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Letters

Coaches' efforts greatly appreciated

To Shawn Ciampa and Todd Fraley:

Thank you so very much!! I know I am not alone in my appreciation for your time and effort to put together a Wrestling Club. I saw a few other coaches at the tournaments humiliate, verbally abuse and even physically a loss. I saw our kids come off the mats to a hug and a pat on the back. I heard a lot of "Good job" and "I'm p

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I realize winning is fun. However, I believe you are teaching our children that winning is harder than losing. I believe you are teaching our children that winning is harder than losing. These are lessons that our children will carry with them their everyday life.

Your love of wrestling and the children of our community that benefits us all. It is people such as you who make it possible for our children to live!

Deb Black

Shining Stars Child Care Center

Bellevue

Appreciate words of acknowledgement

I am writing in regards to the comments made by one Mr. George Hubka of Dowling ("Schwarz spokesman's 'laughable'," March 29). I would like to say to him, "Thank you, thank you and thank you."

When I was asked to do that press release on behalf of the child care providers, I was appreciative of the child care providers' needs of the people unheard, but when I saw words like "laughable," I was a little discouraged, until I read your article. I just like to applaud you for your words of acknowledgement for the people, and the Enquirer for printing it. A

Marcia Trigg

Battle Creek

People make nation great, not government

Pat Squires is missing several points in "All viewpoints must be heard" (April 4). The Battle Creek radio station does not have the money, employ people and support our community. They do that by selecting programs that people will listen to. "left leaning" program that would draw listeners, then I am certain WBCK would air it. WBCK is not "public" because they receive no taxpayer's money, that is NPR radio.

If the Enquirer writes articles that people don't like, people won't buy it. I wouldn't call them fair and balanced because they think best to sell papers.

Finally, the First Amendment gives you free speech, but it does not require anyone to listen. Why would I list my spewed comments disguised as truly fair and balanced debate? The liberals are losing the battle of ideas because they have their ideology to the majority of Americans. "We hate Bush" only goes so far without a realistic plan to change

course. Your solution is the government should fix it; government is the problem, look at France. This country is the problem, that is Limbaugh's and Sowell's message, but it's OK if you don't listen.

Martin Brown

Battle Creek

Get facts straight on retirement issue

I believe anyone expressing an opinion in a public forum has the responsibility to be factual when using statistics. In Ramon's letter of April 1 ("Need new way to fund pensions"), the correct facts are:

Twelve police officers and firefighters are eligible to purchase military time through Dec. 31, 2008, and two more through Dec. 31, 2012. Eight of the twelve had already chosen not to purchase military time, prior to the Battle Creek Commission's decision to limit the purchase time to 12 months.

This makes her statement "There are approximately 30 officers ready to exercise this option within a couple of years" inaccurate. Also, historically less than 50 percent of eligible veterans purchase military time toward early retirement. The main reason to do so is related to health issues.

Lt. Ross Elliott

Battle Creek Fire Department

TeenScreen turns kids into mental patients

TeenScreen director Leslie McGuire's less-than-candid letter ("Screening can help ID those at risk of suicide") is an attempt to troll and turn school children into mental patients. First off, TeenScreen seldom practices voluntary mental health screening. It uses a passive consent form that parents have to sign to opt out if they do not want their child screened for mental illnesses. If they do not receive or do not return the form, their child is screened. TeenScreen is currently the standard practice in Indiana for just this practice.

The screening questions result in many false positives. If your child is thought to have depression, they will be prescribed antidepressants which are now positively linked to violence and suicide. No scientific or medical test will be used to confirm the diagnosis. It is an entirely verbal and subjective assessment often resulting in a wrong diagnosis.

In December 2004 the FDA issued a "black box" warning on antidepressants to alert the public to the risk of suicidal thoughts and actions. This is the most serious type of warning in prescription drug labeling. The next step would be to remove antidepressants entirely.

The fact that many TeenScreen executives have direct ties to pharmaceutical companies tells me why this practice is being pushed heavily in schools. Statistics from the CDC Web site point out that teen suicide is on the decline over the last decade. Ms. McGuire's letter would have us believe there is an epidemic going on. If there is, it is an epidemic of kids on psychiatric drugs.

Eight of the last 13 school shootings in America were committed by children under the influence of psychiatric drugs. Columbine and Red Lake, Minn. Parents need to do their homework about TeenScreen.

Ernest Ryan

Temperance

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