

LETTERS

Thanks for story

Thanks for the great coverage of Sister of Mercy Dianna Kichian's bicycling tour in Farmington Focus on Monday, Aug. 24. Your article was concise, well written and contained some of the facts I neglected to write in my news release. I appreciate the positive description of today's nun. So many of the Mercy nuns break the stereotypical mold, and one of my goals is to promote this contemporary image. Kathleen Barrett, director of communications, Sisters of Mercy

Teaching standards

Being a parent of four children in the Farmington Public Schools, I have outwardly supported our excellent school board and administration, as well as the many fine teachers and support personnel that strive to educate our most prized possessions, our children. I have always placed teachers on the highest pedestal for their tolerance, patience and determination in educating our youngsters, despite the many obstacles that work to detract from their mission. I have consistently supported varying styles of teaching, evaluating and disciplining not necessarily in agreement of every style but as a learning experience for my children in order to be better prepared to tolerate similar situations later in life. Teachers' assignments and disciplinary measures are never criticized in my home. Instead I encourage my children to look at them positively as challenges, putting their whole heart into everything that they do, in an effort to achieve the very best results possible. I was appalled to hear of the many teachers and support staff wearing demerit buttons when my children arrived today for their first day of school. I ask those teachers can, as we expect our children to, be putting their whole heart into what they are doing, when part of their heart is being covered by buttons criticizing our fine and

dedicated school board. What kind of responsible examples are we showing our children when people who deserve the highest respect behave so unprofessionally? I cannot accept the answer given by some personal "the MEA has asked us to wear these." At a time when harmonious parent and community support and participation are becoming an ever increasing necessity in effective education, actions such as I have described will certainly deter from this goal. The question is not "Are you satisfied with your contract?" The question is: "Are you upholding the highest professional standards once you walk through the school doors and meet our children?" Steve Kaplan, Farmington Hills

Water 'victims'?

Our front page story "Water main flows into hearing" on Aug. 20 reported on water problems for residents of Bildestone Woods. My heart goes out to these people, some want a water main and some don't, while Oakland County says the water presents no health hazard. We are victims of a similar situation in a nearby subdivision where both sewer and water are being installed for a small number of homes — 10 to be exact, where six families favored the construction and four opposed it. Here again there was no demonstrated health hazard to mandate the construction. The overall majority of the subdivision opposed the construction, but the city elected to gerrymander off an area of 10 homes, where a majority of one could be secured. Using figures supplied by the city of Farmington Hills, we estimate total cost to the average homeowner for this project to be well over \$40,000 if paid over the permitted 15-year period. This is exorbitant in relation to the questionable benefits to be received. The city should not fragment subdivisions in this way when dealing with major improvements. Maybe it's legal, but it certainly isn't fair, and I hope the Bildestone resi-

dents don't meet the same fate. Aside from the cost in dollars, there is the real and grievous damage to the landscape. Residents should not be swayed by the city staff promises that trees will be respected, and the construction will be on the other side of the right-of-way. They can't back up such guarantees. Damage to our trees has been irreparable due to the seemingly wanton disregard on the part of the construction crews. We hope others don't have to be subjected to this unnecessary abuse. Mary K. Hurd, Farmington Hills

A Clinton fan

Barbarn Bush addresses the Republican Convention, asking that abortion be left out of politics. Mary Fischer asks greater efforts to combat AIDS. That's all great. But these are not the people voting on legislation. It's a wonder to me how Bush and Quayle and Engler have the nerve to talk about "progress" when in fact it's been their policies which have turned vital industrial centers, like Flint and Saginaw and Ypsilanti (remember Willow Run) and even Detroit into virtual ghost towns with unemployment above 30 percent, and a proportionate increase in violent crime. Addressing the Republican convention is former Republican President Reagan, who has accepted millions of dollars from Japanese interests. The Bush family has also been implicated in the savings and loan scandal, as well as having accepted substantial monies from Japanese interests. At a time when we need tax policies which encourage local industry and promote jobs, it's no wonder why our jobs are going to Japan and Mexico under the administrations of Bush and Quayle and Engler. I am supporting Clinton and Gore and local Macomb County Prosecutor Carl Marlingo. Robert L. Hamburger, Farmington Hills

Bill is 15 years too late

This great country is going broke because many of our large and small companies have gone broke because many of our people have gone broke because they lost their jobs because of excessive imports over the past decade or two under little or no control. Even longstanding, traditional big-name companies are now importing their products under the same name and logo as formerly used for products manufactured here in the U.S.A. Many of our imports, from automobiles to micro-dots, are being subsidized by the exporting countries, often at lower than cost prices. If we are supposed to have dedicated elected officials in government representing us, where have they been? Is Open Trade supposed to be the same as Fair Trade? Is Fair Trade really Fair Trade? A recent "constituent letter" from our astute Senator Riegle states that in January of this year he introduced a bill, S.2145, to assure mutually advantageous international trade in automobiles and auto parts. Big Deal! Fifteen years too late and only single product oriented! Anthony Brehler, Livonia

Reached for a star

Now that it is over, and I, along with other teary-eyed and once hopeful candidates are pondering the issue of how best to dispose of the now useless piles of signs and residual promotion material, there is cause to pause and reflect upon the events of the past few months. Failure to achieve a goal, capture an ideal, fulfill a dream, reach for a star, can hardly be considered among the tragedies of life. The real tragedies lie in not having a goal to achieve, an ideal to capture, a dream to be fulfilled, and no stars to reach for. We reached for a star. While we did not get the star, what I got was some-

thing much more valuable and assuredly worthy of the effort. I got friends who willingly and graciously loaned me their names, extended their hands, donated their time, provided their knowledge, and gave me all the support any candidate for office could possibly wish for. It is for this that I am inexpressibly grateful, and it is to those to whom I express my very sincere and everlasting thanks. The polls fall short in telling the entire story. I really came out of this election the winner — in the true sense of the word: I am the one who found new friends and friendships. Alice L. Gilbert, West Bloomfield

Keith criticized

Wayne County has the highest malpractice insurance rate per hospital bed of any county in the U.S. This is higher than Cook County, Illinois; Los Angeles County, California; Dade County, Florida; or anywhere else in the Western Hemisphere. The costs for this insurance coverage is of course ultimately borne by the consumer — anyone in our community who has the misfortune to be sick. In spite of this outrageous state of affairs, our Michigan Representative, William Keith has voted to oppose the Michigan Liability Reform Package represented by Senate Bill 249. His vote was in fact the deciding vote. Had he voted in favor of discharge from the Judiciary Committee, this bill would have gone to the House of Representatives for favorable action. John Morrison Jr., D.O., Garden City

Opinions are to be shared: We welcome your ideas, as do your neighbors. That's why we offer this space on a weekly basis for opinions in your own words. We will help by editing for clarity. To assure authenticity, we ask that you sign your letter and provide a contact telephone number. Letters should be mailed to: Editor, The Farmington Observer, 21898 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336.

Advertisement for 'The Biggest Growth Business in 20 years' featuring GOLF. Includes text about investment and contact information: Free Literature & Video Tape, Call 1-800-393-1084 ext. 25

Advertisement for Labor Day AUCTION. Features: Beautiful Antiques, Fine Quality Furniture, Dining Room Table, 10 Dining Room Chairs, etc. Includes contact info: Matsel's Galleries, Inc., 815 Woodward Ave.

Large advertisement for Hagopian Cleaning Services. Headline: "Clean is clean is clean". Services include: ANY ROOM PLUS ONE HALL* \$39.95, ANY 5 ROOMS PLUS ONE HALL* \$99.95, 6' SOFA OR 2 CHAIRS* \$49.95. Contact: To Schedule Cleaning, Call 399-2323.

Large advertisement for WALLSIDE WINDOW. Headline: NOBODY, BUT NOBODY GUARANTEES THEIR WINDOWS LIKE... WALLSIDE. Features: 35-YEAR FREE IN-HOME SERVICE, Vinyl Replacement Windows With Ford Glass, \$199 PER WINDOW INSTALLED. Contact: 292-4400, WALLSIDE WINDOW FACTORY & SHOWROOM.