

# Yes, misplaced sometimes, but never, ever lost

THE NEXT TIME I am in downtown Detroit admiring the scenic splendor of the waterfront, I must remind myself to pause at the City-County Building and pay respects to a former colleague of these pages, Bob Waiser, who now slaves at the public trough as an image builder for Wayne County Executive Ed McNamara.

A second reason for entering this dust seat of governments will be to seek out a woman I've never met, Marie Farrell-Donaldson, Detroit ombudsman, a title that means she investigates complaints private citizens may have against government departments or officials.

I should think a person in that job even in Mayor Coleman Young's reign, would be blessed with a sense of objectivity. A statement attributed to the hypenated Marie F-D in the Detroit Free Press of March 8 makes me wonder if she's qualified, for it reeks of ill-informed, opinionated prejudice.

Maybe you've never noticed sort of a cute little feature that runs every Sunday in the magazine section of the Morning Friendly. It's called "Q&A" and poses a different question each week, answers coming from three or four persons of supposed prominence.

ON THE DATE in question, the rather insipid query was: "What do you like least about the opposite sex?" and this was Marie F-D's answer:

"I don't like the fact that when they're lost on a trip they will never, ever stop and ask directions. They will drive for hours and hours and refuse to acknowledge the fact that they're lost."

If you're looking for a lack of imagination, this woman's attitude takes first prize. I wish she had taken a few trips with Mother Goose, the kids and me over the years. She would have learned early on that we never, ever were "lost." Temporarily misplaced occasionally, it's true, but that only adds to the sense of adventure.

I'm reminded of my friend George. George and Alice, who is a cousin of my wife's, lived in these parts for years and then in retirement moved to North Carolina where they share the side of a



through  
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Fred  
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mountain at Hendersonville with other retirees who get their kicks out of watching the rhododendron run wild.

Never had I suspected, until we visited them and went sight-seeing day after day with George at the wheel, that Alice was a world class back-seat driver.

"Turn left, George?" "Yes, Alice?" "Turn right, George?" "Yes, Alice?" "The light is turning red, George?" "I see it, Alice" ... etc., etc.

THEN MIRACLE of miracles! "No, George, No. This is not the way, George, why are turning?" "Because we've never taken this road, and I want to see where it goes."

It led to the other side of the mountain, of course, but we never would have known had we not gone exploring. That's the adventurous way we've seen state after state, off the beaten path. Pack up and leave home early. Stop for breakfast in Kentucky.

Sure, maps are helpful and are meant to be studied in advance, not after the journey has started. But the second time around, I'll remember that there's a difference in markings for Kansas City, Missouri, and Kansas City, Kansas, just across the river.

Few other possibly have crossed the Potomac River into Virginia three times in driving from the historic Georgetown section of Washington, D.C. to the Watergate complex for lunch; but we did and we weren't lost. That's just crazy Washington.

As long as the earth is round, the North Star remains in the north, and the sun rises in the east and sets in the west, there's no need to ask directions. But tell me, Marie F-D; when I get to Woodward and the river, where do you suggest I go?

## 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.

## Your advice was succinct

To the editor:

Regrettably, the press of business prevented my writing to you until now to let you know that we greatly appreciated Loraine McClish's article on "Child Support, the Economics of Broken Homes" in the Thursday, Jan. 22, Suburban Life Section.

Your article clearly and succinctly presented the issues in their entirety and with a depth that greatly needs to be communicated to the large number of women who now or in the future will face these serious problems.

Again, thank you for your professionalism and attention to detail on this matter.

Deborah Miela,  
Women Lawyers  
Association of Michigan

## The killing has to stop

To the editor:

Every day, I open the paper to see new accounts of people getting shot, stabbed or murdered in some other way — and I'm tired of it!

The newspapers have the power to motivate the public to act to protect themselves, but nothing is said. Editors fear starting vigilantes.

I am seeking to motivate the public, too. Right now, SOSAD (Save Our Sons and Daughters) has a campaign going to try to get the criminal to rethink his final solution. Shooting someone is not right. The public has to force him to think about the gun in his pocket, to think about that person that he's intent on killing.

The red ribbons floating in the breeze, tied to stop signs and trees, shout loudly: "Don't shoot! Find another solution." The thin red line serves as a warning to the criminal that the public will no longer tolerate his actions, that there is no excuse for blood.

There is a great stain on Michigan. It's no fun being the second-highest place where murders occurred last year, but that's not good enough. We're

already intent on being number one again.

It's sort of a competition between Michigan and Texas. I say let Texas and 49 other states win. Put those red ribbons up and make the criminal see them. If only one life is saved because the criminal rethinks his answer, then it's worth the effort.

The number of deaths has got to come down and the only way that will be possible is if that thin red line stretches everywhere. I, therefore, ask that anyone who reads this letter, make a copy and send it to a friend. Sincerely,

T. James Zanotti  
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## Interest is appreciated

To the editor:

A few days ago, it was my privilege to be interviewed by Loraine McClish concerning some highlights of my career as an attorney at law and as a citizen.

The interview resulted in a masterful condensation of some of my activities over the past many years. Your article appeared in the Feb. 9 edition of the Farmington Observer.

I am gratefully appreciative of your interest and of the Farmington Observer's yielding space to take note of your efforts.

I hope I may so live as to warrant your conclusions.

It was a privilege to meet and talk with your photographer, Randy Borst. My best regards to each of you.

Wendall Brown,  
Farmington Hills

## Proposal won't lessen diversity

To the editor:

I read with interest Mr. Barnaby's article in the Eccentric on Feb. 12, but would like to outline some basic facts about my English Language Amendment, and my intentions behind it.

I would like to point out from the outset that my amendment, H.J. Res. 13, is

not directed against any particular group, add would not, in any way, violate or diminish our nation's cultural diversity. I welcome the arrival of new peoples from around the world and believe they serve to strengthen our nation in many ways.

It would not prevent bilingualism on the part of any American, and it would still allow educational programs designed to assist immigrant children in their assimilation to exist.

In addition, I also support the efforts of all Americans to learn foreign languages. It is clear that if the United States wants to maintain its competitiveness in the world today, Americans must be able to communicate with others in their language.

However, my amendment would serve to provide our country with timely insurance against a divided America which could no longer call itself the "Melting Pot." My ancestors, as well as many others, have entered this country, learned our language, and became assimilated into the American experience, without losing their cultural identity.

Unfortunately, many immigrants, if they choose, can successfully live in the United States and participate in the nation's life without learning English. This is largely due to the existence of state and federally mandated programs, government publications, and ballots, that are in languages other than English.

The legal protection of English, which is our country's language by tradition only, would insure that all Americans share a common means of communication, and would help preserve the unity in diversity that 200 years of history have delicately created. Promoting the legalization of other languages, such as Spanish, would create a virtual language apartheid system. It would also be unfair to the millions of immigrants from other nations that came here and learned English.

My English Language Amendment recognizes the importance that English plays in our national life and simply attempts to insure that citizenship includes an understanding of the most basic skill of communication which unites us as Americans.

William Broomfield,  
U.S. representative  
18th District

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