

## editorial opinion

## Hors d'oeuvres

by Lynn Orr

## Generation gap stagnates

The generation gap we all talked about in the 1960s hasn't narrowed.

That's the conclusion I've reached after talking to seven Farmington high school students for about three hours last week. What these kids talked about—an aversion to labels such as burn-out and jock, the overemphasis on sports in Farmington schools, a desire for some kind of teacher evaluation system, more options for students—indicated that high school really hasn't changed much since any of us rambled down the corridors.

Students are still pressing for their rights—and rightly so. The generation gap hasn't narrowed because school board members, administrators and teachers, for the most part, still aren't listening to students. Parents (taxpayers) are heard. Education experts get heard. But kids seldom get heard—and when someone's listening, they're usually bringing their own value systems to the conversation.

Most adults refuse to acknowledge the younger generation has its own value system, and that value system may differ dramatically from what parents and educators believe is socially acceptable.

If parents and educators were listening to what I heard last week, they'd have to take a long, hard look at their concepts of students.

THESE STUDENTS displayed a high regard for their fellow students and a high level of maturity.

They fit into different categories if we have to go that route—some are college-bound; some have jobs awaiting them after graduation; some are brighter than others, academically. They aren't the kids you usually read about in the papers or hear about through the school grapevine. They're simply marvelous kids.

They're open, honest, as quick to reveal their failings as tell you about their successes. And in my book, they have a lot of valid criticisms about high school.

They'll talk about marijuana, drinking, venereal disease, good teachers, bad teachers, parents, siblings, and just about anything you can name—I didn't try Shakespeare. But who's listening?

STUDENTS are stereotyped today as they've always been. The names have changed—jocks and jellies have replaced frats and greasers—but the "good kids" are still those who get "good" grades in school, avoid any hint of trouble, and swallow the value system of the older generation.

If educators and parents were a little less quick to judge, a little less resistant to change, they might sit down and have a Coke or a smoke with these kids and discover what the younger generation is thinking about. Try it—I guarantee you won't be discussing inflation or Carter's energy plan; but you might mutually discover the pleasures of contrast and you might get a peek at the future if you can put your own prejudices aside.

## At work and play

## One state leads the list

What state has the tallest hotel in the country? What state has the headquarters of all the major automobile companies in the United States and produces more motor vehicles than any other state by far?

What state ranks first in prepared cereals; office furniture; machine tools; non-ferrous castings such as magnesium, zinc and lead; hardware for motor vehicles; furniture; buildings; and conveyors, plus 14 other manufacturing and processing categories?

In what state do three of America's top five industrial corporations and 21 of its top 500 businesses have their headquarters?

What state is the leading exporter among the 50 states?

What state leads the nation in the number of state parks and prepared campsites?

What state in 1973 established the first state police radio system in the world?

What state has more than 11,000 inland lakes and more than 36,000 miles of streams?

What state ranks number one in the nation in the production of six crops—red tart cherries, sweet cherries, dry edible beans, cucumbers for pickling, fine Eastern white soft winter wheat and rhubarb?

What state has the largest commercial deposit of native copper in the world?

What state has the largest limestone quarry?

What state is the nation's top salt producer?

What state has the world's largest cement plant?

WHAT STATE HAS a greater variety of minerals—metallic and non-metallic—than any comparable area in the world?

## Eccentricities

by HENRY M. HOGAN, JR.

What state was the first to establish roadside picnic tables?

What state has a larger variety of commercial tree species than any other state?

What state is the largest grower of Christmas trees in the nation?

What state was the first to provide in its constitution for the establishment of public libraries?

What state started the first land-grant college?

What state has the first state university established by vote of the people through their constitution?

What state was the first to guarantee every child the right to tax-paid high school education?

What state has more freshwater coastline than any other state?

In what state are there locks through which more tonnage passes in an eight-month navigation season than through the Panama Canal in an entire normal year?

THE ANSWER TO EACH of these questions and many similar ones is: Our own Michigan.

Next week is Michigan Week.

"Si quaeris peninsulam amoenam, circumspice." If you seek a pleasant peninsula, look about you.

## Waiting for a compromise

We were pleased to see some hard-line supporters of the now cancelled M-275 project modify their positions and endorse the "Lakeland Parkway" alternative proposed by Oakland County Executive Daniel Murphy.

We had expected, however, to see some change in position on the part of those opposed to M-275 for environmental reasons. Instead, at the recent State Highway Commission hearing, their response was either to ignore the parkway idea, to call it "a freeway by another name" or, in the case of a Detroit paper, to give it the cheap label of "M-275 Jr."

Actually, what Murphy is proposing is very close to the seven-county plan that local roads should be improved. Lakeland Parkway would follow the routes of existing roads. It would be four to six lanes and divided by a median, which would certainly suit the character of western Oakland County.

Best of all, it would help solve the lakes' area's terrible traffic problems without bringing in a lot of "through" traffic from Wayne County to Flint.

Whether Murphy's exact route is the best, and whether the parkway should have only four lanes instead of six, can be debated and negotiated. The essential principle is sound.

Southern Oakland County also deserves some consideration about Northwestern Highway and the jam-up Southfield suffers every day. If an alternative to M-275 can be found, it follows there must be a way to solve the Northwestern extension issue.

And if there are "special interests" who want to see Northwestern extended so they can make money, environmentalists should concede there are other special interests who want to see Oakland's growth stunted and highway aid cut so they can get money.

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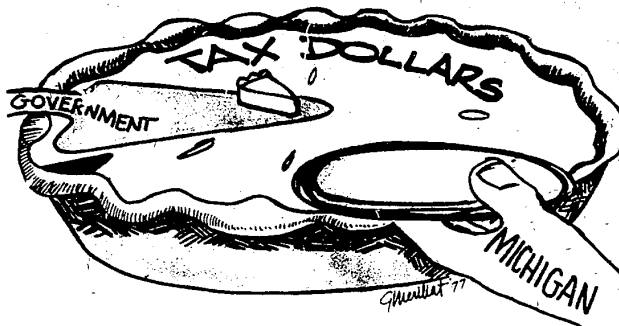
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SOMEONE HAS TO ASK FOR "SECONDS"



## Michigan could use some old-fashioned Capitol clout

It came out buried in one of the endless stream of news stories about the state's plan to take over the Wayne County Child Development Center in Northville and turn it into a prison. Some 600 acres of land on that site had been set aside previously as a place to locate the proposed federal Solar Energy Research Institute (SERI).

Well, as things turned out, the feds decided to locate SERI in Colorado, leaving a lot of folks in Michigan very upset.

For months, a strong coalition of labor, industry, Republicans and Democrats had worked to develop a substantial presentation for Michigan.

They figured that if SERI would locate here, it would pour millions of dollars into the state's economy, as well as broaden our manufacturing base with a big research operation.

And they figured that with Michigan's own Jerry Ford in the White House, the home state would get the kind of help Lyndon Johnson showered on Texas while he was president.

It didn't happen. President Carter's administration made the actual decision, although the scuttlebutt in Washington had it that the Ford people themselves didn't press too hard for Michigan when they had the chance.

IN ANY EVENT, musing about 600 acres in the suburbs that "might have been" the SERI has got me to thinking that our state is still really getting the shaft from the federal government.

Back in 1970 when Sander Levin was first running for governor, he made quite a splash charging that Michigan was last on the list of 50 states receiving federal money. The argument, then as now, is that people in Michigan send a whole lot of tax money down to Washington because personal incomes in our state are relatively high. But when it comes to getting those dollars back, Michigan is on the short end of the stick.

Latest report I saw showed Michigan is still around 10th in the nation sending tax dollars to the federal government but only 47th in getting those dollars back.

This is so even while the federal government's own rules require that the goodies be doled out to states with high unemployment—of which Michigan is the leading example.

IT ISN'T JUST the solar research lab. In recent weeks:

"No women and children allowed."

That sign will be in front of the doors when the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments holds four town hall meetings on water quality management this week and next.

The feeling is that women ask too many pointed, embarrassing questions, and that managing our water resources is really Man's Work. As for the students, well, they wouldn't be interested in anything but rock music entertainment.

THIS WATER quality management is getting to be a pretty exotic business.

In the old days, you worried about houses and their septic tanks polluting the water table, and about factories dumping chemical wastes into the Rouge and Detroit rivers. The two-dollar term they use for that is "point pollution."

The other kind of non-point pollution. Rain falls on a farm in Livingston County, the water picks up fertilizer and manure, then runs into a ditch, which empties into a creek and then a river.

Or rain lands on streets and parking lots, picking up salt, oil, gasoline, silt. Or rain runs off big suburban lots, picking up weed killers, dog-doo, trash dropped by the kids.

Women and children wouldn't be interested in or capable of wrestling with management problems like that. Better to keep 'em out and let 'em stay happy.

SEMCOG'S S'AFFERS will make progress report on what they've been doing the last year with the \$3 million the federal government gave them under Sec. 208 of the 1972 Clean Water Act. The meetings, for the menfolk who care to attend, are:

\*Tonight at 7:30 in the Mercy College Conference Center, 8200 W. Outer Drive (at Southfield), Detroit.

\*Next Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in the Oakland County Board of Commissioners auditorium, 1300 N. Telegraph, Pontiac.

\*Next Thursday, May 19, at 7:30 p.m. in the Ann Arbor Inn, 100 S. Fourth, Ann Arbor, and good luck finding a place to park in that town.

\*Tuesday, May 24 at 7:30 p.m. in the Grand Inn, 2700 W. Main, Romulus.

## Observation Point

by PHILIP H. POWER



\*The U.S. Defense Department decide to close Kincheloe Air Force Base near Sault Ste. Marie.

\*The feds sounded like they would back out of their promise that Gov. William Milliken would have authority to veto Project Sealiner.

\*The Pentagon brass argued against appropriating any more money to build the Lance missile at a plant near Pontiac.

If the feds are supposed to be friendly to states with high unemployment and economic problems; you can conclude only that with friends like that, who needs enemies?

JUST WHY MICHIGAN has such a poor record in getting money back from Washington is not clear.

The instinct to fight for federal dough is a highly developed one in congressional delegations from southern and western states. Michigan's delegation to Congress, although man-for-man easily as highly qualified and with as much seniority as those of other states, has traditionally taken as "issues" approach to politics.

For example, when Phil Hart was our senator, he was widely regarded as "the conscience of the Senate." But he didn't really make his No. 1 priority putting the muscle on the feds to get help for Michigan.

Neither, for that matter, has Sen. Robert Griffin, even with his close relationship to Jerry Ford when he was president. The last senator who really pushed Michigan's dollars-and-cents interests was Patrick McNamara, who died in 1966.

I don't think that rectifying a clear and present abuse of the way federal money is doled out conflicts in any way with the kind of issue concerns we have come to expect from Michigan politicians.

And I do think the only way for Michigan to get a better shake from Washington is through our own representatives right there.

## It's a Man-agement job!



Tim  
Richard

What all this looks like it's coming to is a two-tiered system of water quality management. Doesn't sound very rollicking, does it? "Two-tiered."

What it will probably amount to is a system whereby SEMCOG, the seven-county regional planning agency, will set up a regional management board.

THEN THE ACTUAL operating of facilities and enforcing of standards would be left to more traditional kinds of agencies. (Lots of important contracts to be let; big money; leave the women and children at home.)

It wouldn't have to be done that way, of course. We could wind up with a single, seven-county water quality authority. Or a sub-state water quality board.

And that enforcement function is important. The federal goal is clean water by 1985. Drinkable, fishable water. Man's work.

I am, of course, joshing about not allowing women and children to attend. It's a little trick I picked up from Mark Twain's "Huckleberry Finn," where the King and the Duke put up such a sign for their stage show in order to whet the appetites of the evil-minded men.

The plain truth is that although water quality management sounds as sexy as petunias at this stage of the game, one of these days it can become an explosive issue when the great unwashed public is actually affected by all this esoteric planning.

When that day comes, don't say this newspaper didn't warn you in a little minor sensationalism, or warn you.