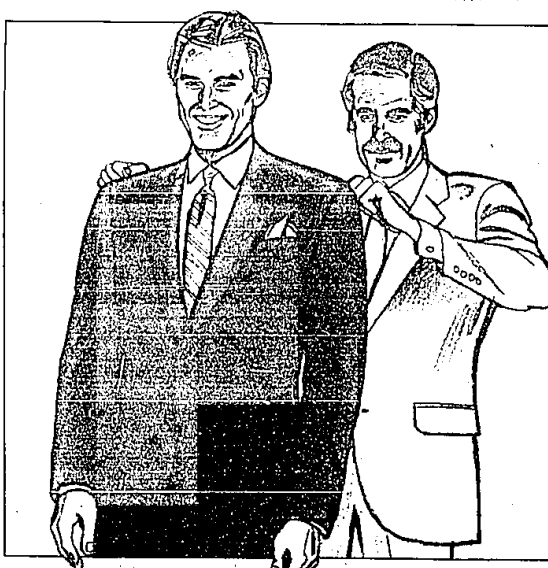
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