

from our readers

Editor should apologize to area's voters

To the editor:

It never ceases to amaze me how you get away with calling the residents ("seniors or singles or whoever") of Farmington/Farmington Hills something less than responsible or intelligent people when it comes to making decisions and voting on school millage issues.

The majority of residents (taxpayers) said no to a 2.7 and 1.0 millage increase request.

However, as I read your Feb. 14 article, I got the impression that, because I voted no, I must have been uninformed because, if I had been informed, I would surely have voted yes.

No, that's not what you said? Well, Tom Baer, I beg to differ. You said, "But, still, we feel there is a strong case for trying again," not more than 10 days after the residents turned down a proposal by an almost 2-to-1 margin.

What are you saying about the "seniors or singles or whoever" that voted no? In my opinion, you are saying that they didn't know what they were doing.

I WOULD BRING to light some facts: I am 43 years old, so I'm not considered a senior. Being happily married, I am not a single. And I am not sure what you mean when you call me a "whoever."

I attended the information meeting at Harrison High School where Superintendent Flanagan answered questions submitted by those attending. He did a good job, in my opinion.

I am a member of the Farmington Area Council of Homeowners Associations that extended the offer to Flanagan to host an additional information meeting to allow him to talk to anyone that was interested. Flanagan refused.

I read the full page ad that appeared in the Farmington Observer on Monday, Feb. 4, asking for a yes vote on the millage issues and detailing what might happen if the millage failed.

I am also a Farmington Observer subscriber. I read the paper in an attempt to stay informed on what's going on in my community. I have also been known to attend a Farm-

ington Hills City Council meeting now and again, or at least watch it through the cable station.

The large voter turnout on the school millage was a sign of community awareness of the issues, not the lack of them as you propose.

Why would we need another election? We just had one and the majority spoke out loud and clear through their ballots.

What is needed now is for the elected school board and school employees to work within the arena that the taxpayers have given them.

In my opinion, Tom Baer, you have sold the residents of Farmington-Farmington Hills short, and you owe them a big apology in a big way.

Fred DeLong,
Farmington Hills

Winner likes her apron

To the editor:

Thank you for the Winner Dinner Winner apron which I recently received for being the winner of Dec. 31, 1990. I have received many comments from the story and have had fun with all the attention.

I would like to take this opportunity to tell you how much I have enjoyed the Winner Dinner column. My recipe book is packed with the menus I've saved. I sent in my menu in order to support the column because I feel I've gained so much from it. All the recipes are tasty and practical, using ordinary ingredients with short preparation times specified.

Many years ago, I began subscribing to the Observer & Eccentric because neighbors recommended it. My carpoolers in particular mentioned what good recipes it contained. Thanks for publishing such a good food section and including me in it.

Peggy N. Brewer,
Farmington Hills

Mend ways, board is told

To the editor:

In the wake of the school millage defeat, with a spate of letters blaming the voters, the Farmington

Board of Education should concentrate on reforming its own policies. A couple of cases come to mind.

For one, there is no reason why the taxpayers at large should pay for a limousine-type busing service extended to children whose parents have chosen for them a school other than the one in their own neighborhood. Picking up and discharging children at their front doors must end.

This same sense of economy and shared responsibility might well guide the school board as it reacts to the 1991 campaign to provide families choices of schools within and across districts. Who will pay for all this choosing?

Another board policy needing review concerns the evolution of the magnet school and others like it that may follow.

Inherent in its design is the need to bus students, an extra expense. Add in preferred enrollment status for siblings of children already there and you have the trappings of elitism, or an academy.

Are there still other enhancements of curriculum, equipment and staff service?

Reassure by policy and practice that the Farmington Schools are serving all the people equally and that money spent is for the classroom, and I am sure voters will support future millages.

Laurence Niblett,
Farmington

Support our armed forces

To the editor:

At a time when the men and women in our armed forces are facing their greatest test, we at home are facing a test as well. Our test is to maintain our unity and resolve, as our troops are doing in the Persian Gulf.

We don't want Saddam Hussein to take this country's tolerance for anti-war demonstrators as a signal he should wait out our resolve in a long and bloody war.

I'm outraged at the brutal treatment of our POW's. And I'm saddened to see the media give so much

attention to the small number of anti-war protesters who have sprung into action. It seems that every time a few protesters pick up their signs, the cameras swarm around them, and they end up on the news.

Our soldiers have said that they have a job to do and are going to get it done. I feel I have a job to do, too. And that's to stand up in strong support of our troops.

I want them to know that I and the American people are very proud of their bravery. We are all inspired by their bravery.

I hope that you'll print my letter, and others like it, in the days ahead. Thousands of local American newspapers are reaching our men and women in uniform every day. Your newspaper may be one of them. I want the troops to know that we hold them in our thoughts and prayers every day.

James McInerney,
Dearborn

Support helped Marine's family

To the editor:

Bruce, the girls and I would like to express our heartfelt thanks to all the wonderful people who gave us so much love and support during our time of need.

Without this help we never could have made it through the past two weeks. The love and support has been overwhelming from the cards, the visitors at our home and the funeral home, from family, friends, co-workers, from school, the community and from strangers who just care. It is truly overwhelming.

We only hear on the news about the bad things that people do to each other but let me say this is not the case. Good people far outweigh the bad. We cannot ever express in words how we feel about all of you wonderful people.

Kurt was always our "hero" and I'm glad he is also a hero to all of you. I also admired his enthusiasm for life and in everything he did. He will be greatly missed.

God bless all of you and all our troops. You and they are the best. Thank you again.

Best Family,
Garden City

Work for diplomatic solution

To the editor:

This is an open letter to my congressman, William Broomfield.

Twenty women gathered at a home in West Bloomfield last week to talk about the war.

Mr. Broomfield, I need to tell you of the despair that we are feeling about the way we were taken into this war which you supported. Not only do we sorrow for the loved ones of all those who will die, some horribly, on all sides of this catastrophe; we weep for the earth itself, being assaulted by destructive weapons on a 24-hour basis, as well as by the result of the oil spill that Hussein unleashed; we mourn the loss of truth in the media and in the communications from administrative representatives; we shudder at the glorification of the tools of violence for the purpose of resolving conflicts; we recoil at the misrepresentation of such weapons as the Patriot anti-missile system and the Stealth Bomber (which isn't even being used in the Gulf), to bolster Pentagon calls for a larger military budget; we fear for the loss of reason that is already beginning to justify the possible use of "tactical" nuclear weapons to end this war according to the timetable of the "game plan," we cringe at the commercial exploitation of war, as in the emergence of a whole new set of war cards, like baseball cards, we are heartbroken at the model that we are presenting to a whole generation of children that war is the last resort; we tremble at the thought of the consequences in international relationships and terrorism that will begin and perhaps never end.

But mostly, I think we are horrified that our "leaders" could want to understand so little about another culture or shut so much knowledge from themselves that they could somehow justify this catastrophic decision. We are on the way to destroying the region, and, perhaps the planet, in pursuit of one man. It is impossible to believe that a species

that could perfect the FAX machine could not have figured out a less destructive method of solving this problem.

We are overwhelmed by our feelings at present, and paralyzed, so hurt are we, but when that passes, and when the hyper-patriotism sorts itself out, I believe there will be a wave of reaction that will give everyone pause.

For there is still not a constructive word about oil conservation or development of alternative energy sources — only determination to rape still more of our environment to satisfy our short term needs. And our homeless, our sick, our young, and our poor being more and more deprived with each day, because there is not enough money to support our citizens, but there is always enough money to support a military agenda.

That is a wonder, is it not? This war is a Pandora's box. The damages I have listed are just the beginning. Mr. Broomfield, I appeal to you to rouse whatever courage and vision you might harbor and work actively for a diplomatic solution, even at this late date.

Women know other ways of handling disputes and working out cooperative arrangements. Perhaps you need to voluntarily enlist those talents, because there are other ways of living together, and Mr. Bush's "new world order" is turning out to be a tragic nightmare.

Arlene Victor
Birmingham

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.

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