

Opinion

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O&E Monday, March 18, 1985

oral quarrel

This week's Oral Quarrel asked our readers: How do you feel about giving

school officials the right to search students and their possessions while in

school?

Following are the responses:

from our readers

Speak out on downtown

To the editor:
In a recent editorial, you stated that local residents wished that downtown Farmington looked more like Plymouth or Northville.

You continued by writing, "Nice idea. But it's up to the shoppers of Farmington to make it work. They are the ones who will have to convince city leaders and merchants to take the necessary steps."

How true that statement is. The officials of our city are undertaking a major examination of the downtown area. If we, as citizens, are not satisfied with the direction in which Farmington has grown, it is up to us to do something

about it. Many people are upset that Farmington has become "Discount City." Others are very concerned about the latest plan for downtown parking on Thomas Street and the impact that this will have to the adjacent Historic District. Still others would like to see the implementation of a plan to make our central business district a "quality" place in which to visit and shop.

These are all legitimate concerns, but the members of the City Council cannot know exactly what the people of Farmington desire unless the people of Farmington come forth and tell them. In a city the size of Farmington, there must be a wealth of ideas for the future of the Central Business District. I would urge anyone with an idea or a concern about the future of downtown Farmington to attend the special meeting of the City Council at 7 p.m. on Monday, March 18. Citizens who do not wish to participate in the input for the future have no right to complain about the outcome.

Donald S. Manter, Farmington

What I really think about it is I wouldn't really mind them checking my locker because for one thing they are protecting our city and the students. I think it is the best thing they can do.

Yes, school officials should be able to search students or do whatever is necessary to keep schools safe so learning can occur.

I think it is great considering all the drugs and alcohol that is going around in high school. This is from a student in high school.

I don't think it is right that they should be able to search.

Since some 60 percent of my taxes go to schools, I have no qualms what-

soever of my children being stopped, searched and disciplined and since he does not own the locker, it can be opened and searched. I have no qualms whatsoever.

As a North Farmington senior, I feel that the School Board of the Farmington Schools has taken the right choice and the right decision they do the right thing by not searching us without our consent.

I am in favor of locker searches. My wife is a former middle school teacher and was assaulted by a student with a knife. The only difference between Detroit Public Schools and Farmington Public Schools is not the amount of weapons or drugs but the level of violence.

I feel they shouldn't.

School officials have a perfect right to search students and their lockers. After all guns, knives and narcotics have no place in any school.

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Something To Think About
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CHANGE OF EMPHASIS
Over the years, the role of the funeral director has steadily evolved. As the family and the religious institution played a decreasing part in the care of the dead, the funeral director took over many functions which they previously carried out.
As houses became generally smaller, it was the funeral director who could provide a building large enough to accommodate big families gathered for mourning. As embalming became more sophisticated, it was the funeral director who had a laboratory (preparation room) to carry out this task. They also accepted responsibility for other aspects of the funeral arrangements; everything from transportation, to flowers and newspaper announcements.
As a result of such changes, the whole emphasis of the funeral director's profession has changed. While once he was primarily a supplier of merchandise, the funeral director is now mostly concerned with providing needed services to bereaved families.
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WORKING AND ARTHRITIS
"What job is best for my arthritis?" Physicians often find it difficult to give a satisfactory answer to this question.
First, all work, no matter how sedentary, brings some strain. There are mornings that you must arise immediately despite awakening unfully. There are times you may stay at a desk through an afternoon in the face of extreme fatigue and the need for immediate rest.
Second, there is the unforeseen effect that your work activity will have on your joints. Some individuals with rheumatoid arthritis do well in a job in which they either stand or sit, but do not mix these activities. Other people with rheumatoid arthritis feel that they do better in a job that requires constant moving. At present there is no measure which can predict what your body's response will be.
Third, if you must earn a living, then you may have little choice in the job or hours that you can accept. Your physician can give you his opinion on the severity of your arthritis and the likely effect therapy will have. This information, plus your needs, will provide the basis for answering the question: "What is best for me?"

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