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Letters to the Editor

January 25, 2008

Joliet's plan would stop Evergreen Terrace improvements

We are confident that Dave Leja's stereotyping of Evergreen Terrace housing and its residents is not typical in the Joliet community. His assumptions about both the tenants and their community are simply incorrect.

Leja stated in a Jan. 11 letter to the editor that Evergreen Terrace tenants are aligning themselves with "the group that wants to keep people in drug-infested, violent, human excrement-lined buildings."

No group wants that, and the property is not like that. While it does need physical rehabilitation, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Evergreen Terrace owners have already begun the rehabilitation process to improve the property.

Together, they have plans for a comprehensive, improved security system to ensure safety for Evergreen Terrace residents and the neighboring community. However, the city of Joliet's plan to condemn Evergreen Terrace would stop improvements and destroy Evergreen Terrace and the tenants' homes.

Leja also asserts that tenants should just "move to new digs." That's easier said than done. Research has shown that the overwhelming majority of Evergreen Terrace tenants would have no alternative housing options in Joliet. Evergreen Terrace provides affordable housing with access to jobs, public transportation, schools, churches and doctors.

Joliet should allow Evergreen Terrace residents the right to stay in their historic community while the owners and HUD proceed with improvements to the property.

Kate Walz, senior attorney

Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law

Chicago

Embrel working for those suffering from Alzheimer's

A recent publication originating in England tells of a new approach to a disease affecting almost 700,000 Britons. A drug, Embrel, is used to treat individuals suffering from arthritis and has been very effective when given to those who have the symptoms of Alzheimer's disease.

Apparently, Embrel blocks a chemical responsible for damaging the brain and other organs. The medication is injected into the spinal column.

A University of Arkansas investigator said, "It is unprecedented to see cognitive and behavioral improvement in a person with established dementia within minutes of therapeutic intervention."

Embrel has not yet been approved for use in the United States, but another report notes that the drug had a very rapid effect that never was reported in humans before. Time will soon tell.

Dr. Richard W. Zalar

Joliet

Gay marriages, gay pride parades sad, disillusioning

The Herald News is the voice of the people, correct? Therefore, in today's society there are many different opinions that didn't exist 66 years ago when I came to town. Why? Because sectors of society are changing so rapidly, and the moral values of our country are, too.

Therefore, if a very conservative, devout Christian writes in, the article is shelved for a slow news day, two months down the road or never.

However, if there is sensationalism and the populous society adheres to a very controversial issue, it is printed to boost readership? Well, I don't buy it. Call me old-fashioned, a religious fanatic or too godly, but let's call a spade a spade.

A minister at a prestigious Naperville church once said, "The gay rights movement in our country will be the nation's downfall."

Apparently, we're getting there when the papers publish articles that gay marriage and same sex relationships are acceptable. Also, gay pride parades are a blast. After all, the vice president's daughter is a lesbian so it must be OK.

What Christian even wants to read that rubbish? It's informational, but very, very sad and disillusioning. There used to be a saying, "God created Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve." Well, I've got one better. God created man in his image. God is perfect; man is not. Man can repent and be saved, reject him and be eternally banned from his love.

In the Bible, Genesis 19:24 states, "The wicked were destroyed." Need I say more?

Cecelia Hoffman-Graffes

Joliet Abstinence old-fashioned but only thing that works

This is in response to the Jan. 8 letter to the editor from Sarah Clark of Frankfort. Abstinence only does work. It's old-fashioned but effective. It is 100 percent successful to avoid sexually transmitted diseases.

One high school in San Marcos, Calif., had a drop in pregnancies from 147 to 20.

We had decades of education in the school without any success.

Instead, that education encourages promiscuity, according to a July 2005 article "Condoms, Clinics or Abstinence" by Kerby Anderson.

Veterans have received an increase in funding. President Bush's proposal is 83 percent more than when he took office. After his announcement of his plans, Donna Shalala (former Health and Human Services secretary) said, "Let me compliment your administration on the implementation of 90 percent of our recommendations." Bob Dole was co-chairman of the commission.

Bush strongly supports the State Children's Health Insurance Program by funding \$50 billion for five years. The original plan for this was putting dollars to the poor, but not to households with income of up to \$83,000 a year. That would move millions of children who have private health insurance into the government program. People that do not need it don't deserve it.

Clark has a right to her opinions, but she does not have a right to contrive her own facts.

M. G. Faren

Shorewood

Thanks to all who supported Shorewood food drive

Thank you to all of those who supported the village of Shorewood staff in the December food drive to benefit the Christian Life Centers/Grace Bible Church Food Pantry. It was a huge success. More than 700 food, hygiene and individual toiletry items were collected at the Village Hall and the police station. The food pantry and village staff were extremely pleased with the local support.

With the help of printed articles in The Herald News and the visibility of the village marquee sign at the police station, support from the public was humbling. Thanks for making the village of Shorewood's first December food drive a success. We look forward to repeating this worthwhile activity in 2008.

Karen A. James, planner

Village of Shorewood