

points of view

More letters to the editor.

Proposal A
way off base

To the editor:
I read with disappointment your recent editorial endorsement of Proposal A.

This 12 percent increase in the state sales tax should be overwhelmingly rejected by voters for two specific reasons:

• First, there is no clear correlation between increased taxes and quality education.

In fact, while education funding was increasing during the 1960s and 1970s, test scores for school students were declining.

Also, in exchange for an increase in our taxes, we are being promised improved quality in education.

Yet, the actual proposal contains no specific reforms in our public education system. It does not provide for educational choice. It does nothing to improve the quality of public education.

• Second, and more important, Proposal A calls for an increase in very regressive tax. The sales tax hurts those who are least able to afford it: the poor, the working class.

If an argument can be made for a tax increase, then it should have been an increase in the state income tax.

For these two reasons, I urge voters to vote no on Proposal A.

David Lambert, president,
Oakland County
Young Republicans
Farmington Hills

Tupper a
caring man

To the editor:

On Oct. 19, I saw Mayor Richard Tupper of Farmington for the first time. I saw a man who not only tries to run a city, but also finds the time for the Goodfellows.

In short, he takes the time to care for those in need. We need more men like him.

There are no promises or guarantees in life. Many people have found that out through personal tragedies and major tragedies shared by others.

The city of Farmington Hills plans for the year 2000, yet, before the sun comes up, I wonder how many people will have died their lives so they wouldn't see tomorrow, or how many people wish nighttime will never end, or the go to bed hungry, with very little clothing, and no place to call home.

The city of Farmington Hills is pushing for a code of ethics. The most unethical act is not to care about our fellow man.

Thank God for people like Tupper — for there is hope.

Vernon C. Kleplaski,
Farmington Hills

League backs
library issues

To the editor:

On Nov. 7, voters in Farmington and Farmington Hills will be asked to decide two issues affecting the Farmington Community Library: a \$14.5-million bond issue and a 1.5-mill operating tax for 20 years.

The League of Women Voters West Bloomfield-Farmington Area recognizes that increased use by residents of the library district has resulted in demands on the two branches, their staff and the services provided — demands that can best be addressed by passage of the bond issue and operating millage.

The bond issue would permit construction, replacing the current Farmington Hills branch with a new main building to serve the two cities.

In addition, it will allow repairs and capital improvements to the building on Liberty Street in Farmington. The operating millage will provide adequate funding for operation of the library district.

The League of Women Voters supports "adequate, dependable, sustained and equitable financing for servicing, staffing and construction of libraries to meet the informational, educational and recreational needs of the community."

The League of Women Voters urges all voters to participate in the Nov. 7 election. It urges a "yes" vote on the bond issue and operating millage questions to ensure continuation of the high quality of library services now provided by the Farmington Community Library.

Deborah Maccon, president,
League of Women Voters
West Bloomfield-Farmington Area

Thanks to
city board

To the editor:

Hill and Dale Garden Club, a member of the Federated Garden Clubs of Michigan Inc., and the Na-

tional Council of State Garden Clubs, whose goals include civic beautification, would like to commend the Farmington Hills Beautification Commission for promoting civic beautification with the presentation of plaques and certificates to the winners of their civic beautification contest.

This was, indeed a positive way to encourage businesses and other civic groups to improve our little corner of the world.

Thanks also to the Farmington Observer for giving the awards presentation first-section billing, bringing this important project to the community's attention.

Joan Moran, president,
Hill and Dale Garden Club
Farmington

Cruce says
no to A & B

To the editor:

On Tuesday, Nov. 7, the voters of this state will go to the polls to vote on two proposals to increase the sales tax.

In an effort to assist the voters of Oakland County, I have prepared a list of definitions of commonly used words and phrases used by increase proponents:

Tax Shift: Tax Oakland residents then shift the money to another county.

Equity: For all Michigan residents except Oakland. See tax shift. Oakland County residents look under "Shift."

Is not an increase: A \$400 million dollar tax increase.

2 cent increase: Multiply \$400 million by 4.

Guarantee: Something that sounds good, means nothing, and is protected by the right to free speech.

Proposal A: A proposal that will drain \$40 million a year out of Oakland County in return for a warm and fuzzy feeling.

Proposal B: A proposal that will drain \$100 million out of Oakland County the first year and \$150 million per year by the third year.

I'm too busy to vote: A tax increase you will be paying the rest of your life.

Doug Cruce,
state senator,
R-Troy

Chipping in for common good

BUSINESS SOMETIMES gets a bad rap for being what it is — business. The connotation is that it is cold and profit-driven, with little concern for the human side of life.

Of course, most of this isn't true. Many businesses in our suburbs and elsewhere strongly back the United Way and urge their employees to participate, rally for holiday and emergency giving, and on a very local level can be counted on to take out at in the high school yearbook or to donate merchandise or food for that PTA potluck.

I was struck by three recent examples of area business contributing in various ways to the common good:

• Blockbuster Video, with locations throughout our suburbs, from Garden City to Auburn Hills, now has available without charge 40 videos focusing on real-life issues such as substance abuse, crime and personal health in a new community service section.

Some are for kids, ranging from "When Mom and Dad Break Up," to "Home Alone" — a way for kids to learn what to do in an emergency and fun ways to spend their time — to "Where Did I Come From?"

Teens can get the lowdown on college from "College Survival Guide" and on love through "How Can I Tell If I'm Really In Love?"

Adults have a variety of options from "Radon: A Homeowner's Guide" to "Breast Self-Examination" to "CPR — The Way to Save Lives."

"They decided to be a little different, to set aside these videos, to be



Judith Doner
Berne

closer to the communities," said Blockbuster spokeswoman Carolyn Hakes.

The community service videos are available free for three days to members of local Blockbuster clubs. Memberships are free, but must be secured with a major credit card and driver's license.

Community organizations that have made videos and would like more people to see them can also apply to have them put into the Blockbuster free library on a rotating basis, Hakes said.

• Bob Saks Motormall-Jeep/Eagle and its employees have given a homeless couple the 1976 van in which they had secretly been living in the Farmington Hills dealership's back parking lot.

"Most people don't think of car dealers as places with much of a heart," said sales manager Steve Radulovich.

"The initial reaction was to call the police and get them out of here," Radulovich acknowledged. "Then we realized that our employees were sneaking food back to them and kind of adopted them."

The dealership and its employees raised \$400 for the van and a six-month insurance premium, discounted through Tim Little of All-State Insurance in Canton. The couple was also given \$200 to spend.

"No transportation and no job — that's not a prerequisite for success," Radulovich said. "They got themselves a fresh start."

• On a slightly different tack, the new logo of the Birmingham-Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce is designed to mend some fences as well as promote that community's business district.

The logo — which depicts both a business and residential skyline — gives equal play to the residential and commercial districts, two areas that have waged turf wars in the not-so-distant past.

The logo was designed to show the interdependence of the two, said Karen Bala, who has made substantial changes in the direction of the chamber since she became executive director in April, 1988.

"It sums up what we're about," she said. "Our goal is to promote economic stability and balanced community growth. To keep the community healthy, we need both sides working together."

Yes.

Judith Doner Berne is assistant managing editor for the Oakland County editions of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.

Parent/teacher talks: valuable

I don't usually write questions to newspapers but my wife is quite upset because our parent/teacher conference is coming up and I am not going to be able to attend. My daughter is in the sixth grade and I have attended some conferences when she was in elementary school. My wife usually updates me as to what occurred at the conference. I have an other commitment on the night of the conference and do not want to miss it. I'm not sure that going to every conference is necessary. Maybe I am off base and am feeling guilty. In any case, I don't think it is necessary to attend every conference for your child. Am I right?

Yes it is important to attend your child's parent/teacher conference for several reasons. When your daughter wakes up the morning after the conference one of her peers is going to ask her if her parents were at the conference last night. She will say no. My dad had more important business.



Doc
Doyle

Certainly, after a few years, parents do gain a general pattern of what teachers say about their child — whether the child is an all A student or a C student. The major issue, however, is the interest you show in your child's education by taking time from your schedule to subliminally pass on to her that she is most important in your life.

Parent/teacher conferences have a certain pattern. At the elementary school level, attendance tends to be near maximum. At the middle school level parent attendance drops a bit then tends to fall off at the high school level. Unfortunately, it is at

the high school level where teachers desperately need to see certain parents who are no-shows.

Indeed, the real tragedy of parent/teacher conferences is the parents who don't show up. Candidly, the standard comment in the teacher's lounges the day after the conference is that those parents that you least need to see show up and those parents that you most need to see don't show up. A direct correlation exists between parents of children who show up and parents of children who don't show up.

Generally, children of parents who don't show up have more academic and social adjustment problems.

Dr. James Doyle is an assistant superintendent in the Troy School District. The answers provided here are the opinions of Doyle and not the Troy School District. Questions for this column should be sent to Doc Doyle c/o the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 38251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150.

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