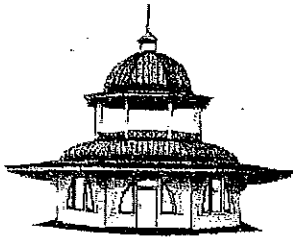


# OPINION

VIEWS ON NEWS OF THE DAY

**A8**

Friday,  
August 25,  
2000



## Herald & Review

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The Herald & Review believes in the Community Agenda, a process for building a shared vision of our future based on a constructive discussion of four issues of common interest. These issues — education, the environment, economic development and race relations — are intertwined and cut across all others in our community.

Unsigned editorials are opinions reached by consensus of the Herald & Review Editorial board. All other articles on this page are the opinions solely of the authors. We encourage readers to offer opinions on information provided by the Herald & Review.

### OUR VIEWS

## Court should lift restrictive rules

HOW MUCH the public is permitted to learn about crimes committed in their midst will be determined by a lawsuit filed in federal court in Chicago by nine state's attorneys, among them Larry Fichter of Macon County.

Little information will be given the public if restrictive rules imposed on prosecutors and police by the Illinois Supreme Court are upheld.

Earlier this year, the court told prosecutors and police what they could say about pending cases. It's very little. One objection raised by prosecutors is that they have little control over the actions of police. Therefore, if police officers release too much information, it is wrong to hold prosecutors responsible. Meanwhile, authorities in many jurisdictions are using the rules to say

as little as they can get away with.

No one quarrels with the aim of the rules: guaranteeing a fair trial for the defendant. In rare cases, pretrial publicity has run amok, making it nearly impossible to impanel a jury. But steps can be taken to mitigate prejudicial publicity. Trials can be moved or juries sequestered.

Rumor and innuendo are the usual factors that inflame the public, making a fair trial difficult. A fully informed public is better prepared to hold public officials and police accountable. Secrecy is the basic ingredient of unfairness and prejudice.

The Illinois Supreme Court should change its own rules. Failing that, we can only await the judgment of federal courts.

## Cardwell has helped fuel city's growth

WHEN THE news that John Cardwell was buying the Holiday Inn Select Conference Hotel was reported, a few wags wondered whether the Decatur developer had by now acquired half of the town. Not yet, anyway. But the impressive run of projects with Cardwell's stamp on them demonstrates a man with a deep commitment to the Decatur area.

In buying the local Holiday Inn with Jim Randall, Cardwell has his sights set on turning it

into a regional resort destination. Besides interior renovations, plans include creating a theme park featuring a water park, miniature golf and pony rides.

Any listing of Cardwell's projects would be incomplete. Suffice to say, his mark is all over the city. It was his vision that turned the former Sears automotive garage into the Village Mall. Cardwell owns several other downtown properties, including the Galleria Plaza,

the Flora building and One Main Place. He owns University Plaza, and relatively new acquisitions include Fairview Plaza and the All Star Diner in Mount Zion.

Of course, other developers are trying to make a similar impression on Decatur's landscape. The success stories are popping up all over town. But it could be argued that John Cardwell's commitment to Decatur has provided much of the fuel for economic growth.

### LETTERS

Parents, coaches ruin organized sports for kids

I recently saw a cartoon in Newsweek depicting two small hockey

SO DID YOU WATCH SURVIVOR?

HECK, I AM A SURVIVOR!

