editorial opinion

Back to the drawing boards

As you may recall last week I took a swipe at the auto moguls for lack of imagination in car design linked to a corresponding urge to make the big bucks, leaving us poor consumers with the option of buying the same car bodies with different nameplates attached.

Now thanks to good friend and Farmington historian Nancy Leonard, a copy of an old Life magazaine was dropped into my lap which featured the new cars for 1940. Nancy made her point very graphically. In short, the new 1940 models looked generally the same.

For those of you who can remember way back when in the days of "Razz ma tazz" as Nancy noted on one leaf of the magazine, the cars in those days were designed with the long hood covers which narrowed to a near point at the front. Bulging out the sides were fenders with implanted headlights which gave the cars the appearance of squirrels with nut-packed cheeks.

THE MOST striking differences were in the out-ageous varieties of grills adorning those pre-war

But the accompanying commentary noted each auto had its own special quirk which made it somehow unique from the other rodent looking designs. Nancy made it easy by underlining some of the more unusual features.

Take for instance the DeSoto. Its outstanding feature for 1940 was a "spinning ashtray-lighter combination." The Chrysler really was getting daring by offering two-tone upholstery in burgundy and gray.

But Ford wasn't to be outdone that year, spin-ning ashtray be damned. FoMoCo offered their model with 22, count 'em, 22 improvements, one of which was a convertible coupe with an automat-ic top. Sister car Mercury (which by the way didn't look anything like the Granada) featured a torsion bar ride-stabilizer to control sideways— whatever that meant whatever that meant.

Nash really used some "innovative" design by loading sand inside the body walls for soundproofing. You heard me right, sand. Well, now we know why Nash isn't around any longer.



Studebaker, another eventual loser in the automobile sweepstakes, featured elimination of "still more protuberances." Wow, with a public relations man writing copy like that, no wonder Studebaker bit the dust. Who ever heard of protuberances."

Naturally, the big muckety mucks at GM were right on top of the situation. Chevy's "alligator" hood locked automatically. The Buick featured a vibrationless engine and the Oldsmobile featured the "only sensational mechanical change." a Hydra-matic drive (no clutch pedal, optional, of course, for a whooping \$57.

The Cadillac Division folks bragged that their 1939 model was so good that the 1940 would be identical

Just for nostalgia sake a few other models were offered which should bring back plenty of memories. Just let your mind wander at the mention of the Willys, the Zephyr, the Packard and the La-Salle.

Now you modern day auto design guys don't have to feel so bad over last week's column. Your predecessors apparently were just as unimaginative. The only difference from today, though, was something the modern moguls could work on.

Quoting from the article, "price trend for 1940 is unchanged or lower."

tally retarded.

Meetings being held to find a five day a week site for a nutrition program. Churck Currie, President of the American Legion's Home Board, giving us the Board's OK to extend the senior program to five days. Nutrition Hostess, Monica Romans, smiling broadly while setting up the meals. Jackie Clanciolo calling Bingo. Rene DeMartini making the coffee. Russell Farmer keeping an eye on things. Volunteers carrying out meals to the sick and homebound. The social worker counseling. The health nurse taking blood pressure readings. The lawyer giving legal aid. AARP volunteers helping with taxes.

The glorious Sunday dinners and en-tertainment. Donations from the JayCee's, Kiwanians, University Hills Church and many others.

Frank Patrello singing "You are My Sunstine." Someone calling out "I love you" and engulfing you in a spontaneous bug. The love and carring that was born here in this room, nurtured and expanded to include all of us. The special sharing of self, be it our happiness or deepest sorrow. The courage we gain from knowing each other that helps us survive and conquer life each day. All this and too much more to even mention filtered through my mind much as the sun filtered it is not through the shuttered windows down onto the 125 seniors enjoying this day. Thursday, August 25, 1s it any wonder I love this place?

I humbly wish to thank each and every member of the American Legion Post 346 for without the donation of your building, including all utility bills, your concern and your support, most of the above would not have taken place.

Hors d'oeuvres

by Lynn Orr

Pressing the press

Tampering with the first amendment is the easiest way to incur the rath of journalists.

Foaming at the mouth is a mild de-scription of what happens when a judge issues a suppression or "gag" order. After all, it's our business to report the news, whether or not that news makes people look good. Often, it doesn't.

The latest confrontation between the media and the law is a significant guestion in terms of privacy rights and the first amendment. Judge Mitchael Hand of the 47th District Court in Farminston issued a suppression order, invoking a little-known feature of the 1974 sexual misconduct code. Under that suppression order, no information about the case is subject to publication. And that order was the publication. And that order was the red flag for my fellow journalists last

I'm going to take a lot of flack from my peers in this instance, but person-ally the suppression order doesn't

raise my blood pressure. I leave the legal implications to the courts and lawyers, but the philosophical consid-erations deserve the attention of everyone.

Long overdue privacy rights have come to the foreground in the 1970's and this time it's the media's turn to realize where their and the public's right to know stops.

THE GAG ORDER can only be invoked until the arrested person is arrariated in circuit court. the charge distinct court the charge distinct concluded, whichever comes first in my opinion. this doesn't infring on the right to know, however I can see why my fellow journalists could interpret the gag order as the opening of the censorship door.

A more proper resolution to the en-tire problem of privacy versus the media could rest in a revision of the outdated sexual criminal offenses still on the books. The 1974 criminal sexual

misconduct code went a long way to improve the system, but as long as adultery and fornication (any sexual act between two unmarried persons) are still felonies in this state, we're still working with outmoded laws.

The public's right to know and the media's right to publish must be upheld. but the price some innocent persons are paving is too high. And yet escassionalism and irresponsibility in the media could sway public opinion to call for censorship, and that would be an eworbitant price to pay for the right to private to pay for the right to private to private to private to provide the private to private the private that the private the private that the private th right to privacy.

It's a steley question and one that calls for some serious consideration on the part of the public and the media. Do we cater to the whims of those who want their news in gossip form? Do we give front page headlines to the release or acquittal of an arrested person if we gave them front page headlines at the arrest? How do we make privacy and the right to know compatible?

READERS'

FORUM Letters must be original copies and contain the signature and ad-

Kudos for Ankele

The Farmington Board of Education

dress of the sende. Limit letters to 300 words.

From our readers

In defense of condos request column

are swept away in a ourst of enthusiasm.

I realize that anyone who dares say
anything against it is inviting briekbats, so I shall make no assertion
against it. I only ask these questions:

If the detergent industry reformulates products with a "phosphate substitute" how ecologically difficult and
expensive are these to control?

Is using sodium chloride table
sall), now used by the industry in
"non-phosphate" detergents merely,
trading "phosphate lakes" for "sall
lakes?"

Is there an inexpensive way of re-moving sodium chloride from waste

moving sodium chloride trom wasievater?
Is sodium carbonate (washing soda) used in detergents as a water soft-ening ingredient, not extremely expensive to remove at distillation plants?
LET'S answer these questions, honsely, before we start spending tax-payers; dollars on costly research programs for removing new, unknown, perhaps hard-to-remove, chemicals from our waste waters. ps hard-to-renove, our waste waters. MRS. JOANNE HEINZMANN Farmington Hills

Praise, hints on parks

Editor:

Your August 25 issue was received at this office with great interest. The Observer's coverage of the city's acceptance of the Master Recreation Plan prepared by our office was objective reporting.

I was particularly interested in citizen comments regarding their fears of pótential social disturbances in future park sites recommended within the plan. Having been in park planning for over 25 years. I can state that many "people problems" associated with operational parks can be traced directly to poor physical design and site planning. Very often local police departments are never given an opportunity to review park projects while they are in the planning stages. This is also true of municipal departments charged with 'the maintenance of public parks. In my mind, police and maintenance department input should be a basic planning requirement.

As Farmington Hills moves from

velopment.

In this manner park plans would be held accountable to citizen needs for adequate control.

ROBERT BILLS, president Bills-Childs Associates, PC

Dors' windows and backyards are lined up in rows. I challenge Ms. Feen on her statement. "One facet of condominium life is its total elimination of privacy." That's just not true. As we can testify from personal experience, a well-built unit is completely soundproof. We have lived in a condo for over a year and never been disturbed by our neighbors. We had lived in a private house for 28 years previously, so we do have a frame of reference concerning privacy. We had challenge her figures on the cost of condos. Prices have gone up in the past year for all types of bossing but you can still get good condos for under \$50,000 right here in Farmington. ETNALLY. To live in an attractive.

Editor:
It is unfortunate that you chose to present such a biased column on the subject of condominums. Ms. Feen needs to be informed that there is as much difference in the quality of condominiums as there is among individual homes. Further those is more not. ual homes. Further, there is more pri-vacy to be had in well-designed condos than can be had in many city homes, where windows face neigh-

Caution with phizz

Cattrion with pinizz
Editor:
I feel it is time to utter a word of
caution about your Consumer Mailbag
article. "Take the phizz out of
water." printed 82577, before we all
are swept away in a burst of enthusiasm.

then appearance requirement, as Farmington Hills moves from the Master Plan stage to acquisition and development of new park sites, it would do well to conduct public hearing on new public park site plans similar to that required from private development.

The Farmington Board of Education and administration is to be congratulated for its hiring of Mary Lou Ankele as supervisor for special education. The board is showing that they are an affirmative action employer and are committed to following the guidelines of Title IX. Not only is Mrs. Ankele superbly qualified, she is also a warm and super human being. MARIAN MCCRACKEN Parmington Farmington. FINALLY to live in an attractive condo after shoveling snow and moving lawns for many years is like semi-retirement. We love it. MAJORIE CRANE Farmington NHEAT RECYCLER USE ALL THE HEAT YOU PAY FOR USE ALL THE INEAT TO HAY FOR Enjoy warm rooms with lower thermostat settings. Get rid of cold, drafty floors— save energy and money. ECONOMICAL OPERATION... less than 1º per day. Healflecycler draws only 8 watts of power. Operating 24 hours/day at national average residential electrica rate of 1. 90328 per KWH costs only 5.0063 per day. SEATS PROOF SEASONS SEASONS SEASONS SEATS "aeatea comfort cyde inyourhome

5 Mile at Farmington

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GA 2·1155—937·1611

Thanks for the memories well chosen words of encouragement and cheer. Gifts lovingly made, wrapped and delivered to the men-tally retarded. of the American Legion Hall Post 346 at the Senior Adults who make up the group known as "The Gathering Place," my eyes filled with tears and I blurted out unexpectedly, "I love

Tinkering Around

I blurted out unexpectedly, "I love this place." What made this day, Thursday, August 23, different from any other Thursday was the fact that it was to be the last one spent there officially. By this time next week "The Gathering Place II" would be housed in its new location at Mercy Center, Although the prospect was exciting, considering the barrier-free building, an olympic size swimming pool, a gym, painting room. Offices and cafteria, my thoughts now were filled with the past, in my mind s eye filled with the past, in my mind seye early stages, when we met two days a week and 20 people meant a full bouse.

house.

Beverly Papai, the librarian struggling up the back stairs with a load of books. Teresa Leber dropping the push broom to answer the phone. Younne Singer donating her glue, scissors, patience and expertise to develop an outstanding craft program. Interns from various colleges helping in many ways. Mary Lou Kellis greeding people. Alice Kihodis using her boundless energy and talent to create a unique painting program wherein members of the Farmington Artists Club donated their time to teach.

members of the Farmington cases. Club donated their time to teach.

CHRISTMAS PARTIES with a treat table, Girl Scouts and Santa Claus. A shy little lady saying. "I'm new and don't know anyone," hands reaching out to touch and welcome her. Norm Gores, a Legionnaire, smiling in through the open doors. Karen Ross walking in her first day, grabbing the end of a heavy table and helping set up. develoning an exercise program

end or a neavy table and helping set up, developing an excercise program that is today known and emulated state wide and all the time matching her youth, beauty and with the sen-iors' age, beauty and wit. Sister Clare slipping in to spread some quiet but

way, she was spinning day dreams about seeing her seniors swimming in Mercy Center's olympic size pool.

say "her seniors" because that's a say "ner seniors" because that's the way she feels about the group at the Gathering Place—they're part of her and she's only to happy to be part of them.

But now that her dreams of swimming seniors have come true, Loretta is taking a grateful look back at the Legion Hall the group has left behind. And she wants the world to know what a generous Legion Post 346 has given to her and the seniors who make up her program.

The last time I saw her, she was enumerating all the things that she realized the Legion had made possible. And since thank you can be a forgotten part of the vocabulary, I want to let her tell the cities about the Legion in her own words.

Although she thanks all the persons who gave time and thought to the senior program she characteristically leaves out one rather important influence on the lives of the program's

SO, BEFORE I turn over the rest of my space to her, I want to mention that part of the success of the Gathering Place has got to be credited to her enthusiasm, hard work, imagination and sturdy sense of humor.

And, now, after putting in my two cents worth, I'll bow out of the col-umn and let you read a letter espe-cially intended for you and Legion Post 346.

Editor: As I glanced around the large room

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