

points of view

Limiting alcohol

It demands public commitment

LAST WEEK, our new Lakes Area edition ran the story that a Union Lake party store had its liquor license suspended for two years for selling alcohol to minors.

In the next issue, we reported that a now-closed Wal-Mart Lake convenience store will pay \$2,400 to that school district's drug-eduction program for selling beer after hours to visibly intoxicated persons. Those three people — including one minor — were injured when their car struck a roadside tree.

Ironically, both stores were Hop Ins, owned by Farr View Ltd. of Ann Arbor. That's all we were able to get from the Michigan Liquor Control Commission spokeswoman, who said the commission doesn't give out the names of the company directors.

WHY NOT?

Farr View Ltd., which has no telephone listing, but does have a Flint agent, has its president, J. Larry Trull, from Roanoke, Va. All its listed corporate officers are from Roanoke and Mississippi, Ohio. But locally, it is managed by Hop Ins of Ann Arbor, whose executive vice president is Philip Tomczyk. That information should come as part and parcel of the sentences. But it doesn't.

Why aren't corporation owners immediately held publicly responsible? And why should the press, as the vehicle for the public's right to know, have to jump hurdles to get that kind of information out?

If we really want to make headway in upholding the 21-year-old drinking age, we have to do some things differently.

• One is to refuse to let those ultimately responsible for violations hide behind corporate names.

• Another is to push our state legislators to stiffen and establish minimum penalties for liquor establishments who sell to minors.

• Another is for police departments to conduct regular undercover raids to deter the selling of liquor to minors.

SUBURBAN POLICE should take the lead from the sheriff's department and departments in Farmington Hills and Farmington, which periodically use undercover decoys to attempt to purchase liquor.

Eleven of the 33 package liquor and beer and wine dealers in Farmington Hills were cited in a June sweep for selling to minors. It was the fifth sweep since October 1986.

And in early October, more than



Judith Doner Berne

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half of the businesses holding liquor licenses in Farmington were ticketed for selling to minors. That was down from 75 percent several years back.

Through campaigns coupled with enforcement, we've made great strides in reducing drinking and driving. Still, alcohol is responsible for the most deaths among young people, and can, for some, lead to addiction.

There's no reason in the world why all our police departments can't hold periodic undercover raids of li-

quor stores and bars in their communities. And we as citizens, our city councils and township boards can push the Legislature, as Farmington Hills has done, for more stringent penalties for violations.

Selling to minors is something we can get a handle on and do something about.

Judith Doner Berne is assistant managing editor of the Oakland County editions of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.

Quake spurs lasting images

The writer, Jody Cantor, a 1985 Harrison High School graduate, has lived in Santa Cruz, Calif., for 2½ years. This letter was written to her mother, Farmington Hills resident Barbara Cantor, on Oct. 20, three days after the California earthquake. Jody, 22, is a student in Santa Cruz.

WHAT IF we get a big aftershock? Will I be able to react fast enough? My head hurts, my back aches, I'm physically exhausted. How come? All I've done since the quake is relax. (Well, I've been trying to relax.)

Psychologists on TV keep reassuring everyone that what we are feeling is normal. I'm not worried whether or not I'm normal, it's just strange how my body and mind are reacting to the quake. I mean, I made it through the whole ordeal OK. Lots of people lost their lives, their homes, their businesses, their pets, their possessions, their chimneys, etc.

Downtown Santa Cruz (the mall) is devastated. Over 100 buildings have to be collapsed. It's really sad. George Bush came today to see the damage with his own eyes. I'm not sure what good that did.

Tomorrow I'm going to volunteer to clean up the city. I'm scared to

guest column

see all the damage. I haven't been downtown yet. They say that over \$1 billion worth of damage was caused by the quake just downtown alone. Actually, the Santa Cruz mountains were hit pretty hard.

I'M STILL shaky. I'm not sure if I'm shaking or the ground is. We haven't had an aftershock for hours. The tremors are moving farther apart and are more gentle. It's reassuring today was the first day I've been alone since the big one hit. For awhile, I didn't think I'd ever recover. It was such a huge jolt. I was literally shaken up. I felt so jumpy and on edge — I still do.

Every rumble — no matter what it is (a truck driving by, loud music with heavy bass, a car door slamming, footsteps in the house) sent me flying up for safety — to a doorway or out the front door — just another one. My pulse tripled. My body is shaking. It was a biggie and it lasted about 10 seconds. My hand

is writing so fast, I almost can't continue. It is writing itself. Time to breathe and relax.

My hands are sweating. My heart is pumping hard. My head is pounding. My knees and body are shaking. I almost forgot what it feels like to experience the shake. It's been over 12 hours since the last biggie.

I don't know why they call them aftershocks. They feel like earthquakes to me. This is much scarier than the earthquake ride at Cedar Point. Believe me. Now a storm is rolling in. What a mess.

THE COMMERCIALS that are being aired reflect the traumatic feeling. Aspirins, insurance companies, airlines, sales (at stores), etc.

I've lost track of time. It seems like time is divided into two parts: Before the Earthquake, B.E., and After the Earthquake, A.E.

Everytime an aftershock comes, I think to myself, "Just ride it," but it's harder to do that when it's happening than to speculate about it when it's not happening.

The first cue of an aftershock in this house is a low rumble and windows shaking. Every time I hear either sound, I experience a sense of anxiety.

What am I learning from this whole experience? Am I becoming stronger? I hope so.

Establishment stung by electorate at polls

THE ESTABLISHMENT took it on the chin this week.

Incumbents and their proposals crumbled under the wrath and/or discontent of the electorate which spoke out loud and clear.

The big punch, of course, went to the two statewide proposals A and B which were touted by various establishment groups. State leaders have been struggling with one another for years on how to deal with the school financing discontent.

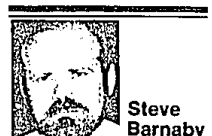
The Legislature has been particularly impotent in coming up with any kind of solution. So with all the courage of a cornered varmint, they threw the hot potato to the elector-

Three new council members now join the ranks of the gang up on the hill at the corner of 11 Mile and Orchard Lake Road.

Oakland County residents were ate in a "you-figure-it-out" move.

But voters refused to take the bait and threw it right back.

Suburban Detroit voters led the way in rejecting both proposals.



Steve Barnaby

particularly adamant. Proposal A, a half cent initiative went down 3-1. Proposal B was knocked out in a 7-1 decision in the state's fastest-growing area.

MAYBE NOW that the people have spoken, state leaders will get serious about dealing with a troubled and inequitable educational system. And maybe they'll learn to listen a little closer to the voters who simply want them to do their jobs.

Local leaders also found out that voters may not be as content as they originally thought. Just ask Westland's incumbent Charles Griffin

who is licking his wounds and packing his bags this week.

Seems the voters resented the city-funded buyout of his pension plan from Griffin's former employer, the Michigan Education Association. Nothing illegal, mind you, but Westland residents, many of whom are union members themselves, took exception.

Incumbent William Ziemia also was sent to pasture by the Westland electorate.

ON THE Oakland County side of the ledger, the one-two punch was delivered to proposals which would have given the library system some breathing room. The \$14.5 million bond issue for a new library facility went down as well as the 1.5 mill levy to support library services.

Incumbency for Farmington Hills council members Phil Arnold and Paul Sowerby proved of little help. Both lost. Three new council members now join the ranks of the gang

up on the hill at the corner of 11 Mile and Orchard Lake Road.

Hope they're used to long nights without Monday Night Football to alleviate the pain.

FARMINGTON MADE history by putting yet another woman on the five-member legislative body. Joanne McShane replaced incumbent Arnold Campbell. She joins Shirley Richardson, the first-ever woman council member, who also won re-election.

Seems Detroit isn't the only city divided by the downtown versus neighborhood issue. Newcomer David Katulic rode to victory in Rochester on a crest of discontent from voters who feel the establishment pays too little attention to neighborhood needs.

Appropriately, Katulic celebrated the victory at home with his supporters, while the incumbents gathered in downtown Rochester at Cooper's Arm restaurant to commiserate with losing incumbent Kenneth Bilodeau.

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 citizens find out about such things as pending legislation, the state constitution, election laws, voting regulations or tax information. The help lines are 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 educate, inform and empower about governmental issues.

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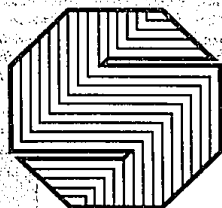
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