

Generosity benefits students

DEAR EDITOR:

On behalf of the Ringwood Educational Foundation (REF), I would like to thank the parents and community of donors for their generosity and continuing support. Through participation in our various fundraising activities - like the annual Vincent J. Duzianianski Golf Classic & Beefsteak Dinner, Movie Days, Bi-Annual Teacher Appreciation, the May 16 Shepherds Lute SK Walk/Run, and our April 22 Tricky Tray, the funds raised and entrusted to the REF are passed directly to the children of the Ringwood School District.

The REF is lucky to have the support of so many people as we pursue the foundation's mission to enhance and enrich the education of the Ringwood students. The Ringwood Board of Education, the PTOs, and our teachers are great supporters of the REF through the grant requests they submit to us, their acceptance of the ideas we bring to them, and their unwavering participation in all our functions.

Our fundraising efforts within the last several years have yielded significant grants to the district. To date, we have raised and granted over \$175,000, which has translated to a variety of grants to all the schools including, but not limited to: a grant exceeding \$30,000 to Ryerson Middle School in the form of 50 laptop computers; history enhancements at Hewitt; book sales' convention to both Erskine and Cooper schools; life cycles of chicks and ducklings at Erskine; Read Through Math Land at Hewitt; digital computer projector for library and classroom use at Hewitt; Art Around the World at both Erskine and Cooper schools; Know the Artist at Hewitt and Color Our World at Ryerson; Reading and Language Arts Lab at Cooper; Staying Healthy at Hewitt, and a Butterfly Garden at Erskine.

The REF Board of Trustees, both past and present, hold a passionate vision, apply strict guidance and meticulous prudence to the raising of funds and the disbursement of grants. We recognize the challenges we all face in today's economic climate. It is more important now than ever that we continue our fundraising and raise the bar where we can. Likewise, in today's economic climate, it is imperative we recognize the support from our community and the sacrifices made in helping us achieve our goal. Together we are preparing our children for their future. To that end, thank you, Ringwood parents, residents,

businesses, teachers, administrators and PTOs.

Jean Spore, president, Ringwood Educational Foundation
Ringwood

American values take a plunge

DEAR EDITOR:

I am writing to express my extreme outrage at the theatrics being presented to the American public by our elected officials sitting in the legislature in Washington, D.C. My outrage is not directed at AIG, but at our elected representatives who are trying to show their displeasure at a situation that was actually created by them, and their total indifference to the American people.

The charade being carried on by Mr. Barney Frank and his cohorts would be comical, if it weren't so insulting. Our governing body passed into law a far-reaching "stimulus bill" that actually guaranteed that the exorbitant bonuses would be paid by AIG. Our illustrious Mr. Harry Reid admitted to this after being caught in a lie when he tried to distance himself from the problem. He did, however, admit that he was instructed to guarantee the bonuses by the White House.

If our elected officials had done their due diligence and took the time to read this proposed disaster before passing it, several problems could have been averted. This is the work that "we, the people" actually pay them to do. On the other hand, if our elected president Barack Obama lived up to the promises he made in his quest for our country's highest office and actually read this fiction authored by Mrs. Nancy Pelosi, he could have greatly reduced the total dollar amount of the bill and eliminated much of the excessive out-of-control spending it contained.

For our Washington representatives to now come back and attempt to shift the blame onto the executives of AIG is absolutely criminal. I am not trying to absolve the leaders of AIG, or any large corporation for that matter. I firmly believe the granting of bonuses should be based on performance, not ineptitude. If a company wants to retain what it considers exceptional talent, there are several other ways to entice employment without guaranteeing bonus money. I realize it is very early to be forming judgments on our new government's administration, but to me it is off to a very poor start.

Four more years of this actually scares the stuffing out of me. What is becoming of our great