

Road work



While many work on the road, Ben Tasich works in the parking lot.

Tasich is quotable the way fish are floatable.

Maybe it's because I was raised in Belgrade, Yugoslavia during the war that I have 25 pairs of shoes in the house and refuse to throw one of them out or give any of them away," said Ben Tasich, talking non-stop as his fish grew cold at Northville Charley's.

Tasich is the hyperkinetic owner of Racquets Unlimited, a tennis and running store at Five Mile and Newburgh in Livonia.

He has been an assistant principal in the Ypsilanti public schools and a championship tennis player; he is talkative, energetic, introspective and opinionated.

Ask him a question, any question, then sit back as his discourse hops in and out of parentheses, bounces tangentially from here to there and maybe back again, and touches on such diverse subjects as newspaper mergers, prep school philosophies in Massachusetts, the state of retailing, politics in public school education, the history of the capitalists' struggle against Tito in Yugoslavia during World War II and the latest New Balance running shoe.

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