

editorial opinion

BY CORINNE ABATT

Getting back to the mess

Only a couple of weeks ago I was bemoaning the fate of a nice girl like me being mired in junk.

There I was up to my shoulders in it, in the oversized garage and the ample basement of the old farmhouse. And so, in that neat freak stage, we pitched great truckloads of it with the old "goodbye, good riddance" cliché.

Now, happily ensconced in a new house with tidy corners and a clean sweep look, we can revert to the old ways with renewed zest.

Talk about patterns and early programming. There I was, just this week, looking over the vast rooms of junk in that old Detroit home on Cass called the Treasure Chest. Ah, what sweet joy it was to rummage through the boxes of old newel post knobs and scrounge in the drawers of hinges and door knobs.

Two upstairs rooms full of leaded glass panes and windows are enough to create quivers in the veins of an addicted junker.

In deference to my recent past, I decided to measure before buying these because almost certainly the wrong size purchases would be on display in my garage for any number of years to come.

There was a beautiful wood "thing" in the hallway of the old house, but none there could decide what its maker had intended for it to do—or be. That particular piece haunts me: I may have to give it a home and a wall.

Sometimes I rationalize this phenomena by telling myself that it helps establish identity, provides pleasures and satisfactions at a reasonable cost. Who knows? Maybe this whole junker scene is little more than a weekly trip to nostalgiaville.

Whatever it is, chances of ever forming a successful "junkers anonymous" group are extremely slim.

It's an addiction too sweet to give up. More selective? Maybe. But, total abstinence? Never.

from our readers

Teacher wants Oriental studies

Editor:

Recently the world watched as one-fourth of the world's population stood in solemn hours of their deceased leader, Chairman Mao Tse Tung. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger is traveling in Africa on the slim hope that bloodshed can be averted in southern Africa.

The continuing struggles in Lebanon, Israel and Egypt point out that the non-western world is alive and ready to be heard from.

One would assume that with these developments world history classes dealing with the non-western world would be alive with excitement and discussion.

The sad reality is that there are no history classes presently being offered at Farmington High School that deal with anything other than the United States and Europe.

It seems to this writer that our students are being woefully unprepared to face the realities of our rapidly changing world.

In other words, Farmington High School students are being shortchanged.

How has this situation developed?

If you ask the administration, they answer that students no longer desire these classes. Therefore, they don't sign up for them in large enough numbers to warrant offering them.

This may be true, but it is a weak argument to be used for a complete abrogation of the educational leadership responsibilities of the administration.

The administration directs the students as to when to go to class, where to smoke, and how to act in the halls. Why must they remain silent as to what kind of courses are necessary to intelligently participate in our present and future society?

Last year the social studies teachers became upset by this trend. They submitted a request for a world history requirement for the students of the three district high schools.

This request was given to our principal who in turn, followed the proper channels and submitted it to the secondary council.

As of this late date, our proposal hasn't even made it on the agenda of this committee. The council has been busily work-

Administrator protests Crackerbarrel stand

Editor:

I would like to take issue with your editorial writer, Steve Barnaby, who in my opinion engages in irresponsible journalism.

I take issue with his exploding some grossly exaggerated and somewhat imaginative remarks by a few students and equivocating those remarks with the social problems and the discontent that exists in the Detroit schools.

While it is true that there are frequently a number of beer and wine bottles found in the parking lots at our high schools, careful examination reveals that the bulk of these show up after school hours in the evening, long after school personnel have left the premises.

As an administrator at North Farmington High School, I have been appalled upon arriving at school in the morning by the number of bottles that have appeared in our parking lot over night.

I and my administrative colleague patrol the parking lot daily at North and have broken up but one or two minor fights in the past three years. Daytime drinking there is very minimal.

I'm not so naive as to believe, nor do I wish to convey that some students don't engage in drinking in our parking lots some of the time during school hours, but in the amount, nor to the extent Mr. Barnaby's "few" students reported to him in the lobby of the Farmington Hills City Hall.

Teachers don't control the parking lots.

Doctor arrested on drug charge

West Bloomfield Police arrested Dr. Norman Sage, 37, of Farmington at the Holiday Inn in Southfield Thursday on a charge of fraudulently obtaining a controlled substance.

Det. Roy Clark and Officer Michael Madigan made the arrest, for which a warrant had been issued.

Police said Sage had written prescriptions for himself using other people's names. Obtaining a controlled substance by fraud is a felony.

Sage, arraigned in 480 District Court by Judge Gus O'Neil, pleaded not guilty. Bond was set at \$3,000.

The case will be heard in Oakland County Circuit Court.

Your ecology calendar

Ecology-minded persons who wish to save cans, bottles or newspapers for recycling may use these facilities.

To prepare glass, thoroughly wash the containers, remove all metal caps and rings from the glass and separate the glass by color.

To prepare cans, clean only. Paper need not be removed.

Newspapers should be tied in bundles with heavy string or rope or encased in heavy paper bags.

• PONTIAC—Oakland County Recycling Center, 550 S. Telegraph, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. every Saturday. Groups bringing in more than 500 lbs. of glass will receive \$10 per ton for glass.

• BIRMINGHAM—Daily newspaper pickup with regular trash. Newspapers must be bundled separately.

• FARMINGTON—A glass recycling center operates on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon at the west end of the Farmington Hills city hall parking lot. The city hall is at 11 Mile and Orchard Lake.

• LATHRUP VILLAGE—At the Public Services Building, 19101 Twelve Mile Road, adjacent to the high school, newspapers are collected 10 a.m.-2 p.m. by volunteers the first Saturday of each month.

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