Gun ruling was 'made according to instructions'



Fink Constitution and resistant to the people's right to referendum, If legislature way our to track on an irrelevant appropriation.

Trink on a man or relevant appropriation.

Trink comments et al. (2) and the people's Comments are taken and the people's Comments and the people's Constitutional right to referendum. The people's Constitutional right to referendum. The people's Commentation and the people's Commentitutional right to referendum. The people's Commentitutional right to referendum. The people's right to referendum. If legislators want to take away our right to referendum, all they have to do now is tack on an irrelevant appropriation. Think comments refer to the device the lame duck legislature used to make the bill 'bullet proof and ballot proof 'by tacking on 31 million to distribute locks for handguns. The Michigan Supreme Court majority of Justices Ciliford Taylor, Maura Corrigan, Stephen Markman and Robert Young opined the bill is not subject to citizen vote because Article 2, Paragraph 9 of the Michigan Constitution says the power of referendum "does not extend to acts making appropriations bills were constantly subject to lengthy referenda. So the legal argument turns on whether the money slipped into the CCW bill 's englisher the money slipped into the CCW bill 's englisher the money slipped into the CCW bill 's

was really a basic appropriation for a state institution or a limited allocation of money for a specific purpose.

Majority justices argued "strict construction" of the constitution required that any grant of money constitutes an appropriation.

Dissenting Justices Minusa. Cavannagh, Maring and Sizabeth Waver contended \$1 in the constitution required that any grant of money constitutes an appropriation.

Dissenting Justices Minusa. Cavannagh, Maring and Lizabeth Waver contended \$1 in the constitution of the constitution and opens the door for all manner of similar legislative shemanigans. Justice Wenver noted in her dissent that the majority opinion opens the door for the legislature to "referendum-proof" a bill simply by adding an appropriation — as little as \$1 will do. Moreover, the four justices—flore opponents of judicial activism—have taken the remarkably active judicial step of curtailing a citizen right that has been in the constitution since 1913.

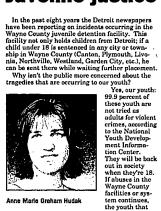
To get a sense of the exquisitely twisted logic of the majority's views, have a look at Justice Young's opinion, especially. It's on the Internet at http://courtofappeals.mijud.net/ds.html (It's docket number 119274).

The politica are equally troubling.

Remember that the way Justices Taylor, Young and Markman got into office? It was through the most expensive and vituperative campaign — which featured tons of soft money for both Republican and Democratic candidates—charged this method of picking justices will ensure that Michigan can reliably obtain from this court the best justice soft money can buy. Years ago, people considering a real estate purchase went to a member of the Michigan Appraiser Institute (MAI) for an appraisal. If the appraisal semed out of inchaging a real estate purchase went to a member of the Michigan Appraiser Institute (MAI) for an appraisal. If the apprai

Phil Power is chairman of HomeTown Com-munications Network Inc., the company that owns this newpaper. He volctomes your com-ments, either by voice mail at (734) 983-2047, Ext. 1880, or by e-mail at ppower@ homecomm. net

Juvenile justice overhaul a must



Anne Marie Graham Hudak

Anne Marie Graham Hudak

ey cases, is more than likely to come out as a lost

ey cases, is more than likely to come out as a lost

and dangerous adult who commits the same kind

of crimes he experienced in a Wayne County facili
ty, some of them even ending up in the adult prison system. It means more money out of our

prison system. It means more money out of our state taxes.

According to a Detroit Free Press article dated May 7, 1999, and congressional debriefings in the Detroit Federal Courthouse, five years after the U.S. Justice Department launched an investigation into charges of abuse and neglect at the facility, in 1998, a social service worker at the facility sneaked a 16-year-old inmate past security cameras and into the roffice. She and the immate engaged in sexual acts on several occasions. Several other staff members, including a staff psychologist, previously reported her actions. Most of those staff members, including the psychologist, were fired by the agency. They have all consequently sued Wayne County under the Federal Whisteblowers Act, which protects employees from being fired if they report a crime by fellow employees.

Cited in the Detroit Naws on May 28, 2001.

employees.

Cited in the Detroit News on May 28, 2001:
Since 1998 Wayne County has paid out more than \$1 million to these employees, with more lawsuits pending. One of these cases is reported to be in the millions of dollars, among the highest lawsuit settlements ever paid out by the county.

According to Wayne County Third Judicial Court Conviction and Sentence, case No.

98335147-01, the social worker was found guilty and ordered to stay away from treatment of chil-

dren in the state of Michigan. However, she was sentenced to just 18 months of probation, which she is now serving.

Not all of the staff are rapists or drug dealers; some truly care about children, and that is why they have made the reports and are trying to raise public awareness. They are also part of a movement trying to get the public involved in monitoring the facility and system.

County officials and facility administrators are denying the allegations. However, allegations of wrongdoings at the juvenile facility are not new. Because of numerous problems ranging from overcrowding to neglect, the center operated without a state license from 1992 to 1997. In December 1994, the Justice department inquiry released a 21-page report condemning the facility for putting youthful immates in danger of eating contaminated food and at risk from violent jailers.

The recent inavaities settled include:

June 1999 - confidential settlement reached with Larry Fields, a former youth home investigator;

The recent tawsuits settled include:

■ June 1999 — confidential settlement reached with Larry Fields, a former youth home investigator;

■ March 2001 — confidential settlement reached with Jar Thomas, who charged he was fired because he reported sexual abuse by staff members. He also said his car was vandalized and that the youth home employees paid a resident to beat him up after reporting the abuse;

■ February 2001 — Thomas Moore won a settlement from the county after being fired at the youth facility. He had also reported sexual abuse of residents and was dismissed afterward.

The new Wayne County youth home was also recently opened; however residents of Wayne County were billed twice, due to several million dollars of a 1988 tax scheduled for a youth worktraining facility to supplement the county's aging youth detention center being spent mostly in the city of Detroit and the county's general fund. Long-term bonds were then authorized by the county commission to pay for the project. If the deplorable treatment of children by some staff members at the facility and/or the Wayne County system does not raise your anger, what about thinking about your pocketbook?

Write your Wayne County commissioner, tell him you demand that something be done about the juvenile system in Wayne County. Join a thorn had for un from 10:30 a.m. to 4 pm. July 16 in the City County Building's 13th-floor auditorium. Several organizations are pulling together an effort calling for volunteers to sit on committees to establish youth-at-risk prevention and juvenile justice system over haul. Please join us if you care—if not for the children—for your pocketbooks.

Anne Marie Graham Hudak is board director

Anne Marie Graham Hudak is board director the Northwest Wayne County League of Women Voters and the Detroil Metro Area League of Women Voters.



SATURDAY, JULY 14 10 A. M. TO 10 P. M.

The Best of Birmingham

Downtown streets are closed and packed with sidewalk sales!

Lunch and Dinner specials at participating restaurants FREE parking all day . LIVE outdoor entertainment