

LETTERS

Mad at OCC trustees

As an Oakland County taxpayer, I am outraged. Five members of the Oakland Community College Board of Trustees are about to squander more than one quarter of a million dollars of taxes that voters have contributed in support of the finest two-year college in Michigan.

Monday, Oct. 16, Carol Crew, Pamela Davis, Sandra Ritter, Douglas Wakefield and Judith Wiser voted to terminate the contract of Chancellor Patsy Calkins, who has 21 months remaining on her contract. They are doing so because, based on all we have been able to garner, they essentially do not like her administrative style of dealing with them. The five disenchanted board members have presented no evidence thus far to justify their contract termination objective.

As a result, our tax dollars will be spent to pay off \$200,000 remaining of Calkins' contract and an undetermined amount in legal fees for her probable breach-of-contract suit against the college. On top of that cost, we will pay for a search process to find (and then also pay the salary of) a replacement for probably the finest CEO in the college's 30-year history. Incredible.

Public support of Calkins' outstanding leadership of OCC has been attested to by community leaders like County Executive L. Brooks Patterson and representatives of virtually every ethnic and minority group the college attempts to serve. She has been supported publicly by faculty, students, and administrative staff at the college, and is nationally recognized as one of the country's outstanding community college leaders.

But Carol Crew, Pamela Davis and Douglas Wakefield, under the leadership of Sandra Ritter and Judith Wiser, want to spend \$250,000 and more of our money because — well, they just don't like Calkins' style. Simple arithmetic tells me our elected quintet each owe the Oakland County

taxpayers who voted for them about a \$50,000 refund to pay for their personal "style" tastes. It's our money folks. Lawrence J. Gage Farmington Hills

Police dependable

Don't tell me we can't depend upon our police departments and the men and women who protect us daily.

Ask Lisa Evans and her family. Who jumped into the lake in the middle of the night and saved her from drowning? Officer Todd Pedlar, without regard for his own life, dived in and saved her. Officer Mark Wardia assisted them both out of the lake.

How many times have you heard of our police rushing into a burning building and saving the lives of its occupants?

How dare we condemn our police because of a few bad ones. Milton Rose, Farmington Hills

Proof available

Now Tim Richard wants evidence before a change is made in education. (No research to back "charter school" claims Oct. 12). Where was Richard's call for proof when schools adopted whole language, inventive spelling, outcome based education and self-esteem programs without any solid research? Why was Richard mute when schools alleged that proper spelling, penmanship, punctuation, and grammar would be acquired through "exposure to literature"?

Does Richard agree with educationists that rote learning and specific knowledge are unnecessary in this technological age. Or would he like to read the research? How dare Richard make demands now when charter

schools are the only tax-supported alternative to public schools that might give parents the choices in academic education that they can afford. New Tim Richard wants research. He's the one who labeled critics of public schools right-wing religious fanatics.

Tim Richard and the educationists who have ignored parents' valid complaints have no one to blame but themselves. The National Education Association claims charter schools supporters want to destroy our public schools. Wrong. Educationists have already done that. Charter schools are the logical response to the ill-founded curriculum and methodology currently being used. Every school that actually teaches academic skills and knowledge is a mode for charter schools i.e., Detroit Country Day, Hillside Academy, University of Detroit, etc.

If public schools hadn't replaced solid academics with unproven social reforms, demands for choice would neither be necessary nor in demand. Look to the disadvantaged in Wisconsin to see what types of education parents actually choose when they have a choice, not Chile.

I've got the research you want, Mr. Richard. It's all in a book called, "Dumbing Down Our Kids" by Charles J. Sykes. If you prefer the meta-analyses, I have them, too. Don't you know? Teachers no longer teach. They "facilitate." It's the latest thing. I'd be happy to explain the difference to you.

Patricia A. Alspach, Farmington Hills

Quick response

On the morning of Sept. 4 it was necessary for me to call 911 when my husband passed out. Within minutes two Farmington policemen arrived at our home. The EMS ambulance arrived shortly after the policemen. All of these men were kind, caring, knowledgeable and professional.

They immediately saw to my husband's needs. He was transported to Providence Hospital and on Sept. 6 was given a pacemaker.

I do not know the names of these men and would like to thank them for the good job they did. I feel fortunate to live in Farmington and have this fine service. Theresa Abraham, Farmington

All is fair

While watching the Farmington Hills mayoral debate, the cauterizing from candidate Aldo Vagnozzi about candidate Paul Sowerby's extensive Republican endorsements and support strikes me as odd.

While the mayoral race is nominally, "non-partisan," I doubt such an ideal contest can ever really exist. Each candidate gathers all the support, sensible ideas and resources possible in order to win.

Evidently candidate Vagnozzi has meager support, a lack of any innovative ideas and scarce resources. Should candidate Vagnozzi win this "non-partisan" election, no doubt he would proclaim it as a sweeping repudiation of the 1994 elections, the Contract with America, Newt Gingrich, etc. in order to encourage his fellow Democrats.

I am reminded of a line from some Shakespeare play, something like "I think (he) doth protest too much."

John Hubbard, Farmington Hills

Band says thanks

The students and parents of the music programs at Farmington, North Farmington and Harrison High Schools would like to thank all of the retail business establishments in the Farmington/Farmington Hills area that participated in making the "Tag Days '95" fund-raising program such a huge success. Through your coopera-

tion and support we were able to collect a record amount this year. Gary Brown, North Farmington Band Boosters

Support peace

As members of the Farmington/Farmington Hills Ministerial Association, we share our gratitude for the creation of the United Nations. We celebrate its 50th birthday by remembering its roles in UNICEF, UNESCO, decolonization, disarmament, refugee relief, peacekeeping and human rights.

We support the "World Week of Peace" beginning on Oct. 24. We invite everyone at 11 a.m. on that day to join people at the United Nations and pray around the world in praying, "May peace prevail on earth."

We also call upon the United States and all nations to renew their full commitment of people, policy, and financial resources to the United Nations as a primary channel for conflict resolution, economic justice, political freedom, and human rights.

The Rev. Frederick J. Kleitner, Eric A. Stone, the Rev. Kurt Stutz, the Rev. Brewster H. Gere, Chaplain Andrea Teeple, Mark Sommers, Paul Blomquist, David Noreen, Rabbi Efray Spectre, Joan Kusak, IHM, Sister Collette Heck, O.P., the Rev. Daniel Cave, Rabbi Daniel Nevins, Karen Poole, Richard Pencock, Robert Dought, Wayne Large, Wesley Brun, Frances Perrett, the Rev. Dr. Gary Johnson and Pastor Peggy Rose Farmington Ministerial Association

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.

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