

A brighter town

Honored teens are deserving

Just a few more words about this community's 14 outstanding young people, honored recently for their volunteer spirit by Farmington Youth Assistance, before they become part of Farmington-area history.

The 14 teens were feted May 20 at the annual Youth Assistance Breakfast at the Botsford Inn. The honorees, all top students with bright futures, seem to have something important in common — they help others through volunteer work.

Now, if we've heard it once, we've heard it well, too many times from the community: "You're always writing about kids that get in trouble, while the good ones never seem to get a line."

It's an old complaint, and sometimes a valid one. Of course, you don't praise somebody for not robbing a bank.

But, considering the 14 FYA honorees and their many accomplishments, a line or two is definitely in order. Their names, stories and a group photo appeared on page 5A of last Monday's Farmington Observer.

Check it out and you'll see that these people, at a very early age, have maximized their potential. Cathy Webb, school trustee, had a lot of people nodding in agreement when she said that they are "the kind of people who brighten a room when they walk into it."

The same could be said of the community in which they live.

Local parade's not forgotten

Who loves a parade? Why, thousands of people in the Farmington area, of course, especially on Memorial Day.

Memorial Day parades have been scratched in New York and Chicago in recent years because of lack of interest. But the parade that occupies Grand River in the friendly confines of downtown Farmington is alive and well, thank you.

Thousands lined the town's main street Monday to witness what has become a community tradition. Sure, the young people dressed suggested that the event was a football game in late October rather than the holiday that ushers in

summer.

But the unseasonably low temperatures (did the mercury ever climb above 60?) couldn't keep them away. They ignored the cold to celebrate the day set aside to honor our war dead.

Yes, the parade was made up of clowns, politicians, Scouts, marching bands and all the other elements that make kids' eyes go wide. But many in the crowd didn't forget the real reason for the whoop-de-doo.

Asked why he braved the cold to see the parade, a spectator, bundled against the cold, said, "I remember the veterans who fought and died and sacrificed."

MSU band lacking in leaders

The essence of higher education is teaching leadership skills. That mission has failed in at least one case at Michigan State University.

Bloomfield Township resident Jeffrey Greenfield's dispute with other Michigan State University band members shows that faculty, students and administrators need to take another look at just how leadership is taught, mentored and executed at this Big Ten school.

If Greenfield had received effective leadership training, he could have worked with his student colleagues and faculty mentors to solve this problem. Certainly, if all involved had received proper leadership training, this incident would never have occurred.

We're not dismissing his concerns. Not right now, anyway.

We hope that Greenfield, who has brought suit against Michigan State University over what he sees as harassment and bizarre initiation rituals for new band members, settles his case with MSU and goes on drumming in the prestigious band, if he desires.

Greenfield, an MSU junior, has complained about the way things are in the MSU marching band. Rookie band members are harassed, he says.

In his lawsuit, he claims band members were given sexual nicknames which were printed in a band roster. Some band members, he added, were forced to expose their private parts in public. They were also asked some embarrassing questions about masturbation and sexual preference.

The story, as seamy as it is steamy, has made front-page fodder for a Detroit daily newspaper. Our thinking: The charges, if true, indicate a

serious lack of leadership in the band. It's just too bad that Greenfield and others like him couldn't have provided some of that leadership.

Unfortunately, university officials as well as student leaders have let youthful indiscretion get out of hand, while other, more important social issues go begging.

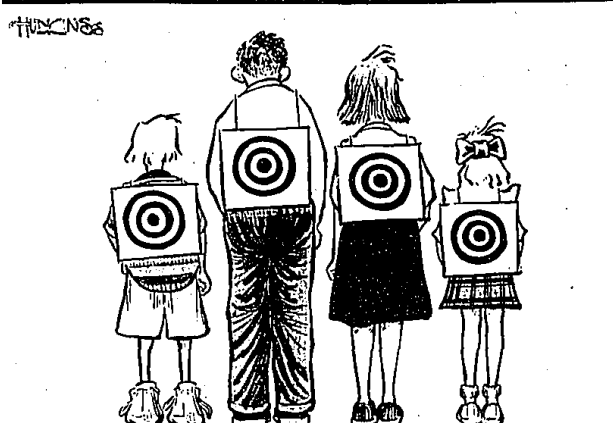
Unrest and misunderstanding between ethnic and racial groups, women's struggle for equality, and students juggling to study while working far too many hours to pay exorbitant tuition rates are issues which need more attention by universities and the courts.

But leadership was lacking within the band itself. Too bad faculty and student leaders weren't taught that, and therefore neglected to work together in curtailing this adolescent behavior.

Students have a right to attend school, study and participate in activities without putting up with such nonsense.

And when it's over, we hope that everyone — MSU officials, the people who run the band and Greenfield — learn something from the experience. In the meantime, we hope that parents and students who foot the tuition bill demand better from their institutions of higher learning.

ARKIE HUDKINS



The aim of the 90's family is to not be the target of violence. It's tough!!!

LETTERS

Thanks for the help

I cannot thank you enough for the wonderful coverage you gave our Spring Farmington Artist Club Show.

We had our biggest attendance ever — a direct result of your kind assistance.

Everyone in our club is really grateful for your cooperation. It made a huge difference towards the success of this exhibition.

Sandra Levin, publicity chairman, Farmington Artists Club

As her mother and a taxpayer of some prominence, I am aghast at the system that says, get financial aid for school to better yourself down the road but we the government will penalize you for your endeavors.

Help my daughter please. You are the "Father of our country." Take care of the children.

Madeline Rees, Farmington Hills

Nice going, Doc

Has anyone thought of Dr. Jack Kevoorkian as an entrepreneur? He has brought Michigan into the national spotlight and increased tourism.

Hank Borgman, Farmington

Thanks are given

Re: Casey Hans and Sharon LeMeux: I can't believe that it has taken me 10 months to write to you concerning the above-mentioned individuals. They worked together on an article that appeared in the July 30, 1992, issue of the Farmington Observer about myself and my daughter.

I'm sure that you are aware of their exceptional abilities as a reporter and photographer for your paper.

I would like to also express my appreciation for their professionalism exhibited by their kind, caring and non-biased attitudes during the interviews, photographing session, and re-typed in the final copy that appeared in the observer.

It was truly a joyous experience for myself and my daughter, and I would like to say thank you once again.

Marcela Berg, Farmington Hills

More 'right' stuff

I was scary to read the article in the May 17 Observer about the "New Right" grass roots threat.

I don't consider the new right a threat, but I find the methods used by these so-called experts were so similar to the very tactics they were accusing the religious right of doing.

Since when does an intelligent person use the reasoning that this panel employed to justify their own prejudice?

Aren't they using scare tactics in telling us to be wary of people who call themselves "concerned parents?"

What's wrong with being a concerned parent? Do I detect a wee bit of paranoia on their part? And Howell's statement that religious people do not truly find homosexuality distasteful because "they loved J. Edgar Hoover" was a good example of how ludicrous their reasoning powers are.

Maybe someone should give them a remedial course in logical thinking.

Dolores Carroce, Farmington Hills

Correction needed

On behalf of Botsford Continuing Health Center, I would like to commend the employees of the Farmington Hills Post Office on their efforts to collect food for area organizations.

At the same time, I would like to make a clarification.

On a flier that was distributed to Farmington/Farmington Hills residents, Botsford Continuing Health Center (formerly Farmington Nursing Home) was incorrectly listed with other area organizations as a planned recipient of the canned goods that were being collected.

At no fault of the postal workers' union, it was assumed that Botsford Continuing Health Center operates a food bank for the poor. We have no such food bank and therefore will not be receiving any of the food that was collected.

However, we are a nonprofit long-term care facility that remains committed to serving the needs of the community. While we do not accept food donations, we do accept monetary donations and volunteer time which assists us in enhancing the lives of our residents.

Linda Mlynarek, administrator, Botsford Continuing Health Center

A letter to Clinton

My Dear President Clinton: I am the mother of a single 28-year-old daughter doing her very best to survive and also improve her prospects in the work place.

She is presently working at a local YMCA and going to Wayne State University in Detroit to obtain her master's degree in counseling. Needless to say, money is very tight for her and some months she has to make a decision to either pay her health insurance or eat.

Recently, she applied for food stamps at the Department of Social Services, Wixom, and interviewed with Ms. Constantine. My daughter was refused food stamps because she has \$2,600 student loan which she is informed counts as assets.

My dear Mr. Clinton, that money is for school tuition, student housing and text books.

Ms. Constantine suggested that my daughter should cancel her health insurance to make ends meet.





Opinions are to be shared: We welcome your ideas, as do your neighbors. That's why we offer this space on a weekly basis for opinions in your own words. We will help by editing for clarity. To assure authenticity, we ask that you sign your letter and provide a contact telephone number.

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

COMMUNITY VOICE

QUESTION: What are your plans for the summer?

We asked this question at the A&W restaurant in the Crossroads shopping center in Farmington.

			
'Play with my friends all day.'	'Play video games all day.'	'Go fishing for walleys in Lake Erie.'	'I'm going to New York City. I've never been there and I'm anxious to see it.'
Katie Jarrett Redford Township	Jimmy Jarrett Redford Township	Jim Jarrett Redford ship	John Roobolt Farmington Hills

The Farmington Observer

Tom Baer Editor, 477-5480

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