

editorial opinion

Hors d'oeuvres by Lynn Orr  
Gay rights test society

I guess we can cultivate oranges to a uniform standard and even charge higher prices for the cream of the crop—Sunset prints its name on each little beauty for selective buyers. But I don't think we can, or much less want to, breed humans in the same manner. It had seemed that we'd finally retired Victorian thinking to history and had learned to accept individuals on their merits alone. And although I certainly never thought the 1970s would historically be remembered for wide social movement, I never suspected this decade would see a pernicious upswing in blatant bigotry.

One can only hope—and work to prevent—Save Our Children, Inc. Anita Bryant's organization aimed at repealing gay rights laws, from causing more damage in this country.

The majority of Florida Dade County voters approved discrimination—this time discrimination against homosexuals. While employers and landlords in the county now have the ability to practice discrimination, homosexuals are without the legal right to fight back.

DISCRIMINATION is what Anita Bryant's campaign is all about, and she's pledged to carry her word to the rest of the nation. Consequently, the gay movement is forced to take its "urn in the spotlight, an arena that few homosexuals welcome.

Although blacks and other minority groups have suffered with derogatory labels like "inferior," the Orange Queen has successfully managed to tag such labels as "sick" and "God-less" on a divergent group of people whose sexual preference is not the norm.

For homosexuals to fight this kind of smear campaign, they must face

discrimination. The choice is that simple.

While, in the past, we may have preferred adopting a pattern of tolerance, we can no longer sit on the fence. We don't have to embrace a homosexual life style, but we do have to decide whether a segment of society can be forced to suffer discrimination in employment, housing and most areas of living because they don't follow the norm in their private lives.

I, for one, welcome the chance to see Americans come to terms with homosexuality. I'm convinced the majority of people will refuse to swallow anachronistic lectures of bigotry which are couched in religious terms. It wasn't so long ago that religious figures were called on to support the claim that blacks were inferior. And there's nothing unusual in using the Bible for your own purposes. Other parts of the world are still doing it.

Legal rights for homosexuals have been a long time in coming. Our representatives in Washington and Lansing will be forced to take a stand.

Conservatives and liberals alike, however, can easily unite to oppose government intervention in the private lives of citizens—citizens who are not impugning the rights of others. What two consenting adults do is their own business, unless it interferes with the rights of others.

Personally, I have a craving to go home and squeeze a lemon tonight. I haven't had fresh lemons in a long time, but I'm sure if someone wanted to think so, squeezing lemons could be considered perverse. What's one man's poison, different strokes, etc.

Maybe Anita should start worrying about her industry: dyes lemons bright yellow. They don't grow that way you know—they're kind of pale green.

Citizens can Win  
Mastering label language

Recently we reviewed what must legally appear on the labels of all food items in our supermarkets. And we explained how to read those labels.

Now we are ready to begin figuring out what all of this information on cans and packages means. For increasingly, our ability to insure a nutritious diet for our families and ourselves depends on our mastering a whole new label vocabulary.

QUESTION: Like most kids, my child often wants what he sees advertised on TV. Lately, he's been begging me to buy him the bread with the red, yellow and blue balloons on the package. I've refused because I've always heard that most of these popular white breads are nutritionally empty. Is there any way I can tell from reading the label whether a particular brand of bread has any health value?

ANSWER: Absolutely. First check the label to determine whether the

grain the flour was milled from was "whole grain." For example, the label would say "whole wheat" or "whole rye."

All grains start out as whole grains, meaning they still contain the bran, the germ and the endosperm. Flour made from such grain retains all of the nutrients from the original grain in tact.

In addition to being the most nutritious flour for baking bread, whole grain flour also provides fiber or roughage for your diet, an important aid to your digestive process that the other flours we are about to review do not supply.

If a bread isn't baked from whole grain flour, the label may read "unbleached flour." This means the flour has had the bran removed, which contains many minerals and B vitamins, and the germ removed. The germ is the most nutritious part of the grain,

being rich in protein, minerals, vitamin E and certain important fatty acids.

If the label on the loaf of bread says "bleached flour," that's simply another way of telling you that you are about to buy some junk food. For the bleaching process chemically sterilizes the flour, which leaves you nothing but a carbohydrate with virtually nothing nutritional. Sometimes the label will say "flour" or "wheat flour." These are simply other terms for "bleached flour," so don't be misled.

Finally, you will encounter the term "enriched" on some bread packages. This indicates that the manufacturer has artificially replaced some of the nutrients eliminated from the flour by the bleaching process. However, enriched flour seldom reaches the high nutritional levels of the original whole-grain flour from which it was processed.

A grandson and the future

An open letter to Menachem Begin, Dear Mr. Begin:

By the time this letter reaches you, my husband and I will be in Israel to celebrate the birth of our grandson, Arik, who is eight days old today. Arik, an eighth generation Jew, is my husband's son. Alex and our daughter Elaine, are very proud of that distinction.

We are like any brand new, first-time grandparents—excited, exuberant and anxious to see this unique human being that is part of us all.

You surely do not remember a brief interview you granted to me and my husband Jack about three years ago. The Yom Kippur War was still fresh in everyone's mind. Israel was reeling from a wave of terrorist attacks.

Kiryat Shmona and Maalot were the names in the news and little children and their teachers were the victims of the most recent terror. You agonized with us over the incidents and rallied against the Palestinians who called themselves "guerrillas."

"They're not guerrillas," you said. "They murder women and children. I was a guerrilla and fought man to man with my enemies."

SINCE YOUR party's victory in the recent elections, you have also heard the sting of criticism that you were a terrorist and that you represent something less than mainstream thinking in your country.

Yet, Mr. Begin, I clearly recall

your passionate outburst against naked brutality and for compassion for all people. I believe that even-handedness is one of your goals despite the hard line you have espoused in the past.

This letter is not written to exhort you to compromise your beliefs in any way but to wish you every strength in health and in wise decision-making.

It is ironic that you and my parents were born and raised in Poland. They left for America before the outbreak of World War II, more than a decade before you left for Eretz to fight for a Jewish land. Though you chose to go different ways, the choice was made for similar reasons. No matter how many generations of family lived in Poland, if they were Jewish they were second-class citizens and clearly unwanted in this century.

At times it is difficult for my father to understand how his granddaughter could choose to leave the country that welcomed her grandparents to go instead to a faraway land where living is a struggle and enemies pose an ever-present danger.

"HER FATHER and I have accepted the decision, one that could have been foreseen even before she met Alex during a year of study. Elaine is happiest in Israel, she is most fulfilled in Israel and for her it is home. Our new little mother understands that Arik will leave her for military service in just a few short years and



Shirley Eden writes.

that he will be part of Israel's military for almost 40 years after that.

It's no mystery. Alex was on the Golan when the Yom Kippur War began. He watched many of his comrades die, and was wounded himself. His father fought in other Israeli wars. And Elaine herself was in Jerusalem when war came, donated blood, carried sandwiches and agonized when Israelis fed the encircled Egyptian third army.

Alex and Elaine are committed to their land and to Jerusalem as were six generations of his forebears. And that is as it should be.

So, Mr. Begin, I may not get to see you on this visit to Israel because you are overburdened with grave decisions over forming a government. But I do not need to ask you to act wisely and do your best. As long as young people like Alex and Elaine remain committed to Israel there is hope for our people.

And you can new strength each day when little ones like Arik are born.

From our readers  
Banking laws are defended

Editor:

This writer is disturbed at the editorial by Henry M. Hogan in reference to bank laws in the June 2 edition.

First, I must say that for the son of an attorney he should be the first to recognize laws must be observed by all. I am under the impression he is perhaps a stockholder. I am a stockholder in Michigan National Bank. However, I am certain that no firm, including this newspaper, is solely out for the benefit of the public.

Therefore, a business is run for profit for the benefit of the various principals and stockholders. I think Michigan National Bank is spread out enough and shouldn't be permitted to take over any more small banks and eliminate competition as well as being allowed to go into other cities.

There is no one who is more familiar with the operation of that bank

than this writer since I was employed there and know that the only time they have ever done any good is when they were able to obtain publicity.

They have never been or acted in the interest of the employees, who have been responsible for their growth. In fact, after you have been with them for a period of years, they seem to do everything within their power to force you to leave or they claim your position has been abolished.

IT WAS a known fact that the chairman, Stanford C. Soddard, once made a remark that no gray-haired individual would remain with the bank.

I have seen them violate many banking laws, and they are continuing the so-called satellite banks under the complete control of the parent Michigan National Bank where the operating

rules are formulated and bookkeeping and other functions are united.

I realize that your newspaper has in some way been buying up small newspapers like the Observer, and you can argue that it benefited the public by a larger staff and more news coverage. However, I realize a newspaper is different than banking, and I say we need small community banks since they are closer to the pulse of the neighborhood they serve and do a better job.

I think the attorney general and banking commissioner should be commended on their action. I don't think Michigan National Bank should be permitted to violate the law any more than any other individual or business firm. I trust you realize that bank employees in this state are grossly underpaid for the responsibilities they perform, and banks have more officers than we have in government.

I must add this rebuttal statement about free checking. This isn't true since you must keep a balance of \$99 at all times. About the statement on Saturday banking, I'm sure it's not essential with late hours and short work weeks. I'm certain Mr. Hogan doesn't work Saturday and none of the bank officers do.

GEORGE K. KIRK, SOUTHFIELD

A Division of  
Suburban Communications Corporation

Philip H. Power, Chairman

Henry M. Hogan, Jr., President & Publisher

Richard D. Agnion, Executive Vice President & Chief Executive Officer

Steve Barnaby, Editor

1110 Southline Drive, Southfield, MI 48033 (313) 352-5400

John Reddy, General Mgr.

Arthur Langer, Advertising Director Fred J. Wright, Circulation Mgr.

She comments on rural life

Editor:

This is in reply to Louise Okrutsky's article "Where are the cows?"

I think she has correctly diagnosed her own problem—a big city upbringing. I have lived in Farmington Township, now Farmington Hills, my entire life. And although I am only 30 years old, I feel well-qualified in speaking for the older members of the community.

I have watched my precious memories plowed under and I have heard the light chatter of birds mixed with rustling leaves turn into a diesel engine roar. I don't look forward to an asphalt jungle of Thompson-Brown monstrosities surrounding me.

Sadly, Ms. Okrutsky will never be able to empathize, for she wasn't living on an old dirt road by a deserted farm, with pheasants and deer running wild. She won't understand the

"handers on" until she becomes attached in a similar way to a rural community like this one was, and still is.

It isn't a sin to want to preserve or prolong something, and paving doesn't always mean progress. In fact, as paving increases so do animal deaths and speeding. We have all seen it happen.

Granted, dirt roads cause a few problems, but I would rather travel on a gravel road in snow and I would rather live on a quiet dark street than a well-lit expanse of hot black asphalt doubling as a testing ground for subdivision's latest "hot" car or bike.

And as for walking at night, very few people do that anymore. Most are content to listen to their guard dog pacing around polling at his chain, chasing shadows in the night.

ROBIN BRACK, Farmington Hills

Artists thank Mrs. McClish

Editor:

As we finally relax after the Farmington Country Art Fair, we'd like to take the time to thank Loraine McClish for her help. The fair was noticeably better attended than last year, due to a variety of improvements. Your good attention and coverage was one of those improvements.

Thanks for the interest you showed and the inviting way you passed it on in your articles. We hope you'll also pass a word of thanks to Harry Maunze for his pictures.

CELESTE MELLIS, U of M Artists and Craftsman Guild

READERS' FORUM

Letters must be original copies and contain the signature and address of the sender. Limit letters to 300 words.

Compare Aqua Star! Michigan's Number One Pool in Quality, Features, Warranty and Price!

ASK ABOUT OUR 30-YEAR LIMITED WARRANTY

An Aqua Star Pool can make your backyard a family fun center all day long! And at night, you can enjoy intimate "Hollywood" pool-side parties. Excellent bank turns up to 7 years, and there's no penalty for pre-payment.

FREE SOLAR BLANKET! Trap the heat of the sun, raising pool temperatures approximately 10-15 degrees Fahrenheit. Saves 50% to 100% of natural gas consumption on heated pools. A \$300 value, yours free with every installed Aqua Star Pool. (Limited-time offer)

GIANT 16' x 36' 4"-8" depth IN-GROUND POOL (Kit Form - "We dig the hole") ONLY \$2999 IMMEDIATE DELIVERY

See our outdoor displays that have withstood years of exposure to the elements (not just showroom models) at:

METRO DETROIT/SUBURBS: 28875 Joy Rd., Westland, (between Middlebelt & I-94) 425-8838

Open Monday thru Saturday 10-9, Sunday 12-5

YOUR NEW POOL IS A LIFETIME INVESTMENT. SO MAKE THIS 2-MINUTE COMPARISON.

An Aqua Star Pool is better built, offers safety features others don't, and is the only pool manufactured for Michigan's weather.

Aqua Star	Firma Sea	Kenda	Krypt
WOLMANIZED, PRESSURE-TREATED WALLS & DECK	X		
30 YEAR LIMITED WARRANTY ON WALLS, DECK	X		
30 YEAR LIMITED WARRANTY ON REINFORCED CONCRETE	X		
REINFORCED, PRE-SEALED AND STAINED	X		
GRADUAL SLOPE-DEEP END, 7'10" FOR SAFE DIVING	X		
BULLDOZE (reinforced edge) SAFETY COPING	X		
LAZY MAINTENANCE SAND FILTER	X		
NON-SLIP COMPLETED DECKS	X		
CUSTOM BECKING	X		
CHOICE OF DECORATIVE PRINTS (liner)	X		
COMPLETE POOL STONE	X		
REINFORCING MAIN DRAIN	X		
ONLY POOL MANUFACTURED IN MICH.	X		