

from our readers

She supports our troops in Persian Gulf

To the editor:
At a time when the men and women in our armed forces are facing their greatest test, we at home are facing a test as well. Our test is to maintain our unity and resolve, as our troops are doing in the Persian Gulf.
We don't want Saddam Hussein to take this country's tolerance for anti-war demonstrators as a signal he should wait out our resolve in a long and bloody war.
I'm outraged at the brutal treatment of our POWs. And I'm saddened to see the media give so much attention to the small number of anti-war protesters who have sprung into action. It seems that every time

a few protesters pick up their signs, the cameras swarm around them, and they end up on the news.
Our soldiers have said that they have a job to do and are going to get it done. I feel I have a job to do, too. And that's to stand up in strong support of our troops.
I want them to know that I and the American people are very proud of them. We are all inspired by their bravery.

I hope that you'll print my letter, and others like it, in the days ahead. Thousands of local American newspapers are reaching our men and women in uniform every day. Your newspaper may be one of them. I want the troops to know that we hold them in our thoughts and prayers every day.
Please let the public and Saddam Hussein know there are lots of positive backers of our troops and president.

Nancy Passfield,
Farmington Hills

Weed out deadwood

To the editor:
It's about time we stopped throwing money at the Farmington school system, because that alone won't work.

The answer to better education is better teaching. The first thing that should be done is do away with the tenure system.
I started as a student in the Farmington system in 1939. We had some inept teachers when I was a student and, believe it or not, one or more of them are still there. We've got to weed out the deadwood, not keep it as a permanent legacy.

The easiest way, and probably the most accurate, is to have each student, each semester, make out a report card on each of their teachers. Of course, it has to be anonymous. Just because a teacher knows his

subject or has tenure, it doesn't mean he's a good teacher.
If there ever is to be a system that works in the best interests of the students, it has to start with good teachers and good teaching. Money doesn't weed out deadwood, nor does it instill a sense of ethics into the teaching system.

Kenneth Kemp,
Farmington Hills

Reader is frustrated over election

To the editor:
As I drive to work this morning, the day after the millage loss, I am feeling a combination of anger and frustration.

Anger at that "nattering nabob of negativism," Richard Headlee, who sold this election defeat to senior citizens the same way he sells insurance.

Pay while you are young when you need protection (for your children are in school) then forget about the future when you get older.

This is the way it works with life insurance, but unfortunately, not with schools.

I would like to know what Headlee spent on full-page ads and vans for senior citizens to save himself \$40,000 in taxes. Unfortunately, we will never know because, unlike the school board and most of the rest of us, Headlee is not accountable to anyone on this earth.

I am also feeling frustration because, although I have not seen the final vote tally and I know the turnout was significant, I am certain that it was not higher than 20 percent of the registered voters (with slightly over 10 percent making the ultimate decision).

As president of the North Farmington High School Booster Club, I begged people to get out and vote.

As former chairman of the Farmington Hills Committee to Increase Voter Participation, I begged people to get out and vote.

THERE ARE far more parents of children in this city than voted. Where were they? We have young men and women, not much older than the children in the Persian Gulf so that our children may continue to go to school and grow up free and with opportunity.

But the non-voters' time or their favorite TV show was too important to get them out to vote.

I am also frustrated by the silence and mismanagement of the campaign by the School Board. There should have been special meetings all over the community prior to the campaign.

There should have been cable-cast programs (in fact, all School Board meetings should be cable-cast) explaining the facts behind the recapitulated state-aid, behind the budget and the true facts necessary to respond to Headlee's misleading advertisements.

Finally, I am frustrated by the attitude of the Observer. When the

very future of our schools and the quality of life in Farmington Hills is at stake, the Observer takes a hands-off, lukewarm approach.

Maybe this is understandable since it was Headlee that bought the full page advertisements, not the school board, or maybe this is explainable because the Observer seems to revel in highlighting "old Farmington" stories, historical features, passive parks, etc., while ignoring "new Farmington Hills," active children's activities, etc.

I moved to Farmington Hills 15 years ago because of its progressive school system, its bright outlook, its growing population and its hope for the future. Votes like yesterday make me question that decision.

David L. Haron,
Farmington Hills

Editor's note: The writer of the above letter might be interested to know that:

1. The voter turnout in the recent school millage election was 21 percent.

2. While millage-foe Richard Headlee did purchase advertising in this newspaper, so did millage supporters.

Did doctor lead us out of darkness?

To the editor:
Judge Alice Gilbert, in her 34-page opinion on the Kevorkian proceedings, quoted moralists ad nauseum.

From the bench she said that Dr. Kevorkian believed he led us out of the darkness. He put the issue of physician-aid-in-dying on the world table. We are talking about the issue.

Polis show that most people think that Jack Kevorkian did lead us out of the darkness. He put the issue of physician-aid-in-dying on the world table. We are talking about the issue.

Janet Good,
Farmington Hills

War in Gulf leads to student's poem

"Soldier's Eagle"

By Darren Spilman
special writer

The American Eagle takes off in beautiful flight. Strong wings spread wide, it pushes with all its might. It soars and soars as high as it can go. It may never see this land again, and this it knows. Its calling is strong, it doesn't turn around. By duty it must travel where battle sounds, its head held straight it flies ahead. Thoughts of war awakening, Thoughts of home, put to bed. Being pulled by duty, held back by fear. Using pride and might to stop a shedding tear. The night is pure black as it travels until day. Where the first light is a grim blackish-gray. As it looks farther ahead in the hope for light, It sees no change with all its powerful sight.

The war has turned day into an eternal night.

The eagle sees the soldier, before the soldier sees it. Then the soldier looks up and their gazes fit. Suddenly the soldier is filled with joy.

The eagle knows he's a young American boy. They study each other for quite some time. Until the soldier is given orders to take his place in line. The eagle flies along as he marches ahead. Not one word does he mutter, nor turn his head.

Some other men are singing that Star Spangled song. As they march a distance about four miles long. At the end of their journey they set up camp. Lookouts are posted, no lights or lamps. One of the lookouts is the eagle's friend. Who as he searches the night sky is startled within.

When he looks into the sky he sees an eagle is flying around. Could it be the same eagle, he's sure once their gazes are found.

He trusts the eagle and knows they're on the same side. The eagle sees approaching men trying to hide.

The men are moving fast in the shadows of the night. As a warning to his friend the eagle shrieks with all its might. Shocked the soldier looks down and around.

Until the soldier in distance approaching shapes on the ground. He signals with a siren of approaching men.

The soldiers are awakened and the fighting begins. They fight through the night and all the next day. And then the eagle remembers that it can't stay.

It must do what it originally came here to do. And quickly while any light in the sky shines through.

The eagle came because it had to know. Was there peace in the sky, high or low?

It made its descent toward the sandy ground. And perched on top of an American tent it could see around.

The eagle looked and let its eyesight flow. For any sign of bright light that the sun would again show.

It looked beyond the sand, beyond mountainsides. Where it had left behind the sun but not to die.

And then in the distance he could see that shining ball. The sun was on its way, there would be peace after all.

Acquiring the vision it had come to see. It was now the great eagle's time to leave.

It set into flight and began to fly. Searching the lines for his good friend's eye.

The soldier saw the eagle and waved goodbye. In return the eagle sang its beautiful cry.

And as it flew away there was new light in the sky.

The writer is a 17-year-old junior at North Farmington High School. He said he was moved to write the poem while listening to the National Anthem on the radio.

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WHENEVER THERE'S A MARRIAGE, FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS WANT TO KNOW ALL ABOUT THE NEW COUPLE.

The formation of the new Grace Hospital has caused quite a bit of excitement in the greater Detroit area. Everyone is eager to know about the marriage and what they can expect from the new hospital. We would like to take this opportunity to answer some of the questions that have arisen.

Q
A

What hospitals are uniting to form the new Grace Hospital?

The new Grace Hospital is a result of the combination of physical units and services of Mount Carmel Mercy and Grace Hospitals. The new Grace Hospital will be moving to the newly renovated Mount Carmel building at Outer Drive and Schaefer, allowing us to continue our health care commitment to the city of Detroit. The hospitals will officially join together on April 1, 1991.

Q
A

How will the greater Detroit community benefit from this consolidation?

Mount Carmel had experienced financial difficulties and would have closed, thus reducing access to health care and causing the loss of jobs. Grace Hospital's facilities were outdated, and the need to expand several of its programs required the addition of building space. Renovation and expansion of the existing Grace facility would have been very expensive. The new Grace Hospital, Mount Carmel's larger building was the ideal way to solve these problems and eliminate costly, unnecessary beds.

Q
A

What advantages to the community does Grace's membership in The Detroit Medical Center (DMC) offer?

As a member of The Detroit Medical Center and a teaching hospital for Wayne State University School of Medicine, Grace offers the experience of the other member

Q
A

hospitals, the newest technology, access to the latest medical research, and top quality physicians. In turn, we pass this knowledge and experience on to our patients.

What improvements can I expect at the new Grace Hospital?

In addition to being part of the DMC, we are increasing the improvement of programs and services at new Grace including expansion of the emergency room and a newly renovated obstetrics unit. A full range of family services will be offered in our obstetrics, gynecology, specialties in many different areas will provide for state-of-the-art diagnosis and treatment of serious illnesses such as cancer and heart and kidney disease.

Q
A

Will the new obstetrics unit offer a full range of birthing options?

Yes, including 11 labor delivery recovery of 111 rooms, almost double the number now available. These private suites will provide a home-like, comfortable environment for the delivery of a baby. Additional advanced birth care facilities are being added for high risk pregnancies, making Grace the community's hospital of choice for mothers-to-be.

Q
A

Will the new Grace Hospital continue Mount Carmel's religious affiliation?

Grace Hospital will have an active pastoral care department and the chapel will remain open to provide services for all denominations. However, Grace Hospital will not be a religiously affiliated organization.

As the move progresses, The Detroit Medical Center is looking for a suitable location for the building at "Mile and Mercy" in the mean time, the grounds will continue to be maintained, secured and well lit. We realize that the consolidation will create more questions as it progresses and we will continue to address questions as they arise. If you would like more information concerning the new Grace Hospital, please contact us at (313) 961-6288.



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