

editorial opinion



Casting away the past

Now I know how the snake feels as it crawls slowly away leaving the old skin behind.

That's what our family did for two weeks earlier this month. We moved from a large, old farmhouse to a smaller, newer ranch and cast aside, both mentally and physically, a good deal of the past. And when what seemed to be an endless number of boxes packed with glassware, books, nicknacks and a decade of accumulated junk were finally piled in the new basement and garage, there was pure, sweet relief.

We had held a garage sale, stocked a couple of local church rummage sales, filled one or two Goodwill drop-off boxes and distributed some questionable goodies to friends.

IN THE MIDDLE OF all the packing before the move was completed, I began to realize that for many years, these myriad possessions had been more encumbrances than conveniences. They had been controlling my life, rather than I them.

"This must stop," I repeated as I filled trash bags and discarded things in a dozen different directions.

We have not yet reached the optimum in this quest for control of the material world, but we are closing the gap.

Beauty is one thing and clutter another. The line between is fine, but terribly important to the well-being of a not-too-fine organizer like myself.

So, some of the old skin has been shed—and, I might add, with a great sense of relief—the matching chests we never liked, the chipped cups, the old table ware (why not use the good instead of storing it away for company?), the mismatched plates, the slightly torn towels and sheets. My goodness, what a relief to see the last of that stuff.

AND THE GARAGE SALE? What a revelation that was. There was a whole subculture which surfaced. Garage saleing is a way of life for hundreds of people who find satisfaction in forging out bright and early on a Thursday morning to see what they can uncover in someone else's cast-offs. It is a hedge against inflation and for a few dollars and part of a tank of gas, one can have a fine day going from one sale to another, exchanging news, passing on tidbits of information and picking up (sometimes) choice items for a fraction of their true value.

Unlike the snake, we occasionally will look back at what we left behind and carry in our minds some of the good times in the old place. But there's a fresh wind blowing, and we are enjoying every breath.

STAN'S

BAGS SAVINGS

SALE DATES MON., SEPT. 27 THRU SUN., OCT. 3

ROUND STEAK \$1.19 LB.

BONELESS TOP ROUND STEAK \$1.49 LB.

KOWALSKI POLISH SAUSAGE \$1.39 LB.

Farmer Peet's SLICED BACON \$1.39 LB. PKG.

PEAR HALVES 39¢

CATSUP 69¢

PEPPER, RADISHES, GREEN ONIONS, OR CUKES 12¢

BONELESS RUMP ROAST \$1.39 LB.

CUBE STEAK \$1.39 LB.

HERRD CHUNK BRAUNSCHWEIGER 59¢ LB.

Nabisco TRISCUIT SNACK CRACKERS 59¢

Del Monte FOODS

SPARTAN FROZEN ENTREES 89¢

CHICKEN & DUMPLINGS, SLICED TURKEY or SALISBURY STEAK

HAWAIIAN PUNCH 49¢

JELLO GELATIN ASST FLAVORS \$1

Frozen KING SIZE DOWNTOWN WAFFLES 49¢

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from our readers

OCC center controversy explained

Editor:

I have observed & listened to coverage of the OCC center controversy. It is a proposed site for the construction of a community activities center at the Orchard Ridge campus. George (referred to as "the architect") has been making a point of the fact that the site is not suitable for the proposed site.

The implication that a lack of concern existed on the part of the campus and the college which could have resulted in damage to the natural area, been a result and a triumph was clearly evident in the stories dealing with the proposed site.

I feel that there was an absence of a complete picture of the site. The site in question was selected based on preliminary feasibility studies and that extensive site analysis was occurring to determine

that suitability of the site for actual construction.

AS A FACULTY REPRESENTATIVE on the steering committee which has been planning the community activities center along with the architects, my specific responsibilities have been to deal with ecological considerations involved in the building's design.

Extensive hearings were conducted on campus early this year to not only the building's design but also the ecological implications of its construction.

A dominant priority throughout the preliminary site analysis stages has been to carefully evaluate the environmental impact of the building's location.

At the steering committee's meeting with the architects on August 19 it was

agreed that the next priority in the site analysis would be an evaluation of the surveyor's report on the natural area south of the construction location as well as of the building for the proposed site.

It has been determined through the use of preliminary overlays of the building's possible configuration upon the site that no incursion into the forested area at the southern boundary of the campus would occur.

It was also mutually understood that none would be permitted, or an alternative site would have to be found.

Additional soil sampling was also proceeding at this time, and the outcome of these analyses revealed ground water conditions which actually necessitated a site change. It has been the position of the campus steering committee from its inception that we would oppose any construction site that endangered the natural environment of the campus. That position remains unchanged.

What failed to be mentioned in the recent controversy is the fact that our faculty, students and staff have worked voluntarily over the years to enhance and preserve the ecological integrity of the Orchard Ridge campus.

The campus nature trail and community garden plots, for example, are a result of faculty and student effort. The campus development committee, a permanent committee of the academic senate, has coordinated the planting of hundreds of trees, flowers, and shrubs from funds donated by students and staff and also has related threatened original greenery in order to enhance its survival.

EXTENSIVE EFFORT HAS BEEN EXPENDED to create living classrooms and laboratories out of the natural areas of the campus so that students might increase their understanding of the responsibility they have for the preservation of the environment.

Our science faculty has also worked diligently over the years to develop an ecological sensitivity which most of the campus community actively shares.

The faculty, students and staff of the Orchard Ridge campus have thus demonstrated years of commitment and caring in relation to the natural treasures encompassed within our 147 acre boundary.

I feel it is most unfortunate that accounts of the recent controversy failed to emphasize the quality of this commitment.

I most deeply regret, however, that an impression may have been conveyed by these same accounts that the college was callously preparing to destroy an invaluable campus and community asset in a most irresponsible manner. Any conclusion in both erroneous and unjust.

LAWRENCE GAGE
Farmington Hills

Brotherton speaks on legislators' pay

Editor:

Earlier this summer some members of the state legislature suggested that salaries of state representatives and senators should be increased by between \$5,000 and \$8,000.

Articles which have appeared in the Detroit area newspapers and commentaries

which have been carried on local radio and television stations have been, for the most part, critical of this suggestion.

I have hesitated to speak out on this issue up until this time because I felt my comments would be construed by many to be strictly politically motivated. In view, however, of the continuing attention which this matter is receiving in the local press, I felt obligated to write this letter.

In my 27 years in the automobile business, before I entered full time public service as a state representative in 1974, I was always led to believe that salary and benefits should be commensurate with job requirements and responsibilities.

I, like many state legislators, consider this a fulltime job and take the responsibilities which come with it very seriously. In spite of these facts, I cannot support an increase of the magnitude proposed by some.

As we suggested in a Sept. 3 editorial on WWJ-TV and radio, an increase in the neighborhood of seven per cent, which is more consistent with increases given state employees over the past two years, would certainly be very generous in my judgment.

WILBER BROTHERTON
State Representative
6th District

Reader sights animal abuse

Editor:

A cat was shot in our neighborhood on Friday night, Sept. 15—the victim of an unknown vicious hunter.

It was a domestic cat that had been abandoned and gone wild. No one fed it, nor seemed to be bothered the only way it knew how—catching small prey in the area.

It probably caught birds most mainly, but occasionally it made demands on the chipmunk and squirrel population, and even some birds.

These are the natural prey of a cat in the wild. Being homeless and hungry, this particular cat resorted to nature. No one would deny it that right in the wild, but in Farmington Hills it drew a death sentence.

It's crime was to kill to eat, to live.

It was a resourceful animal, surviving for two years through two winters in hostile territory, chased by dogs and hunted by boys with 22 caliber rifles.

It had courage to try and support itself unaided under extreme hardship in a world dominated by humans.

Now the cat is dead—shot by a young hunter in Farmington Hills. I wonder if he'll remember it when he grows up and has to try to support himself in a not too friendly world. I hope he does.

DOROTHY LONDERGAN
Farmington Hills

READERS' FORUM

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

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