

LETTERS

A familiar ring

Twenty years ago, we had a "crisis" in energy. Middle East suppliers got together and raised prices.

We reacted in panic and created a Department of Energy to save our economy, even though only 5 percent of our fuel came from that source. Management by government brought shortages, high costs and displacement of normal investment.

Recreation areas were not visited because of the gas shortage. Large cars and campers were ignored. Cautious drivers carried gas in milk containers in their trunks to be "safe."

The crisis was resolved when energy was deregulated. Does the term "Managed Competition" have a familiar ring?

Hank Borgman, Farmington

Lions say thanks

The Farmington Area Lions wish to thank the people of the Farmington area for their generous response to our recent fund solicitation project.

For 70 plus years, the Lions have been known for helping the blind. Now the 1.4 million Lions about the world are involved in a project entitled Campaign SightFirst.

Campaign SightFirst is a project to establish a \$200 million endowment fund that will provide for an ongoing program to prevent blindness. The United Nations health organizations tell the Lions that there are 40 million blind in the world and that 32 million of these need not be blind if proper prevention programs would have existed in their communities.

It is the hope of the International Association of Lions that the prevention programs can be employed where absent and expanded where partial programs exist today.

The Farmington Area Lions will still support the many existing "help" programs, we will buy glasses for those not covered by existing state programs, we will still provide Leader Dogs, we will still support those programs that are working to combat juvenile diabetes and substance abuse, the two leading causes of blindness in this country.

The Lions will still collect your used eye glasses to be recycled and provided to those in Third World countries that have need. In fact, the Farmington Area Lions have collected over 3,000 pairs of eyeglasses in the Farmington area so far this year and have forwarded them for reuse.

There are many locations in the Farmington area that provide drop-off facilities. For a location near you, call 476-6257.

Again, we thank everyone for their continued financial support. If one is interested in joining the Lions activities, call 476-6257 for additional information.

Dick Carvell, secretary
Farmington Area Lions

She's fuming

I decided to share Helen Motriuk's Oct. 14 article in your "Guest Columnist" column with my middle school Sunday school class.

As it is also Drug Awareness Month in Farmington, I thought the timing was perfect. It is my feeling that a pre-teen or teenager may start experimenting with easily accessible cigarettes before moving on to alcohol and possibly other drugs.

The students each wrote a paragraph stating their reaction to Motriuk's article. Here are some of the responses:

■ I feel that secondhand smoke should be eliminated in any non-smoking area. There should be another room that the smokers can use. This room should be enclosed so the non-smokers do not have to breathe the smoke, get it on their clothes, or in their food.

■ While abortion, drunk driving, crimes, taxes and health insurance are all part of our society's concerns and problems, secondhand smoke is equally upsetting to those who are sensitive to the smoke and those who want clean air for themselves and their children. I also believe the smokers should have a room that is as nice as the other rooms in Mercy Center.

■ Secondhand smoke can be as deadly as some of the things Ms. Motriuk mentioned in her article. Smokers should have a room to smoke in, but not around the many (more) people who choose not to smoke or who don't want to breathe in the gross smoke.

Cynthia Helisek, Farmington Hills

Something added

There is a movement to remove the Second Amendment — "The right to bear arms."

Someone should attach an amendment on this and say:

"We the people so amend this bill that those that make the laws shall have their pay used as Social Security monies and their retirement fund attached and used to pay off our national debt until it is removed and paid for."

Also, "all committee funds created in Washington, D.C. by Congress shall henceforth be used also to pay off the national debt until paid for, with no substitution of any kind — such as new committees or projects — until the national debt is canceled.

"Thereafter, any funds spent by Congress shall only be after the vote of the people and paid for by the state or recipients."

George Strelczuk, Farmington

That TI 99/4A

In hundreds of homes in this area there is a box or carton which is gathering dust. No one looks at its contents and no one knows the treasure inside.

I am referring to the unappreciated computer which was bought on an impulse or so that the kids could play games on it or something.

Or because it was a computer and it was cheap. This gem is the TI 99/4A which is no longer being made, but is one of the very best for its capacity. I don't mean that you can throw away your PCs, but for number-crunching capacity and accuracy, for word processing, and yes, for game playing this 99/4A is what the doctor ordered.

People lucky enough to own one of these machines can learn to use it if they will take the trouble to contact a users' group.

There are spread sheets for keeping home or small business accounts and courses especially for children which can teach arithmetic, grammar, spelling, science.

Entire courses in a multitude of subjects are available and games galore, including chess, checkers and all the casino games. There are games which require speed and accuracy and those which need thought and concentration — all on that little machine.

Since TI stopped making this computer (they still service it, however), hundreds of programs have been written for it. This is the reason you need to contact a users' group for the use of the library of disks kept by those organizations and for the expertise of the members who will freely assist you to

make a thing of joy out of the inanimate box in your closet.

I belong to the Great Lakes Users Group Inc., P.O. Box 152, Roseville 48065-0162, which meets in Madison Heights on the last Monday of each month except in July (we have a picnic) and in August. Anyone in the greater Detroit area who is interested may write to the above address or call me, almost any early evening, and will be able to get the phone number of a group near your home or work.

I am the membership chairperson for the Great Lakes group. Call me in Farmington Hills at 471-0642. Herb Schlesinger, Farmington Hills

The 'war monger'

The polls indicate that a small majority support the Clintons. How can this possibly be? He's a socialist! He's a war monger! He sleeps well while the bodies of our soldiers are dragged through the streets of Somalia! He proposes, praises and promotes socialized medicine planned by Hillary.

These behaviors and policies are not supportable so who are the polls interviewing?

Worse, Congress has been impotent for at least three decades and continues to be. What a scandal.

Beatrice Sealise, Westland

Gets good care

We knew that my daughter had a learning disability. We just didn't know where or what it was. She was tested left and right in public school and obviously they couldn't pinpoint it either.

Knowing that our niece had a learning disability, we decided to have our daughter re-evaluated outside of school. She had difficulty with letters and reading. She has been in speech and language since she was 2½ years old.

We took our daughter to the Michigan Dyslexia Institute of Metro Detroit (in West Bloomfield). She went through five hours of testing, and that's how we found out that she was dyslexic.

We started with remediation right away. This was started last year in 1992. Her tutor's name is Liz Lakritz. Our daughter was very receptive with Liz. If it weren't for Liz, our daughter would be further into her shell.

If you could see our daughter today you would be amazed. She is now reading and understanding much better. Her self-esteem has greatly improved. She has more confidence in herself. Liz has done a fantastic job. She will be receiving remediation for a long time to come.

Our daughter has received an award in second grade for the most books read (26). She has no trouble with numbers at all. She definitely has come a long way.

We do have our daughter on Ritalin. She has been on it for one year and tremendous results have occurred. She has even noticed it in herself.

It helps her keep focused on just about everything she does. She takes it twice a day (morning and after lunch). There has been no adverse reaction to this medication at all. She is under medical care with her pediatrician, Dr. Obudzinski.

She has also been evaluated by a pediatric neurologist, Dr. Finkel at Michigan Institute of Neurological Disorders. Everything has turned out fine.

She is receiving the best care possible. We expect that our daughter will win even though the dyslexia may slow her down, but we will work through it.

Ronald Goldberg, Detroit

Do we fear death?

Is it the fear of death or the death we're afraid of?

Like beauty, I believe death is in the eye of the beholder. If you feel Dr. Kevorkian is doing something evil, maybe you don't understand death. Maybe those who live close enough to death (physically or emotionally) can't understand it, or at least lose the fear of it. And if that happens, maybe we should celebrate instead of criticize. For what is death without fear? Maybe a blessing, or at least acceptance.

Joni Gardner, Livonia

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.

Politicos could lead way to days of racial mistrust

Quite possibly, Coleman Young's worst habit during his nearly 20 years as mayor of Detroit was to play the racial card, demonizing "the suburbs" when it suited his purposes.

It was a bad habit because it regularly and gratuitously blocked any chance that the city and the suburbs might work together. Where common sense might well have seen common need and shared purpose, Mayor Young regularly saw plots and malice. Faced with brilliantly verbalized suspicion punctuated by bouts of political paranoia, suburbanites found it easy to wash their hands of the core city.

The predictable result: Detroit became firmly entrenched as among the worst big cities in the country, unfortunately labeled as "America's first Third World city."

So when Young decided not to seek another term, a lot of people — suburbanites and city dwellers alike — hoped his departure might help change things. How fragile that hope!

Consider this sequence of events in the campaign between Sharon McPhail and Dennis Archer:

■ McPhail charges Archer is the tool of unnamed "outside interests."

■ McPhail repeatedly suggests Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson has endorsed and contributed to Archer's campaign.

■ At a prayer breakfast for McPhail, Rev. Charles Adams, pastor of Hartford Memorial Baptist Church, talks about "outside forces" wanting to undermine black Detroiters. He then produces the racist line about suburbanites wanting a mayor who "will shuffle when he's not going anywhere, scratch when he's not itching and grin when he's not tickled."

■ Patterson responds with a tongue-in-cheek fund-raiser for McPhail at Duggan's Irish Pub in Royal Oak. A lot of people had a lot of laughs, only partly without malice, although Patterson does talk about "mutual and compelling interests on both sides of Eight Mile."

If this kind of stuff doesn't stop, we're going to be back to the bad old days in a hurry.



PHILIP POWER

When Young decided not to seek another term, a lot of people — suburbanites and city dwellers alike — hoped his departure might help change things. How fragile that hope!

During the course of my work with this newspaper, I see a lot of people who live and work in the suburbs, and I have yet to meet anybody who wants to control a place in as much trouble as Detroit.

Some are dismayed at the deterioration of the city where they were born and for which they carry great residual affection. Others are troubled that the long-term fate of great regional cultural institutions such as the Detroit Institute of Arts or the Detroit Symphony Orchestra is held hostage to political expedience.

Still others see that the economic health of the entire southeastern Michigan area will inevitably depend on things required for both city and suburb: effective mass transit, good schools, a trained work force, safe streets and a climate of civility.

That's what politics in this area ought to be about, not the bad habits of a departing mayor.

Phil Power is chairman of the company that owns this newspaper. His touch-tone voice mail number is (313) 953-2047 ext. 1880.

CLASSIC SPORTS
QUOIZEL SWEEPSTAKES

ENTER TO WIN A TRIP FOR TWO TO A MAJOR SPORTING EVENT!

LIGHTING SALE

FREE

10% Off
Our 40%-50%
Already Discount Prices!

BROSE ELECTRICAL CONSTRUCTION, INC. Lighting Fixtures For Every Decor • Wiring Supplies and Light Bulbs
37400 W. 7 MILE ROAD
LIVONIA, MI 48152 • (313) 464-2211
9000 W. 12 MILE, SUITE 230-238 TROY, MI 48068