

July 9, 2007

Editor:

Putting words in other people's mouths, as Tim Skubick does with Ben Franklin and Thomas Jefferson in his July 6 column, can be tricky, even when what they say is believable. However, Tim has slave owner Jefferson saying, "I see that slavery is still outlawed" and then lamenting the end of affirmative action in Michigan. Slavery did not end in the United States until 36 years after Jefferson's death, when Lincoln issued (in 1862) the Emancipation Proclamation. He also has Jefferson expressing concern that women today "don't earn as much as men in the same jobs." Actually, the constitution Jefferson helped write did not even give women the right to vote. That came with the 19th Amendment in 1920.

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