

# editorial opinion

## It's a musical world, let's keep it that way

You've gotta give credit to guys like Bill Conroy, Ed Dodson, Paul Barber, Bill Harrison, John Richardson and the rest of the folks connected with the Farmington Community Band.

Ever since 1968, when the band evolved into what we know it as today, these music lovers have made sure the community has an opportunity to enjoy some good music.

Now it's time the community paid back the concert band.

The Farmington Chamber of Commerce is doing their part by backing the unprecedented sports gala to be on Friday, April 9, in Harrison High School. It's bound to be a super affair.

The presentation is the band organization's way of raising funds for the coming season and, at the same time, presenting entertainment. Everything from the Detroit Lions basketball team to midgey weight boxing is going to be presented.

Even Wendy Hanafie, the top female Michigan gymnast, is going to perform. Exhibitions in karate, table tennis and wrestling also are on the agenda for the evening.

FRANKLY, THE community band is hurting. Oh, they'll stay in business, but they need some help.

Conroy, who is the band's executive director, is a super optimist. It's just fun listening to him talk about the band.

If you've never been to one of their performances, you will after listening to Bill.

If you've been to one of the band's performances, you know Bill by his deep resonant voice. He narrates the programs. Not one to brag, Bill puts in many hours studying various composers and musicians, so the musical program's narration is an extra added spice.

He also spends a lot of hours making sure the band will go continue.

Basically, Bill would like to raise enough money through patron contributions, advertisements in the April sport show program and admission fees to pay Paul Barber, the band director.

Conroy, who has dabbled in music since high school days, says Barber is probably a musical genius. His fear is that if Barber isn't able to pick up a few extra bucks for his work, another community band might come along and do just that.



It's nothing much, just a few hundred dollars a month, that Conroy would like to see Barber get.

ANOTHER PRESSING problem is the band's showmobile.

For a while now, some folks in town have been holding on to the showmobile by putting their own credit on the line, but the \$24,000 needs to be paid. The only practical way is if residents in the Farmington-Farmington Hills area chip in.

Otherwise, the showmobile will be sold to another city and that would be too bad.

If its given up now, another showmobile in the future would be just too expensive. The best thing about the showmobile is that any group in town interested in using it can do so for a small fee.

It's a great thing to have around the community.

So is the band.

A community band gives musically inclined residents a chance to lighten up that upper lip and keep that wrist in shape. Not everybody can be a professional musician. A community band gives them a chance.

I've always thought it was unfortunate that so many youngsters spend hundreds of hours practicing and then, after becoming adults, never get an opportunity to use those finely tuned skills.

A community band also offers some good entertainment.

So why not get with it. Send in a contribution. If nothing else, give yourself a treat and show up for the action on April 9.



Making their contributions to support the Farmington Community Band are (from left) Farmington Hills Mayor Pro-tem Keith Deacon and City of Farmington Mayor John Richard-

son. Accepting are Conductor Paul Barber, Farmington Community Band Treasurer Edmund Dodson, and Bill Conroy, community band executive director.

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**BY** by CORINNE ABATT

## A sure cure for neatness

There's nothing like a for sale sign in front of the house to turn a slob like me into an instant good housekeeper.

Right after our sign went up, the kids accused me of trying to maim them as they skidded helter-skelter across the freshly waxed kitchen floor in their stocking feet. For years they have been used to a comfortable layer of organic traction.

I ignore the not-so-subtle references to Ibsen's neat freak Nora in "The Doll's House," and continue dumping ash trays and loading the dishwasher as the dessert is being served.

There is another problem in preparing to move. You can never be sure it's the junk you're pitching might not be tomorrow's collectors' items.

I mean, really, who'd have figured 30 years ago that comic books, Ozca Oola paraphernalia, Big-Little books (40 years?), Shirley Temple dolls or baseball cards would be valuable?

A person hardly dares chuck Monkee momentoes, old Beatie pictures, Stetler Hotel ashtrays, Barbie dolls, hoola hoops, Cracker Jack tricks or an old Humphrey-Muskie poster for fear of finding them in the flea market a year later with dollar signs on their little bottoms.

Don't laugh. It's happened too often to be funny. Better we should have junked the stock certificates and saved the cards in '79. Wisser, too, would have been to keep Grandma's old Victrola and

bulky music box than to replace them with a plastic table model radio.

I am thinking about all this as I dust and chase cobwebs and hear a question being belted my way from the upstairs bathroom: "Is it alright for me to brush my teeth and spit in the sink or do I have to rinse at the outside faucet?"

Smart kid, trying to shame me for being Mrs. Fastidious for a couple of days.

"You may use the inside plumbing, but be sure to swish the toothpaste out of the bowl."

I refuse to be intimidated.

It troubles me that I have let our habits become so casual.

LATER THAT EVENING I finally relax, casting an approving eye at the shiny clean corners and crevices. Most certainly I could qualify as a cleanliness inspector for a convent.

I am enjoying that fantasy as I open the door to let the warm evening air circulate through the house.

Instead, there is a blast of stunk and that overwhelming musk fills the house like a great thick cloud quickly killing the jewelily apposed scent of pine in an instant.

A second or two behind comes the dog who cornered the stunk flapping his tail in victory and heading for the couch before I can grab him. I know right then that God never intended for me to be anything but a friendly, easy-going slob.

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