

from our readers

She's no fan of DeVries

To the editor:

I like to respond to the May 16 letter written about Richard DeVries' candidacy for the Farmington Hills School Board.

I attended a school board meeting May 21. I was not impressed with the DeVries candidate himself.

First of all, he asked the school board a question. When Michael Flanigan, the superintendent, got up to explain, DeVries was extremely rude.

He didn't listen to an explanation at all. He was busy talking to the gentleman in front of him.

Sandra L. Brozovich,
Farmington Hills

First let me briefly explain who I am. I have lived in Farmington Hills at the same address for 22 years. I have graduated six children from Farmington schools. I have been actively involved in athletics, activities, special education and arts and crafts — and I emphasize "actively."

I read your article (by Susan Buck) 5/23/91 edition. I attended the meeting and please allow me to compliment you regarding your journalistic objectivity.

This forum is the third such meeting I have attended. In each of the meetings I have been appalled at the superficiality, inaccuracy, inaccuracy, (a nice phrase for lying), and mud slinging by two of the candidates.

Regarding everything I have read, from everyone I have listened to, the only candidate who supports no tax increases, fiscal responsibility, non-instructional cost cuts, no teacher layoffs, curriculum improvement, accountability and ethics is Richard DeVries.

He has facts and figures to substantiate everything he says. He is obviously a person of which integrity is a part of his character.

Now, let's look at Susan Rennells who strongly supported the defeated tax increase and has privately (not publicly) said she would support another try at a tax increase. I differ greatly between privately (not publicly) because there are several turnabouts she has made (such as not now supporting cablecasting school board meetings) which is an obvious play during her attempt for re-election.

Laura Myers seems to be just a wonderful lady who simply doesn't know what is happening — and wants to.

Despite valiant efforts by the Birmingham/Bloomfield Task Force on Race Relations, formed several years ago to open the area and people's minds to the advantages of a diverse community, problems continue to occur.

Over the past two weeks:

- A Birmingham doctor, who was, was arraigned on a felonious assault charge in connection with an

incident involving a 14-year-old black youth from Rochester Hills who was waiting in a parking structure for his mother to finish shopping.

Police reports stated the physician pulled a shotgun on the boy after driving by three times questioning why he was there.

In the final time, the youth asked him if the man was concerned because he was black. It was then, the teen told police, that the man pulled the shotgun.

It was misinterpreted, but no mistaking what it said: "No niggers in Birmingham."

To Perkins, it was unpleasant but not unexpected. "My wife and I grew up in Louisiana in a segregated society. I've dealt with it all my life."

"No matter where you live, what

position you hold or how much mon-

the initial work last summer required to initiate a new PTA chapter.

The letter went on to imply that I had never attended a PTA function. Our family does attend PTA functions, especially those involving the children.

We support the wonderful things that the district's PTAs and PTOs do for the children of this district and plan to continue our memberships.

Finally, as a candidate for school board on Monday, June 10, I'd like to thank the Farmington Area Republican Club and the League of Women Voters-AAUW for hosting the three candidate's forums.

I urge readers to view these forums to be cablecast on cable channel 12 on June 7 and examine each candidate's qualifications, philosophy and positions on important school issues.

Please vote on Monday, June 10.

Richard DeVries,
Farmington Hills

Letter about DeVries was off base

To the editor:

In a letter to the editor published May 23, under the title "The Honest Mrs. Shadley," a Mrs. Price stated that I had "misrepresented" myself at the Farmington Democratic Club's School Board Candidates Night as an "active" PTA member.

Let's set the record straight. What I stated (as verified by a videotape of the debate) was "I've been a member of the PTA and I was on the bylaws committee at 'Hillside' (elementary school)."

This is an accurate statement made in good faith. My wife and I have been PTA members at Longcreek, Highmeadow and Hillside schools. At Hillside, on the bylaws committee, I did some of

the work to review the bylaws and then to make recommendations.

In the interests of accuracy in reporting, you may wish to add these facts to your lead article in the May 23 Observer.

"Concern over conduct of some council members last year prompted

Watch for animals on the road

To the editor:

I hate seeing so many bodies of animals on our roads in Farmington Hills.

I have seen dead muskrats, ducks, rabbits, shrews, squirrels and even birds. I realize that house construction and paving roads on 13 and 14 Mile roads have cut across animal trails that have existed for thousands of years.

The only course I can see being taken is to place markers for slower speeds where these animals cross. On Grand River near Halsted they have a sign for ducks crossing. In these ways animals can cross with more safety.

Virginia M. Mitchell,
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.

Letters should be mailed to:

the editor, The Farmington Observer, 21898 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336.

He supports DeVries for school post

To the editor:

I suppose you could consider me one of the notorious "silent majority" voters. In other words, a concerned citizen who does not run off the mouth or write letters, or make phone calls, but simply complies with the rules and votes accordingly.

Unfortunately, circumstances surrounding the Farmington School election has compelled me to write and voice an observation.

Ethnic intimidation rears its head in the suburbs

ONCE AGAIN BIRMINGHAM is in the news as a place where racist acts occur.

Despite valiant efforts by the Birmingham/Bloomfield Task Force on Race Relations, formed several years ago to open the area and people's minds to the advantages of a diverse community, problems continue to occur.

Over the past two weeks:

- A Birmingham doctor, who was, was arraigned on a felonious assault charge in connection with an

incident involving a 14-year-old black youth from Rochester Hills who was waiting in a parking structure for his mother to finish shopping.

Police reports stated the physician pulled a shotgun on the boy after driving by three times questioning why he was there.

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"No matter where you live, what

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the in the state Senate.

Sparks conjured up racist images on last-minute handouts with his reference to "Cross District Schools of Choice — Sounds like busing without the buses — Mike Bouchard likes the idea."

Then there was the racial epithet written on the garage door of Channel 2 newscaster Huel Perkins and his wife, who have lived in Birmingham for 14 years.

It was misinterpreted, but no mistaking what it said: "No niggers in Birmingham."

To Perkins, it was unpleasant but not unexpected. "My wife and I grew up in Louisiana in a segregated society. I've dealt with it all my life."

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Bloomfield race relations group, the NAACP, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, school districts and city commissions, as he deserves to be by the voters at the polls.

Talk about ethnic intimidation. His phrasology may be more subtle than the dialogue between a white doctor and black teen or the words scrawled so blatantly on the Perkins' garage, but they are just as dangerous.

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

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