

from our readers

They are a captive audience

To the editor: Condolences to the neighbors of the Farmington Community Center. Because they are "a minority," they must now be a captive audience for whatever sounds the center beams their way.

Punishment, since the city has ignored their most recent complaints, these residents can expect the center to again break the rules with impunity.

As for their being a minority, so is every citizen of a residential area. Isn't that why we have zoning laws?

Consider those who attend concerts at the center, returning to the peace and tranquility of their homes, turning their stereos and TVs on and off at will. Consider those who decided against these complaints, doing the same.

They have control over the sounds that please or assault their ears. Not so the neighbors of the Community Center. For them, control now rests with the majority.

I have supported the center from its inception, contributing, canvassing, enrolling in its programs. The center is a fine asset to our community, but not when it rides roughshod over the rights of others.

Nor should we take seriously the center's plea that it loses money by not being permitted to hold concerts. Do I lose money because I can't hold concerts?

Finally, it's repugnant to me that those with ties to the center did not disqualify themselves from the decisions in this case.

Ann R. Sennish, Farmington

Development will look good

To the editor: In light of the many questions regarding the construction in downtown Farmington's large municipal parking lot, I am pleased to inform your readers that the aesthetic enhancement will take place without losing any parking spaces.

Nearly all the islands were constructed at the ends of parking rows on top of diagonal yellow lines. We will reclaim several spaces next spring when the lot is re-striped and the existing tall lightposts will be on yellow lines rather than in the middle of otherwise usable spaces.

I would also point out that some of the burden of the large lot was reduced with the new lots on Orchard Street which are being used for employee parking.

Working in downtown Farmington will continue to be free. We hope that once the Downtown Development Authority's improvements are complete, it will be convenient and attractive as well.

Wesley Strip Sittsamer, executive director, Downtown Development Authority

Broomfield gets a 'C'

To the editor: The October issue of Money Magazine rated legislators on how they voted on pocketbook issues in 1989. Rep. William Broomfield, our congressman, got a "C" rating — not very good in my book.

It is about time Rep. Broomfield came out of the closet to let us know about his past voting record, how he stands on issues and debate his challenger.

Blair Algje, Farmington Hills

His column way off base

The guest column in the Sept. 27 Observer painted a picture of development in Heritage Park that appears less than accurate and quite misleading.

Yes, each entitled to our opinion, but the inaccurate and misinformed attack on your very accurate and balanced editorial was inappropriate.

Even worse, the scathing, abusive and totally unfounded attack on the gentleman who is director of Special Services in Farmington Hills was unconscionable.

I don't know Joe Derek. I do disagree with him. I think that facilities like soccer fields and baseball diamonds in that large parcel of land would have been better for our community than development that prohibits such use.

I'd like our city to spend as much energy on programs to help develop our children as it does protecting trees. For Heritage Park, that was not the will of the people, and the park is being developed for more passive activities.

We are very fortunate in Farmington Hills to have a group of parks

and recreation commissioners that are so dedicated to all the people.

I attend many of the commission meetings as a liaison for one of the youth baseball programs. A group of commissioners who, under the leadership of chairman Dennis Fitzgerald, spend hours and hours seeking information, listening to citizens and debating options to ensure that recreation facilities and programs serve the people.

Their input, and the guidance and step-by-step approval of city council, is behind all park development.

As for Dan Potter, I have never met a more dedicated and honestly concerned public servant.

His task of balancing concerns of neighborhoods, special interests, and the DNR with the directives of the commissioners and city council is not an easy one.

Still, he performs his duties tirelessly and serves a very large cross-section of our community.

Your Sept. 20 editorial was right — Heritage Park is being developed very nicely, and our city officials should know that most of us really appreciate the fine job being done there.

Keith B. Gallagher, Farmington Hills

Sheehy is his candidate

Unfortunately, the two most important qualifications for being elected a circuit judge this fall seem to be money and name recognition.

Of the candidates for the county judgeship, two are counting on the majority of voters to walk into the booth without knowing who they should vote for in this important office. Then, the common wisdom, you will vote for the most familiar names.

Many of you will not disappoint them.

Another candidate will likely spend four or five times the annual salary of the position to deluge the media with her name.

If the primary last August is any indication, she will win a 10-year term as county judge, even though she has no experience as a judge.

Experience should be your number one consideration and there is only one candidate who has it. District Judge James Sheehy has been a judge for the last 10 years for Orion, Oxford, Auburn, Rochester, Oakland and Addison.

Judge Sheehy has done an outstanding job and was re-elected af-

ter six years by the people who know him, not just his name or because of money.

I urge everyone to vote this fall and particularly to vote for Judge James Sheehy for Oakland County Circuit Court.

Nell E. Wallace, Southfield

Worries over Middle East

To the editor: Thank you for your column a few weeks ago analogizing our military involvement in the Middle East to Vietnam.

It does seem that sending massive firepower to that area may be counter-productive and lead us to believe that we can solve a complicated problem by military force alone.

Perhaps it is a little like Br'er Rabbit and the Tar Baby.

We punch and are stuck and there is no simple solution in sight.

Margaret Schaeffer, Farmington Hills

Opinions are to be shared

Opinions and ideas are best when shared with others.

That's why the Farmington Observer encourages its readers to share their views with others in the From Our Readers column.

Submitting a letter to the editor for publication is easy. Letters should be typewritten or printed legibly and kept to 300 words. Letters must be signed and include the address of the sender.

Names will be withheld only for the best of reasons, and the decision to do so will be made by the editor.

Letters should be mailed to: the editor, The Farmington Observer, 21898 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336.

Death sparks live thoughts

SOME THOUGHTS ON death and dying and other things detrimental to your health:

I've been reading a lot about that lately — death and dying. It's at the heart of the abortion debate, it's at the center of the controversy surrounding "living wills" and the right to die and it's the focal point of the discussions about "assisted suicide."

It raises questions that have answers only in the most theoretical realm — When does life begin? At birth? At conception?

Someone in between? — And when does it end? When you stop breathing? When the heart stops beating? When the brain stops emitting brainwaves?

Are you really "alive" if you are in that state only because of the machine that's hooked up to you? If you have a terminal illness, do you have the right to speed things along somehow?

No one knows the answers to these and hundreds — no, thousands — of other questions that the issues of death and dying generate. Doctors, lawyers, judges, politicians, academics, journalists, experts on "ethics" — everybody joins the discussion sooner or later.

The more voices that join in, the more muddled the logic seems to get.

ONE OF THE more bizarre death and dying cases was to go before the U.S. Supreme Court this week. It involves an appeal from an inmate on death row in Louisiana.

Michael Owen Perry was sentenced to death in 1985 for killing his parents and three other family members. The Louisiana Supreme Court upheld the conviction and sentence, but ordered a review of his mental competence, presumably because of a 1986 decision by the U.S. Supreme Court that upheld a tradition not to execute insane.

The Louisiana court ruled that Perry, who reportedly suffers from a schizo-affective disorder which his lawyer calls a major mental illness, was sane but only while on medication.

Now here's where it gets tricky. The state of Louisiana wants to carry out the execution



Jack Gladden

sentence, but under the 1986 Supreme Court edict cannot do so unless Perry is "sane" at the time. But he is only "sane" when he is taking the medication.

So the state wants to force Perry to take his medicine so that he will be sane enough to be executed. Besides, the state says, the medicine is good for him.

Perry's attorneys, with the support of the American Medical Association and the American Psychiatric Association, say that forcibly medicating him would be cruel and unusual punishment.

The medical people say that forcing him to take medication so that he can then be executed legally would make a mockery of the art of healing.

So the question is now in the hands of the U.S. Supreme Court. Better it than me.

THE PERRY CASE may be the most bizarre example of logic gone astray when the issue of death and dying arises, but it's not the only one.

For years I've heard doctors argue that if a patient had to be hooked up to a machine to be kept alive, the patient or the next of kin in some cases, could decide not to have the machine hooked up. But once the patient is on the machine, that's it. You can't make the decision to unplug it.

What about someone who is terminally ill and wants to end his suffering. Suicide is not against the law. (How would they punish you, anyway?) But if suicide is legal, is it illegal to help someone commit it?

What about the person who claims to be "pre-ill" but advocates capital punishment?

But then, what do you expect from a society that tells someone to "take your medicine so we can kill you?"

Robert Alexander Jewelers

Advertisement for Robert Alexander Jewelers featuring Cornelis Hollander Designs, including images of jewelry and a list of services like nationally recognized designers, large selection of affordable priced gift jewelry, and exceptional pricing.

Advertisement for Bet and Jessie's Fish & Chips, featuring 3 large pieces for \$5.29 and a carryout service and dinner menu.

Advertisement for Jazzercise classes, offering a \$150.00 rebate on a deluxe furnace sale and mentioning a TruTemp furnace.

Advertisement for TruTemp Heating & Cooling, Inc., featuring a \$150.00 rebate on a deluxe furnace sale and listing services for heating and cooling.

Large advertisement for Fitness Source, promoting the Hoist 1000 Plus workout machine, offering a \$250.00 savings, and listing various fitness equipment and services.

Large advertisement for Good Year tires, featuring a \$10.00 off computer balance and rotation, free tire rotation with purchase of lube, oil & filter, and a \$14.00 off front end alignment.