

BY **by CORINNE ABAT**



Why rules are needed

Somewhere between adolescence and responsible adulthood, most youths in the half-philosopher, half-rebel stage will advocate a jell-police society.

It usually follows a series of bum rap stories, a tirade on the dismal failure of prohibition and a dissertation on the stupidity of marijuana laws—all structures, written and understood, which society imposes on people.

"I think each person should be able to make his own rules," one of these idealists said the other evening.

How do you combat such a statement knowing that bum raps are a fact of life, corruption is rampant, prohibition fostered more crime than it corrected and the use of marijuana is almost as common as aspirin.

Sure, structures are chaffing to the young, particularly when the structures are not always sound. But, no structure at all? Each person for himself and good luck? We're not ready for that either.

If you doubt it for a second, you need only pull into a shopping center parking lot where the lines have not been painted on the asphalt or are covered with snow. This is a sample of the melee a non-structured society creates.

Drivers don't automatically discipline themselves and park in rows leaving easy ingress and egress for the next guy. Most drop their vehicles

like bombs in the most convenient spot, blocking future traffic and creating a maze that even the smartest rat would flunk.

A few years back several area private schools decided to offer students more freedom of choice, what courses they wished to take, arrangement of schedules and use of free time.

But, even these educators knew they could not offer this carte blanche-platter to older ones. They brought this new freedom of choice in at the lower elementary level along with training in decision-making.

The older ones, it was felt, were too far gone to instantly reprogram.

The Dr. Spock generation of parents wonder now if they didn't go too far in catering to the whims of infants and toddlers.

Structure, especially in a democratic society, is at best cumbersome. Mistakes are a constant part, but our nation, 200 years old, is still better than the alternatives. The very clumsiness of the democratic process is what makes it democratic.

But, to all who think a no-rule society is the way to go, picture that parking lot with no entrance or exit signs, no lines for parking, no stop signs or places indicated for delivery trucks—just a big open, free lot. I guarantee the traffic jam would be stupifying and lead us all to just short of mayhem.

from our readers

Resident protests court fine

Editor

The American Heritage Dictionary defines "justice" as 1) moral rightness, equality, 2) honor, fairness, 3) Good reason, 4) Fair handling, due reward or treatment, 5) The administration and procedure of law, etc.

Many young adults of today take a dim view of "our justice" and rightly so. The average American young adult without the advantage of "knowing someone in the system" is definitely at a distinct disadvantage.

A case in point. A young man of almost 20 was involved in a rear-end collision on Nov. 28, 1975, at 11:30 a.m. at westbound Twelve Mile west of Kendallwood Drive. He momentarily took his eyes off the road to observe an accident. When he looked back the auto in front had made an unexpected stop and he did not have time. The damage to the other auto was limited to a small dent in the rear bumper. Damage to his auto was limited to the grill and right front fender. He was ticketed, and rightly so, for "failure to stop in assured clear distance."

NOW WHEN THIS young man, a 1974 class valedictorian, National Merit finalist, recipient of numerous awards and scholarships and current sophomore in college, appeared before a local judge he was fined \$50 and \$4 court costs.

On the basis of his good record, only one ticket (five miles over the limit) in almost four years of extensive driving, this fine is a great deal more than he anticipated and definitely more than I feel this situation warranted.

Further exemplifying this court's injustice is that this is the same Farmington Court (a different judge, however) which as the result of an accident at Twelve Mile and Halsted Road on Nov. 22 just seven years ago, fined a driver \$15 for running a stop sign. This accident, however, resulted in a broken neck and completely demolished auto for an innocent motorist.

If this young man had had a poor driving record, if he had ever been arrested on a dope or alcohol charge, then harsh measures would be called for. This, however, is not the case.

Is it any wonder that the young people of today have such a disregard for the law? With treatment like this I say no.

THOMAS J. MEIER
Farmington Hills

Reader enjoys Russia articles

Editor

Just had to write to let you know how much I enjoyed Rochelle Reagan's articles about her trip to Russia.

It was like a breath of fresh air—what an open mind.

Most things you read about that country are what people are programmed to see and hear. They have been told the people are dumb and gray, the hotels crummy, the food lousy. That is what they see.

Attitudes are different, of course, if they have an open mind and allow for the fact that they (Russians) had two wars on their soil and have been rebuilding for 50 years.

And from what I have read, they try to take care of all the people, not a few, so they have spread their resources farther.

Let's try to see the good in other people, not the bad.

RUSSELL LACROIX
Farmington Hills

Indian Center thanks people

Editor

We are sending thanks to your organization for the contributions of toys that they brightened up the Christmas season for many youngsters who

might have been without one. May we extend to your organization our best wishes for a successful and happy new year.

ARTHUR BRANT
Director, Cass American Indian Center, Detroit

Junior Achievers celebrate

Junior Achievement Week will be celebrated throughout Southeastern Michigan Jan. 24-31 when thousands of high school students will be recognized for their accomplishments in business as demonstrated by their involvement in the JA program.

The 1976 JA Week general chairman is Peter A. Kizer, 4941 Malibu Drive, Bloomfield Hills, vice-president and general manager of the WWJ stations. He will oversee the many events scheduled during the week which will begin with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at Westland Shopping Center on Saturday.

High school students from 50 JA companies will have display booths set up as they sell their handmade products Saturday and Sunday.

Each JA center in a six-county area will hold open house from 7 to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday, Jan. 26-29, featuring product displays and JA

companies in action. The DeVlieg Center, 4250 N. Woodward, Royal Oak, serves the Birmingham-Bloomfield-Troy and Southfield areas.

Ten students will be guests at the Detroit Economic Club luncheon on Monday, Jan. 26. Executives from firms sponsoring JA companies will have a chance to see how the younger executives operate a company when they visit the 22 JA centers Tuesday, Jan. 27, to present the companies with charters.

SELECTION of the best JA product of the year will be made Wednesday, Jan. 28, at the Engineering Society of Detroit.

Achievers representing the 10 JA companies with products chosen for the final contest will attend the event to demonstrate their products and explain their books and records to the judges.

All six youths, ranging in age from 15 to 18 years old, remain in the custody of Oakland County authorities pending action by the Juvenile Court.

The SPOT unit is a special undercover team that patrols the city in an attempt to eliminate juvenile problems and crime. The unit makes the initial arrests and the detective bureau conducts any follow-up or clean-up investigations into the troubled areas of the city.

As a result of two arrests made by the Farmington Hills SPOT unit, the Hills detective bureau recently has closed 17 breaking and entering cases in the northwest section of the city.

According to officials, the SPOT team arrested two juveniles Saturday night, Jan. 17, as the youths were attempting to break into a house. In a follow-up investigation by the detective bureau and juvenile division, four more juveniles were arrested last week.

Four youths were charged with breaking and entering and two other

The final contest to choose the Outstanding JA businessman and businesswoman will be Saturday, Jan. 31, following a luncheon at the Raleigh House in Southfield. Forty-two semi-finalists voted outstanding businesspeople at the 22 JA centers will be honored guests at the luncheon.

The young man and woman who win the title will receive travel tickets to the National Annual Junior Achievers Conference to be held in Bloomington, Ind., in August.

They also will serve on the JA board of directors for the remainder of the program year.

KIZER was named vice-president of the Evening News Association in December. Previously he was general manager, assistant general manager, WWJ-TV station manager and administrative assistant. Before moving to WWJ he had been serving as program manager at WXYZ-TV.

A graduate of Grinnell College in Iowa, Kizer began his broadcast career with Armed Forces Radio in Anchorage, Alaska.

He is a past member of the budget committee for the Michigan United Fund and the Metropolitan Detroit United Community Services and a past president of the National Association of Television Program Executives.

Kizer also has served as president of the Michigan Association of Broadcasters and now holds the position of chairman of the Broadcast Rating Council, representing the National Association of Broadcasters.

Kizer and his wife, Kay, have three children.

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CONTEST WINNER

Expressing her holiday spirit in three-dimensional form, Debbie Fairchild of Robinwood in Farmington has won honorable mention in The Observer & Eccentric Holiday Art Contest. Debbie, 9, is a student at Flanders School, where she attends the fourth grade. Her artwork was chosen

from among entries originating throughout the circulation area of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. More than 200 youngsters entered the annual competition. Winners were chosen from two categories determined by grade level.

Farmington Observer & Eccentric

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