

from our readers

Mayor did a great job

To the editor:
It is a pleasure to acknowledge the efforts of Aldo Vaggonzi, mayor of Farmington Hills, for his assistance in correcting a local street paving problem.
He was instrumental in correlating the efforts of City Manager William Costick and his associates, Messrs. Russell and Zorra, in restoring a section of Arden to its previous condition before the sewer construction. We look forward to a completed job.

Edward Fairchild,
Farmington Hills

Remember the cause

To the editor:
Why the front page treatment for Patrick Anderson?
When speaking as private citizens, economists belong back in the pack. A lot of time is being wasted quibbling about whether the recycling charge is a fee or a tax.
The cause is good; the service so far is excellent and the charge is quite reasonable.

Iain Scott,
Farmington Hills

Thanks to all who helped

To the editor:
On behalf of the Farmington High school booster club, I would like to thank more than 100 area businesses for advertising in this year's sports book.
The proceeds will help bolster the academic and sports programs here in Farmington High school. Your support is one of the many ways that businesses and residents cooperate to make our community a special place to live.

Laura Myers,
Farmington

Get used to the cuts

To the editor:
After years of bus service from in front of the house or the nearest corner all the way to the school, it is understandable that parents whose children now have to walk to the neighborhood school or to a collection point are up in arms against the board of education for reducing per-pupil service.
Apparently, it took a millage defeat with a consequent loss in revenue to force the board to do the right thing: stop spending quality education tax dollars on private academy transportation.
Whatever the motivation, the board has corrected an abuse of public money. Members deserve support and encouragement to stay the

course without defensiveness, without apologies.
In the future with further reductions in legalized local funding, it will be essential that the board come to the taxpayers with a clean record of spending money prudently.
It cannot do so by appeasing parents whose letters were mentioned at a recent meeting, one complaining that the child now must walk past 11 houses instead of three and another that the child can no longer be seen waiting for the bus.

Lawrence Nibleit,
Farmington Hills

Preserve the graveyards

To the editor:
I notice the graveyards in the Farmington area are well-preserved.
I read the historical marker at Shawassee and Raphael about the Potawatomi tribe that once lived here. There are two sacred burial grounds. One is at Drake and 12 Mile, the other at GRI Road and Nine Mile.
With all the construction around, I hope the city planners will preserve these holy places.

Virginia M. Mitchell,
Farmington Hills

Teacher pay is excessive

To the editor:
Appreciated and yet was amused by Phil Power's editorial on Thursday, Sept. 12 (Fear of Change Detours Year-Round School Idea). Mr. Power's message referred to the lack of money to extend the school year beyond 180 days. Money is tight, but the public is finally becoming very aware of the excessive salaries we are paying teachers.
With the average teacher salary of \$38,000 per year (\$210 per day) and many teachers in the \$50,000 plus range (\$277 per day) it is quite apparent that salaries have grown too fast.

Now, with the mention of year-round schools, teacher union leaders are crying that more pay would be in order, if such would occur. My hope is that tax-payers will continue to realize that our public school teachers are being paid excessively and it is time to back our local school boards who are attempting to control their salaries. Please give them your support.

Tim Bower,
Royal Oak

A night on the town in Detroit

To the editor:
We cordially invite you and a significant other to join us and some of our friends for an evening in Detroit. We would like you to join us for dinner and entertainment at a few

places in the city.
We are suburbanites who hear about the violent crime in Detroit and hear little or nothing being done about it. We wonder how dangerous Detroit is. Is it safe enough for you to join us? We expect you would come without your guns, bodyguards and special police protection of course?
R.S.V.P.
P.S. Dutch treat.

Maureen and Ronald Marion,
Plymouth

Freedom of religion must be ensured

To the editor:
As Orthodox Christians we are outraged at the deafening silence by our government officials and news media over the five-day siege of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Istanbul, Aug. 25-29, by Moslem extremists.

The Ecumenical Patriarchate is the spiritual See of more than 250 million Orthodox Christians worldwide. It is not a local Turkish institution and this act was not a local matter.
The issue which precipitated the blockade, the appointment of a local Muslim in Greece, is one between the government of Greece and the Moslem minority of northeastern Greece who are Greek citizens. The Greek government is responsible concerning this issue and not the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Why has there been no protest to the Turkish government by our leaders and representatives over the mistreatment of the Ecumenical Patriarchate which has been there since Apostolic times?
This issue must be addressed. Turkey must be reminded of its responsibilities of ensuring the religious freedom of all its citizens and must not allow political issues to reflect falsely on its religious institutions.
Stella Z. Pappas,
Bloomfield Hills

Bush all wet on wetlands

To the editor:
Wetlands are transitional zones between open water and dry land, making them unique habitats for a variety of fish and wildlife. President Bush should not redefine wetlands.
We are losing wetlands at such an alarming rate that the loss is adversely affecting flooding in your neighborhood.
Wetlands maintain and improve water quality of our rivers, estuaries, and other water bodies. They do this by retaining nutrients and processing chemical and organic wastes.

Michael T. Nadelty, D.O.,
29200 Vassar, Suite 800, Livonia

ies, and other water bodies. They do this by retaining nutrients and processing chemical and organic wastes.
Bush promised "no net loss of wetlands." This promise must be kept, so that we do not lose one of our most valuable and perhaps irreplaceable resources.

Jasnet Wolan,
Plymouth

Adoption is an option to abortion

To the editor:
I have always been one to believe in pro-choice, but certain circumstances have made me look into this more deeply.

But there are some things that are more important than a woman's right. That is the right of that unborn child.
The woman who has an abortion is once in a while a victim of rape or incest, but most of the time it is someone that just didn't take precautions or just wasn't careful enough.

The woman may say, "Well I don't have the money to have a child." Maybe she should have thought about that before. In that case there are many people who would love to have children but can't. Let those people have a chance instead of being selfish because of an inconvenience that was caused by you in the first place. Abortion is not a form of birth control, but these days that's the way most people feel about it.

Jennifer Pheley,
Canton

Opinions are to be shared

Opinions and ideas are best when shared with others.
That's why the Farmington Observer encourages its readers to share their views with others in the From Our Readers column.

Submitting a letter to the editor for publication is easy. Letters should be typewritten or printed legibly and kept to 300 words. Letters must be signed and include the address of the sender.
Names will be withheld only for the best of reasons, and the decision to do so will be made by the editor.

Letters should be mailed to: the editor, The Farmington Observer, 21898 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336.

points of view

Who reads ads or news these days

WE WERE THE first family in our neighborhood to have television, because it was critical to my dad's work in advertising. And the kids who gathered round our set to watch "Howdy Doody" and "Tom Corbett, Space Cadet" were happy to sign the agreement, figuratively speaking, that they had to be quiet for the commercials, too.

Despite growing up in an advertising family, a recent Friday night was the first time I had ever attended the annual Caddy Award Show, which for 17 years has honored the best advertising created in metro-Detroit.

It was exciting, even for an on-looker, as the gowned and oiled, smiling crowd made its way into the grandeur of the Fox Theatre.

For most of the 2,000 mainly creative types attending, it was a night to be in. These days, much of the metro Detroit advertising community is peppered across the suburbs, with the creative juices spilling primarily from Southfield, Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills and Troy.

As you may know, Best of Show went to Campbell-Mithun-Easy, Southfield, for their "Everyday Life" spread developed for Chrysler Corp., under the agency's former creative director, Michael Bellitos. Bellitos has since been wooed away by Young & Rubicam, Detroit.

I ATTENDED THE Caddies as a member of the press. But with a father, two brothers and a son "in the business," as they say, people have often asked why I didn't go the advertising route.

I guess I just didn't want to make that much money.
More seriously, the Caddy Awards brought home that the reasons for choosing journalism over advertising are probably less distinct than they were when I made that decision.

As a journalist, you're your own person, not beholden to anybody. I always said, you get to write the truth — inform people about what's really going on. You don't have a client watching over your shoulder. And you don't invent reasons why one banana, for example, is better than another — when they may come from the same grove.

That's still true — mostly.
But when I went into journalism, people still got their news from newspapers, most major cities had at least two competing papers, and the very notion of a Joint Opera-



Judith Doner Berne

ting Agreement in a two-newspaper city would have been laughed out of the newborn.

Back then, kids regularly went to the public library so they would have something exciting to read when they got home from school. So when they became an adult, reading a news story that ran long enough to say something was not foreign to them.

WHAT I'M SAYING, I guess, is that newspapers, not just advertising agencies, must think long and hard these days about what sells — in one case, a particular product(s), in our case, what sells our community newspapers.

USA Today revolutionized the ways newspapers present themselves. But it was a revolution waiting to happen for a public that has easier ways to get information. I'm not saying it's all bad. It's reacting to reality. But it does narrow the gap I used to see between what I do and what other members of my family do.

Journalists still strive to tell the story, both sides of the story. And advertising, obviously, only has to give one side.

But at Friday's Caddies, the sense of pride and worth in their creative work was clear among the copy writers, art directors, creative directors and producers responsible for the honored commercials. That's the same pride we have in putting out a prize-winning story or issue.

And the same sense of frustration that the members of the newsroom often have was articulated by Jack Frales, at the top of the hierarchy of creativity for Ross Roy, Bloomfield Hills.

Frales, one of the judges, noted the overall level of creative work was not as high as in recent years. "I think that maybe the effects of budget cuts and staff reductions are finally being realized in the creative product."

Yes, that gap is narrowing.

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

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In the care of your arthritis, you may reach a point where all reasonable therapies failed. Either medication did not work, side effects necessitated stopping the drug, or you needed some relief, but not enough to keep you reasonably pain-free. If you have rheumatoid arthritis, the experience can be as follows: You started on aspirin, but pain continued in your hands or feet. Other drugs did no better, and caused an upset stomach. You returned to aspirin and your doctor added gold. You improved, but protein in your urine required you to stop gold. You went on methylprednisone but your blood count dropped too low to continue the drug. Your physician tried other compounds but these drugs did not help. Now your feet hurt all the time despite pads, injections and careful choice of shoes. Your fingers are painful, but the hand surgeon recommends waiting because you are too young for hand-joint transplants and your fingers are "not bad enough" for salvage surgery.
At this point your choices are anger accompanied by suffering, or acceptance with the goal of accommodation. Medically, your only choice is accommodation. Evaluate your general health, assistance from others, and the possibility of work. Then set a course that makes best use of these assets.

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