

## POINTS OF VIEW

## Views clarified

I was sorry that my views about health care reform were misstated by a reader in last week's Observer. The reader thought I advocate a single-payer system of health-care coverage for the U.S.

In fact, though, I simply maintain that a single-payer system may eventually come to the U.S. I do not advocate a single-payer system for our country at this time.

What I do support is a tax credit for uninsured health-care expenses. I also support Medicare prescription drug coverage for senior citizens. Both of these ideas, I believe, will help those of us caught in the squeeze to make ends meet.

I hope this clarifies my position on the health-care question.

Mike Breshgold, candidate  
U.S. Congress, 11th District

## A vote for Joe

I read your article in the Oct. 13 edition of the Observer regarding Congressman Joe Knollenberg's first term as our U.S. representative.

He is doing a great job and is a conscientious legislator.

I agree with Joe Knollenberg's views regarding the need for welfare reform. Getting control of the cycle of dependency is the direction to go.

I like what he has to say about freeing rent for people in subsidized housing. We need someone like Knollenberg on the right track to welfare reform.

Karen Viazanko,  
Farmington Hills

## Some helpful info

I read the editorial page and the letters to the editor partially for information and partially for entertainment. Many people write to share their beliefs with the community with the hopes of swaying public opinion.

When writing on behalf of a group or political candidate, most people are willing to acknowledge their affiliation with that group or candidate.

I am the treasurer for the Breshgold for Congress Committee and the Vicki Barnett for State Senate Committee. Having made that disclosure, you might deduce that the probability of me voting for these two fine candidates is quite high. You might also deduce that the probability of me voting for their opponents is non-existent and you would be correct.

You might wonder why anyone would waste their time to state the obvious. The reason is simple, I read a letter from Robert L. Hallmark of Southfield explaining how Mr. Breshgold's campaign promises look like a deliberately dishonest sales pitch.

Mr. Hallmark is the treasurer for the Joe Knollenberg campaign, which he failed to disclose. Looks like Mr. Hallmark is being dishonest by not disclosing his affiliation with the Knollenberg campaign.

By the way, Mr. Hallmark, Robert Byrd is the former Senate majority leader. The current majority leader is George Mitchell. I hope this information is helpful.

By your reference to the Earthquake Relief Bill, are we to assume that Congressman Knollenberg is opposed to giving relief to victims of a natural disaster? If he is, this would be just another reason to vote for Mike Breshgold for Congress in the 11th District.

Barry L. Brickner, treasurer,  
Breshgold for Congress Committee,  
treasurer, Vicki Barnett  
for State Senate Committee

## She's for Mike

It's no wonder Joe Knollenberg saved \$150,000 in office expenses, as he claims. He never proposes anything. In fact, he has done little in Congress except to vote no.

You don't need much staff if all you do is vote no. I am one Republican who's sick and tired of Congressman No.

In fact, though, Mr. Knollenberg's staffer, Paul Weiday, was using their Congressional office last year to run a campaign for a Republican candidate for office in Nebraska.

It seems, therefore, that Mr. Knollenberg may still have too many staffers. I'm tired of Mr. Knollenberg's games. That's why I'm voting for Mike Breshgold for Congress on Nov. 8.

Christine Khami, Farmington Hills

## Mike's his man

I must object to the almost form letters apparently generated by the Joe Knollenberg campaign, challenging Congressional candidate Mike Breshgold's views on various issues.

It is obvious where the letters are coming from since at least one had a forged signature, the supposed letter writer telling Mr. Breshgold that he never wrote it.

I hope that this letter-writing campaign is not being done by Knollenberg staffers on the federal payroll.

I applaud Mr. Breshgold for arguing that a free trade policy must include an insistence that our trading partners bring up their wage rates to narrow the gap now in existence.

A free trade policy must allow us to compete without having to fight the problem of sub-standard wages such as the less than \$1 an hour in many parts of Mexico.

Our present Congressman, Mr. Knollenberg, keeps talking tough about crime but he voted against both the Brady bill and this year's crime bill. Could he have been influenced by large contributions from the National Rifle Association?

In his zeal to come across as a tight-fisted conservative, Mr. Knollenberg voted against an appropriation bill that provided for payment of social security to millions of beneficiaries.

Fortunately, Democrats and moderate Republicans in the Congress helped pass the bill so that social security beneficiaries can continue to count on a check on the third of each month.

Mr. Knollenberg again voted no on the 1993 economic recovery budget bill. If his view had prevailed, we probably would be facing an economic downturn and an increasing budget deficit.

Instead, we have a continuing economic recovery with unemployment at the lowest level in years and three

straight years of reductions in the federal deficit, no thanks to Mr. Knollenberg.

It is obvious that Mr. Breshgold has thoughtful views on the issues in the congressional campaign.

Aldo Vagnozzi, Farmington Hills

## 'Be careful'

To the citizens of Farmington Hills: Be careful! There are those among us seeking to remove members of our City Council. Be careful!

What is the purpose of the recall? Is it to remove from office those who have failed to put forth long and conscientious evaluation of the many important issues facing our city? No. Is it to remove from office those who have committed misdeeds, malfeasance of office, or wrongfully appropriated city funds? No. Is it to remove from office those who have failed to listen to and consider the position of a small but vocal group of citizens? No. It is, however, to remove from office those who dared not to adopt the position of that minority.

To demand the removal of members of our City Council in these circumstances is a travesty.

The underlying issue behind this recall effort is the proposed development at the southeast corner of 12 Mile and Middlebelt roads. What any one of us may think about this development absolutely does not matter when considering the propriety of a recall. What does matter, and what is critical to the future of our city, is whether or not we are going to adopt a method of governing ourselves which encourages honest thought and disagreement.

In representative government we do not take opinion polls of the voters on each issue and then require our representatives to vote merely to quiet the loudest voices.

Democracy is about fair play. The majority cannot rule absolutely. The minority must be provided a forum and an opportunity to try to change opinions. We must use our best judgment to elect to office those who we feel will use their best judgment after considering all of the available facts, listening to honest debate, and considering our

different interests.

Certainly, the majority of us who were either at the council meetings or watched the proceedings on cable television, concluded that the council members, regardless of their vote on this issue, dealt with this topic conscientiously. We could ask no more of our council.

We must nip this recall effort in the bud. Otherwise, the future of our city will not be left to the judgment of our City Council, but left hostage to the loudest voices among us. I urge you not to sign any recall petitions. Be careful.

Bill Elson, Farmington Hills

## They're opposed

We would like to make our voices heard regarding the Timbercrest development at 12 Mile and Middlebelt. Regardless of the spin Terry Sever chooses to put on the issue, we and many others are strongly opposed to this development.

Since the city council has chosen to ignore its constituency and support Gary Jonna, we and our neighbors will be heard in other ways. We hope Mr. Jonna and any businesses planning to locate within his development are aware of the anger and disgust shared by the citizens of this area.

We intend to boycott any and all businesses that choose to locate on this site. The boycott will be permanent, and, we sincerely believe, widespread. If we can't get your attention through the city council, Mr. Jonna, we'll do our best to get it through your pocketbook.

We would also like to comment directly to Terry Sever, who finds his semi-literacy an endearing quality. Many of us are not amused by an individual in your position pridefully describing his inability to grasp basic English word usage and syntax.

Your attempt to be disarming seems to be yet another ploy to misdirect attention from the real issue: you and five other council members violated your constituency's trust and acted counter to the strongly expressed wishes of the people who voted you into office.

Sue and Mike Curtis, Farmington Hills

Senate candidate Bob Carr  
— smart, capable, creative

Way back in the 1978 state Democratic primary for the U.S. Senate, I wound up finishing second in a six-man race to Carl Levin, who went on to beat Bob Griffin and is still a sitting senator from Michigan.

I have also owned newspapers around Lansing and in Livingston and Oakland counties for the time Bob Carr has represented this area in Congress. My editors and reporters have had their eye on him for years.

It's for these reasons this column is about the Senate race between Carr and Spencer Abraham. I have direct experience both with politics at this level and with one of the candidates.

I think Carr would be a better senator than Abraham. I'm going to vote for him, and I hope this column will persuade you to do so, too.

With Bob Carr, what you see is exactly what you get.

He's smart, capable and creative.

I once talked with Carr about what to do about the Willow Run plant, just after GM decided to close it. He had figured out how to combine the old auto plant, the airport, Eastern Michigan University and the University of Michigan-Dearborn campus into a full-blown international free trade zone. There are very few politicians who can think this creatively about a complex problem.

Unlike many members of the Michigan congressional delegation, Carr understands that as long as the rules are the way they are, a major obligation of a representative of Michigan in Washington is to bring home the bacon.

Carr didn't mess around when he was chair of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation.

First, he passed rules substituting long-term economic merit for pure political pork. But then he found ways — within the rules — to get millions of dollars in money and thousands of jobs for Michigan.

He's independent, genuinely so, in part because his district was so evenly divided between Democrats and Republicans. He's not a knee-jerk liberal or a fake conservative.

He voted for the balanced budget amendment but against congressional pay raises, and for the crime bill that included gun control that wasn't popular in chunks of his district.

At a time of political volatility and political



PHILIP POWER

change, having an independent thinker in power is enormously valuable.

Now Spencer Abraham, Carr's Republican opponent, is not an evil man. By all accounts from my political friends and reporters alike, he's very bright and politically able.

But all — literally all — of his political experience has been as a backroom political operative, first as the chair of the Michigan Republican Party and most recently as deputy chief of staff for Vice President Dan Quayle.

This reminds me of the famous story about Lyndon Johnson, just after he became president after Jack Kennedy's death. He was telling then-Speaker of the House Sam Rayburn about the Kennedy cabinet and how smart they were and how many advanced degrees they had. "Ain't none of 'em even run for dog catcher," snorted Rayburn.

He's right. The experience of having to run for office, to face the public while campaigning in the flesh and then having to go on record in voting yes or no is quite beyond the realities experienced by a backroom operator, no matter how clever.

That's why in this race for the U.S. Senate the choice is admirably clear. It's between a man who has a solid record of honorable and independent service for Michigan as an elected congressman and a skilled political operative.

I'm looking forward to voting for Bob Carr, and I hope you will, too.

Phil Power is chairman of the company that owns this newspaper. His Touch-Tone voice mail number is 313-953-2047 ext. 1880.



## Her Alzheimer's can be tragic—for you.

## Terrible Tragedy.

Alzheimer's affects more than just the one who has it. There are many victims and it takes a terrible toll on families. Much stress and strain. Anxious days and sleepless nights. Sometimes she wanders; and sometimes she falls. Sometimes she only needs a little supervision; other times quite a lot. Caring for someone with Alzheimer's is an exhausting responsibility, day in and day out, week after week, month after month. It's draining physically and emotionally. It's hard.

## Important Consideration.

If you have someone at home suffering from Alzheimer's, what happens to her if you become so worn out that you can't function effectively? What happens to her if you become so exhausted, you get sick? After all, your own health and welfare are critically important and must be protected. This message is for you.

The Arnold Home has a specialized Alzheimer's Program that can take some of the pressure off. It's called "The Helping Hands Program" and it is unique because it does not require permanent placement. The program allows exhausted family members to take a much needed break. There is a minimum stay of 15 days, a maximum of 30. Of course, there are

special circumstances where the program could be extended depending on the needs of the family.

## Specialized Services, Unique Accommodations.

The specialized services at the Arnold Home are quite comprehensive. A thorough medical and nursing assessment on admission. A complete nutritional management system in place. Diligent attention to personal hygiene and grooming. Carefully designed activities and recreational programs in a restraint free environment.

The accommodations are special. Choose between one bedroom apartments for a more home-like atmosphere or deluxe private rooms with private bath. In addition, the Alzheimer's unit has its own private dining room and lounge area. If seeing is believing, just one look will leave you very impressed.

## Call Today.

If you have been caring for someone with Alzheimer's, then call the Arnold Home at 531-4001. Ask about our special "Helping Hands Program." Let us take good care of your loved one, while you take care of yourself. After all, everyone needs a Helping Hand now and then.

For further information, or additional details, call or write: Mary Cobello, Director of Admissions.



Arnold Home

18520 West Seven Mile Road  
Detroit, Michigan 48219  
(313) 531-4001



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