

Dressing up the dorm

AT HOME, SECTION B

Still rolling along

The Rolling Stones bring a musical repertoire that spans more than 40 years

FILTER, INSERTED SECTION



Culinary Extravaganza fills plates, appetites

TASTE, PAGE B7



THURSDAY
August 25, 2005

WESTLAND Observer

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Trash haulers make sales pitch to city

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

With residents simply wanting their garbage picked up on time, Westland city leaders will decide whether to stay with a longtime, family-owned trash hauler or dump it in favor of a corporate giant.

Council members and Mayor Sandra Cicirelli heard presentations Monday from longtime trash hauler Painter & Ruthenberg and two

national companies, Waste Management and Republic Services.

Some residents hope that P&R President Paul Ruthenberg will become the David that shoots down the Goliath-type corporations. Others say P&R's service has declined and should be replaced.

A committee formed by Cicirelli will review the three companies and issue a recommendation to the full, seven-member Westland City Council, which ultimately will decide the issue.

After making their sales pitches Monday, the three companies will now submit pricing plans that also will be considered by the committee.

Cicirelli's office was inundated earlier this year with complaints about late trash pickup, but officials say the problem has subsided.

What follows is a closer look at the three companies competing for Westland's trash business.

On Monday, Ruthenberg brought his father Bud, his mother Doris and some old, framed, black-and-white

photographs of when the family business used horse-drawn garbage carts.

"I stand before you with the history of a family-owned business," he said.

Based in neighboring Inkster, P&R has hauled local garbage since Westland became a city in 1966.

"I think P&R has the ability to service Westland, given the fact that we've done it for 40 years," Ruthenberg told city leaders.

He reminded city leaders that P&R

saw the city through difficult times, including the transition from using a now-demolished incinerator to using a landfill.

"We did it to the best of our family's ability - with a lot of sleepless nights, but we did it," he said.

Ruthenberg told of how he has personal conversations with local residents who call his company - a personal touch that he hinted might not come from national corpora-

PLEASE SEE TRASH, A2

Love and marriage



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Reno and Josephine Capro hold a photograph taken on their wedding day 65 years ago.

Couple finds wedded bliss with help of the postal system

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

There's something to be said about time and distance making the heart grow fonder. Just ask Reno and Josephine Capro.

When they met, she was 15 and he was 19. She lived in Uhrichsville, Ohio; he lived in Detroit. Over the course of four years, they saw each other eight times.

But they kept in touch through the U.S. mail. Thanks to twice-a-day mail delivery, they received letters from each other daily.

What started in 1936 as a friendly visit turned into love and marriage for the Westland residents who celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on July 27.

"Our kids wanted to know why I didn't save those letters," said Josephine. "I knew we were getting married, so I burnt them. I didn't want people to read them."

The Westland couple met through their parents. Their fathers had worked together in the coal mines in Superior, Wyo., in the late 1910s. Josephine's par-

ents moved to Pennsylvania where she and her brother, Bruno, were born, then to Ohio.

Reno was born in Wyoming and lived there until his family moved to Detroit, where his father ran into a man from Uhrichsville who told him about a lot of people from Wyoming who had moved there. Among the names he mentioned was that of Josephine's family.

"My dad told my mom that when they got a new car, we'd go down there and see them," said Reno.

He got the car in 1936 and they headed for Uhrichsville with Reno at the wheel. His father didn't know how to drive.

Josephine initially thought Reno was married to his sister because she saw two couples coming to the door. And Reno wanted to write Josephine, but had his sister write to ask if he could.

After three years of writing, Reno popped the question in 1939 and they were married in 1940. Bruno was the best man and Reno's sister Sarah was the maid of honor.

"I kind of figured they were going to get married, but I was kind of young

back then," said Bruno, who lives in Reno, Nev.

There was a small reception at Josephine's family's home which included "belling" - kids walking in one door and out the other while banging on pots, pans and lids, making all kinds of noise. Reno gave each child a nickel - "that was big money back then," he said - prompting some to get back in line for more.

"We got married on Saturday, came home on Sunday, and I went to work on Monday," said Reno. "We celebrated our honeymoon 25 years later. We went to Hawaii."

They lived in Detroit from 1940 until 1994 when they moved to Westland. Reno drove a truck for a steel company when they married and then at Ford Motor Co. He then landed a job with the city of Detroit power plant just three days before the bombing of Pearl Harbor. That job required that they live in the city.

He worked at the power plant throughout the war, while Josephine worked as a Rosie the Riveter, assem-

PLEASE SEE MARRIAGE, A2

Hopefuls lining up for state House race

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

With the election still 15 months away, three Democratic hopefuls have confirmed that they will seek the 18th District House seat of state Rep. Glenn Anderson.

Anderson, D-Westland, will be forced out of office by term limits when his third consecutive two-year term ends next year.

Westland City Councilmen James Godbout and Richard LeBlanc and former state Rep. Vince Petitpren confirmed this week that they will campaign for

Anderson's job.

Anderson already has announced that he will endorse LeBlanc, saying Tuesday, "It's a no-brainer for me as to who's the better candidate."

Godbout, the council's second-in-command president pro tem, became the first candidate to formally announce his 18th District campaign on Monday.

Godbout has been involved in Anderson's prior campaigns and served as his treasurer. He didn't voice any resentment that Anderson has endorsed LeBlanc.

PLEASE SEE HOUSE, A5

Alert manager, police officer help nab suspect

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Quick action by an alert employee and a clever police officer led to the capture of a suspect in the break-in of a Westland market and theft of a cash box, authorities said.

With timing on his side, a manager of Norman's Market on Wayne Road, north of Palmer, happened to drive by the store Sunday evening when he noticed a suspicious van near the rear door, police Sgt. David Heater said.

He drove by the market about 8:20 p.m. - 80 minutes after the store had closed for the night.

"He knew the store was closed. He investigated further and drove closer to the area, and he saw a man carrying a gray box out of the rear of the store," Heater said. "The manager immediately recognized that box as being the cash box, so he knew that a crime was afoot."

Although the suspect noticed him, the manager jotted down the license plate number, rushed to his nearby home and called 9-1-1.

Police officers found that the back door of Norman's Market

had been pried open, and an interior door to an office also had been forced in.

"The cash box was missing," Heater said.

Meanwhile, police had issued a description and license plate number of the 2001 Chevrolet Express van, which was known to be registered out of Belleville. That prompted a quick response by Westland police Officer Pat Griffin.

"He astutely set up to watch traffic on westbound Michigan Avenue," Heater said. "He knew the van was registered out of Belleville, and he had a hunch that this van might go west-bound."

Griffin trailed the van until it stopped at a gas station at Michigan Avenue and Lotz Road, where he captured the driver.

"It was very good work," Heater said. "The cash box had been broken open, and cash and coins were found."

The 24-year-old suspect is facing charges of breaking and entering. He could face up to 10 years in prison if convicted.

The suspect has no criminal history.

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Coming Sunday on the PINK page



Local fave gal-duo coming to Novi

Back to school slogan: 'Let's go shopping'

BY DARRELL CLEM AND LEANNE ROGERS
STAFF WRITERS

With back-to-school shopping in mind, parent Rita Turner arrived at Westland Shopping Center before the stores even opened their doors Wednesday morning.

She brought her daughter Monique, 12, her niece Tiffany, 16, and her great-niece Ladasha, 13.

"We're just out shopping for school," Turner said. "I'm pretty much done with my daughter, but Tiffany had seen a sweater she liked (at J.C. Penney), so she wanted to come back and get it."

Turner lives in Livonia, where her daughter goes to school. The other girls with her attend school in Detroit.

Turner was among the parents shopping with children for back-to-school items as schools prepared to open their doors today in the Wayne-Westland district and Monday in the Livonia district, which serves the north part of Westland.

"It costs, but I try to buy what's on sale," Turner said.

She chose Westland Shopping Center because she likes some of the stores, such as J.C. Penney and Kohl's.

"It's close to home, too," she said. Although she had finished shopping for clothes for her daughter, Turner said Monique still had one back-to-school goal.

"She's got to get her hair done and that's it," she said.

When it comes to back-to-school shopping for her three kids, Debbie Setzke has



Veronica Hays, 6, who will be a first-grader at Kettering Elementary School in Westland, has fun shopping for school with her mother, Cristy Hays at Westland Shopping Center. Here, they leave the Children's Place at Westland Shopping Center.

learned to divide and conquer.

"If I bring all of them, they go home with \$500 worth of clothes," said Setzke, a Garden City resident.

Her daughter Judy Silvi, 16, joined her on a recent shopping trip at the Garden City Kmart - they were shopping for Setzke's younger daughter Julie, 9.

"Judy is the shopper. My son (Brian, 17) is easy - a couple of pairs of jeans," Setzke said.

A 10th-grader at Garden City High School when classes resume Sept. 8, Silvi said she

likes to shop at Plato's Closet in Canton but otherwise wasn't too forthcoming about her shopping.

"I think the trend is still kind of '70s clothing. At the hair salon the other day, they were talking about big hair like in the '80s," said Setzke. "Judy is the shoe queen - she has to have a purse and shoes to match each outfit."

Setzke expected to spend about \$400-500 on back-to-school shopping but added that barely makes a dent in what her kids need.

"That gets them started and through Christmas," she said.

Looking at backpacks, Shanda Liles of Detroit was shopping with her three daughters. The younger girls, Shannel, 8, and T'Ambrah, nearly 4, like Bratz and Dora the Explorer items.

"We're getting clothes, back to school papers, book bags," said Liles. "This store is closer to home. We live off Ford Road. They have a good selection and sometimes good sales - closeouts or sales I hadn't heard about."

TRASH

FROM PAGE A1

tions.

P&R also has had equipment problems that Ruthenberg said will be resolved if his company gets a new, five-year contract.

"We are going to be able to restore our name," he said.

P&R's contract expired in June, but the company is continuing to pick up local garbage until the city decides how to proceed with trash services.

Waste Management spokeswoman Carey Wehmiller told city leaders that the Houston-based company had \$15 billion in revenues last year and that it has 22 million customers, including 240 municipalities in Michigan.

Waste Management has a facility in Romulus, and Wehmiller promised top-notch service.

"Our service is only as good as the last pickup," she said.

Waste Management would need 90 days to prepare to serve Westland - time to hire workers, learn the city's geography and get equipment ready, Wehmiller said.

She asked city leaders to consider hiring the company because it is financially secure and has an experienced staff that includes safe drivers.

"People put out their garbage. They just want it to go away, and that's what we do," Wehmiller said.

Republic spokeswoman Stephanie Glysson said the company, with a facility in Wayne, is ready to take on Westland's garbage even though its other Michigan

customers are smaller communities.

"We pick it up and get the job done," she said.

Republic has become successful partly because of the way it treats its employees, Glysson said.

"You pay them well. You treat them well. They will stay with you," she said.

Republic has asked for 90 days to implement services, she said, although the company could respond on an emergency basis.

"If you need us to start a week from now, we'll be there," Glysson said.

Republic offers several trash-hauling contract options - one of which would limit to one large container the amount of garbage that residents could put out each week. When asked by Councilman Richard LeBlanc why Republic should be chosen, Glysson said, "Our customers love us."

Early this week, it wasn't clear when the city will decide which trash hauler to hire. For now, P&R is continuing to pick up trash even though its contract expired in June.

Fewer than 20 residents attended Monday's meeting - an indication, some officials said, that few residents are upset about current services by P&R.

While some residents want to see P&R replaced, others have frowned on the big companies.

"This is a working-class community," resident John McGuire said, "and I don't know if we want the Cadillac service these (national) companies are presenting to us."

Ice, ice baby: Event helps fight fires

Westland Jaycees on Saturday will have its latest event to raise money for its thermal imaging campaign - aimed at buying special fire-scene cameras for Westland firefighters.

Called *Fire & Ice*, the event will allow participants to pay \$5 to scoop up a cup of ice in hopes of winning a diamond from Benson Diamond

Jewelers at Westland Shopping Center.

The "diamond dig" is scheduled for noon to 4 p.m. Saturday in the mall, just outside of the jewelry store.

For more information, call the Westland Jaycees at (734) 226-0400.

The Jaycees is a local organization dedicated to training young leaders through com-

munity service.

Westland firefighters have said thermal imaging cameras can help them save lives by locating victims who may be unconscious in a burning home.

They also have said the equipment can help them detect "hot spots" in walls and other hard-to-see places.

MARRIAGE

FROM PAGE A1

bling the nose sections of the B-29 bombers at the Chrysler plant at Warren and Lonyo.

Each has their own take on their marital longevity. Josephine said being of the same religion "made a lot of difference, along with some advice from her father."

"When he knew we were going to get married, my dad said, 'If you get into problems, don't come to my door,'" she said.

Renzo said it's because their marriage has been a "50/50 proposition."

"She gives the orders and I take them," he said. These days they keep active doing volunteer work, especially at St. Theodore Church and getting together with the family which now numbers more than 40. They have three children - son Richard of West Bloomfield and daughters Pauline of Northville and Christine of Lansing - five grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

"The years have gone by so fast," Josephine said. "We weren't so busy, not like today where there's a lot of things going on. Those days there wasn't a lot happening, that's why you can remember things."

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For the Record appears in every edition of the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*. Complete paid obituaries can be found inside today's newspaper in *Passages* on page B5.

- A**
Josephine M. Algero
Algero, 79, died July 13.
- B**
Edwin N. Buford
Buford, 85, of Garden City, died Aug. 21.
- F**
Sally F. Fox
Fox, 80, of Farmington Hills, died July 27.
- G**
Opal B. Grady
Grady, 83, died Aug. 15.
- K**
Rose Kaltschuck
Kaltschuck, 68, died Aug. 19.
- L**
Gladys Mae Lescoe
Lescoe, 81, of Heber Springs, Ark., formerly of Livonia, died Aug. 10.
- R**
Jami A. Holbrook
Holbrook, 33, of Redford, died Aug. 13.
- S**
Albert Otto Sakcriska
Sakcriska, 72, of Canton, died Aug. 16.

'Differently abled,' she aims to be a nurse

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

Like many college students, Alison Schultz has a plan - to graduate with a degree in nursing from Madonna University in April 2007.

But getting there will be a challenge for Schultz who was born with Holt-Oram Syndrome. She has shortened upper arms, bilateral radial club hands, seven fingers and no thumbs.

"I'm not concerned about what I can't do," said the Westland resident. "I've always been able to adapt. I just have to do things differently than other people."

Schultz is following in the footsteps of her mother, Rebecca Pearch of Howell, who has been a nurse for 30 years, although her path swerved toward social work before she realized nursing was what she wanted to do most.

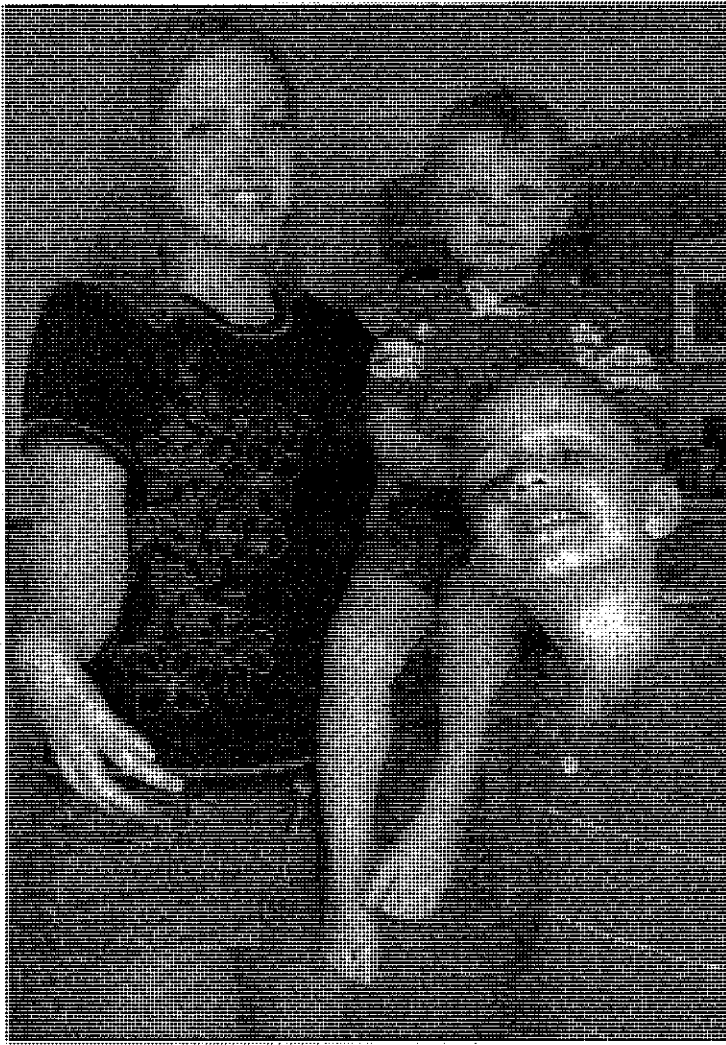
The mother of two sons - Austin, 6, and Zachary, 3 - she spent several months looking for a job all the while thinking social work wasn't what she wanted to do. And she also thought it was too late to change careers. She already had received her bachelor's degree in social work in 2003.

But she had to admit that with all the opportunities available, nursing was a better career choice and enrolled at Eastern Michigan University last fall. She needed 10 credits to begin her nursing course work and took three classes at EMU before transferring to Madonna this spring.

There were several reasons for the switch. Foremost is the reputation of Madonna's nursing program.

"It's a real nice small school, I like the atmosphere there," she said. "The program is two years as opposed to three at Eastern, so I'll also be done sooner. That's nice, especially since I've already done four ... no, five years."

Schultz is getting plenty of



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Alison Schultz will have a full plate this fall, attending Madonna University full time and caring for her husband Dave and children Austin, 6, and Zachary, 3.

support from her husband Dave and has gotten financial assistance from the university and from an Internet Web site for students with disabilities who are considering a career in nursing.

She discovered www.ExceptionalNurse.com through an excerpt from Donna Maheady's book, *Nursing Students with Disabilities: Change the Course*. She was looking for resources and decided to submit an application for one of four scholarships that were being offered.

"I thought I had a good chance and I was pleasantly surprised," said Schultz who received the \$250 www.ExceptionalNurse.com scholarship. She will use the money to pay for her books which will cost more than \$300 for the fall term.

Applicants were required to submit letters of recommendation, grade transcripts and a two-page essay on how their disability will influence their work as a nurse. A panel of nurse educators evaluated the applicants.

"Alison's letters of recom-

Alison Schultz is following in the footsteps of her mother, Rebecca Pearch of Howell, who has been a nurse for 30 years.

mendation were outstanding," said Maheady, founder and president of www.ExceptionalNurse.com. "Her commitment to nursing and helping others was clearly apparent. In a word, she is unstoppable. Alison has been through many surgeries and therapies and has lived with disability all her life. These experiences will only serve to enhance her work as a nurse."

"She views her disability as an asset to her nursing care; a matter of being differently abled, not disabled. Schultz agrees, pointing out that she has always been able to overcome challenges. She recalls thinking she would always have Velcro on her shoes until she learned how to tie her shoelaces, and that it took her longer to learn how to ride a bicycle.

"I wasn't teased a lot as a kid, not any more than other kids," she said. "People generally accepted me. I can't go anywhere without being stared at, that's a way of life. But that's OK, because I'd probably stare at me, too."

For now, Schultz is getting herself and son Austin ready to attend school full-time. Son Zachary will be enrolled in a day-care program.

"I chose social work because I wanted to help people and it seemed the job fit my personality," she said. "Now, I actually envision myself working in a hospital."

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AROUND WESTLAND

Blood drive

The Bova VFW Post 9885 will host a blood drive 2-8 p.m. Monday, Aug. 29, at the post hall, 6440 N. Dix, Westland.

Walk-ins are welcome, although appointments are strongly recommended. Due to the large number of afternoon appointments at the June blood drive, some walk-ins had to be turned away.

To schedule an appointment, call the post at (734) 728-3231, post surgeon Terry Dana at (517) 521-5646 or blood drive chairman Larry Tebor at (734) 377-8329 and leave your name, telephone number and desired appointment time.

All donors will be placed in a drawing for three free games of bowling at Vision Lanes on Ford Road in Westland.

Preschool signups

The Willow Creek Co-op Preschool is now enrolling for the 2005-2006 school year. It offers parent-tot and two-, three- and four-year programs. Call (734) 326-0078.

Rewards program

Shoppers at Westland Shopping Center have until Sunday, Aug. 28, to take advantage of the back-to-school cotton promotion that offers the opportunity to receive \$25 towards the purchase of a new pair of denim jeans.

While supplies last, shoppers need only present receipts from cotton merchandise purchases totaling \$200 or more to the Westland Customer Information Booth to receive the \$25 mall certificate good towards a new pair of jeans.

The shopping center is at Warren and Wayne Road in Westland. Call the Customer Information Center at (734) 421-0291.

For the health of it

The Westland Chamber of Commerce will have its annual Health & Business Expo 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Aug.

27, at Westland Shopping Center. As the major sponsor, the mall will offer health and business participants an opportunity to display their goods and services in a high-traffic environment.

Others involved include Nancy Barrons, business sponsor from Standard Federal Bank, and St. Mary Hospital, health sponsor.

Gardening program

The William P. Faust Public Library will host a program on earth friendly gardening 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 30, at the library, 6123 Central City Parkway north of Ford.

The speakers will be garden consultants Nancy Szerlag and Jeff Ball who will cover such topics as perennial flowers for falls, mulches and compost, managing weeds without chemicals and landscape design ideas. The program is free and sponsored by the City of Westland. Call (734) 467-3198 weekdays or register by e-mail at LFDean@aol.com.

5th Annual Benefit

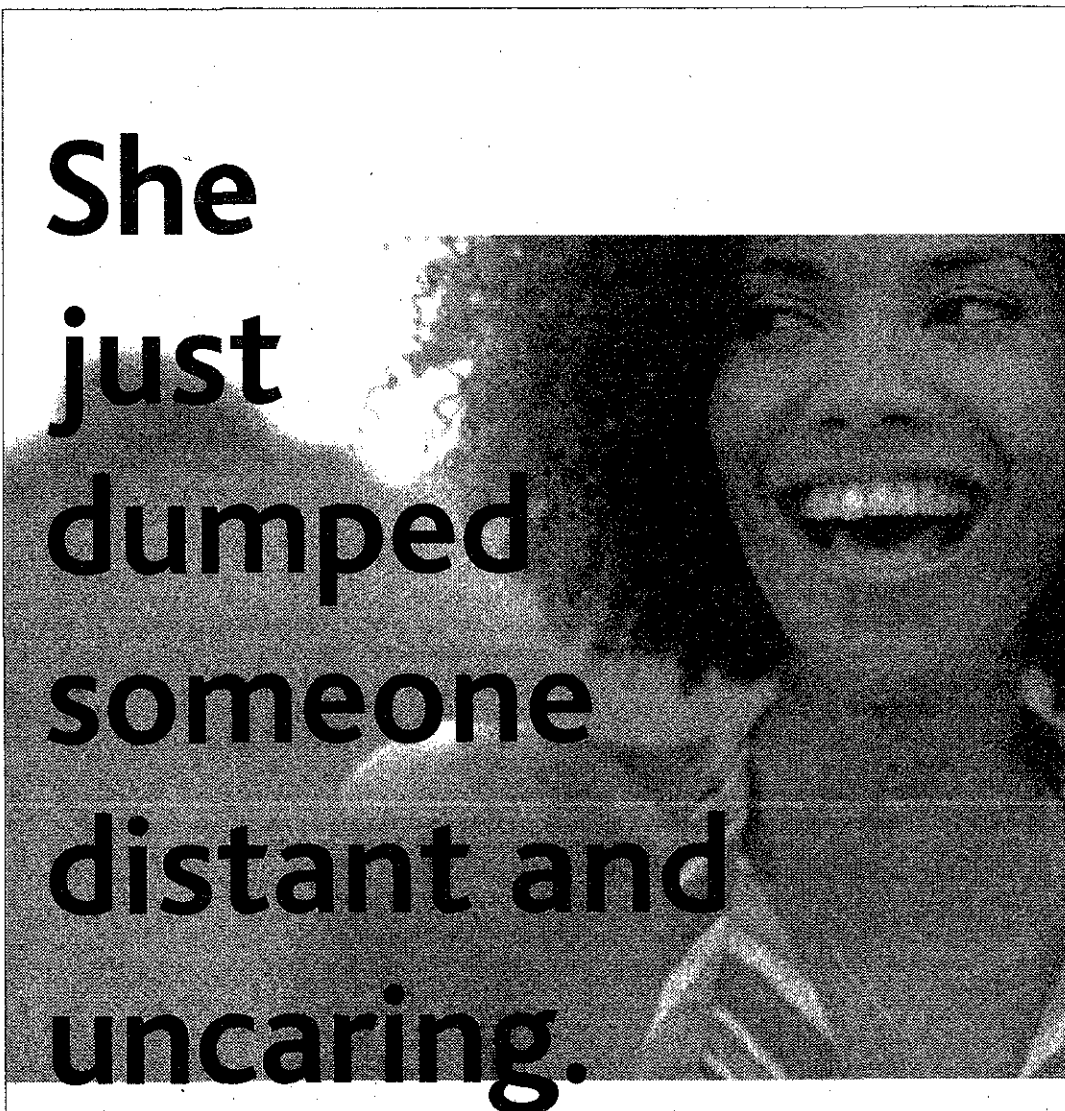
Keith's Muffler & Brakes will hold its fifth annual car and motorcycle show for the benefit of the American Cancer Society and breast cancer research at 10 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 4, at the Westland Auto Mall, 1208 N. Wayne Road, Westland.

The benefit starts at 10 a.m. For more information, call (734) 722-7900.

Helping out

Members of Grange 389 will be helping the Plymouth Oddfellows with a fund-raiser and membership drive Friday-Saturday, Sept. 9-10.

Friday evening, the organization will be holding a spaghetti dinner 5-7 p.m. at the Oddfellows Hall, 344 Elizabeth, Plymouth. And on Saturday, they will be selling fresh doughnuts 9-11 a.m. and holding a flea market 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.. The cost is \$35 for a 10-by-10-foot space. Call Sharon at (734) 722-4857.



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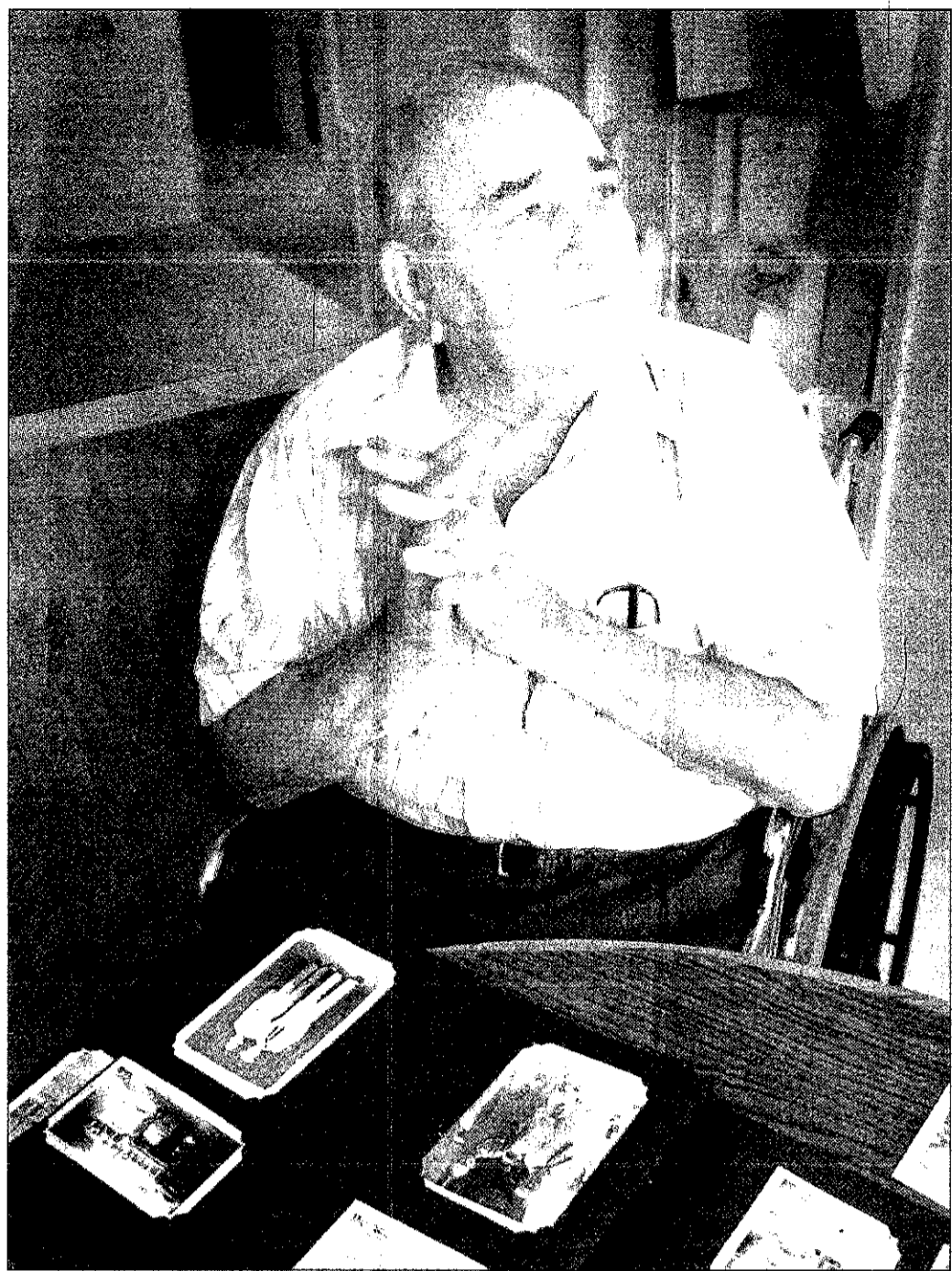


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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Old photos and memories are all John Korzetz has left of his brother, Mitchell, who was killed in World War II.

Raiding a memory

Canton man's brother served in daring battalion featured in new WW II movie

BY CAROL MARSHALL
STAFF WRITER

John Korzetz's eyes haven't changed much in 60 years. They're still as bright blue and clear as they were when he was a man in his 20s, and they still fill with tears when he talks about his brother, Mitchell, a paratrooper who was killed in the Philippines on Jan. 14, 1945.

"He was always the kind of guy who said, 'I'll go. I'll go,'" said the Canton resident, wiping a tear from his eye and trying to explain his brother's bravery. "He was pretty much like me. When I had to fight for my country, I would. I knew I was willing to kill for my country, but I wasn't so sure about dying."

Korzetz's brother was in the 6th Ranger Battalion, which in 1945 set out on a rescue mission, which is the subject of the movie *The Great Raid*, now in the theaters. Mitchell hadn't been in the Philippines for two weeks when he was killed by a sniper on patrol, just two days before the rest of his battalion raided the now notorious Cabanatuan Japanese Prisoner of War camp, where 500 Americans were being held.

Korzetz saw the movie Wednesday with his grandson, and it wasn't until then that he realized his brother had actually been killed before the raid.

He had managed to piece together the story about his brother's last day and how he was killed, thanks to a soldier who served with Mitchell and returned home to Detroit after he was discharged. Korzetz no longer remembers the soldier's name, but he remembers getting the letters from him, describing the day that Mitchell died.

The brothers grew up in Detroit. John, now 83, was the oldest. Mitchell was the middle son, and they had a younger brother, Leonard. Even as kids, Mitchell would go wherever his big brother went, and military service was no different. Korzetz enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1942, and Mitchell was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1943.

Korzetz served on the U.S.S. Midway in Hawaii for the duration of his service, and his younger brother went to Australia, then New Zealand, then off to the Philippines — something Korzetz didn't know until

after he got word of Mitchell's death.

"I didn't know where he was going, but that's how it is. Everything quiets down before something big is going to happen. It's like a deep secret," Korzetz said.

After his brother's death, Korzetz received a letter from his aunt back home in Detroit. The letter had for months made its way around the world before reaching him. But part of Korzetz knew something was wrong. He hadn't heard from his brother, and at about the same time that Mitchell died, Korzetz said he had a vision of him.

After Korzetz was discharged, he returned to Detroit, where he made a career as a machinist, raised four daughters, buried one of them, and has seen the arrivals of four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. He moved to Canton with his wife of 60 years, and often reflects on his life, and wonders why it was his kid brother that was killed instead of him.

"Every day, I still wish he was here," he said. "I wish that all the time."
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Miss Wayne County to be crowned Saturday

The crown is about to change hands. This Saturday marks the Miss Wayne County Scholarship Pageant, an annual event held at Churchill High School, 8900 Newburgh Road in Livonia.

Contestants vie for an \$800 cash scholarship and the title of Miss Wayne County. She will participate in next year's Miss Michigan Pageant in Muskegon.

Miss Michigan 2005 Octavia Reese will be the guest of honor. She earned the Miss Wayne County crown one year ago and will pass it on.

Contestants will participate in an interview, talent, swimsuit, casual wear, onstage question and evening gown competition. The pageant is a non-profit official franchise of the Miss America Program.

The pageant begins at 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 27, and is open to the public. Tickets cost \$15 at the door.



Competing this weekend in the Miss Wayne County Pageant are Angela Schniers of Livonia (from left), Abigail Brennan of Westland, Andrea Walker of Dearborn Heights, Kandace Carr of Redford Township, Leilani Thorn of Waterford (a student at Wayne State University), Christina Hastie of Dearborn, Ashlee Baracy of Westland, Tracy Zimmerman of Garden City and (not pictured) Rima Fakh of Dearborn. Reigning Miss Michigan Octavia Reese (seated) will hand over her 2004 crown.

HOUSE

FROM PAGE A1

"Glenn and Richard have been friends for a long time, and I'm sure it was a tough decision for Glenn to make," Godbout said. "I respect his decision, but I feel that I'm better qualified for that position."

Godbout, 50, already has received an endorsement from the Westland Police Lieutenants & Sergeants Association. Its president, Timothy Abramski, wrote in a letter that Godbout has been supportive of public safety issues, and he said Godbout would serve in the state House "with dedication and diligence."

After Godbout formally announced his candidacy, LeBlanc and Pettitren responded to questions by confirming rumors that they will campaign for the Democratic nomination.

LeBlanc, a 46-year-old Ford Motor Co. staffer, said he and his supporters had decided to wait until after the November city elections to formally announce his campaign inten-

tions.

"We're going to wait until after the city elections and then roll out the campaign," said LeBlanc, also a former Wayne-Westland school board trustee.

Pettitren, who said he is 77 and in "excellent health," has served as Wayne-Westland school trustee and former Nankin Township trustee. He was Westland's state representative for six years starting in 1965.

"I want to contribute to the government, and that's my old state rep' seat," Pettitren said.

Pettitren is a Korean War veteran who formerly chaired the 15th Congressional District Democratic Party. He also has taught at Wayne Memorial High School and in Eastern Michigan University's education department.

Godbout issued a statement saying he will fight in Lansing to keep Westland and other cities from being socked with more cuts in state-shared revenues.

"The loss of state-shared revenues severely affects the city's ability to provide services that

our residents want and deserve," he said.

Godbout called for more business growth and development to improve the state economy. He said he has gained the skills working for corporations — currently as an account manager for Rockwell Automation — to help make tough decisions.

Godbout and LeBlanc will be campaigning for the state House seat while they still have two years left on their council terms.

Anderson made a strong statement on LeBlanc's behalf, saying, "I think he has shown courage and independence as a council member, and I think the citizens respect that. It's the same kind of independence and leadership that I've tried to exhibit in response to the citizens of the community."

Godbout, too, said he always has maintained strong ties to his constituents. The letter from the Westland Police Lieutenants & Sergeants Association commended him as being "an asset to the citizens of Westland" and supportive of public safety.

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OUR VIEWS

Safety is a must on school buses

Last week, Wayne-Westland school bus drivers and Westland firefighters had to learn how to deal with school bus emergencies. As the kids go back to school, that is a timely and worthwhile endeavor.

There have not been any serious incidents involving Wayne-Westland school buses in recent memory, but school bus safety is always a serious matter. It has the sixth largest bus fleet in the state, and its 80 buses log more than 1 million miles annually.

So it stands to reason that safety starts in the district's bus garage, where mechanics keep the buses in tip-top shape, so much so that the district received 100 percent in the annual Michigan State Police school bus inspection program.

School buses are exceptionally safe vehicles. The National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration reports that an average of 11 children are killed inside school buses annually and another 15 die while boarding and leaving buses.

Any figure is too high, but in perspective about 10 billion — that's billion — student rides and 20 billion student boardings and deboardings are recorded annually. And the number of deaths recorded boarding and leaving buses has declined considerably over the past 35 years.

But the need to remain vigilant and promote bus safety among the kids is strong. Their safety is critically important.

We are glad to see the city and school working together to ensure the safety of students, and urge motorists to keep a watchful eye for students who are walking or riding buses now that school is in session.

By working together, we can prevent accidents and, if there is one, save lives.

But the need to remain vigilant and promote bus safety among the kids is strong. Their safety is critically important.

Let the games begin!

The high school sports season gets under way in earnest this week and thousands of student athletes from public, private and parochial schools throughout the *Observer* coverage area will participate in one of eight fall sports.

The fall season statewide is generally the most popular participation season, according to the Michigan High School Athletic Association, and it's no different in our local schools.

Boys football, golf, soccer and cross country along with girls tennis, basketball, swimming and cross country are expected to attract more than 118,000 young athletes statewide at schools which belong to the MHSAA.

Participation in school sports has grown throughout the last 25 years with the addition of new sports such as lacrosse and girls ice hockey. And more and more student-athletes are involved in more than one sport.

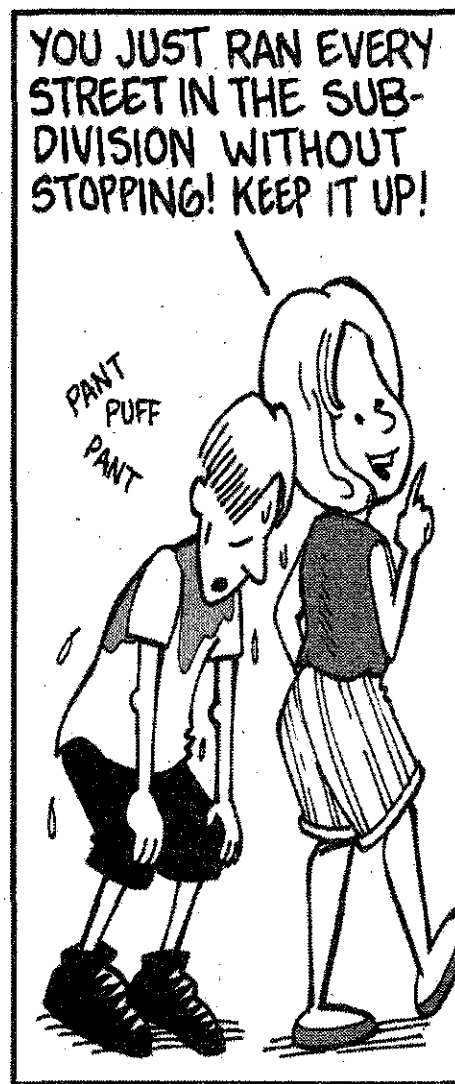
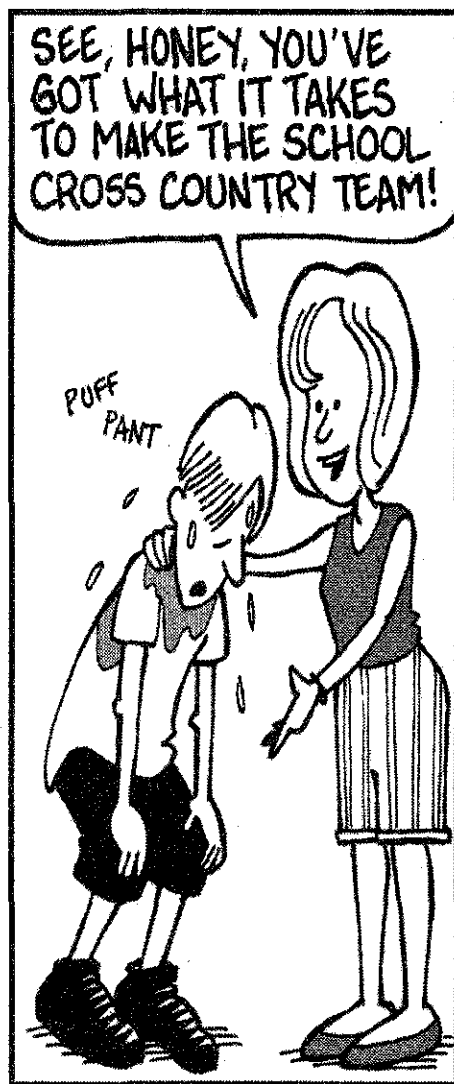
Fall is a special time for all students returning to the classroom, but for student-athletes and their communities, it signals the start of a competitive year in which personal bests will be recorded and championships remain within reach.

One of the finer aspects of student athletic programs is the personal development it brings. Athletic programs provide students the opportunity to test their limits, set personal goals, and achieve beyond what they originally believed themselves capable. Each time a team takes the field of play for practice or competition, individuals enter the ring of personal challenge and accomplishment. Each is there with a "personal best" which only they can determine.

Often that personal best goes unnoticed in the larger scheme of the game. But those goals are the ones that last a lifetime. These are the goals that often go without public recognition, sans trophy or medal.

Sport, at its best, teaches discipline and teamwork. High school athletes work hard to train and to develop their potential. They are skillful, focused and determined to achieve both in sport and in the classroom. They are supported by coaches and parents who are equally dedicated and ready to guide and encourage.

Here's to a productive and fun fall season for all of our young athletes. We look forward to the excitement and spirit our student-athletes engender in our schools and communities.



LETTERS

Great performance

We had the pleasure of seeing Josh Gracin perform in a free concert Aug. 14 during his visit to the Michigan State Fair. The performance was outstanding and his dedication to Marine recruit David Somerville of Westland — and to the other men and women who have served and are serving our country — was especially nice.

The crowd was courteous and enthusiastic. People of all ages seemed to have a really good time and it was truly a pleasure to join everyone in seeing one of our own hometown residents make it as a star.

Even the visit backstage to chat with Josh and other friends and family members demonstrated he's still one of us "Westlanders," although his accent now has a little more "twang" than ours! He performed for nearly 90 minutes, and by the way, Josh's version of the Bon Jovi song *It's My Life* was incredible. After the concert ended, he stayed to sign autographs until the last person was able to make it through the line.

How about joining us in a big THANK YOU to *American Idol* musician, Westland native and former U.S. Marine Josh Gracin for allowing us to share in his talents. We are so proud!

Richard and Cheryl LeBlanc
Westland

Rove and the White House

The remarks recently by Karl Rove reinforce his position of being out of touch with the majority of the people of the United States and resorting to outright lies to force his right-wing agenda on the American people.

His criticism of Sen. Durbin's remarks followed a legislative hearing concerning the atrocities occurring at Guantanamo Bay after an FBI agent testified that prisoners were "chained hand and foot in a fetal position to the floor, with no chair, food or water ... urinating or defecating on themselves ... for 18-24 hours or more."

More unappealing discussion followed. Sen. Durbin had commented after the testimony that the conditions in Guantanamo sounded like the Gulag and not that of a U.S. prisoner of war camp. Sen. Durbin was correct. Karl Rove's intent may have been to embarrass his opposition, but it indicates his strengths, propagating lies to promote his policies, and reveals his weakness, that he intends to continue to divide the populace and create hysteria.

Karl Rove continues to promote an illusion of ignorance, but the atrocities in Guantanamo Bay also are fully understood and approved by this administration. Mr. Gonzales, the new attorney general, approved the legal interpretation of torture executed there. Many of the beatings were carried out by private contractors rather than military personnel. The initial acts of torture to extract information were known by defense secretary Rumsfeld.

There have been questions with the release of information in this administra-

tion starting before the Bush takeover of the White House. During the campaign in 2000 as Mr. Bush's chief strategist from the beginning, it was revealed Mr. Bush had a drunken driving charge that was magically dismissed, and the Bush campaign had screamed foul as soon as it had been released.

Later it was presumed, Karl Rove had released it to the press to distract the people from Mr. Bush's lack of qualities and grasp of the issues, and gain sympathy for his character.

Again, two years ago, Valerie Plume was outed as a CIA agent, risking possibly her life as well as others and breaking the law as well. Again Karl Rove has his fingers all over the release of this information, including a judge manipulating the judicial system to indict two reporters who have taken the moral high ground for refusing to release the name of a source, and being punished for revealing a corrupt administration.

Following 9/11, non-Republicans and responsible Republicans felt appropriate actions would be taken against people responsible for the attacks on America. Those proven guilty would pay for their crime.

Innocent until proven guilty and speedy and fair justice is an American ideal. This fundamental American principle has been violated. Saddam Hussein and Iraq had nothing to do with the 9/11 attacks. He is guilty of other crimes. This has been proven many times. This administration attacked Iraq to control the oil fields.

There are many more examples of this manipulative propagandist. What is very disturbing is his direct access to Mr. Bush, and probably Mr. Bush's approval for many of these actions. The question of the White House having prior knowledge of the attacks on 9/11 and taking no action seems very plausible. Karl Rove could have proposed taking no action to prevent the 9/11 attacks and cooperated with the terrorists to allow the events to take place.

Allan Biber
Westland

Support campaign

In a world so riddled with constant changes, some not always for the best, I'd like to ask for your support in helping to prevent a change that could cause a major loss in one of our local communities. As a member of Blue Lake Township in Muskegon County and the state of Michigan, I fear for the possible loss of the treasured Owasippe Scout Reservation. I believe that this property is a national treasure and it is the oldest Scout camp in the United States of America — established in 1911.

I'm sure we can all agree that children are our future. It is our responsibility to provide them with the appreciation, the learning experience and the existence of nature at its best. For it is today's children that will uphold tomorrow's environment. This camp and the surrounding area are unique, it is beauty at its simplest and it is truly irreplaceable.

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Owaspie Campaign (Owasippe Outdoor Education Center). Our children need your support. Our children's future children need your support. Please help us to save the Owasippe Scout Reservation. Saving something so priceless can only be the right thing to do.

Sandra Henry
Livonia

State cuts

I enjoyed Phil Power's opinion about the "fiddling" by the state legislators ("State legislature fiddles a state goes up in smoke").

Your article provides more justification as to why a group of citizens (www.unicameralmi.com) is trying to put the unicameral option on the ballot in 2006. I was told by a state agency that just the annual retirement budget for the members of the two chambers is \$4.2 million. With term limits, the number of people who will be receiving retirement benefits is huge relative to what we gain from them.

By combining the two chambers, we would greatly reduce the amount of superfluous proposed legislation that is introduced to pander to the lobbyists and special interest groups funding re-election campaigns. Approximately 80 percent of these bills are never passed, but require staff time to research, write, review, debate, etc. If we are serious about demanding action from Lansing, why not create a legislative environment which is far more accountable, efficient and cost-effective?

Reducing the number of chambers and legislators is a critical step towards a part-time legislature with longer term limits to encourage experienced, competent professionals to want the positions without jeopardizing their ability to pursue other employment while not attending a limited number of legislative sessions.

Henry S. Woloson
Clarkston

SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

We welcome your letters to the editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask that your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content.

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Our fundamental purposes are to enhance the lives of our readers, nurture the hometowns we serve and contribute to the business success of our customers.

QUOTABLE

"The bottom line is that it was great idea, and had the price come in closer to the mark we were looking to spend, it would have been doable."

— Westland Chamber of Commerce President Lori Brist, as to why the business organization will not be moving into the city's historic Rowe House.

Michigan left in the dust of new global economy

I've been reading Thomas Friedman's newest best seller, *The World Is Flat: A Brief History of the Twenty-first Century* (Patna \$27.50), while on vacation up north.

I know, I know. I have peculiar ideas of fun. But while too long, Friedman's book is terribly relevant, especially for Michigan.

Friedman, a renowned foreign affairs writer who has won three Pulitzer Prizes, demonstrates that a combination of very fast-developing and widely accessible information technology, combined with improvements in the global supply chain, has utterly changed the world's economic landscape.

Whereas we used to think the earth was "round" in the sense that only a few advanced countries were fully part of the economic system, the world today looks much "flatter."

Vast numbers of people in China and India are now ready to plug 'n' play in a globally competitive system. And for a state like Michigan, which has seen its vanilla-flavored manufacturing job base evaporate over the past few years, this book is a real wakeup call.

So, too, is his prescription for succeeding in the earth's now flattened playing field: Emphasis on math and science in our schools, coupled with ferocious support for our research universities, the primary source of innovation and high-tech inventions.

He argues that we also need to recognize that success comes from migrating up the value chain to offer high-end products and services that rapidly developing nations will want to buy.

And we desperately need to realize that the race today goes to the swift and the ambitious, not the entrenched or the monopolistic.

All of which brings me to consider our political masters in Lansing and how they're reacting to the new realities. Trouble is, too often, they aren't. Given their demonstrated track record, the word "react" seems hopelessly optimistic. After all, the budget that the Legislature (rested after its own two-month vacation) will adopt this fall will represent the fifth straight year of reduced funding for K-12 schools, community colleges and universities.

That has caused something called the K-16 Coalition (K-12 schools plus the two-year community colleges plus the universities.) to last week launch a petition drive that would to lock into the state budget guaranteed annual spending increases to at least keep up with inflation. I have little doubt the organizers will come up with the several hundred thousand signatures to put the measure on the November 2006 ballot if the Legislature chooses not to approve it.

Adjusting school spending to make up for inflation (beyond Proposal A) would cost around \$300

million, while immunizing universities would take another \$50 million. Of course, the Legislature isn't about to think about finding that kind of money.

When somebody proposes shutting down a prison or two, local legislators turn purple, and when Gov. Granholm proposed closing a few special-interest tax loopholes, the Republicans went into orbit.

While all this is going on, there are rumblings in the distance about something called Tax Expenditure Limitations (TEL). In Colorado, for example, the libertarian wing of the Republican Party is proposing a hard expenditure cap on all state spending.

Marketed under the beguiling slogan, "we must live within our means," the proposal has split the GOP and the business community. TELs have already been introduced in 17 states, and the rumor here is that the Mackinac Center and House Speaker Craig DeRoche, R-Nov, are canoodling about playing the same game here in Michigan.

Which is why Michigan legislators who attended the 2005 National Conference of State Legislators in Seattle earlier this month might remind their colleagues about what the keynote speaker, Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates, had to say.

According to Gongwer News Service, "To applause, Mr. Gates said states should look at their education policies, both K-12 and higher education, as one of their highest priorities. ... The U.S. has no 'inherent' advantage in terms of personal character towards keeping its economy dominant. Where it did have a major advantage was in the quality of its universities and overall education, he said."

"Where top universities are located is where new companies dealing with biosciences and other high-technology projects will locate," he said.

The Gongwer story also pointed out that, "Mr. Gates commanded attention from the audience such as few other speakers at an NCSL meeting have done. Literally every seat in the ballroom where he spoke was taken, and people stood two and three deep along the walls and in the back of the room to hear him."

"The undercurrent of whispered conversations often present at addresses was missing. The only interruptions (were) cell phones, and generally those getting the calls simply turned their phones off rather than miss what Mr. Gates was saying."

Will Bill Gates' message get through to our legislative masters — oops — elected representatives?

Sadly, I doubt it. Our economic future as a state is being hijacked by a bunch of ideologues and know-nothings in both parties. We all deserve better than that, and what is fascinating is that nobody seems willing to step up and call a halt to this nonsense.

Your move, dear voters.

Phil Power is a longtime observer of politics, economics and education issues in Michigan. He would be pleased to hear from readers at ppower@hcnnet.com.



Phil Power

How will Supreme Court pick impact Roe vs. Wade?

With President Bush's nomination of Judge John Roberts to the Supreme Court, the question on most people's minds is without doubt, if confirmed, what happens to Roe vs. Wade? Well, there are three possibilities.

The first is the upholding of Roe vs. Wade. However, that possibility is very unlikely with a strict constitutionalist, but not for the reasons most assume. The problem with Roe is not a pro-life/pro-choice argument. The problem is the manner in which Justice Blackmun articulated the opinion of the court. In his opinion, he argued that there were different standards for abortion, depending on what trimester the mother was in.

Remember, in 1973, medical technology was not the same as it is today. So Justice Blackmun with this fact in mind, articulated an opinion around the trimester framework. The first trimester, abortion was completely legal, the second, states had the power to regulate to an extent, the third, the state now had the interest of a potential child, so the state could completely ban abortion in that trimester.

The problem as illustrated is not with the decision to uphold the "right to privacy," but that Roe was legislating from the bench. The question was, are abortion rights a fundamental part of the right to privacy? Using Griswold (contraception) as precedent, a simple yes or no response would have been sufficient, but the opinion spelled out when, where and how — which is not necessarily the role of a justice, but that of a legislative body.

That brings us to the second possibility, states rights. States rights mean that the United States would return to pre-1973 rules regarding abortion.

This does not mean that abortion becomes universally illegal, but instead, that each state has the ability to decide whether or not to permit abortion. One of the most likely scenarios would call for a ballot initiative similar to the gay marriage proposal we had in 2004, thus allowing the decision through democratic means, which could produce three possibilities within each state — 1) complete unrestricted, unregulated abortion rights; 2) restricted abortion rights except when the health of the mother is in question, or 3) abortion rights, but regulated, i.e. 24-hour,

wait period, parental permission for minor, etc.

The third and final possibility, would also overturn Roe vs. Wade, but would bring about a new standard for abortion rights. Abortion rights would be found fundamental concerning the "right to privacy," consequently, the right to abortion would become universal throughout the nation.

However, on the contrary to Roe, abortion would not be regulated through a trimester framework. Something similar to O'Connor's argument in Planned Parenthood of PA vs. Casey would result, granting a fundamental right to abortion, but allowing state regulation.

With this said, the overturning of Roe shall not restrict abortion rights universally. There is a huge difference between being pro-life and anti-Roe. Accordingly, two of the most conservative judges, Rehnquist and Thomas, both argue in favor of states rights, best illustrated in the recent medical marijuana decision and the 2003 Lawrence vs. Texas case regarding sodomy, where Thomas went out of his way in a dissenting opinion to call the law "silly," but to be decided by the states democratically, and not by the nine people sitting on the bench.

To put it in modern terms, conservatives are happy because Roe is overturned. Now pro-lifers can begin to sell their message to the public, to ban abortion through democratic means, but that also means conservatives must present a stronger message than liberals. Liberals can be reassured because abortion shall not be universally outlawed, I mean let us be honest, would Massachusetts even consider banning abortion?

The fear of Congress enacting legislation banning abortion also should not fear liberals because if Congress did pass legislation banning the practice, but the voice of the people is in favor of abortion rights, then those who vote against abortion rights shall not get re-elected during the next election and the new legislation overturned.

Thus, the confirmation of Judge John Roberts actually means very little concerning the practical application of future abortion rights. America may still grant the practice, but also might ban it in certain states or perhaps only in certain ways. Also, don't forget Justice Blackmun's appointment came in 1970 and in that year, America had a Republican president (Nixon).

Brad L. Dizik of Farmington Hills is a student at Michigan State University's James Madison College.

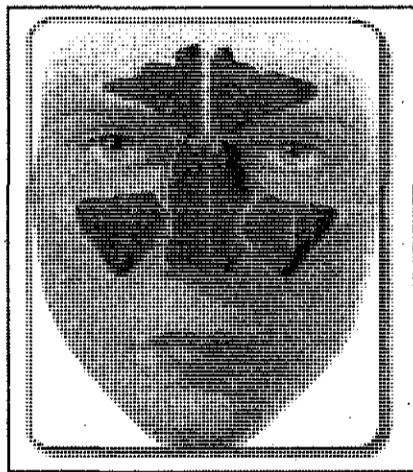


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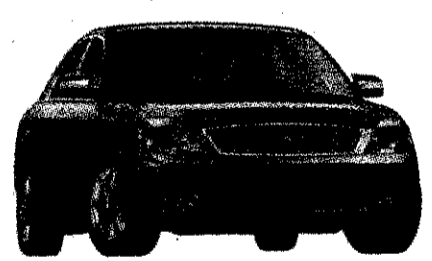
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