

OBSERVATION POINT

Candidates, Voters: Bless 'Em All

By Philip H. Power

Monday was election day 'round these parts: Farmington, Plymouth, Livonia and Westland, Redford Township. School problems, mostly, with school boards and millage proposals.

As this is being written, I have no idea who will win. That, to-

gether with how they do after they've served for a while, will be doubtless the subject of other columns on other days.

BUT MY CONCERN now is for the people who ran. For those who were concerned enough to go

through the great aggravation of a political campaign. For those who cared enough about their communities to stand up at meetings and try to answer questions. These are the people who make our society work. Slowly, hesitantly, and clumsily; but work

nevertheless.

THE CANDIDATES were all kinds, had all points of view, ran all sorts of campaigns.

Some were for, millage, some against. Some were for sex education, others against. Some urged increased discipline, others more understanding.

Some were endorsed by this newspaper, others were not. Of those endorsed, some were "lib-

eral," others "conservative," whatever those terms mean. But they ran. And that's the important thing.

WHY IS THAT so important? Simply because our democratic system is based on the presumption that people of all sorts must become involved for the system to work. If people didn't get involved, it would be much easier to run this country by some sort

of benevolent monarchy. But monarchies, no matter how benevolent, somehow have a way of forgetting people on the grass roots level. Our system of democracy, imperfect as it is, simply can't ignore the grass roots, because that's where the power is.

Those who ran this year, regardless of their points of view and regardless of their motives, deserve a "thank you" and a hearty pat on the back.

'This Is The Week That ...'

Thusly, We Join Jeane

By Don Hoenshell

There is a whimsy abroad in the land that people are turning in flocks to dream-readers and soothsayers because society is getting so chaotic they can't cope. Or fend.

So they flip straight to the astrology charts. Usually they give some astounding advice, like Be Careful Today or Be Helpful Around the House. And sometimes a teaser: Romantic Signs Good Right Now.

There is a strong suspicion that Jeane Dixon, the darling of the dreamboat crowd, holds back her juiciest bits for more extended treatment, like books or yard-long stories in the newspapers.

Her most recent stuff said that Frank Sinatra will get political shortly. Ethel Kennedy will marry again to someone she knows for awhile (I should certainly hope so).

But the problem with Jeane is that she doesn't hedge, like most newspaper people do. She says it flat and if it doesn't happen, too bad.

YEARS AGO Drew Pearson used to boast that his Predictions Of Things To Come were 83 per

cent accurate. A staff member said when the average threatened to drop, Pearson would predict nightfall or that the current week would have seven days.

This is all by way of getting around to Uncle Donald's Fearless Forecast of Political Events in the next 18 months, a special service available only to the devout. The wonderful thing about this one is that it can change overnight and carries no guarantee beyond edition time.

We'll ignore Sinatra and let him work his way into political life by himself. It must be noted, however, that when he became a public figure in the Kennedy administration, JFK cut him dead. That's neither here nor there, as we say. So let us dream awhile:

Gov. Milliken will run for election to his first full four-year term, burdened by the brilliance of his predecessor, George Romney. He can win on charm alone if he can avoid the waiting bear traps.

Atty. Gen. Frank Kelley will try to encourage everyone in sight to run against Milliken. Kelley would rather wait until 1972 for a good, clear shot at Senator Robert P. Griffin.

ROMNEY DROPPED \$20 million of HUD money in Detroit a couple of weeks ago, another announcement that he is a non-candidate for Democratic Senator Philip A. Hart's seat in 1970.

State Senator Sander M. Levin, an 8 to 5 starter in the Democratic race for governor, will find the going sticky as a result of his anti-Parochial stand.

One source has Dr. Leroy Augenstein, the MSU biophysicist and member of the State Board of Education, "tip-toeing toward the GOP nomination" for the U.S. Senate in 1970. At least, in the tradition of politicians everywhere, he is "taking a hard look."

Augenstein will have to beat a crowd, unlikely for a nice guy. A State Board of Education colleague, James P. O'Neill of Livonia, is suspected to be harboring thoughts of running in the GOP primary against Rep. Jack H. McDonald, now also of Livonia.

That's the batch of predictions for today, folks.

There was some pressure to predict the year Five Mills will be paved and widened in Livonia, but that's getting to be ridiculous.

Tim Richard writes

Rebellion Of The Young?
Check Howdy Doody On TV

The instant experts on student rebellion use a fairly analyze the causes in terms of today's problems—the Vietnam war, the draft, civil rights, unresponsive administrations.

Yet it's possible that the seeds of the revolt were sown and fertilized years ago, before anyone ever heard of confrontations and acts of demands.

So let us consult a little volume from the bottom shelf of the paperback collection, a book that describes and analyzes the ways in which our tastes in everything from politicians to cake mixes are manipulated with sometimes appalling ease. It says in part:

"SOCIAL RESEARCH (a consulting firm started by an anthropologist) diagnosed the appeal of the highly successful Howdy Doody (a popular kids TV show of the era) and found some elements present that offered the

children listening far more than childish amusement.

"Clarabelle, the naughty clown, was found consistently to exhibit traits of rebellious children. Clarabelle, it noted, 'represents children's resistance to adult authority and goes generally unpunished.'

"The report stated: 'In general the show utilizes repressed hostilities to make fun of adults or depict adults in an unattractive light. The bad characters—Chief Thunderbudd, Mr. Blister, Mr. X—are all adults. They are depicted either as frighteningly powerful or silly.'

"In other words, there is a reversal process with the adults acting 'childish' and incompetent, and children being 'adult' and clever." It added that the master of ceremonies, Buffalo Bob, was more of a friendly sea uncle than a parent."

THE AUTHOR THEN turned

to space programs, noting the "basic pattern of 'good guys' versus 'bad men.' Note that it said bad men, not bad guys.

"The good guys interestingly were found to be all young men in their twenties organized as a group with very strong team loyalty.

"The leader was pictured as a sort of older brother, not a father symbol. And the villain or cowards were all older men who might be 'symbolic or father figures.' They were either bad or weak.

"Much of this fare might be construed as being anti-parent sniping, offering children an exhilarating and safe way to work off their grudges against their parents. To children, the report explained, 'adults are a ruling class against which they cannot successfully revolt.'

And the author appends this comment: "All this sly sniping at parent symbols takes place while the children, unaware of the evident ambivalence, chats on the telephone content in the knowledge that their children are being pleasantly amused by the childish antics being shown electronically on the family's wondrous pacifier."

THE AUTHOR in this case was Vance Packard, his book "The Hidden Persuaders," and much of the reaction was that it was a lot of scare talk.

Only one bit of data needs to be added. Packard's book was first published in 1957, which means that the research was up-to-date as of 1958. In 1958 the kids now graduating from high school were four or five years old, and the students now rebelling on campus had already been watching Howdy Doody and the space programs for several years.

Packard may have understated his case.



THE REASON USED TO BE A LOT CLEARER

D-Day, Two Views

GI In Europe, Growing Lad At Home

... Bound Together Only By Hope

EDITOR'S NOTE: D-Day in Europe, the storming of the fortress at Normandy, has been described in many ways as the massive military operation in history. Its significance goes beyond what happened to what it means. Here

Editor Don Hoenshell describes the feelings of a GI in Italy that day and Publisher Philip H. Power discusses it in terms of his reactions as a six-year-old lad.

By DON HOENSHELL

D-Day in Europe meant hope to the men fighting the forgotten war.

It was the light at the end of the tunnel, the pitching, giddy feeling that home was not impossible. The news broke on Armed Forces Radio and, for a time, there was a threat that the armies landing in Normandy would be punched back into the English Channel.

Nobody knew the cost in lives and the political business that would give Russia the chance to liberate Berlin and launch a cold war even before the hot war was concluded.

For months there had been mud and uncertainty. D-Day was at last a promise, a hope.

THOSE WHOSE fighting had ended — and others assigned to noncombatant posts — parted counting their points. So many for each month overseas, so many for a medal, so many.

Some thought they'd never go home again as shortly as three months ago.

There was Lt. Carlson from Oregon who sent things made from parachute cloth back to his new daughter-in K-ration boxes. There was the Backus Bomber Crew (aboard a B-24) who made it back once on two engines and now was flying in another plane, Dirty Gertie, as I recall.

We knew on the ground that we'd be going home now — a matter of time after the battle of Fortress Europe in Normandy. Some of us mourned the kid who got a "Dear John" letter from his girl on June 5.

That night he blew a hole in his head with a carbine and didn't know of the hope and promise of June 6, 1944.

By PHILIP H. POWER

No, I don't remember D-Day. I was exactly three days past six years old when it happened, and I suppose I was interested in whatever interests six-year-olds. Puppies. Baseball. Why the sugarless pop tasted funny.

I seem to remember being with my parents when the news broke. (My father had been abroad with OSS, and I didn't understand why he went away; all I knew was that I was happy he had come back.) I think we heard it on the radio.

The war against Hitler was the last war we fought in which it was possible to be unabashedly pro-war. Hitler (and after him Stalin, although we never fought the Russians directly) was the last thoroughly and totally evil man we confronted. He killed the Jews, murdered people; was a total dictator; hated freedom; intended our destruction.

It was (and is) easy to hate totally. I grew up playing with toy planes and guns and tanks. And in my games, it was always the good Americans who were shooting the nasty Germans (i.e. Hitler-types) or blowing up the gray and mean-looking German tank.

I wonder now how many little boys who are three days over six play with guns and tanks and planes, pretending that they are the totally nasty and evil makings of Ho Chi-Minh and the North Vietnamese?

For our generation, D-Day is a mysterious day, a day harking to a time of bravery and commitment, to a day when things are simple enough we could hate somebody or something with all our hearts. And to win.

I don't think our generation thinks like that much now. Maybe I wish we could. It would be easier.

Editorial & Opinion

OBSERVER NEWSPAPERS, INC.

Philip H. Power, Publisher

The Livonia Observer • The Redford Observer • The Westland Observer
The Garden City Observer • The Plymouth Mail & Observer
The Farmington Enterprise & Observer



Published by Observer Newspapers, Inc.
271 S. Main Street, P.O. Box 206, Plymouth, Mich. 48170

Serving the communities of:
Livonia, Plymouth, Redford Township, Garden City, Farmington, Farmington Township, Redford Township, Westland.

Don Hoenshell, Editor