

Dear reader . . .

This letter deserves response

I want to continue to subscribe to the Farmington Observer, but I certainly will cancel if my senses continue to be assaulted by undesirable material.

Unsigned letter to the editor

Dear anonymous reader: You know who you are. You're the one who assaulted our senses with your bitter, abusive criticism of a certain color photograph published on page 1 of the April 3 Farmington Observer.

And, my, didn't you save plenty of venom for the subject of that photo.

OK, let's go back to April 3, a Monday, and take a look at this "undesirable material" that bothered you so. Ah, here it is. It's a photo of a woman, and what is that she's doing? Why, she's . . . hanging out her laundry!

Yep, this delightful lady — Denise Moore by name, and please note that she at least wasn't afraid to attach her name to her actions — prefers letting Old Sol dry her wash. She's been pinning the family duds on the line out back ever since her dryer went kaput two years ago.

"It's relaxing," said Moore of hanging wash out to dry. "and the clothes smell wonderful when they come off the line."

Well, dear reader, we stand accused of publishing a photo of a woman hanging out her wash. And how do we plead? Ah, guilty, of course, and loving every minute of it.

You see, dear reader, the purpose of this newspaper, any newspaper, is to mirror the community in which it circulates. Local folks

doing everyday things sometimes make great newspaper photos.

And, in our suburbia, where clotheslines are getting as rare as push lawnmowers, a photo of a woman who hangs out her wash, and enjoys doing it to boot, stands on news value alone.

But you, dear reader, felt this photo somehow showed Farmington Hills in an unfavorable light. "What was your intent?" your letter asked. "To drive away any potential new residents?"

You wrote more, much more, and a lot of it was just too nasty to print. You're probably wondering why we even bother to respond to your diatribe.

Well, it's just that you did care enough to write, and for that we give you credit. Your very own fingers pushed these typewriter keys and your saliva moistened the envelope flap and the stamp.

We'd hate to have you thinking you'd wasted 32 cents and spit, so we responded.

Besides, your letter went on to complain about "the eyesores along the Grand River corridor," and some of your points on that subject were quite valid.

"If Farmington and South Farmington Hills want to enter the competition of desirable communities in which to live, the commercial community must have more participation by individual businesses in the beautification of these two communities," you wrote.

Dear reader, we hope you'll write again. And this time be like Denise Moore, hanger of wet laundry. Have enough pride in your opinions and attitudes to put your name on them.

Take time to focus on children

April is the Month of the Young Child and at nursery schools, day care centers and in-home care sites throughout the state, special activities are being held to showcase the good things being done for children.

But much work still needs to be done to raise public awareness about the needs of young children and families.

Many people pay lip service to the concept of strong families. But standing up and advocating good public policy as it relates to children and families is not an easy task.

Others always make the needs of children and families a key issue. One such person is state Rep. Lyn Bankes, who represents the 19th District, which includes parts of Redford Township and Livonia.

Bankes was an outspoken advocate for children and families before she went to the state House in Lansing.

A real champion of young children, Bankes was the only Michigan lawmaker recognized nationally in the March issue of "Working Mother" as "a legislator who stands above the crowd."

A member of the House Appropriations Committee and co-chairwoman of the Michigan Child Care Task Force, Bankes coordinates a yearly event to recognize business leaders who provide support for their employees' child care needs.

But Bankes is not alone in her efforts to help children. Some 40 public and private organizations sponsor the Month of the Young Child at the state level under the direction of a statewide steering committee based in Lansing.

Special events include the purple ribbon campaign which asks supporters to display a ribbon in their office, on their car, or elsewhere.

Hundreds of children, family members, teachers and child care providers will join legislators and Gov. John Engler at the state Capitol on Wednesday, April 26, for a day of "advocacy, education and activities."

Thursday, April 27, is "Early Childhood Profession Recognition Day and Worthy Wage Action Day." It's a special day to show your appreciation and respect for child care professionals and to support wages that are worthy of the value they deliver in their work.

Many companies throughout the area also are hosting a "Kids at the Office Day" so children can see where their parents work.

We salute the many public and private groups and individuals who demonstrate their commitment to young children.

For those looking to make a difference and wondering how, a local day care center recently offered a list of some 90 ideas to consider for this special month.

The ideas ranged from taking a child to the library, a play or movie; to donating baby food to the local food bank; to sending a donation to a Head Start program or other early childhood program in the community.

Others included such simple but important things as hugging and smiling at a child.

Don't let April — the Month of the Young Child — slip away until you let others know you care about children.

ARKIE HUDKINS



LETTERS

Talent is awesome

We appreciate very much your interest in our scholarship program and for publishing our articles as requested.

The musical talent that the students of this community demonstrated was awesome.

The excellent coverage in the Farmington Observer, we're sure, helped to make them aware of the available scholarships.

Thanks again for publicizing the Musicale Scholarship Program.

Beverly Notestine, co-chairman
The Farmington Musicale

Be a donor!

April is organ donor awareness month, so I would urge your readers to make a commitment to talk over their wishes with family members.

Better yet, contact Gift of Life of Michigan, 1-800-482-4881, and be put on their registry if you are in favor of donating your organs.

I have been volunteering for Gift of Life of Michigan and I answer questions of the various events where we set up our tables.

One of the most common concerns involves people thinking their lives won't be saved once the hospital finds out that they are an organ donor.

People need to get informed. The transplant team is a whole different group than those in an emergency room.

Hospitals aren't going to withhold care simply because you're an organ donor.

So many people have been saved by organ donations that it's truly miraculous. It can take the terrible sting out of death.

I urge people to say yes and consider making the decision to be a donor and tell your family.

Mary Burek, Farmington Hills

The system failed

On Oakland County Probate Judge Joann Young, I am writing in reference to a conservator hearing held on April 5 in your courtroom for Helen Bascos. My husband, Steven Legas, was contesting Mr. Monolodia and wishing to be named conservator for his grandmother.

Your decision was to name Mr. Monolodia the conservator. I am writing this letter not because I am questioning your decision but to ask you this: Why did my husband and I hire an attorney who charged us \$900, why did we spend in excess of 40 hours of our own time discussing the matter, why did we get geriatric workups done on Mrs. Bascos (again — more time), why were three people summoned to court, why did my husband and I take the day off from work, why did we pay for a sitter to watch our children? In short, why did we put ourselves and our family through this stress when you did not even give us the courtesy of allowing our testimony to be heard?

I was under the impression that American citizens were due their day in court.

I was under the impression that all sides were heard in a courtroom before decisions were made. I guess I was wrong.

Realistically, I do not expect a reply from you. If you could not give us your time in the courtroom where it counts, I would venture to say that my letter will not deem a reply from you now.

I believe the judicial system truly failed, not because of your decision, but because of the failure on your part to ensure everyone's voice to be heard.

Cindy Lagas, Farmington Hills

He makes my week

I enjoy Dick Landbeck. He makes my week. "Temperatures in Antarctica range to 69 degrees F." That was the highest temperature recorded on that continent, and it was in 1974. It hasn't been that warm since. The coldest record was minus-129 in 1960. Pretty scary.

Dick says, "If glaciers melt the weight of the water will push the oceans into the molten inner core of the earth." Does melting ice weigh more than the water it contains? What holds this ice up now?

"Molten rock is several times as dense as water so the additional volume of rock displaced will be a fraction of the additional volume of water floating on it."

This gets back to the principle: "Which weighs more, a pound of rock or a pound of water?" The Earth is in balance, and no melting is going to get these ice caps to start pushing up rocks just so they can see the big cities. If you can't elaborate, obfuscate.

Hank Borgman, Farmington

COMMUNITY VOICE

QUESTION:
What's on your mind?

<p><i>'Right now I'm doing a study of Flannery O'Connor's short stories.' Janet Madoffor Farmington Hills</i></p>	<p><i>'Middle school. My daughter's going into middle school and we're trying to decide where to send her.'</i> Brendan Hug Farmington</p>	<p><i>'My debate project due tomorrow . . . and I have a tennis match, too.'</i> Lori Walok Farmington Hills</p>	<p><i>'Trying to figure out how I can get about 80 hours of work into two days.'</i> Phillip Power</p>
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We asked this question at the downtown branch of the Farmington Community Library.

The Farmington Observer

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— Phillip Power