

fect Moment," at the Contemporary Arts Center (CAC).

I am outraged at the thought of tax dollars supporting an establishment that permits the exhibition of photographs depicting the open degradation of fellow human beings, including children. Is this the price we pay to recognize the city of Cincinnati as a premier cultural center? How ridiculous!

I support the various citizens groups that are protesting the CAC's decision to promote the Mapplethorpe exhibit. It is gratifying to know there are people who still believe there is a defined difference between the artistic value of a nude photograph or painting and exploitive pornography.

PAUL R. GARDNER
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Fairfield.

CAC exhibit

Three physicians wrote in their guest column (March 24) that, in showing Robert Mapplethorpe's "The Perfect Moment," the Contemporary Arts Center (CAC) implies that the homosexual and autoerotic subjects and practices depicted are acceptable.

The physicians are as mistaken about the meaning of art as they could be. Just because something is represented in a piece of art work, it does not mean that it is acceptable. If that were so, then Bologna's "Rape of the Sabine Women," Picasso's "Guernica," Anastasia Gentilesch's "Judith Slaying Holofernes" and many other works would be banned from museums.

Mapplethorpe produced those images to represent a lifestyle and a community in New York that was fading away.

Thomas Gephardt, in his column of March 25, claimed that, like air pollution, pornography affects the whole community. There is a problem with Mr. Gephardt's logic: air pollution is forced on you, but in Cincinnati an adult is completely free to choose to go to the CAC or not.

In this context of free to choose or not to choose, it is difficult to understand how Mr. Gephardt can be so against the Mapplethorpe exhibit and at the same time his paper prints detailed descriptions of the "offensive" pictures without a warning preceding them. A few days ago, an 8-year-old boy that I know asked, "Mommy, why don't they just not go?" That is a pretty logical solution, is it not? If some people think these images are so obscene, why don't they just stay home?

Are the photographs "obscene"? "Obscene" means to be offensive to acceptable standards of decency. What's obscene, then, is world hunger. What's obscene is racism. What's obscene is inadequate education. What's obscene is violence. What's obscene is censorship.

THEODORE GIDEONSE
3535 Holly Lane.

Downtown parking

Everyone is studying and dissecting downtown and what's bad or good about it and why it's on the decline. We talk about entertainment centers, Tower Place, skywalks and so on.

If downtown Cincinnati is on the decline, it is because people don't go there.

Why don't they?

Parking!

We need a large quantity of low-priced, accessible, convenient *parking*.

Then people will come downtown to

shop, to party, to walk, to congregate, to live, to enjoy a wonderful downtown that millions have been spent on but no one visits because of no *parking*.

FRANK M. KATZ
1015 Towanda Terrace.

Opening Day

In reference to the front-page poll "Opening Day or Opening Night," you seem to have omitted the "Who cares? I'm not going to any games this year anyway" number.

RONALD W. WREN
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Grandfathering

What a heartwarming story about two grandfathers who are sharing their talents with a class of kindergartners. How very fortunate for this class to have these two men to share their talents with this class.

If only more retired men would do likewise, the benefits would be twofold for the grandfathers and the children.

FLORENCE HARRIS
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Letters

We welcome letters from our readers. Address letters to Readers' Views, Enquirer Editorial Page, 617 Vine St., Cincinnati, OH 45201. Please include your name, address and telephone number.