

# Community also has rights

To the Editor:

There have been some recent letters to the editor protesting the infringement of individual rights if city council prohibits strip joints and casinos.

It should be pointed out that communities have rights too.

A community has the right to make decisions about the quality of life in that community.

Making decisions for a group is done by something called "democracy." A fundamental principle of democracy is majority rules.

We have wandered away from that princi-

## Letters to the editor



ple to the point where some believe we live in a society where evry single person's individual rights must remain unrestricted.

Of course, the laws commonly restrict our rights.

For example, the right to drive is restricted by such things as stop signs.

We have also learned that individual rights sometimes contradict each other.

The right to smoke and the right to clean

air cannot both be met in the same space.

So, it is that communities must choose which rights prevail.

This is best done by allowing everyone to discuss and vote on the question.

We have seen recently some important decisions made by four-to-three margins on council.

This, of course, raises the obvious possibility of lobbyists achieving their objectives by changing the mind of only one alderman rather than having to convince at least one-half of the population.

Another important principle of democracy

is that the minority must accept the decision of the majority.

If this doesn't happen, then the democratic system itself fails.

Abraham Lincoln recognized this when he led his country into a civil war rather than see democracy fail by the withdrawal of a minority that refused to accept the will of the majority.

Decisions about the quality of life in a community are necessary and important.

The best system we have devised so far to make such decisions is democracy.

Let us hope that the majority can, in fact, rule and are not held hostage to the will of a few individuals.

Franklin Foster  
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# Round one goes to council

To the Editor:

I used to think that

to make level-headed decisions.

Sometimes a notice

Round one in the nude dancing (adult entertainment) debate