

Readers Speak Out On A Variety Of Subjects

Praises Kennedy

EDITOR:
An open letter to the students of Franklin High School and all young people.
It is my deepest hope that all of you share my sincere feeling for the contribution of the principles for which Robert Kennedy lived.

Bobby as we knew him, was a man of great vitality and he lived a never-ending struggle to better this nation in every way he knew possible.

He touched the hearts of all people -- men, and women, young and old, the lonely, destitute children, the rich and the poor, white, black, red or yellow, the young people in which he had such loyal faith and confidence.

He cared about the love that he believed should have dwelled in the hearts of all men. He showed a deep concern for humanity -- he cared about what was in the minds and hearts of all Americans.

He knew our nation needed help and he wanted a chance to better the nation and its people.

All of us who supported him in the Presidential Preference Primary held at FHS were joyous in his victory here. We who truly believed in him wanted to help bring him to the presidency where he could help us.

We had offered our services during the upcoming summer on his presidential campaign. A lot of us, as it has been expressed before, had lost hope in our political system.

We made no serious attempt to be a part of it before. This is because we, the youth, felt we perhaps weren't understood or recognized as useful people in our community.

Senator Kennedy placed his confidence in us and had the motivation to go forth into a sometimes sad and hateful nation to spread a ray of HOPE for our future. The hope he would try unceasingly to make a reality for the human beings he cared so much about.

As stated by others, indeed his death was a tragic loss, but we believe it would not be his desire for us to give up now, even though we feel this emptiness -- even though we feel that the link between us and the nation and government is gone.

We must perhaps find another brave man like Bobby Kennedy. We should find a man that stands wholly for what Senator Kennedy believed in.

We must bring action now for if action is not started by anyone, Senator Kennedy will have, in a sense, died in vain. I don't think anyone would want that.

Let us write letters to our congressmen. We must express our honest views on subjects such as the gun-law issue that has raised so much controversy. Another important, if not vital, area is the violence displayed on television programs. We could also write to TV stations and express our views.

We know those violent shows are a bad influence on young, impressionable children, so let's tell someone that. Let our views be known.

In addition, we must insist on strict law enforcement in order to preserve a calm awareness of a quiet, peaceful community.

The kind of enforcement that protects the innocent and punishes the guilty. The kind of enforcement that doesn't neces-

sarily mean useless killings because of trigger-happy policemen and civilians who are trying to protect themselves. Let us write to our congressmen and insist on those kind of laws that will serve to protect the innocent.

Giving suggestions on changing present laws or creating new ones, is not out of line. The people's voice must be heard.

Every letter counts, so don't think yours is unimportant. Write it, and let each of us care for what Kennedy wanted -- a true brotherhood among all men, a peaceful, loving, strong nation where poverty and ignorance and hate are no more.

Let's not forget what Senator Kennedy stood for. Act now and help yourselves and others.

PAT WILLIAMSON
FRANKLIN HIGH SCHOOL
STUDENT

Shocked By Letter

Dear Sir:

I have just finished reading the letter from Loretta J. Olson in the June 26 issue of the "Mail and Observer." To say the least, I am shocked, dismayed, and ready to roll on the floor from fits of laughter. Mrs. Olson is very confused as to the nature of the basic rights of every American citizen.

1.) There is not such a thing as the "right to vote." The so-called "right to vote" is based on the theory that some amendments to the Constitution guarantee this "right." The amendments in question "forbid" discrimination in voting on the basis of race, sex, national origin, color, and/or creed. Nowhere is the "right to vote" outlined in the Constitution. It may interest Mrs. Olson that the strongest guarantee of the "right to vote" is stated as such in the Constitution of the Soviet Union of December 1936.

2.) I just don't think that your second suggestion (running for office myself) is a very good one. From figures I have read, I have learned that it takes about \$30,000 to run for state office and anywhere from \$200,000 to \$600,000 for Congress-

man. Forget about the Presidency--it's way out of the picture! Any lower offices are not strong enough to accomplish any constructive ends. Do you have the money to spend or contribute to such a campaign?

3.) Granted that writing letters is good exercise for your hand, but most elected politicians tend to choose supporting materials and disregard the other as pure "trash." After all, they present to you a program and you do decide which candidate to vote for on that basis, don't you?

4.) A few choice words on the right of dissent. Like the "right to vote," it is not mentioned specifically in the Constitution. Unlike the "right to vote," it is what constitutional scholars call a "derived right." It is inherent in the Constitution under the Freedoms of speech, press, and of assembly and the right to petition government for redress of grievances. Thus the "right of dissent" is a Constitutional right.

5.) To the more specific objections you raise:

a.) I wish every group that was for or against anything (including the VFW and Veterans Against the War in Vietnam and every citizen) did stand up for what he believes in. After all, isn't voting a way of speaking up as are letters to editors and even street demonstrations?

b.) Parents should demand that their tax monies are spent wisely, but you must also remember that the construction worker-husband has a right to strike to get the money that is needed to pay taxes.

c.) The argument about dogs marching may seem like an absurdity, but consider the poor people of this nation who marched on Washington to free themselves from the economic "chains" they were an still are bound by. It isn't so absurd anymore, is it?

6.) If once a law is passed

we must obey it because we elected the people who passed it, why must we ever depend on periodic elections to change these people? It seems more like merely than democracy. Thank heavens the American people have never submitted passively to any law!

What would have happened with the Fugitive Slave Law of the 1850's, which prohibited free men from helping other men to find their freedom. (In fact, Detroit was the last link in the Underground Railroad of which I mean.) And yet many people broke the law, and Congress was forced to rescind it. In the 1950's, many hundreds of Negroes in the

United States willfully violated school segregation laws and finally the Supreme Court overturned it.

I can't help but remember at this point that the Reverend Martin Luther King stated, after the Civil Rights Demonstration in Washington in 1965, that he, too, had a dream of equal opportunity in the United States, a dream that is still unfulfilled. Heaven forbid that I take my citizenship so lightly as to only vote. I have striven in every way I know how to protect the rights for which our founders fought.

Submission, docility, and apathy are signs of a corrupt, decaying society. Active par-

ticipation and unwillingness to accept things as they come and a positive response are signs of a living, growing, vibrant society. Which are you and the United States part of?

MICHAEL CLINANSMITH

Policing Parks

EDITOR:

I read with interest your parks editorial in The Livonia Observer.

I too am very much concerned over the littering, drinking, fighting and vandalism by young

hoodlums in our parks as well as elsewhere.

I do not know what plans are under consideration by the city of Livonia to make these parks safe and enjoyable. If this problem cannot be licked by the city itself due to lack of funds, facilities or personnel, then perhaps the public will lend a hand at doing some park policing. Why can't we citizens devote some time to this shape. If enough adults would devote one evening a week to policing our parks with official sanction by the city, maybe we can afford our parks.

Where might I find out if any

program is being implemented by the city.

Register Guns

EDITOR:

We register dogs, cars, and voters. We keep the physically unqualified away from cars. We keep mental incompetents, minors, and felons away from the vote. Why should we not register guns, and use the law to keep them out of the hands of mental incompetents, minors, and felons?

Sincerely,
JOHN KOZA

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