

# Opinion

21898 Farmington Road/Farmington, MI 48336

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## Hey, losers. . . Try, try again if you failed in your bid to gain office

**H**ERE'S TO the losers . . . to those who still believe.

That line from an old Frank Sinatra song comes to mind as we consider the recent general election and some good folks who weren't betting down the bubbly or otherwise whooping it up after all the votes had been counted on the night of Nov. 6 and the morning of Nov. 7.

You're nothing but a bunch of losers, but we'd like you to know that we enjoyed covering you and your campaigns just the same.

With a few glaring exceptions (you know who you are), you conducted those campaigns with dignity and respect for your opponents and the political process itself.

And generally, even the campaigns that did get a bit raunchy were OK. They provided a little spice in an otherwise drab and predictable election.

Take heart, you losers. In many cases, we liked your ideas and the way you presented them. We hope you'll try again. We hope to see your campaign signs — legal size, of course — alongside our roads in the days before some future election.

**I**N MANY CASES, we couldn't endorse you, but it had nothing to do with your ideas, really. It was just that your foes were better, more experienced, more knowledgeable about the districts and their problems.

That's the way it looked to us at this time, anyway. Of course, we may be proved wrong in time.

Occasionally it happens that an election shapes up as a battle between the good guys and the bad guys. There are sometimes people running who definitely need to be kept out of public office.

And they usually are kept out, pleased to say, because of our enlightened electorate.

But in the big three races in the Farmington area — state Senate, state House and district court — all candidates seemed to be wearing white hats in the shootout.

The bad guy (or gal, in this case) did her dirt up in West Bloomfield.

In the Farmington area, there are some losers from the general election whom we'd like to see continue in politics.

For example, there's Rick Knauer, the nice-guy-next-door type who was shot down in his bid for a seat on the bench of the 47th District Court. He seemed to have a good understanding of what it takes to be a good judge in a local court. He may be a loser, but he's still a nice guy and well qualified. We hope he tries again.

**AND THEN THERE'S** Denise Alexander, the Republican who couldn't unseat Democrat Jack Faxon in the 15th State Senate District, despite heavy support from the Republican political action committees.

We feel the best candidate won in this race. We also feel that Alexander is far too sharp to languish on the Southfield City Council for all the days of her political life.

The campaign in the 15th should be a learning experience for Alexander, who we think tried a little too hard with her mega-mailings and last-minute moaning about the incumbent. She should try again . . . for something.

So should Barry Brickner, an eminently decent fellow who was lost from the start in his attempt to oust the popular (and efficient) Jan Dolan in the 69th State House District.

Yes, here's to the losers. May they raise some money, develop some people skills and try again. The next election will be here before they know it.

## Gulf crisis

### Tell officials how you feel

"Military build-up will not help find a peaceful solution. We've listened to Saudi Arabia and we've listened to the deposed leaders of Kuwait, but we've never listened to Saddam Hussein."

— Bishop Ibrahim Ibrahim,  
Chaldean Mother of God Church  
(Catholic Iraqi)

"Mr. Hussein poses a great danger to the security of the world . . . The fate of the western world must not be determined by an evil dictator."

Rabbi Irwin Groner  
Congregation Shaarey Zedek

Also seeking a peaceful resolution are the Chaldeans who find themselves in an unusual situation.

"We love our new country, the United States, but we love our old country, too," said Bishop Ibrahim. "In a war we would be the big losers on both sides. We have brothers and sisters in the American Army and brothers in the Iraqi Army. There's no such case in history except for the American Civil War."

**THAT'S NOT THE** only history being made. The atmosphere of general discussion over the U.S. build-up to 430,000 troops in Saudi Arabia is a part of history itself — a part that you can join. There are a lot of questions yet to be answered.

Are we there because of oil or because of Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait? One priest we talked with noted that if the product involved were bananas, we wouldn't have troops massed along the Iraq/Saudi border.

Should we be carrying on war exercises like Imminent Thunder in the area?

What's wrong with the system that approved defective equipment that our fighting men and women are using?

Should economic sanctions be given more time to work?

Why are our men and women sweltering in the desert without the benefit of a joint exercise with western European, Soviet and Japanese troops? After all, they are more dependent on Kuwait's oil than we are.

Will we include the Palestinian question in the negotiations?

Will this be another war using the poor and blacks to fill out troop flanks?

Are we ready to go through another war likely to cost thousands, maybe tens of thousands, of our young men and women?

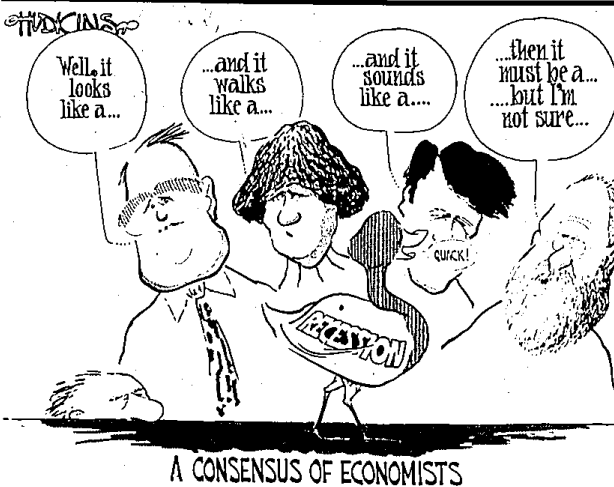
**PRESIDENT BUSH** said last week that he wasn't ready for war, but the decision shouldn't be his alone.

Congressmen, such as House Majority Whip David Bonior, D-Mount Clemens, who is currently expressing his reservations over the potential for war, are fulfilling their responsibility.

We hope that other congressmen join his lead in taking a close look at the warmongering going on in Capitol Hill. There was no chance to have a say before the Panama and Grenada invasions. And the strife that tore our country apart in the Vietnam War grew after the bloody battles began.

There is one point that can't be ignored about our system of government: We hold our elected officials accountable and now is the time to contact your U.S. senators and representatives to express your opinions.

Those opinions will eventually forge a consensus that will become a part of history.



## 'Orphaned' parents yearn for children at holiday time

I spent the last 18 years  
doing the laundry.  
I finally came up from the basement  
and found him gone —  
to Boston.

— Jacqueline Zigman  
'Orphaned' Parents Workshop

**THIS IS THE** first Thanksgiving we are celebrating without all our children.

I recognize we are lucky — because the two who have been at school, coincidentally in Boston, have always been able to come home. But this year, for various reasons, they will remain in Boston, and only our Ann Arborite will be at our Thanksgiving table.

Yes, we will see them over the next round of holidays, but it still takes some getting used to.

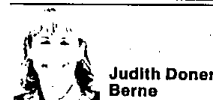
Others have been coping with this scenario for longer — and perhaps without the comfort of having even one child around. For example, Florentina Rimai describes herself as an "orphaned" parent.

Her three daughters live out of state. And although she hurts because she misses the everyday happenings she might be sharing with them, the wound swells when they aren't all together for the holidays.

Rimai, a Dearborn resident, was the impetus for the formation of the "Orphaned" Parents Workshop, held earlier this month at The Birmingham Temple in Farmington Hills. The workshop drew 100 people to share their feelings on having raised strong, independent children — who moved away.

"WAS I REALLY a good

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Judith Doner  
Berne

other orphaned parents is turning out to be more than a one-time, pre-Thanksgiving affair.

The response to the one-day workshop was so strong that a series of three more have been set for 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Jan. 12 and 20 and 1-3:30 p.m. Feb. 3. There's a waiting list of 25 already signed up to be contacted.

The temple's "Orphaned" Parents Committee also will provide the workshop for other organizations.

And the producer for ABC-TV's Sally Jessy Raphael has contacted the group, with the notion of doing an hour-long program on the subject.

**NO, I DIDN'T** go to the workshop, but depending on how I handle a smaller turkey, just one pie and a table which won't need any leaves, I may well attend the next one. I'm hoping that this Thanksgiving is an anomaly; chances are it's not.

Still, there are many worse circumstances than having Thanksgiving without two children who are happy, healthy and safe.

I'm very thankful for that.

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

## from our readers

### Women are not 'babes'

To the editor:

On Monday, Nov. 5, your paper printed an article regarding Oakland Court Circuit Court records, and access to them by various individuals.

While the information was very interesting, the way that it was expressed was very objectionable and unnecessary. To quote . . . "Apparently it is not uncommon for married men to tell their babes on the side that they're divorced. The babes are disappointed when they find out . . ."

It is most judgmental and ignorant for the reporter to use that terminology (babes) when referring to married men who lie to women.

The reporter has made a judgment that the liars (married men) deserve more respect than the women to whom they lie. Obviously, his scorn is reflected when he repeats the same offensive word in the next sentence: . . . "the babes are disappointed . . ."

I really think you owe all of your women readers an apology for the use of this derogatory term.

Many of us have had the experience of legitimately meeting a man and in the course of the conversation have been led to believe he is avail-

able (either single or divorced). Just because a woman is trusting and does not immediately think "liar" when a man says he is single does not make her a "babe."

Please let your reporter know the difference between factual reporting and opinionated deflection.

Pat Sanford,  
Farmington

### Thanks for 'Family Day'

to the editor:

I would like to say thank you to all who made "Family Day '90" possible.

Successful activities included Bill Proctor's powerful keynote address, the finalists of the middle school "Rap Contest," workshop presenters who motivated and educated, and singer Jerry Jacoby who delighted the youth.

One of the goals of FFIA is to provide substance abuse education to the community, reaching all ages. This is a tall order, battling busy schedules, previous commitments and general disinterest.

While Substance Abuse Awareness Month comes once a year, FFIA hopes that community members stay abreast of current drug information and work hard to develop good com-

munication skills by which to share this information.

In addition to many hard working volunteers, "Family Day '90" was supported by donations from Target Stores, Farmington Public Service and by services from T & L Printing, Farmington Area Advisory Council and Botsford Hospital Family Services.

Cynthia Helisek,  
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.

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**MIDDLE EAST**

THOMAS DONER/Observer