

POINTS OF VIEW

# Kevorkian is in the tradition of true rebels

What does Dr. Jack Kevorkian have in common with Dr. Martin Luther King, Robert F. Kennedy, Muhammed Ali, H.D. Thoreau, Mao West, George Washington and the mythic Queen Guinevere (a legendary feminist)? All of them are — or were — what I call "RRR's" — Real Righteous Rebels. The RRR embodies all of what it means to be free — and thus to be American.

While preparing a Martin Luther King Day speech that the Lakes Area Council for Diversity asked me to deliver to representatives from Wixom, Walled Lake, Farmington Hills, West Bloomfield, White Lake, Commerce Township and Novi, I was driven to vigorously contemplate the nature of real righteous rebelliousness.

An RRR is a righteously reason-driven, altruistic, idealistic, iconoclastic, indomitably dynamic rebel leader who is ready to die for freedom and jus-

tice. He/she is also a dauntless, resiliently innovative individualist who refuses to sit in any "assigned seat." (Does the eagle in the sky have an assigned seat? RRR's can work from either inside or outside the "system" — but they invariably and veritably are champions of change. (On a less esoteric note, true rebels are those restless souls who would rather go to hell if it were lively than drift dreamily in heaven.)

Often, one can best characterize an individual by conceptualizing what he isn't. What an RRR isn't is an "N-R" (Non-Rebel) — a dull, mindlessly unquestioning, ethnocentric, frequently bigoted, fearful, obsequious conformist. "What would the neighbors think?" are the first words out of the mouth of an infant N-R. N-R's aren't free. Freedom frightens them. If your friends are all N-R's, never get into any serious kind of trouble or controversy if you can't bear to stand alone.



JOHN TELFORD

**■ An RRR is a righteously reason-driven, altruistic, idealistic, iconoclastic, indomitably dynamic rebel leader who is ready to die for freedom and justice.**

What an RRR also isn't is a "Pa-R" (Pseudo-Rebel). Pseudo-Rebels will break a rule simply because it's a rule. Their only cause is to conform to non-conformity in a showy, superficial way. "They are rebel wanna-be's — self-aggrandizing, tough-talking but gutless posers who sometimes are also bullies (but only in absolutely no-risk situation). Andrew Dice Clay is a perfect example.

The ideological — and active — antithesis of the Real Righteous Rebel is the "Anti-Rebel" (A-R) — a fanatical protector of the status quo. Anti-Rebels brand Dr. Kevorkian a "Rogue Rebel" — a societal renegade, a rebel gone bad. (Fidel Castro is a genuine contemporary example of a Rogue Rebel, or "RR." Gangsters or leaders of hate groups are more sinister versions.) Anti-Rebels can often be roguish, too — what I call "RAR's" (Rogue anti-Rebels). RAR's are anti-Rebels who stoop to illegal or unfair means to fight

Real Righteous Rebels (or to pretend to fight them in order to gain the political or financial support of other anti-Rebels or of Non-Rebels). Russian ultranationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy is an RAR, and clergymen Jim Bakker and Jimmy Swaggart are two particularly lecherous and acquisitive examples.

Anti-Rebels are all wrong about Dr. Jack Kevorkian. He is no Rogue Rebel, but rather a true and Real Righteous Rebel. Rogue Rebels have primarily selfish goals. Dr. Kevorkian, on the other hand, is crusading for every hopelessly-ill human being's right to choose a dignified, pain-free and peaceful death.

John Telford, a Rochester Hills resident, was formerly an assistant superintendent in the Rochester Community School District. He previously was executive director of secondary education in the Plymouth Canton district.

# Prognosticators put their spin on the new year

It was a New Year's Eve party at the Townsend Hotel, built around First Night Birmingham — the annual family-oriented arts festival.

Guests wove in and out of the party, attending a performance or more at one of the nearby sites, then came in from the cold to nibble and nosh from an elegant buffet table and enjoy warm company.

But no matter how short or long they stayed, none of the guests got away without filling out "My predictions for 1994" — a written list of wide-ranging questions fashioned by party hosts, Bob and Martie Suchs of West Bloomfield.

If you're not predicted out, maybe you'd like to add your voice to the chorus. But so you won't be unduly influenced, I've saved how the party guests voted for the end.

### THE QUESTIONS:

■ The Dow Jones Industrial Average is presently at record levels, nearing 3800. What will it be on 12/31/94?

■ Will Michigan school financing be funded by an increase in the sales tax or the income tax?

■ Will Michael Jackson be convicted of a sex crime in 1994?

■ Who or what will be Time Magazine's Man of the Year in 1994?

■ Will assisted suicide be legalized in Michigan in 1994?

■ Will Wayne Fontes be the Lions' head coach next season?

■ Which country will experience the greatest political change during 1994?

■ Who will be Michigan's newly elected U.S. senator?

■ President Clinton's popularity rating is presently in the mid-50 percent range. What will it be a year from now?

■ Will Detroit be a safer city in 1994 than it was in 1993, and will you travel to downtown Detroit for pleasure more or less often?

■ Many native Detroiters, most of whom now live in our suburbs, were among the partygoers who said by a 23 to 3 margin that Detroit would be a safer city in 1994.

■ Will Detroit be a safer city in 1994 than it was in 1993, and will you travel to downtown Detroit for pleasure more or less often?

■ The Dow Jones will be at 3916, a figure derived by averaging all the guesses submitted. The highest number submitted from some eternal optimist was

4400, the low 2900. Fourteen people said school funding will be via the ballot question — the sales tax. Nine said the income tax. An uninformed four said "both."

It was a 19-7 vote that said Michael Jackson won't be convicted of a sex crime this year. A couple of people stipulated that it was more because the wheels of justice revolve so slowly rather than a determination of his guilt or innocence.

It was the Clintons' all the way for "Man of the Year" honors. However, Hillary got twice as many votes as Bill, 11 to 6. Boris Yeltsin got 4.

Assisted suicide won't be legalized in Michigan this year, according to 16 predictors. Ten said it would.

It was also a 16-10 decision that Wayne Fontes would hold on to his job. (And of course this was taken ahead of the Lions winning the NFC Central Division championship.)

Russia will experience the greatest turmoil, according to 12 people. China got seven votes. Israel, Germany, Japan and Iraq were other mentions.

Jim Blanchard got the nod for U.S. Senate with 10 votes. Ronna Romney got five votes; Bill Brodhead, three.

Clinton will have the same popularity rating as now, according to the average of predictions submitted. His highest rating was 75, lowest, 35 percent.

Many native Detroiters, most of whom now live in our suburbs, were among the partygoers who said by a 23 to 3 margin that Detroit would be a safer city in 1994. But they were evenly divided as to whether they would go there more frequently or the same as they do today. One person said he/she would go less often.

If you'd like to send in, fax or otherwise convey your responses, we'll add them in. Let's plan to revisit these non-scientific, but fun predictions same time next year.

Judith Doner Berne is managing editor for The Eccentric Newspapers. You can reach her at 901-2563. Address is 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009. Fax is 644-1314.



JUDITH DONER BERNE

■ Many native Detroiters, most of whom now live in our suburbs, were among the partygoers who said by a 23 to 3 margin that Detroit would be a safer city in 1994.

"One call did it all!" Mrs. Laroy Goodall of Livonia placed a classified ad for household goods and was very pleased with the results. How about you? If you plan to replace a few things around the house, remember to call your Observer & Eccentric classified ad taker and

Reach Michigan's Finest Suburban Market

## Make Your Banking Relationship More Interesting.

Introducing the Signature Plus Account, the ultimate in Relationship Banking — providing competitive interest rates and personal banking services that exceed your expectations.

To take advantage of the 12 month CD rate, simply open a new Signature Plus Checking Account with \$1,000 and receive 3.04% APY or maintain \$10,000 or more and receive 3.30% APY.\*\* Get all the

**SIMPLE INTEREST RATE**  
**4.00%**  
**ANNUAL PERCENTAGE YIELD**  
**4.07%\***  
**12 MONTH CD**

services you deserve, from checking and savings as well as bonus CD rates, travel discounts and personalized checks.

Each account is assigned a Personal Banker who will oversee your financial needs and treat you to efficient, friendly service.

Now that we've raised your interest, call or come in today and open your Signature Plus Account.

Ann Arbor 665-4030 Bloomfield Hills 258-5300 Grosse Pointe 882-6400 Farmington Hills 737-4444

CALL TOLL FREE 1-800-968-4425 7 A.M. - 7 P.M. M-F



MEMBER FDIC

\*Not available for public utility. Minimum balance \$25,000. Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is guaranteed until February 8, 1994, and may change after that date. \*\*Statement balances for certificate \$1,000, rates include 14% bonus with competitive Signature Plus Checking. Substantiated penalty for early withdrawal. Not valid with any other offer. \*\*A 1% monthly maintenance fee will be imposed on Signature Plus checking accounts that do not maintain the daily balance requirement of \$10,000. She he could receive savings. Interest rates subject to change.

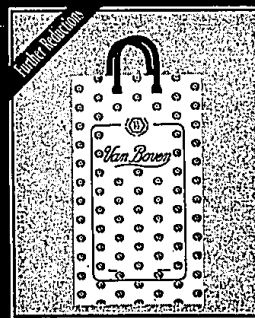
DISTINCTLY BETTER BANKING



## Van Boven

### THE TIMBERLAND SHOP

# Winter Sale



- Dress Shirts Values to \$90.00 starting at \$17.50
- Dress Trousers Values to \$105 starting at \$19.00
- Selected Timberland Merchandise 50% OFF
- All Silk Neckties starting at \$12.50
- ALL CLOTHING AT HALF PRICE
- Sportcoats Values to \$150 starting at \$50
- Suits Values to \$700 starting at \$150
- Topcoats Values to \$600 at least 50% OFF

These excellent bargains are at our Birmingham location only. All clothing is cash and carry — no alterations. Sale Ends January 11th. All Sales Final

152 North Woodward Ave. • Birmingham (810) 647-8150