

editorial opinion

Wylie Gerdes writes

Farmington has family feeling

What's lost when a city grows? Among other things, the feeling that an impersonal government is operating.

I paid a visit to the family of Farmington recently. It was a city council meeting, actually, where I sat fascinated through the council's longest meeting in years.

The audience and the council were discussing the relative merits of paving a street—whether 'tis better to suffer the flings and harrows of outrageous motion, or meet the enemy right on.

Members of the audience got ample opportunity to express opposition or support for the paving. The usual arguments were given in opposition to the paving—it would create a through street, children would be unsafe, etc. Surprisingly, there were several residents who appeared to argue in favor of paving.

After years of sitting through public hearings for streets, it seemed as if a group of residents who supported paving appeared. It's almost always only the

negative residents who appear at public hearings.

The city council listened politely to the arguments and comments. Councilmen were even polite in allowing some members of the audience to repeat themselves.

After the council approved necessity for paving the street, the residents filed from the room. Some were disgruntled, but many were smiling and greeting neighbors.

The process seemed to have left a good feeling about government with the residents who attended the public hearing. It was a controversy among friends and neighbors rather than the "us against them" confrontation which has characterized the relationship of city councils to the public in other larger cities.

One of the benefits of living in a small city like Farmington is the feeling of participation one can get. Farmington's city government demonstrated that feeling at the public hearing.



Dear Gwendella: My parents have been married nearly 30 years and have been quite happy together until just recently. Last summer my dad retired, and since then he and mom have been constantly, it has gotten so bad lately that I am afraid they will separate if things don't get better soon. Can you give me a spell to save their marriage?

M.A.G. (Their Daughter)

Dear Daughter: The condition you describe is a common one. Men often find themselves at a loss for something to occupy their time after they retire. For lack of something better to do, they begin interfering with their wives' housekeeping, finding faults with little things they would ordinarily never notice.

Here is a recipe for a drink called "honey mead." In the days of the Vikings, this drink was served to newlyweds for 30 days (one moon) after

the wedding to insure a life of wedded bliss. Our word "honeymoon" was derived from this.

Try getting your parents to drink this for a second "honeymoon." You might even get your father to start brewing it in his basement as a hobby. This would get him out of your mother's way for a while and have almost as magical an effect as the drink itself!

ANCIENT HONEY MEAD

In a cauldron or large pot, put two cups of honey, a half cup of brown sugar, the juice and grated rind of one lemon, one egg (slightly beaten), and two pinches each of powdered mace, cloves, nutmeg, ginger, cinnamon, pepper, dried rosemary and caraway. Cover with four quarts of water and simmer for one hour. Cook to lukewarm and add one cake of yeast. Place in a crock and age for one month. Strain and bottle.

Dear Gwendella: I am in love with a young man who works for the same company I do. We date occasionally, but he also dates other girls. How can I make him think only of me? I want him to love me the way I love him.

KATHY K., Redford

Dear Kathy: Next time you are with this young man, contrive to get a hair from his head. Tape it to a piece of paper and wear it inside your bra next to your heart. Learn the following incantation, and with all the faith, imagination and emotion you can muster, repeat it seven times a day for 21 consecutive days:

"Mr. Hair-of-His-Head, Mr. Hair-of-His-Head. Go to him, to (Name of man)."

"Whisper my name when he dreams, when he wakes, when he walks among the women."

"Draw him by the hand, draw him by the foot, draw him by the heart and entrails to me."

"He has no other thought but me. He dies of love for me."

"There is no woman for him but me, no love for him but mine, no love-making but mine."

"He comes to me, he comes. He is here with me, with me. Laughter of waves. Oh! Oh! Oh!"

You may write Gwendella at Box 53, Garden City, Mich. 48133. For a personal reply, enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

What is teacher tenure law?

(The following questions and answers concerning tenure law were prepared by Farmington school district administrators and PTA members. The questions were generated in the PTA "coffee and comments" program.)

Q. What is the teacher tenure law?

The teacher Tenure Act was first enacted by the legislature in 1957 and made mandatory for all Michigan school districts by the Michigan legislature in 1963.

Under this law, teachers who successfully complete a two- or, if necessary, a three-year probationary period are granted tenure in their position. Once a teacher is granted tenure, the law provides a due process procedure

which must be followed before a tenured teacher can be dismissed by a school board for unsatisfactory performance.

The provisions of the Teacher Tenure Act can only be amended by the legislature or by a vote of the people if specific changes were placed on a ballot as a result of a petition campaign.

Q. Why do we have teacher tenure today with union negotiated contracts?

Master contracts are negotiated under a separate law, Public Act 379. Most contracts do not allow processing of grievances regarding any action taken under the provision of the tenure law.

Instead, the board and union must follow the due process provisions of the tenure law when a teacher must be dismissed for unsatisfactory performance.

Q. Who sets the standards and number of teaching years a teacher must serve before they achieve tenure?

The standards of teaching service are set by our board of education and the tenure law provides that a teacher must serve a two- or, if necessary, three-year probationary period before tenure is granted.

Q. Is there any pending legislation regarding teacher tenure?

At present, no bills on tenure have been reported to the House or Senate floor on changes in the Tenure Act.

From our readers

'Turn it off'

Editor:

It has come to our attention that a hearing will be held to bring Petition RM 283 before the Senate. Petition RM283 asks that all religious broadcasting be banned.

At first we were indignant that persons unknown would take it upon themselves to once again try to ban parts of our right of freedom of religion. Upon further discussion we were downright angry toward those who insist on slowly but surely destroying that which we hold dear, our belief in God.

Not only would religious services on Sunday mornings no longer exist, but good entertainment also would be banned. Our family enjoys movies such as "The Ten Commandments," "The Robe," "The Greatest Story Ever Told." We wish to learn of the problems people of other countries have because of their religious beliefs and of the triumphs.

We feel if television/radio can bring into our home obscene language, rape, murder, violence and other subjects we find distasteful, and when we object we are told, "If you don't like it, turn it off," then we say this works both ways. If you object to religious broadcasting, please feel free to "turn it off." We do not infringe upon your rights, please do not infringe upon ours.

We urge all who believe in a supreme being, no matter what your faith, write to your federal communications commission and Senators Hart and Griffin.

est in the June 9 school board election (five per cent turnout), I, being one of the few residents who voted in that election, believe your criticism was greatly misdirected.

Your ire should have been directed toward the Farmington school board for promulgating this expensive non-happening, rather than combing the election of a sole school board member with the recent school millage election (over 30 per cent turnout).

At the time our citizens voted for the extra millage, they should have had the opportunity to simultaneously select the school board member they wished to spend it.

Two separate elections were a waste of school money, taxpayers' time, and the country's energy (two round trips vs. one).

Until the Farmington school board demonstrates better judgment in facing off with the community, it will not receive their respect nor deserve their support.

WILLIAM B. WARNER
Farmington

WHY NOT MENDING THE STORE?

*April 29: "Did DNR think gas leak (Wentzsburg) crisis?" Decision made by DNR dependent on Oil Advisory Board composed entirely of oil-industry executives.

*May 24: Federal EPA (Environmental Protection?) dropped further legal attempts to end dumping of iron by EPA says it may be five years before Reserve Mining will have to end dumping of iron-mine wastes into the once-pure Lake Superior.

*June 1: "(Regulatory) Boards often identify more with those they regulate than the public."

*June 3: Even the State Legislature—proposing bills to prevent pollution-related suits against government agencies, thus effectively gutting the state EPA.

*June 3: ICV allows increase on interstate bus fares prior to an investigation—Amtrak will follow.

Now I ask, with all these fantastic government board agencies, etc., so concerned about private interests, who the hell is minding the store for the public?

WESLEY I. MITCHELL
Farmington

Of special interest

Criticism misdirected

Editor:

Regarding your June 16 editorial lecturing the Farmington School District electorate for taking insufficient interest

ArtStart opens fall registration

ArtStart is now taking registrations for the fall term set to begin in mid-September. The pre-school classes are open to children from three and one half to five years old who meet in the University Hills Christian Center on Farmington Road, south of 14th.

Registration information is available by contacting Mrs. Raymond Doute, 10638 Fairway Drive, Livonia.

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