

Olympic Feats

Public comment to Pittsburgh's City Council on April 6, 2004.

My name is Mark Rauterkus. My family and I reside at 108 South 12th Street, South Side. My home on the internet is at Rauterkus.com.

Recently I've published some info and calls to action at a web site with the address of PLAY.CLOH.Org. Our next open community meeting is at 3 pm on Sunday, April 18, on the North Side at the National Aviary.

CLOH means Creating Literate Olympians Here.

Literacy is important to me. Earlier in my life, I was a publisher. The world opens up to those who read. We need technical literacy too. To be able to read and write computer code, yet alone manuals and email is a hinge to a productive life.

The first word, "creating," is about learning, growing, changing, evolving. Much of life is about self-discovery.

I want to be supportive in efforts to Create Literate OLYMPIANS here.

This is an Olympic year.

The world will gather in August 2004 in Athens Greece. As the Olympic flame burns, the best athletes from hundreds of countries will compete. Consider all the the languages, customs, and tribes of people.

Multi-national, multi-sports events are such a rush and full of humanity and vitality. I've worked at the Pan Am Games. I've been a a few Olympic Training Centers, here and abroad.

Consider the coverage, the media, the egos of participants and officials, the governmental aspects, the traditions, the security. The pharmacology, the athletic training/sports medicine is complex. The Olympics make once in a lifetime opportunity. This is about going for a peak performance.

This is about striving for excellence and winning the day and having the limelight of the world with you on the podium at the medal ceremony.

Tomorrow from this podium, an Olympic Gold Medal Swimmer is expected.

Not only are a bunch a parents, taxpayers, and citizens of Pittsburgh troubled by the closing of the 31 out-



Mason art of a swimmer at West Penn, a presently closed Citipark Recreation Center

door swim pools, the 19 Rec centers and the 1 indoor ice rink.

An Olympic Gold Medal Swimmer, and I dare say the rest of the world, is troubled too.

We are all connected. Sports are games of time, space and relationship.

Now is the time for you to put forth an OLYMPIC effort.

City council needs to be creative and strive for peak performances in these regards.

The Olympic organizers might have problems with security in this time of the world. We too have security problems at our swim pools and Recreation Centers. You have to deal with them.

The Olympic organizers have issues with different neighbors playing well with others. We too have sport-by-sport and neighborhood-by-neighborhood concerns. We can play well with one another. We will work it out.

But we can't do our part when you lock us out of the facilities, our facilities. We can't do our part when you take all the money out of the landscape. We can't do our part when we must survive on just a crumb for programming, coaching, for opportunities.

Our children have to compete with the world.

We need an attitude that says, *We will Create Literate Olympians Here.*

Pittsburgh's exports are not STEEL any longer. Our gift to the world are the talents that we groom for and among our children.

To be continued.....

Play.CLOH.Org