

editorial opinion

Wylie Gerdes writes

Fairness is best standard

The purpose of this essay is both to praise Fred Lichtman and to take issue with statements he made.

Public officials don't need to be supermen. The standard for officials should be fairness—do they apply the same set of prejudices and quirks to everybody, whether they be the friendly neighborhood developer or the slick outside entrepreneur.

Lichtman, who just finished a year as mayor of Farmington Hills, qualifies under the basic guide. It's not up to critics to quibble that somebody else's prejudices would be better for the job. Maybe his prejudices exactly match those of Lichtman's constituents.

THE FAIRNESS standard is not based on "facts." It allows persons from all parts of the political spectrum to earn a good evaluation merely by applying a philosophy consistently.

It's a standard which can be applied to other individuals and institutions. Newspapers, for example, should strive for fairness as well as factuality.

The existence of factuality is a matter of debate among journalists. "New Journalism" is based on the premise that what is right for Victorian England or 20th century New York City is right for all times and

places. It is an absolute standard which says heathens must be converted.

Any controversy, though, produces several different versions of the facts involved. If the participants in a controversy cannot reach a consensus on what transpired, it seems unlikely a newspaper can. Often elaborate court systems cannot decide what the "facts" are.

Newspapers evade the absolute judgment of facts by reporting what people say. It is a fact that someone says something. What the quoted person says is not necessarily a fact—be it the president of the school board or the president of the U.S.

Lichtman has been a superior mayor, judged by the standard of fairness. He has been a legislative leader and responsible public figure.

Albeit a trifle doctrinaire on occasion, Lichtman has jealously defended the interests of Farmington Hills.

He has earned the obvious respect of his colleagues on the council and of many residents of Farmington Hills.

Lichtman recently criticized this newspaper's reporting of the Gill Road paving issue. Farmington Hills paid for the paving of Gill Road in front of two school buildings.

SCHOOL BOARD members agreed to pay part of the cost if a millage

passed, Lichtman said. School board members say the agreement was made a couple elections before the April special election which resulted in increased school taxes.

School board members' and Lichtman's remarks from a meeting were reported. Lichtman apparently feels a newspaper must make a final judgment about the "facts" of the situation.

Lichtman made no argument against the position given in the editorial.

The basic issue remains: Should the Farmington School District pay for paving streets? State law exempts school districts from paying paving costs if it chooses. Farmington Hills receives state aid and local taxes for its purposes.

The school district should not be in the business of paving roads, and Farmington Hills is, Lichtman, I wager, would be hard pressed to find one voter who went to the polls April 29 with the idea of increasing school taxes to pave roads.

The Gill Road controversy is a situation where the interests of Farmington Hills and the Farmington School District do not coincide.

The interests of residents and their children, however, remain the same. The road was paved as needed. It is Farmington Hills duty to pay for it.

Jackie Klein writes

Traveling in the best circles

Did you ever lose a building? I lost three at the Holiday Inn.

It happened at a press party at the Rodeo-View, the new revolving restaurant atop the 192-room addition on the motel. The restaurant is designed to make a full 360-degree rotation in from 50 to 90 minutes. Being a confirmed cynic, I refused to believe it was moving.

It was after my second vodka and tonic that I lost Shaarey Zedek Synagogue. I could swear it was there before, right opposite from where I was sitting and upping. I was ready to accuse someone of stealing the house of worship when I realized somebody had merely moved it.

Then I lost the Travelers Tower and the AMC Building, which isn't even finished yet. But suddenly I found McDonnell Tower senior citizen apartment building where I was ready to check in.

SOMETIME between my third and fourth vodka and tonic, and a chicken liver wrapped with bacon and a crab leg, I had to admit the Rodeo-View, not the buildings, was moving at top speed.

Suddenly, Danny Raskin, who had been sitting at a table near the piano bar at the corner end of the room, appeared right across from us. He disappeared before I could ask him when he decided to move. I didn't think

it was very gallant of him to take the piano bar with him.

A cocktail waitress took an order from some lady. The waitress is still holding a bloody mary and looking around and around and around for her customer.

Besides the waitress and the bloody mary, there's a white parrot that's still spinning dizzily on the turntable. The woman who left it there hasn't been able to catch up with it yet.

SERIOUSLY, THE whole idea of a revolving restaurant in Southfield, conceived by owner Paul McElwain after visiting the space needle in Seattle for the World's Fair in the 1950s, is mind boggling.

The silkscreen blowups on Lucite of members of the Michigan Sports Hall of Fame are unusual touches in the Rodeo-View. But overlooking the flood plains across Telegraph, the rows of dense, stately trees and the city's growing skyline is even more impressive.

When you sit on high and watch Southfield turn, it's hard to believe that a few years ago the rural community was farmland and dusty roads. Now we're sophisticated, and the beautiful people are milling around Southfield's own "space needle."

I guess I really didn't lose three buildings. But they'd better still be there when I get back.

The battle of the road maps

Let's say you've crossed the Mackinac Straits Bridge and turned left on US-2 next to the stunning sand beaches and blue waters of Lake Michigan.

Fifteen miles along, you see signs for a campground. A campground? You check the state highway map, but it doesn't show a campground. Yet a couple of miles inland is Brevoort Lake and one of the most cheerful and popular camping spots in Michigan's upper peninsula.

What's the catch? The catch is that the Brevoort Lake campground is operated by the National Forest Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It's a federal installation, in short, and isn't shown on maps put out by the State of Michigan.

FROM A FOREST ranger you can get a map of the Hiawatha National Forest which shows you not only the Brevoort Lake campground but a host of others that aren't on the Michigan highway map.

Let your eye roam northwest on the Forest Service map until you reach the Tahquamenon River. A single word tells you a "falls" is there, but nothing indicates a park or campgrounds. And yet at Tahquamenon Falls there is...

You can guess, but it's better to go back to the Michigan highway map. Not one park but two appear—one at the boiling rapids of the lower falls, another at "Little Niagara," the nickname of the upper falls. They're state parks, they don't appear on the federal map, but they do show up on the state map.

ONE IS AT a loss to guess at the Agriculture Department's and the Michigan Transportation

Tim Richard writes

Department's reasoning. It's as absurd as if the state were to put out a road map showing only state and county roads but not the interstate freeways or U.S. highways.

It can't be that the feds and the state consider each other competition, can it? When resort owners or KOA folks publish a guide, they show only the properties of members of their association; they're not out to generate business for the federal and state parks, and you can understand their point of view. But the U.S. and Michigan aren't competitors.

It can't be that the feds and the state don't know about the other's parks and campgrounds, can it? The state has all sorts of aerial maps, and the fellows in Lansing must have identified those funny clusters in the Ottawa, Hiawatha and Huron National Forests.

It's as if you went to the ball game and had to buy one program to tell the Tigers' numbers and another to tell the Orioles'.

The saving grace is that federal and state maps, unlike baseball programs, are free. You only have to remember as you travel our beautiful peninsulas that you need two sets of maps to find the campgrounds because the federal government and the state don't seem to know the other guy's system exists.

Farmington
Observer & Eccentric

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Your ecology calendar

Ecology-minded persons who wish to save cans, bottles or newspapers for recycling may use these facilities:

To prepare glass, thoroughly wash the containers, remove all metal caps and rings from the glass and separate the glass by color.

To prepare cans, clean only. Paper need not be removed. Newspapers should be tied in bundles with heavy string or rope or secured in heavy paper bags.

*FARMINGTON—A glass recycling center operates on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon at the west end of the Farmington Hills city hall parking lot. The city hall is at 11 Mile and Orchard Lake. Glass must be separated by color, cleaned and all metals removed.

*PONTIAC—Oakland County Recycling Center, 550 S. Telegraph, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. every Saturday. Groups bringing in more than 500 lbs. of glass

will receive \$10 per ton for glass.

*ROCHESTER—Bottles are collected at Jaycees Recycling Center Mill Street, under the bridge, the first and third Saturdays, between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Separate colors into brown, green and white—no plate glass or light bulbs.

*BIRMINGHAM—Daily newspaper pickup with regular trash. Newspapers must be bundled separately.

Bavarian Village

SUMMER IN STORE

WAREHOUSE

SKI EQUIPMENT SALE



STARTS NEXT MONDAY

JULY 28th — 10 AM Sharp

This is the largest ski equipment sale in our history and without a doubt the best ski buys ever. Three times larger than last summer's sale, thousands enjoyed and talked about all winter. We're presenting everything warehouse style in our shops to save you money NOW. It has taken months to gather together this ski equipment, samples, closeouts, factory overstocks and carryover merchandise. If it's not good ski merchandise, we didn't buy it for this sale.

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SURE ITS CRAZY

To Buy Ski Equipment NOW!

CRAZY LIKE A FOX!

Come prepared to buy ski equipment and HAVE FUN, SAVE PLenty

Bavarian Village



SKI SHOPS

- * BIRMINGHAM: 101 Townsend (Across from Hughes-Hatcher)
- * BLOOMFIELD HILLS: 2740 Woodward (at Square Lake Rd.)
- * LATHRUP VILLAGE: 28645 Southfield (South of 12 Mile)
- * LIVONIA (REPAIRS): 14211 Telegraph (at Schoolcraft)
- * EAST DETROIT: 22301 Kelly Rd. (Btwn. 8 & 9 Mile)
- * MT. CLEMENS: 1216 S. Grotiot (1/2 Mile N. of 16 Mile)

PRISON ON WHEELS

MONDAY, JULY 21 through SUNDAY, JULY 27

10 till 9



"PRISON ON WHEELS"—AN EDUCATIONAL CRIME PREVENTION EXHIBIT WHICH WILL BE LOCATED AT LIVONIA MALL.

THE EXHIBIT FEATURES SCIENTIFIC CRIME DETECTION AND PRACTICAL POLICE EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING REPLICAS OF AN ELECTRIC CHAIR, GAS CHAMBER, AND PRISON CELL. THE EXHIBIT IS HOUSED IN A SPECIALLY DESIGNED VEHICLE, CUSTOM-BUILT FOR THIS PURPOSE.

"PRISON ON WHEELS" WAS ORIGINATED BY THE LATE J. EDWARD SLAVIN, FORMER HIGH SHERIFF OF NEW HAVEN COUNTY, CONNECTICUT.

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OVER THE PAST 26 YEARS, MORE THAN 25 MILLION PEOPLE HAVE TOURS THIS EXHIBIT. FROM ONE END OF THE COUNTRY TO THE OTHER.

THERE IS NO ADMISSION CHARGE AT ANY TIME, ALTHOUGH VOLUNTARY DONATIONS WILL BE GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED TO HELP MAINTAIN AND SUPPORT THE EXHIBIT.

also

MINIATURE GOLF IN THE MALL

Kids Contest every Monday
Stop by for details. Trophies awarded.

Livonia Mall

7 MILE ROAD AT MIDDLEBELT

OPEN DAILY TIL 9 P.M. SUNDAY NOON TIL 5 P.M.