

# More letters to the editor . . .

## Helping hand earns praise

To the editor:  
On a recent Sunday, I took my mother and two young grandchildren to one of your lovely parks. It was a warm, sunny day and the kids were hot and tired and hungry.

As we were in the hot car ready to leave with the key in the ignition, nothing happened; the car was completely dead. I opened the hood to look and heard a voice: "You having car trouble?" A man approached and with the help of his wife, they spent the next half hour trying to get me started.

Finally, he had his wife take me to K mart for a new battery and he then put it in. These two dear people refused any offer of money and only asked that I help someone in need sometime.

Being hot and tired and hungry myself, I only asked their names, Jim and Faith, and did not get their last name.

So I publicly wish to thank these

two wonderful people, who live in Farmington Hills, who took of their time and gas to help me.

Beverly Setzer,  
Garden City

## Apathy reins in C'ville

To the editor:

The opinions expressed in the July 13 and Aug. 31 Observer regarding the Clarenceville School District appears to have come straight from the Clarenceville School Board, or perhaps the "Informed Residents of Clarenceville."

Enough residents have expressed an interest for change, yet the school board has chosen only to serve the interest of those they agree with. Their position should be to serve the entire district.

To do this fairly, we should be allowed to vote and let the majority rule. The controversy could be settled in the near future with the cooperation of the school board.

The "Informed Residents of Clarenceville" have stated that the residents showed their support for the district with the passage of our recent millage proposal. Let's examine this a little closer just to illustrate the misrepresentation of "facts" given by the group.

There are approximately 4,000 registered voters in the Clarenceville School District who reside in the Livonia area alone. Keeping this in mind, only 675 voters from the three areas which comprise the district voted on this proposal. The outcome — 351 for/324 against.

This millage was passed by a mere 27 votes. Does this appear to be overwhelming support? Apathy is rampant in our district; this is what the school board has always counted on. Taxpayers voters of Clarenceville had better wake up.

A minority is ruling our district, consequently pulling our purse-strings. The absolute tragedy is our children's education and futures are being shortchanged.

Kimberly Gantzevid,  
Farmington Hills

## School study panel accessible

The writer, Deborah Zunich Banay, is a Farmington Hills resident.

I WOULD like to address some issues raised in the Sept. 25 article on the Elementary Attendance Area Study Committee for 1989-90.

I would like to note that according to your article, only one school trustee expressed any concern about the make-up of the committee. It was unfortunate that the headline reflected the uncertainties voiced by one trustee, and not the majority opinion.

I am unsure exactly what points of view and expertise Mr. James Abernethy feels are inherently present or absent in people available at one time of day versus another.

When the community was notified that interested persons should contact the building principals of their elementary school attendance area, there was no information available at that time as to when the meetings would be held. I have heard of no school unable to find an interested and concerned parent because of the time of the meetings.

On the contrary, some schools had difficult choices because of the number of interested parties. This advisory committee was selected by the building principal and a parent group representative. What this does insure is that the persons on this

## guest column

committee have shown their interest and commitment to their schools by their actions, not just their words.

MR. ABERNETHY'S concern that the meeting time may preclude those persons who are unable to attend during the day does not show any interest in the plight of those who may be unable to attend evening meetings.

The fact is, that there is no one time that every interested citizen would be able to attend. Our school board has tried to address that problem by making information from the meetings, and input into the meetings extremely accessible.

The concern of Mr. Abernethy that residents might feel prohibited from attending is certainly not borne out in my personal experience. While my preference would have been to be a member of the committee, I realize that every interested person cannot be a member.

The avenues available to express my own personal views and concerns have been many. I have had available to me all of the information that is presented to the committee. I have been able to express those ideas at the night-time community

meeting on Sept. 21.

I HAVE to note, that although concerns could be communicated either in writing or verbally at that meeting, that Richard DeVries did not avail himself of either mode at that evening meeting. At the bus ride meeting on Sept. 28 (which interested persons were invited to attend at the community meeting) my ideas were communicated via the building representatives and, at the end of the meeting, by myself. I find it unfortunate that Mr. DeVries has not communicated his concerns to the committee through any of these available avenues.

Your article detailed the many ways to receive information. Let us hope that our residents will utilize not only these information sources, but their committee representatives in a positive way. There is a job that needs to be done that will greatly impact our community.

We must realize there is no one solution that will please everyone in our community. We can try, through sharing our individual concerns, to see what will best serve the majority of our school children while disrupting the least.

## points of view

# All a mystery

## Questions mark peace march

GOD ONLY knows what will happen along Grand River in downtown Farmington Sunday afternoon.

Will strains of "Let There Be Peace" blend with racist chants from a megaphone? Or will everyone protest peacefully, without regard to other forces? It's all a mystery of the highest order.

But while everyone is hoping for the best, they're planning for the worst.

While saying they support the planned "march for peace and racial harmony," the radical group International Committee Against Racism is distributing pamphlets throughout the area advocating violence and stirring up the forces. A handful of neo-Nazi fascists are coming out of retirement — just to be here for the occasion. Police are training with crowd control drills they hope will never be used.

Meanwhile, peace march and rally organizer and Shawassaw Street resident Derwin Success is praying. "God has called it (the peace march and rally) into being, and nothing can interfere," he said in recent news reports, reacting to the planned counterdemonstrations.

I doubt that Success or anyone else has a hotline to heaven. Nobody involved with this event knows what to expect Sunday.

VERY LITTLE information has been provided by organizers on all sides, so it's difficult to know how many people will be marching for peace, how many will counter-protest and how many observers will come out to view this "first" for downtown Farmington. It's all speculation.

Success said on a September radio



Casey Hans

talk show that he won't allow just anyone to march; he asked that people register by calling his house. When asked last week how many people are coming, he wouldn't say. Neo-Nazi S.S. Action Group organizer John Moriarty expects half a dozen or a few more. The INCAR group won't identify the name of their leader, much less offer numbers.

All we can be sure about is that local police are covering the bases, ensuring they have enough trained professionals for crowd control.

It's not an event city fathers are proud of. Although they support the cause of peace and racial harmony.

many feel the city has gotten a bum rap with Sunday's planned events. Some residents don't seem too happy either. Many of the people coming Sunday are expected to be from out of the area.

AND ALTHOUGH he remains optimistic, Success is not happy that his peace march appears to have turned sour. He said the focus of the day has been diverted away from the racial harmony theme.

He's wrong. The involvement of these other groups has focused directly on the problem, and ironically proved Success' position — that racism is alive and well throughout our world. It lives not only in Farmington, but in all communities everywhere.

Sunday's demonstrations might not ultimately help the cause, but at least they have us all thinking and talking.

Casey Hans is a staff writer for the Farmington Observer.

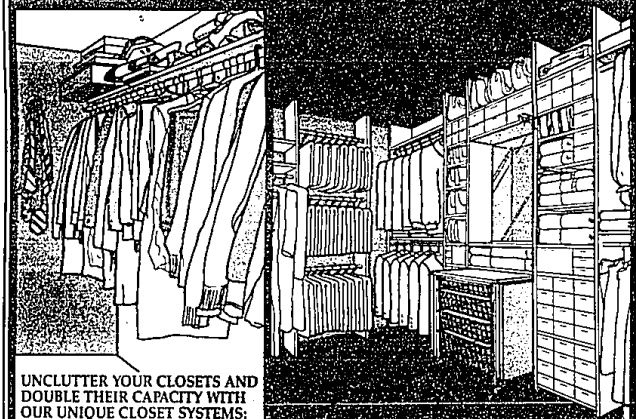
## know your government

Looking for information about state government? The League of Women Voters has a toll-free telephone service (1-800-292-5823) that may be helpful.

The league's Citizen Information Center in Lansing offers to help people find out about such things as pending legislation, the state constitution, election laws, voting regulations or tax information.

The telephone is answered from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. weekdays. The telephone service is paid for by the league's education fund. The League of Women Voters is a non-profit organization that works to keep voters interested and informed about governmental issues.

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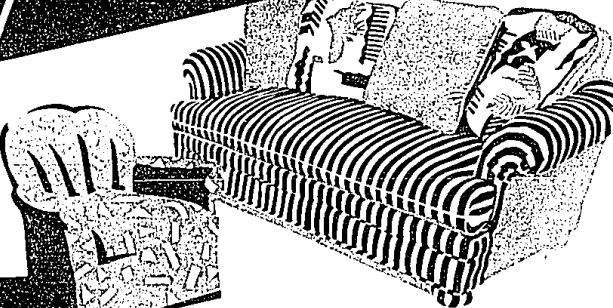
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