

Hall of Famer's worthy of honor

Farmington readers' forum

MADD director defends figures

To the editor:
Tim Richard's July 10 column in the Observer & Eccentric crows that the state police's recent audit "shows MADD was wrong" about our recent, new drunk driving laws.

We submit that Tim Richard and Rep. W.V. "Sandy" Brotherton, R-Farmington, allowed themselves to use poor staff work in reporting the comparison of 1985 arrests vs. convictions for drunk driving in Oakland and other counties.

They didn't read the instructions that went with the report. Page 9 cautions that "a large number of each year's arrests are not adjudicated until some time in following years." They report that less than half of 1985's arrests in Oakland County resulted in convictions — correct, but only as of last New Year's Eve.

For example: see the chart to see how 1983 and 1984 convictions vs. arrests count has grown.

total convictions for prior years' arrests as of:

| year | Oak Co. arrests | 1983 audit | 1984 audit | 1985 audit | final conviction rate |
|------|-----------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------------------|
| 1983 | 5,731 | 1,349 | 4,459 | 4,773 | 83.3% |
| 1984 | 8,400 | N/A | 3,234 | 8,709 | 79.9% |
| 1985 | 7,981 | N/A | N/A | 2,922 | N/A |

We recognize that a high percentage of these convictions are for the lesser offense of "impaired," but, with our new laws, every one of these now has a mandatory license suspension; thus, of Michigan's 79,812 arrested in 1984, 64,540 licenses have already been suspended, or completely revoked — and more will be suspended this year. (The threat of losing the license is reported to be the sanction most feared by the driving public.) Further, every one of these convictions is now listed on the Secretary of State's records as an alcohol-related prior offense; should the drivers be arrested again, the penalties will escalate.

Results? Yes, good ones. The alcohol-related deaths in Michigan have dropped 11 percent over the past five years, from 56.6 percent of total to 50 percent. Total deaths and crippling injuries are down, even though total miles driven and speeds driven are increasing. Something right is going on, and MADD claims at least some credit for it.

Lee E. Landes,
director, MADD

Words were highly meaningful

To the editor:

Thank you so much on your article concerning Judge Lippitt.

You put in words what thousands of people feel that have been victimized by the "cancer" of the highways, the drunk driver.

It is evident that neither Judge Lippitt nor S. Frank have been there but with statistics the way they are, they just may have their turn.

Until people like this have their child die in their arms (Penny Bein and I both did), or see beautiful young adults and children sentenced to a wheelchair or respirator or be in a coma for the rest of their lives because some clown didn't know when to quit.

Mr. Frank, if you are ever victimized by the drunk and you are maimed for life or you stand by the coffin of your child or other loved one, I sure hope a Judge Lippitt hears your case and then lets us know how you feel.

You know the old saying, "By the grace of God there go I."

It should be for people like you.

By the grace of God there lay I or my loved one.

You reach the age of reasoning at 7 years old and I guarantee you each and every drunk that has victimized the innocent has been over 7 years of age and the people that these drunks kill or maim are just as dead and just as hurt as any criminal with a loaded gun and the people that did it are just as guilty as the person with the loaded gun.

It was an act of fate or they didn't mean it. Tell that to the family of a dead child.

We need more judges and jurors who have been there and like Judge James P. Sheehy, who is putting the breath analyzing device in the drunks cars.

Jean Moran,
Farmington Hills

Columnist is off base about police

To the editor:

Since Bob Wisler has deemed it time to once again take up his anti-law and order crusade, I am compelled, as previously, to express my dissent with his views as well as my total support for our police.

One gets the impression, from his article, that he would rather see crime run rampant in lieu of pursuit of criminals. To me, this borders on plain irresponsible journalism.

By his reasoning, we should be shackling our police rather than those committing crimes. Many expert minds have collaborated on a bill now pending in the Legislature outlining when pursuit is justified as well as when it is not, but this is apparently unsatisfactory to him.

Our police are paid to apprehend criminals and, for trying to do so, they are referred to in his article as petulant "coppers." What his article seems to say is that if someone who has committed a crime does not just stand there and wait for the police to nab him, then the criminal should be permitted to walk away to commit more crimes. This is sick!

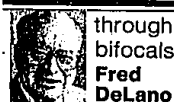
While I am sympathetic toward those innocent people who have died as a result of a police pursuit situation, and to wards their families and friends, I must suggest that at least some of them would not have died had their total attention been on their driving.

May I suggest, Bob, that you spend some time observing other drivers. See how many of them are not only looking at a passenger but also punctuating their conversation with hand motions.

The problems, overall, are judges who are too lenient, a desperate lack of prison space, bleeding-heart liberals like the ACLU, that minority of our population who would rather live by crime than by honest labor and, over all the foregoing, the availability and use of illicit drugs.

Let our police do their difficult and dangerous jobs to the best of their ability. They do not need condemnation, but support. I personally salute each and every and every one of them.

Paul H. Longeway,
Keego Harbor.



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aptitude for hitting a golf ball a country mile, straight and true to the hole. We of the Observer & Eccentric take pride in the fact that he has been a two-time winner in our own men's tourney, which will have its 1986 presentation Sept. 13 and 14 at Whispering Willows.

But winning tournaments has been a way of life for him almost since he broke in as a caddy at Plum Hollow at the age of 10. After winning the state caddy crown, Bud tied for the Michigan high school title and went on to take the post championship at Fort Sill, Okla., while serving in the army.

That was only the beginning. After graduation from Michigan State University, where he enrolled on a Chick Evans scholarship, Bud began mopping up in Michigan adult ranks, winning the state amateur title three times, the championship of the Golf Association of Michigan in six different years and the Michigan medal play crown twice.

"I never took a golf lesson and still haven't," he remarked a few days ago. "I picked it up just by watching other people play, trying to copy their good points."

STEVENS NEVER has succumbed to the lure of the professional golf circuit, but is frank to admit, "Golf has opened up a lot of doors for me in business ways, although it doesn't help unless you have a worthwhile product to sell."

For 17 years he played out of Western Golf Club in Redford and now, as a Plymouth Township resident, has returned to Washenaw Country Club as his home course.

Bud calls golfers "a great fraternity of people," adding, "You don't have to play well to enjoy the game."

He has congratulated him anyway on the prestige that goes with his Hall of Fame induction, but it's all the more meaningful when an authority says something like that to a silver dufer.

MELVIN (BUD) STEVENS and I have two things in common. We both developed a love for golf in our boyhood days totting sticks as caddies, and neither of us ever has taken a lesson from a pro. After more than 50 years of the self-taught approach, I must admit I have flunked.

For Bud it has been quite the opposite, as will be evidenced Sunday night when he will be inducted into the Michigan Golf Hall of Fame in ceremonies at the Indianwood Country Club in Lake Orion.

The Hall's "Class of '86" also will include one of Bud's long-time amateur foes of Michigan links, Pete Green, as well as Tom Draper and the revered pro, the late Tommy Armour.

IF YOU WONDER how elite a company this is, roll these names of former honorees off your tongue: Walter Hagen, Al Watrous, Horton Smith, Chuck Kocis, Chick Harbert, Glen Johnson, Leo Diegel, Walter Burkemo, Patti Shook Boice, Wilfrid Reid, James D. Standish Jr., John Barnum, Dorothy Higbie and Dave Hill.

The Hall of Fame was Indianwood's own inspirational creation a few years ago. The selection committee consists of men and women who are close to the state's organizational golf core who are in position to judge individual contributions and competitive accomplishments.

The presentation to Stevens will be made at Sunday's banquet by a similarly built, long-hitting 200-pound fireplug, a man with a wonderful way with words, Jack Saylor of the Detroit Free Press.

From then on, Indianwood's 17th will be known as the "Bud Stevens hole," according to the club's general manager, Dick Chrisite. If you and the missus care to attend at 7:30 Sunday, banquet tickets are \$60 each.

FOR YEARS BUD, now 53, has been co-owner of Guardian Manufacturing Corp. with Wes Marshaw, who is about to retire. The firm is on Levan Road in Livonia and makes assembly fixtures for the automotive industry, having moved from Detroit in 1967.

Since he was a boy growing up in Southfield, Stevens has shown a natural

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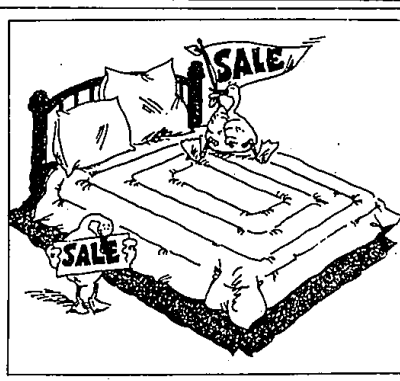
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