

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

His pet peeves

Some of my pet peeves:

■ Some people that pay a small fortune for a car by mortgaging their house to live like the "Jones" and don't even know how to click on a turn signal when changing direction while driving. Maybe they didn't learn it in school or never intended to pay off the mortgage.

■ Maybe being elected to a school board position gives people some unforeseen authority to give a free car to an appointed friend of the MEA to run a school system that is failing our children. Maybe he gets paid more than the governor because he has a in with our money. I object.

■ I read the local paper because I hope to read something nice, once in while, about my hard working volunteering neighbors. But sometimes I read of a back stabbing (in words) person, mad because someone got elected in a primary. You as a person can vote Nov. 5, but don't take the party down with you.

■ A balanced budget doesn't mean people can't handle money — most people can, they earned it and it's theirs. But I for one don't believe the government should own all of my money — I earned it and I like spending it.

■ I like to brag about the city of Farmington but I've said enough for this time. Join hands. People are challenged in every way in our daily work—but God has a reason and a purpose for all of us. God Bless.

George Stroleczuk,
Farmington

Consistency, Senator

Dear state Sen. Willis Bullard:

Thank you for the information on the November ballot proposals, which we received today. As you state so well, we must take the time and effort to educate ourselves about the proposals so we can make informed choices when we vote.

However, we vehemently protest the tendentious wording regarding

the "Yes" vote on Proposal A. It would prohibit political parties from holding bingo games and "taking profits from non-profit organizations which provide valuable services to our communities".

What proof do you have that such games take profits from charitable organizations? How much profit? From what organizations? Is their a limited pool of bingo players? How limited? Who made this determination?

Political parties serve a useful function in our society. They provide a gathering place for like-minded individuals who wish to participate in the political process. They generate publicity about candidates and issues, and they assist candidates in their campaigns. All of this is part of the democratic process, and it provides "valuable services to our communities".

Some charitable organizations participate in the political process, also, through extensive use of propaganda. Notable, in this respect, is the debate centering on abortion. Should funds from bingo be used for such purposes? Is it ok for non-profit organizations to use bingo money for political purposes, but not ok for political organizations to do so? Let's be consistent here, Senator Bullard.

Finally, let's not use taxpayer money to promote a particular point of view through tendentious wording.

Ronald and Virginia Nicoll,
Farmington

He's all for Andrew

Farmington/Farmington Hills residents are indeed fortunate to have a man of Andrew Raczowski's stature running as their state representative.

A review of his platform reveals his concerns with issues which impact intensely on the lives of the residents in this community. And even more to his credit, are his solutions to those problems with which we must contend.

For instance, as a retired teacher of nearly 40 years, I know without ques-

tion that any improvement in our society must start with its children. Andrew hits a home run when he categorically states, "Currently, our children are exposed to a society that tells them to do whatever feels right without taking personal responsibility for their actions."

Such a formula for disaster is met head on when Raczowski publicly states that, "as a concerned citizen, he is determined not to let that happen here in our community." He goes to Lansing with my blessing for success in his endeavors.

Albert Rosen,
Farmington Hills

Non believer

I have now come to the point where I don't believe anything Andrew (Andrew) Raczowski says on the campaign trail. His resume fraud on the voters is truly shameful!

■ Military service: Raczowski claimed he "fought" for his country during Desert Storm. In fact, he spent the Gulf War with his activated reserve unit in Georgia.

■ Education: Raczowski consistently stated in his political literature that he has a Master's degree from Central Michigan University. CMU says he doesn't.

■ Campaign ethics: "I won't take money from PAC's and lobbyists," Raczowski thundered in public debate. Shortly after, he reported accepting huge contributions from the insurance and trial lawyers PAC's among others.

Raczowski also misrepresented himself as a Bush campaign operative in 1992 in a shady attempt to get private and personal information about an election opponent.

Given Raczowski's ever-lengthening record of deceit and untruths, I hope the Observer will thoroughly investigate his other campaign assertions. For example does Raczowski truly run a "successful small business" or is it little more than a post office box? (A quick perusal of his latest file annual reports should disclose the

assets and operation of his business). And does he really hold two bachelors degrees from Eastern Michigan University, as he claims?

Most importantly... did he take any ethics courses at either EMU or CMU?

Mark Steckloff
Farmington Hills

Andrew is qualified

After the debate between the candidates to be our state Representative, the choice is very clear. From the direct answers on the issues and the definite plans of action, it is clear that Andrew Raczowski is the best qualified candidate to represent the citizens of the Farmington Community.

Andrew has a broad base of support within our district which includes the Farmington Hills Police Officers Association, the Oakland County Sheriff, the Detroit News, "Dick Headlee, and the Michigan Chamber of Commerce, among others.

What we need in a state Representative is integrity, energy, vision, knowledge of the issues, and accessibility. I feel that Andrew has these qualifications to do the job for us in Lansing.

Michigan is an example of what responsible leadership can do for its citizens. Let's keep our state strong and growing by sending a true fighter for our community to Lansing and cast your ballot for Andrew Raczowski on November 5th.

Bill Smith,
Farmington Hills

She's for Steve

We 37th District voters have the opportunity to choose between two distinctly different young candidates on Nov. 5. Jan Dolan's legacy of fairness, accessibility, fiscal conservatism can be best carried on by Steven Dibert, Democrat.

Steve has a deep concern for our

public schools' maintaining our "exemplary" status. We can count on Steve to protect the reproductive rights of all Michigan women. His will be a vote for choice. Steve started his own business here in Farmington three years ago. He understands the need to restructure the taxes placed on small business owners.

Qualifications such as these make Steve Dibert the best candidate to continue representing all of our Farmington constituency.

Maryse E. Long,
Farmington Hills

Marx lives

It is unbelievable that a few liberal columnists would write that Dole as president could not both carry through the 15 percent tax deduction and accomplish a balanced budget. They don't write that the tax cut and the balanced budget would be difficult to accomplish, that they didn't think Dole would be successful in his efforts. They wrote that it couldn't be done.

Certainly, a 15 percent tax cut could be enacted. A balanced budget could become a reality as soon as 1997. We really don't have to wait until 2002. It could be accomplished in hundreds of different ways.

Some with the liberal bias and ideology account for constant and continuous distortions in economic analysis. Concerned with the inequity in income among workers, they are suggesting that workers get a subsidy, that employers be granted a tax subsidy to pay \$7 or \$8 an hour to stop the inequality explosion.

The suggestion that workers be paid for work they don't do or be paid wages and salaries that are more than the income they produce is the liberal's cry: from each according to his ability, to each according to his need. Marx lives.

Neel Goodbred,
Livonia

A look inside the president's search

Consider this:

• Suppose you are a board member of a \$2 billion corporation, a world leader in its field but facing troubled times.

• Suppose you are searching for a new CEO for the company, competing with other companies in the job market for leadership.

• And suppose the Michigan Legislature passed a law which, when interpreted by the courts, ordered you under criminal penalties:

• Not to meet one-on-one with candidates for the job.

• Not to talk privately about any of the candidates with your search committee or the head hunter you have hired.

• Not to use confidential reference checks — letters and phone calls to former employers — without releasing them to the public.

• Even — get this! — not to talk with your fellow board members about the decision except at a public meeting of the board.

• And suppose further that these legal requirements deterred many excellent candidates from putting their names forward and, at the last minute, caused one of your finalists to withdraw.

• How would you feel?

• For starters, how about outraged and hamstringed at this terrible example of absurd and damaging governmental intrusion into your business affairs?

• Sounds outlandish? Not at all.

• This is exactly what is going on just now at the University of Michigan, where the Board of Regents is working under court order to select a new president in a way that complies with the Michigan Open Meetings Act.

• It's clear that the publicity requirements of the Open Meetings Act scared off most sitting presidents from participating in the search, thereby eliminating from the selection pool almost everybody with prior experience as a university president.

• Then last week, the Detroit and Ann Arbor newspapers sued the U-M, claiming the search process set up by the Board of Regents violated the Open Meetings Act. Washtenaw Circuit Judge Melinda Morris ruled that the university had to open up every aspect of the search process and forbade one-on-one meetings between regents and presidential candidates.

• One of the five finalists promptly withdrew, telling the chair of the search committee: "I can't go forward with such a process, because it no longer provides any opportunity for candid



PHIL POWER

discussion about sensitive issues." Search consultant Malcolm McKay pointed out that selection procedures at private universities wisely offer presidential candidates the chance to get to know, one-on-one, the board members for whom they will be working.

Of course, the newspapers are harrumphing that the Open Meetings Act is just wonderful because it requires all public bodies (U-M Board of Regents is one) always to conduct the public's business (the university is in large part tax-supported) entirely in public (i.e., so that reporters can look over shoulders and report about scandal in the background of candidates and backroom deals between the regents).

This absolutist position amounts to saying that a central point of public policy in Michigan should be to place our public universities at an enormous competitive disadvantage versus private schools in searching for competent leadership. Talk about cutting off the nose to spite the face!

The Board of Regents — let the public record show clearly that I'm one — is going ahead to select a new president, even under the strict terms of Judge Morris' ruling. It won't be easy. But the university needs a new president right now, and the Michigan Constitution says selecting one is our job.

I can only hope we'll get good candidates.

And when all the fuss is over, I hope the Michigan Legislature will amend this intrusive, poorly written and counter-productive law to cut trustees some slack in selecting the best possible candidates to run the universities that are among the crown jewels of our state.

Phil Power is chairman of the company that owns this newspaper. He also is an elected regent of the University of Michigan. His Touch-Tone voice mail number is (313) 953-2047 ext. 1880.



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