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# Pinocchio pulls at heartstrings

Any writer, columnist or purveyor of more intellectual fare runs a risk of dropping into a postulated attitude—the 'what's right for me is also right for you' sort of thing.

The risk surfaces particularly in a column which is frequently from one source, one point of view, rather than a news story which generally includes more than one source.

While the point of view here is mine, hopefully, it will veer either to the right or left of straight sermonizing. With that said, I will begin by stating, rather proudly, that I was the only person in my family who wrote a toy for Christmas. First, I was more than a little delighted that adult children could bring themselves to buy mother a toy—however goofy they secretly may have thought their mother to be.

It all started when I confessed at the dinner table before Christmas that I had detoured into a local toy store and discovered a perfectly charming brightly painted wooden Pinocchio.

Now, this particular store was full of toys that adults would buy for children, but children might not necessarily pick out for themselves. Many of them were, if there is such a term, classic toys—copies of antique toys, character dolls, metal soldiers and charming stuffed animals. My attraction to the Pinocchios, for there were several sizes, was immediate and clear—pure nostalgia.

IT BROUGHT BACK childhood memories o, hearing the story of the puppet-turned-boy being read aloud, serving not too subtly to build a foundation for truth.

For the Pinocchio story, with all of the moralizing about the problems

## When all is said...

by Corinne Abbott

lying can create, is also a story of love and sacrifice, of fantasy, fairies and loneliness.

You see, when I was a child some decades back, children read as children, progressing from fantasy and make-believe to Tom Swift and Tarzan for boys and tomboys and Gothic romances for growing girls once they made it through Nancy Drew.

For at least a while in those dim years, a child was permitted to be a child, to dwell in a child's world of fiction with fantasies in tact. There were make-believe games about growing up, and the girls who played pictured themselves in silk (honest) stockings, lipstick and high heels. These three, the hallmarks of womanhood, were intermixed with dreams of being a participant in the risqué adventures of the Gothic heroines.

Closer to home were the dreams of proms, formal dresses, corsages, escorts knocking at the door, marriage and motherhood.

WHILE ALL This sounds almost too hearts and flowery to swallow without an anti-sugar pill, the point is there was a line of demarcation between childhood and adulthood which has since been blurred if not totally erased. Silk stockings (they never did fit right), high heels and lipstick have given way to birth control pills and pot and droll Gothic romances pale in the face of today's graphic films.

I don't suggest we try to go back because actual, physical retreat isn't possible. But, it would seem we are fast robbing our children of childhood, although a 1978 style childhood could be as good or better than any along the way.

If there was ever really a child, he lives in the adult, adding that touch of imagination which softens the bare realities and relieves the wonderment at some new discovery, however small, when adulthood hits grim, times.

But, if there was never a child, then the adult lives in a rigid incomplete structure.

THIS WAS The wonder and the charm of Charlie Chaplin. That mature adult with great knowledge of the theater, could, through pantomime, and make-believe, arouse all of the joys, sorrows and tenderness

that his audiences wished to release. Chaplin, the child and Chaplin, the adult, merged to bring tears and laughter to generations of moviegoers.

This, too, in another way, is the appeal of the Matisse exhibition at the Detroit Institute of Arts through Jan. 8. The approach is a multi-level one, full of a child's exuberance with color, yet showing the hand of the mature artist in the flowing cut of the images and the placement of them on the paper.

There were almost as many children as adults at the exhibition this week, and each was finding particular joys and satisfactions in the Matisse works.

In literature, the reader has to go only as far as T.H. White, "Once and Future King," or E.B. White, "Charlotte's Web," to find the combination of make-believe and wisdom that can charm any age.

And so my Pinocchio sits on the bookshelf in the living room, more than a toy, a symbol—a reminder to friends and acquaintances, that in this home, we love children, we love adults and most of all, we love the combination.

## OCC classes begin Jan. 9

Undergraduate college credit classes offered through Oakland Community College will be offered at two locations in the Southfield area beginning the week of Jan. 9.

Students may register for classes at any OCC campus from 9 a.m. through 9 p.m. Registration also is available at the Southfield Community School Center (formerly McKinley School) from 1-4 p.m. daily, beginning Jan. 9. In the evenings, registration may be complete from 7-9 p.m., Jan. 10 and 12, at

Southfield High School and from 7-9 p.m., Jan. 9 and 11, at Southfield-Lathrup High School.

The courses are offered in the evening at Southfield-Lathrup and at Southfield High School. Most classes are offered for three or four credits.

The classes include cost accounting, basic drawing, man and the environment, business, business law, skin and scuba diving, introduction to law enforcement, police procedures and American government.

## SHS student captains team

Barbara Vano, a student at Southfield High School, was captain of one of the first five teams to compete in the Lawrence Institute of Technology's "battleship by computer" tournament in December.

Miss Vano is a member of the Detroit Metropolitan High School Mathematics Club (DMHSMC) sponsored by LIT's School of Arts and Science. She will compete for first and second place honors in the monthly competition to be eligible for the Battleship Tournament of Champions in May.

Only members of DMHSMC are eligible to take part in the competition.

All interested high school students may belong to the club. The Club's next meeting is at 7 p.m., Jan. 5 in room S-100 (auditorium) with guest speaker Louisa Brantigan speaking on the applications of mathematics to ancient art and architecture. Ms. Brantigan is an instructor in art history at Wayne State University.

There are no club dues or fees and the use of the LIT computer facility is free. The next competition will be from 1-3:30 Jan. 8 in room S-111 of the Science Building.

For further information call: Dean Zaven Margosian, School of Arts and Science at 356-0200, ext. 61 or 104.

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### STATE BOUNDARY COMMISSION TO CONDUCT PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED ANNEXATION (DOCKET #77-AP-4) OF TERRITORY IN NE ¼ OF SECTION 26 OF BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP, OAKLAND COUNTY, TO BIRMINGHAM, JANUARY 25, 1978.

7:30 p.m., hearing will be held at — Birmingham City Hall, Birmingham, MI

To comply with Section 9 of Act 191 of the Public Acts of 1968, as amended, being Section 121.1008 of the Compiled Laws of 1976, and Section 9.01 of 219 of the Public Acts of 1970, the State Boundary Commission will hold a public hearing on the proposed annexation of certain territory, (copies of the map and legal description can be obtained by writing the Boundary Commission) situated in Bloomfield Township, Oakland County, to the City of Birmingham, and will receive information and testimony on the following:

CRITERIA AS SET FORTH IN SECTION 9 OF THE ACT

1. Population;
2. Population density;
3. Land area;
4. Land uses;
5. Assessed valuation;
6. Topography;
7. Natural boundaries and drainage basins;
8. The past and probable future urban growth, including population increase and business, commercial and industrial development in the area;
9. Comparative data for the annexing municipality, and the remaining portion of the unit from which the area will be detached shall be considered;
10. Need for organized community services;
11. The present cost and adequacy of governmental services in the area to be annexed;
12. The probable future needs for services;
13. The practicality of supplying such services in the area to be annexed;
14. The probable effect of the proposed annexation and of alternative courses of action on the cost and adequacy of services in the area to be annexed and on the remaining portion of the unit from which the area will be detached;
15. The probable increase in taxes in the area to be annexed in relation to the benefits expected to accrue from annexation;
16. The financial ability of the annexing municipality to maintain urban type services in the area;
17. The general effect upon the entire community of the proposed action; and
18. The relationship of the proposed action to any established city, village, township, county or regional land use plan.

NOTE: In addition to the above, any person having information relative to the Environmental Impact of the proposed annexation should present this data as part of the public hearing.

The Boundary Commission Commission will not reach any conclusions or make any determination until after the January 25, 1978 public hearing. The Commission has several options. They can deny the petition, approve it as submitted or approve it with boundary adjustments. Such boundary adjustments could remove land and thereby contract the area to be annexed or add additional lands to those described in the petition. The petitioning area to be annexed. Boundary Commission official minutes are stored and available for inspection at 3222 South Logan, Lansing, Michigan — Commission phone is 517-373-3234

STATE BOUNDARY COMMISSION  
By: JAMES S. HYDE  
Executive Secretary

Published: January 5, 1978

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