

### Fact check

#### Hopeful should clear things up

Imagine for a moment this 37th District state House race as something like a job interview.

And let's say one Andrew Raczkowski is the job seeker while the curious electorate is on the other side of the desk as the perspective employer. While scanning the applicant's resume, the line of questioning might go like this:

"It states here Mister Raczkowski that you 'fought for our freedom' and were on active duty during Desert Storm. So, you saw combat in the Middle East?"

"No, I am an Army Reserve officer and was called on active duty in Georgia."

Oh.

It states here you have a master's degree from Central Michigan University. We checked with the registrar's office and they said that is not the case?

"I completed my course work but I may not have paid the graduation filing fee. I probably didn't pay (just to) walk down the aisle (during commencement ceremonies)."

Hmmm.

Picking on poor Andrew again? Raczkowski and his supporters see any effort to tidy up discrepancies in his background as personal attacks motivated purely by partisan politics.

A perspective employer wouldn't expect anything less than correct information on a resume. The voting public is entitled to the same consideration.

As a candidate for state office, Raczkowski should expect such scrutiny and respond immediately when discrepancies surface.

In his case, though, they continue to pop up like lint on a pair of velvet slacks worn by a sheep herder.

A profile in a political newsletter stated Raczkowski was an attorney. An error by the publication, perhaps.

But then there was a question over his age, was it 27 or 28? And his name, Andrew or Andy?

Inconsistencies in what a politician states and how he acts are always open to interpretation.

Raczkowski has been quoted as saying he's against special interest groups, but has received financial contributions from a bevy of PACs, including the Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers.

Matters of background, though, are simple black and white issues.

Let's get it straight Andrew: Do you have a master's degree from Central Michigan University?

If there are any other errors, misunderstandings or typos in campaign leaflets, there's four weeks to clear them up.

The electorate should not be treated like the blindfolded panelists on the old TV game show "What's My Line?"

After all, they are the ones who have to live with the truth and consequences.

### Torch Drive helps enrich lives

Color it compassionate. The Torch Drive, with deep roots in Oakland County health and human service agencies, reaches out to people who can't reach out for themselves.

It's cost conscious and it makes a difference — there's no question about that. Almost 90 cents of every dollar contributed goes to someone in need; about 10 cents support fund-raising, fund management and administration. Last year, 1.7 million people in Oakland, Wayne and Macomb counties received services from 130 Torch Drive-supported agencies.

A September torchlighting in downtown Detroit kicked off the 1996 Torch Drive, sponsored by United Way Community Services. Fund-raising runs to Nov. 14. The goal is \$58.8 million, up \$400,000 from last year's collection. This year's theme: "Touch A Life. The United Way." To donate, call (313) 226-9200.

"We light this torch to help those in need," said Detroit resident William Brooks, 1996 Torch Drive general chairman and General Motors vice president/corporate affairs. "It represents a warm bed for the homeless, medication for the sick, food for the hungry, counseling for the abused, the and extensive programs for the youth and elderly."

The lighting of the torch serves as a beacon of hope. When you give, you help advance cancer and AIDS research, battle infant mortality and illiteracy, protect an abused wife or child, shelter a homeless family, teach teens to negotiate instead of fight, keep elderly folks independent in their own homes, re-train laid-off workers and instruct young mothers in proper child care.

Detroit-based United Way helped 161,000 residents in Observer & Eccentric communities across Oakland County last year. United Way is the largest non-governmental funder of health and human services in the tri-county area. Led by volunteers from business, labor, government, human services, education and the community, it not only acts as a fund-raiser but also provides technical support to human service, nonprofit and civic groups.

A sampler of United Way agencies represents a tapestry of Oakland County-based

#### OAKLAND WATCH



BOB SKLAR

social services.

Community and special assistance services include Jewish Vocational Service, The Arc of Oakland County, Catholic Social Services of Oakland County, Kenny Foundation, HAVEN, The Sanctuary, the Arab-American and Chaldean Council and Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic, Inc.

Health services include the Alzheimer's Association/Detroit Area Chapter, Epilepsy Center of Michigan, Karmanos Cancer Institute, Mental Health Association of Michigan and United Cerebral Palsy of Metropolitan Detroit.

Family services include Oakland Family Services, Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Metropolitan Detroit, Lutheran Child & Family Service of Michigan, St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center and FAR Conservatory of Therapeutic and Performing Arts.

Youth services include the Boys and Girls Club of South Oakland County, Camp Fire Boys and Girls/Northern Oakland Council and YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit. Last year, United Way ticketed \$14 million to solve youth problems and assist youngsters and teenagers in crisis.

The Torch Drive — it's all about people helping people. Give a little and help a lot. Pledge to support the 1996 Torch Drive. Your investment will be well spent.

Bob Sklar is managing editor of our Oakland County editions.

#### MEMORY LANE

This week in history as reported in past editions of the Farmington Observer and the Farmington Enterprise.

■ 40 YEARS AGO — OCT. 4, 1956 (ENTERPRISE)

Fire, apparently caused by an inside incinerator, resulted in severe damage to the Farmington Township home of Don McLeod, 32435 Terryton.

The prep football games were pointless for the Farmington-area teams. Southfield clobbered Farmington, 42-0, while Garden City blanked Clarenceville, 13-0.

■ 25 YEARS AGO — OCT. 2-3, 1971 (ENTERPRISE & OBSERVER)

Farmington Township police seized 25,000 LSD pills in what Police Chief Irving Yakes called a continuing crackdown on drug traffic in the township.

In the wake of a decision by Federal Judge Stephen Roth that there is segregation in the Detroit schools and that bussing is a remedy, rumors spread that Farmington elementary school students would be bussed to Pontiac. Farmington Superintendent Roderick Smith denied the rumors.

■ 2 YEARS AGO — OCT. 6, 1994 (OBSERVER)

Farmington Hills was asking voters to approve a millage that would provide \$6 million to buy land, thus keeping it away from developers.

#### COMMUNITY VOICE

##### QUESTION:

What bad habits annoy you the most?



We asked this question at a North Farmington High School J.V. Soccer game.

Phone manners annoy me the most...people who call and don't identify themselves.

Mark Phillips  
Farmington Hills



Rude smokers who just smoke any place.

Meadio Buell  
Farmington Hills



I don't like people who aren't considerate of other people's feelings; who are rude or crude.

Marvin Singer  
Farmington Hills



When somebody snaps their gum over and over.

Jennifer Phillips  
Farmington Hills

#### Letters to the Editor

##### Do it for all

It appears the (Farmington Hills Police Benevolent Association) golf outing was a big success, and now those responsible are thinking of including several other dependents of city workers who die while still employed.

I think they should expand even further and include all Farmington and Farmington Hills residents.

It was started last year to help widows and children of two Hills police officers who died of causes not related to duty. My sympathy goes out to them, but there are other residents who die and leave widows and young children. Who is going to help them?

They don't have the backing of the local government to help, so let's help them also.

It just isn't fair. If we do it for one, we should do it for all.

Virgil Thill,  
Farmington Hills

##### He's no Clinton fan

As an independent voter and willing ticket-splitter, I must tell you that I am not enamored by Bill Clinton's or the Democratic Party's seeming trot to the middle ground, although it would be delightful if it were a true change in political philosophy.

Based on Clinton's promises in the 1992 campaign and his doing the exact opposite after being elected and his failure to do anything in his first two years in office while he had a Democratic Congress, I find it hard to believe.

During those two years, he was status quo liberal. An example of that was a socialistic health plan that bordered on Marxism instead of just being a plan to help have-nots get health care.

It was a health plan so far left even some Democrats in Congress could not stomach it, so they joined forces with Republicans to see that it would not even come up to a vote. It was a bipartisan defeat and put down of an ultra-left idea.

Clinton's swing to middle ground must be compared to the fable of the wolf who donned a sheep skin so he could gain access to the shepherd. Once there he shucked the sheep skin, reverted to his true nature and devoured all that he could hold.

That will be so if Clinton is re-elected under the premise of his being a middle-of-the-road president.

He will shuck the sheep skin of the middle ground and revert to his leftist nature.

After all, he only donned that middle of the road sheep skin when the polls showed the public mood was swinging right and voters took control of Congress from the left after 40 years of letting them run things.

Clinton's past renegeing on his avowed promises and policies prove that this will be

80.

The esteemed Englishman Sir Thomas Moore is called, "The Man For All Seasons." Bill Clinton should be called "The Man for All Postures."

Even now he is saying he will change things that he has signed into law.

The country needs better.

Tom Murphy,  
Farmington Hills

##### They didn't do it!

We are writing to express our concern and outrage at the scandalous and insulting state of affairs at an ice cream store on Grand River Avenue in Farmington.

Earlier this week we stopped to have a snack at this establishment. We paid for our food and went to sit at one of the picnic tables nearby.

While we were leisurely eating our ice cream, engaged in a thoroughly delightful conversation about all the perks of living in this charming town, a young employee haughtily stalked over to our table, her face screwed up into a silent rage.

She both directly and wrongly accused us of stealing \$1 from the tip cup sitting on the counter of the order window. Her eyes afire, she claimed her associate had witnessed this preposterously false incident. She then threatened us that they would "start something" (as to starting what, exactly, we are befuddled) if we didn't promptly return the alleged dollar, stamping her wee "not vehemently

We calmly informed her that her coworker must have seen incorrectly because we had, in fact, never committed such a felony.

The girl then informed us that we certainly better hope we hadn't, and sauntered back to her post with an air of wronged integrity. We were shocked and dismayed at the accusatory and presumptuous way in which we were treated, with no respect to us as customers, let alone any apology.

In conclusion, we believe it is our duty as citizens of this fine town to inform the public of our unfortunate incident in the hopes that nothing this disgraceful happens in Farmington ever again.

Elizabeth Abdnour and Breanne Beals,  
Farmington

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, 33411 Grand River, Farmington Michigan 48335. Or they can be faxed to 810-477-9722.

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— Philip Power