

# George M. lauded for George H. acquisition

Welcome to town, Colonel.

We all can breathe a little easier, now that former Michigan State Police Director George Halverson has taken the helm as Farmington Hills top cop.

For years now, the Hills department has been a source of discontent in the old township and the new city. Whispers of scandal and unsettled police union contracts have been the order of the day for years. Hopefully, with Halverson taking over, a modicum of professionalism will take hold.

Undoubtedly, he has a big job ahead of him. Ingrained traditions which were established back longer than many of us can remember have given previous police and city officials headaches. Old habits die hard, and Halverson will have his hands full burying them.

Ron Holko couldn't do it and his professional career in the Hills perished because of it. It's Halverson's job to transform, once and for all, the township police into a professional crime fighting unit.

## editorial opinion

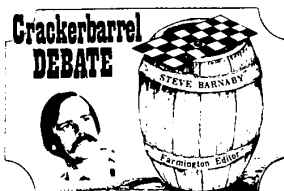
BUT THE GUY who deserves the most credit this time around is ol' City Manager George Majors. Now as many of you know, George and I are about as close as Winnie the Pooh and a swarm of bees. But what the heck, you've got to give the guy credit for making this catch.

Actually, George M. has done a heck of a job in garnering administrators who at least have the credentials to tackle difficult problems. In the last year he has lured into his lair Finance Direc-

tor Girard Miller, Fire Chief John Van De Voort and now the Colonel.

All three of these men have proven records and all were hired to tackle difficult problems. Van De Voort finally is calming down the reserves and paving a path to the inevitable full-time fire department, and Miller is keeping track of the city's change closer than old Scrooge.

Who said two Georges weren't any better than one?



## Women's fight part of larger human battle

Everyone's consciousness was raised a few days ago when the fight for women's rights was highlighted at a convention for the National Organization for Women (NOW) in Detroit. Last week this newspaper described the participation of 10 women from Oakland County.

It was interesting to note that men played a major role in that convention through conducting seminars, supervising the child care room and serving as aides. This is as it should be. Men are slowly beginning to realize that the women's movement is part of a larger battle for the human rights of all people.

MOST OF THE ATTENTION at the NOW meeting was focused on the much maligned Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) to the U.S. Constitution. ERA has been ratified by 35 state legislatures and must be approved in three more to become law.

ERA merely prohibits discrimination against persons of any sex. Despite the hysterical criticism of many anti-ERA women, it should be ratified. It will not force housewives to abandon their roles. It will only affirm that women have the same rights as other citizens in this country.

The Oakland County branch of NOW has focused its attention on the unique needs of suburban women. It is especially concerned about the rights of the middle-aged woman, who, for reasons of divorce or death, is suddenly alone. Where can she go for legal advice? Where can she receive training to re-enter the job market?

The loss of the only breadwinner in an affluent, suburban household is especially traumatic to a family.

About 300 men and women belong to the Oakland County chapter of NOW which meets on the second Tuesday of the month at Birmingham Unitarian Church, 651 N. Woodward Ave. Ruth Jeffries of Bloomfield Hills is the president.

### WHAT CAN YOU do to help?

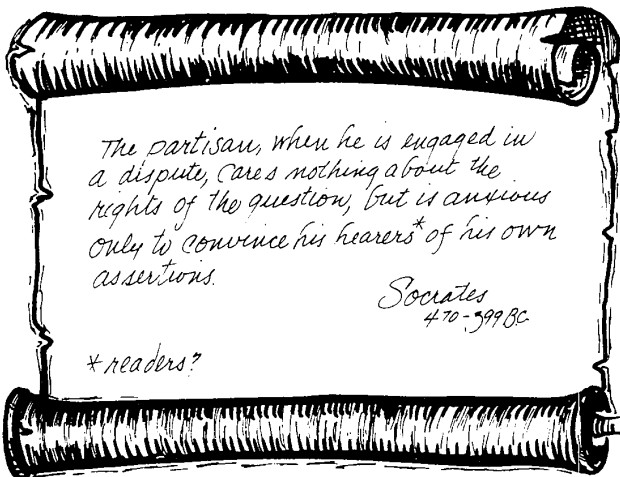
If interested in joining the county branch of NOW, you can become a member by showing up for any meeting.

Although the ERA has been passed in Michigan, people can help finance campaigns in other states. Donations can be sent to: CRAMERICA, 1525 M St., Suite 602, Washington, D.C.

An equal rights magazine, called ERA Monitor, will be mailed free by writing: ERA Monitor, 926 J St., Suite 1014, Sacramento, Calif. This magazine will keep readers informed about the current status of ERA passage.

IT IS ENCOURAGING to observe that as the feminist campaign continues, it has been extended to include those overlooked—the blacks, men and housewives. The feminist umbrella now includes people from all backgrounds.

If you have been an outsider, it is time to come aboard. Respect for the dignity of human beings requires that everyone share in the work that lies ahead.



## Old philosopher learns new business truths

Socrates, the venerable Greek philosopher, sat on the banks of the Ilouge, swishing his feet in the water, and when he espied the younger man approaching, cried out, "My dear Colemanitis, my former pupil, I give you greeting!"

"What a pleasure," said the other, "for I no longer see you as much now that I am a scribe at the friendly metropolitan newspaper, The Free Press."

"Is that true?" answered Socrates. "I am glad to hear it, my young friend, for always have I wished you well. But tell me, Colemanitis, about The Free Press' philosophy, for I am much perplexed of late as I peruse the columns of your journal."

"Most assuredly, I will tell you whatever I can," said Colemanitis, "for we seek to be responsive and with it."

"I FAIL TO understand your descriptions of the wealth makers of our republic," said Socrates—"you know the men of business and statecraft."

"Well might I inform you," said Colemanitis, "for we scribble tell extensively of their comings and goings."

Socrates scratched his head, stroked his grey beard and tugged at his ear, saying at length: "I have read of the Renaissance Center, that noble project, I perceive the persons chiefly responsible are 'business leaders' and 'government leaders.' I also read that a financier associated with the ruler—with the mayor, that is—is described as 'a widely respected civic leader' who is said 'to exert a great deal of influence at the bank.'"

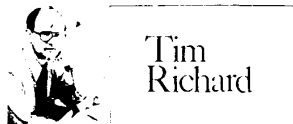
"And so it is," said Colemanitis, "for if you read it in our journal, it is true. But what is it that perplexes you, O Socrates?"

"I READ ALSO," said the philosopher, "of men in Oakland County associated with such enterprises as Olympia II in Portiac Township and with plans for growth in West Bloomfield and Commerce townships."

"But the latter group," Socrates went on, "receive no such fair words. They are called 'speculators' or 'promoters' with 'special interests.' Their rulers are called 'local politicians.' The rewards which they seek for their endeavors are not called 'revenues' but 'lucrative gold mines,' or 'high profits' and 'big profits' and 'huge profits.'"

"And yet for the life of me," Socrates continued, a glint in his eye, "I cannot see the difference in their occupations. And here are you, my former pupil, indulging in these widely different appellations for the same activities! Did I not, in our dialogue on The Republic, lead you to the idea of Justice?"

"SOCRATES, YOU ARE as keen a wit as ever," said Colemanitis, "and most assuredly you are in the right. There are indeed two separate lists of words to be applied to those involved in



Tim Richard

the Renaissance Center and those in Oakland County, although the essential purposes of their enterprises be of the same essence."

"Then why, O friend, does The Free Press practice this double standard? For did I not teach you that truth is unitary?" said the puzzled Socrates. "You did, my mentor," said Colemanitis, "but in Detroit we have found a new kind of truth. We find your notions of justice and fairness to be outdated and, therefore, no longer to be practiced."

Socrates frowned. "I was certain my idea of Justice and the Idea of Good would survive forever, for always did I seek the ultimate truth. But pray, good Colemanitis, what do you call The Free Press' system of philosophy which applies such noble words to the rulers of Detroit and the owners of the Renaissance Center, and such ill words to their counterparts in Oakland County?"

Colemanitis paused and grinned before he gave answer, then said: "We call it, O Socrates, the 'New Journalism.'"

## Alarums & excursions

A person seeking danger could hunt lions in Africa. A person really seeking danger could travel to Northville, where the state wants to set up a prison, and circulate a Milliken petition.

A MUSIC professor at Glassboro State College has set federal income tax farm 1040 to music. Edwin Avril used the IRS's words and the music of Johann Sebastian Bach's "Easter Cantata" to make an opus for choir.

Avril says the funeral march is appropriate.

TALES ARE circulating that in New York State, many folks are seeking to be ordained ministers of the Universal Life Church, a California outfit with no dogma, no doctrine, and no required qualifications for being ordained by mail.

The idea was that such "ministers" could get their properties exempted from local taxes. It didn't work. The New York State Board of Equalization and Assessment staff is telling local assessors that Universal Life ministers aren't entitled to exemptions because the church isn't a real "ecclesiastical body."

Next thing you know, IRS will tell the folks they can't deduct whatever they paid to the church for their ordinations as a "bad investment."

DURING NATIONAL Secretaries' Week, your right-hand gal (or guy) may hit you with the idea that she (he) is a professional. In Oregon it's true, State law there says stenographers have "privilege," somewhat like attorneys, and don't have to divulge confidential information to a state court about their bosses.



by HANK HOGAN

## Sears moved for good reason

The voices of gloom and doom are being heard again.

Sears Roebuck & Co. has indicated that it plans to close its Grand River store, the firm's only store left in the City of Detroit.

Sears is the largest retailer in the nation and the world.

It didn't get to this position in an extremely competitive business by being stupid or arbitrary. They are mass marketers who understand cost, location of customers and profit.

No business can remain operational for any period of time if it is not profitable unless somebody like the government subsidizes it.

IN OUR FREE enterprise society, nine out of 10 new businesses don't last more than one year.

If a profitable company has an unprofitable branch, then like a tree it must remove it or endanger the health of the whole tree.

Detroit, I understand, is Sears' number one marketing area even though it is a Chicago company. Its number one store in sales in the nation is in Livonia.

Therefore, Sears is not "down" on the Detroit area, nor can it be said that it doesn't merchandise properly for the area.

Sears says that it's closing the Grand River store because it can no longer make a profit there. It can't make a profit because its costs exceed its sales.

Immediately, the cries and the breast beaters accuse Sears of abandoning Detroit, some call for a boycott of the Sears stores.

The unfairness of the cry is that had Detroit supported the store Sears wouldn't have had to close it.

Instead of boycotting, if the shoppers really wanted the store located there, they should turn out in droves to show Sears it can be an economic reality.

It is not fair to make a commercial establishment bear the costs of a losing operation in order to "hype" some politician's dream.

EVERY TIME SOME BUSINESS moves to the suburbs, it is construed negatively, yet businessmen move for positive reasons.

Detroit, at times, can be its own worst enemy. It enacted an income tax that made it more expensive to operate in the city, so many of the service industries moved to Southfield, creating a new town almost overnight.

Because of downtown's crime reputation, it is easier to hire good secretarial and clerical help in the suburbs. Until something is done about this, business will flock to where the people are.

There is more free parking for business and retailers in the suburbs.

The shopping malls are more compact and make it easier to find things while "one stop" shopping.

The leaders in Detroit must stop acting negatively everytime somebody decides to move out. They must create a positive climate so when somebody decides to move, he will think about moving back into Detroit.

This has been done in other major cities. It is time to recognize that if many people are leaving Detroit, they are not all wrong. Maybe Detroit should take a leaf out of Sears' book and figure out what's wrong and move to correct it.

## Gas-guzzler's manifesto

It's time for other people to start taking the bus so we will have more fuel to cruise around town.

It's good for our nation to conserve oil, but we shouldn't crack down on gasoline consumption because gasoline accounts for only 30 per cent of the oil produced. We should crack down somewhere else.

If the government needs money, let it tax cigarettes and alcohol. Don't tax big cars because that will cost our state jobs.

Maybe we can use coal instead of oil—but don't let the oil companies own coal companies.

Let's not raise fuel prices any more because it's inflationary and a hardship on the poor. Speaking of the poor, let's negotiate a catch-up raise for ourselves.

Let's outlaw the kind of recreational vehicles our neighbor has, but go easy on our kids' minibikes because they're such little things.

Let's keep those outsiders off our lawn. They burn up a lot of fuel to get out here, and they burn up more fuel once they're here. Our lake should be for us.

A lot of families really need three cars. It's those four-car families that are getting rich. Congress is a bunch of scoundrels, but our great congressman is OK because he looks out for us.

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