

editorial opinion

Tinkering Around

by LOUISE OKRUTSKY

It's a question of balance

Good and bad show themselves differently to young and old, I suspect.

When I was little an 'A' in English more than compensated for a 'D' in arithmetic.

"You can't be good in everything," my mother shrugged before congratulating me for the 'A.'

Balance, that's what it was. Everything has to have balance.

I didn't appreciate that at the time but every so often the vagaries of existing in a metropolitan area cry out for some balance.

Some people call balance by another name. They know it in the guise of justice. These hardy souls are almost an unfashionable lot at times but they hang on like barnacles to the ship of state until they're pried off.

I thought I saw a couple of them pried and fried last week at Tiger Stadium.

IT WAS an unusual Tiger game to begin with—they were winning and the weather was nice. The fans in the "zoo" part of the ballpark—the bleachers—were downing a few beers and hot dogs and giving unasked for commentary on the proceedings on field.

It was all fairly normal for the bleachers until the beginning of the last inning when the stadium security guards decided to earn their checks by bouncing a few rowdies from the benches.

So after rounding up a couple of the louder denizens, one of the men in rented blue decided to impress the crowd and pitch one of the rowdies down the narrow bleacher stairway. A little shove you expect but this particular rent-a-cop decided to pitch the rowdy downstairs head first.

I've heard the punishment should fit the crime but no one expects to get their head split open for being drunk in the stands. Evidently, another bleacherite was appalled because he, fool that he was, decided to give the hired security guard a present in the form of a flying tackle.

Right sentiment, wrong game.

Ten of the security guard's colleagues descended over the man like flies over a stray dab of ice cream.

Afterwards, they courteously escorted the man out of the bleachers by carrying him.

BUT BACK to this subject of balance. While some persons call it justice, others could view it as generosity or a dream of the way things should be.

That's what I thought of while I talked to Founders Festival chairman Terry Sever at the Ice Cream Social, Thursday night.

Terry and I were gobbling down the goodies in the basement of the First United Methodist Church on Grand River.

"I'll bet you'll be glad when this is over," I commented.

He sighed like a man ready for a vacation. After months of meetings and arrangements, the festival finally went into gear.

How many residents could stomach the thought of attending three different committee meetings in one evening?

How many could give up their evenings with their families and friends to arrange for booths and vendors and balance the festival budget? Not many.

But Sever wanted to make this "the best festival yet." At a time when some thought the festival had run its course, that's a pretty ambitious goal.

But Sever stuck to it and this year's festival was the result. It was about as organized a festival as I've seen in the last couple of years. Not bad work when you stop to consider how large and ungainly the event is. It's not confined to one area.

THE FESTIVAL is literally all over the place.

As for Sever's family, he admits "my wife got used to my coming home at 4 a.m. after a while."

Spending most of the evening discussing a festival that won't happen for six months has got to be a real pain in the neck sometimes.

So all of you who watched the Belgian flag dancers, marched on roast beef sandwiches and danced the night away, pause a moment and raise a glass of whatever you're drinking, even if it's plain old orange juice, for Terry Sever.

It can't be all that much fun to stay out to 4 a.m. on business.



Congratulations

For the first few seconds of her reign, newly crowned Miss Farmington, Pamela Allison Prichard, was a bit shaky as she took her crown from Dorlisa LaMarra at the 1978 Miss Farmington Pageant. We congratulate Miss Prichard and wish her a happy reign. (Photo by Allen Schlossberg)

Shirlee's sallies

by Shirlee Iden



Test tube birth perfect?

A tiny baby named Louise Brown made history this week by her very birth.

The 5-pound, 12-ounce girl, born in Oldham, England, was conceived like every child from the spermatozoa of her father and the ovum of her mother.

The difference is that joining of the two took place outside of the mother's body.

The fertilized egg was kept for several days in a test tube and then implanted in Mrs. Brown's uterus. The pregnancy was normal until the very end when a light toxemia developed and doctors decided to take the baby by caesarean section.

Women around the world who have been disappointed in their efforts to conceive a child can be encouraged by the news. Since little Louise's birth this week, the hospital has been deluged with phone calls from women, their doctors and their families who consider the birth a miracle and a new chance for them to successfully bear children.

Test-tube fertilization research in the United States was halted in 1975 by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare until it was approved by the Federal Ethics Advisory Board. The board will begin its assessment next month.

The implications of little Louise's birth are expected to reach far into society, particularly regarding individuals' moral attitudes.

Roman Catholic clergy from several countries have declared their misgivings of this method for conception.

A SPOKESMAN for the Vatican in Rome said the Roman Catholic Church considers artificial human insemination illicit.

Jewish and Moslems leaders see no conflict with their religious laws as long as the procedure involves married couples.

Dr. Patrick C. Steptoe, a leading British gynecologist, pioneered the test-tube procedure, and certainly, whatever else he has won a measure of fame for his accomplishment.

"I'm not a wizard or a Frankenstein tampering with nature," Steptoe said. "We are not creating life. We have merely done what many people try to do in all kinds of medicine—to help nature."

"We found nature could not put an egg and sperm together, so we did it. We do not see anything immoral in doing that in the interests of the mother."

Doctors say about 10 per cent of married women have reproductive problems which make them infertile. About 40 per cent of these have

blocked fallopian tubes like Mrs. Brown.

Medical spokespersons have cautioned that the birth of Louise Brown does not herald an instant solution to the problems of infertility but don't deny it will have a tremendous impact.

Doctor Steptoe and his associates will publish their findings and the details of their methodology in a few months. Some researchers have said the technique may be so far advanced that others can learn it quickly. Only four days of growth in a test tube are involved.

CHROMOSOME TESTS which are now common practice allowed Dr. Steptoe to determine that the pregnancy was normal. Doctors then knew the sex of the baby, but the parents were not told.

Dr. Steptoe said his technique could be used to reverse the effects of sterilization operations on both men and women and is significant where the male is producing too few sperm.

Little Louise Brown's father, who with his wife Lesley has waited so very long to be a parent, was described as "over the moon with joy" at her birth.

And her mother, oblivious to all the controversy, said it all when she exulted: "She's so small, so beautiful, so perfect."

Hors d'oeuvres by Lynn Orr

Hitting the bricks

Doug Fraser said it all last week.

American unions are in trouble. The dying gasps of the Labor Reform Bill in Congress finally sent that message home to labor leaders and perhaps union members around the country as well.

The bill, which would expedite unionization efforts and National Labor Relations Board processes among other things, just won't make it through the Democratically-controlled Congress. And that's a shame.

Unions expected the bill to have easy sledding, so the blow hits even harder. Labor leaders are wakening up to the fact that big business may talk a good game, but talk—rather than action—is the power play.

Fraser, head of the powerful UAW, resigned from the Labor-Management Advisory Board with a final blast at the hypocritical climate of cooperation projected by those on the board. His resignation letter said, in effect, that those on the board are paying lip service to union-management cooperative efforts, while big business is cutting away with a hard-edged knife at labor efforts throughout the country.

FRASER's blast particularly was addressed to Congress, where the bill is dying. He also reserved some fire for corporate efforts toward emigration to the south, where anti-union sentiment runs high. Fraser's got the right idea. It's time to quit playing footsie with big business, meanwhile losing ground steadfastly in the effort. But how do unions exert pressure without resorting to heavy-handed tactics?

Union leadership must take the helm in establishing some new methods for dealing with big business pressure, and one way is to force Demo-

crats to come clean on their union views. Almost everyone is under the assumption that labor owns the Democratic Party. If that were true, why would the Labor Reform Bill be shoved to the back of the closet?

The average union supporter may assume that the Democrat running for office is the only candidate who will be receptive to union desires. Actually it's time to put those candidates to the test.

THAT CALLS for some hard questions about union and management rights and procedures. No longer can the union supporter assume that the Democrat on the ticket (at least in northern states) will vote labor when the time comes.

The proof is in Congress right now. The House Ways and Means Committee approved a \$16.2 billion tax-cut bill last week that will go before the House. That bill is a distinct advantage to those in high-income brackets; which eliminates virtually every union worker except perhaps Fraser.

The rollback on capital gains tax allows the investor in both real estate and stock to keep a bigger chunk of his or her tycoon-like wealth.

That's not what I call a break for your average American, although the bill does allow homeowners in lower income brackets a break on capital gains tax for home sales. Big deal. Getting into the meat of the bill is where one discovers the true tax savings—most of which won't help your average union worker.

I'm all for tax reform, but the current proposals on the table, including the federal tax-cut bill, are nicer for "it's just one of those things" Henry.

My advice: labor people, get to know your legislators, senators and congresspersons—fast.

Editor:

We are distressed to read the account in the July 20, 1978 edition of the Observer of the recent hiring and firing of Maureen Lowe as Neighborhood Improvement Program consultant for the Farmington Hills loans and grants program.

It is, indeed, apparent that poor judgment was used in hiring someone for this post in the public sector with the questionable background of Ms. Lowe. Though theoretically the hiring of city employees is the city manager's prerogative, his choice inevitably reflects on all city officials, appointed and elected.

Thus it is certainly a disservice to city council members who must share the blame if a poor choice is made, to hire a controversial employee such as Ms. Lowe without fully informing all of them of the facts in the case.

We have several questions to ask the city administrator:

*Exactly why did the city manager's office persist in hiring Ms. Lowe when admittedly the city manager "agonized" over choosing her? How hard did the city manager's office try to find someone else to fill the Neighborhood Improvement news-papers, publicized in the target area?

*Can the city manager's office explain how on one hand it took credit for helping to expose the Oakland County Community Development program conspiracy two years ago and then, on the other hand, turned around and hired one of the persons involved in it—especially when the case is still in litigation?

We sympathize with Ms. Lowe, if the allegations against her prove to be unwarranted, but showing compassion for her in her predicament must not take precedence over protecting the reputation of Farmington Hills and the

effectiveness of a needed community improvement program.

In these days of widespread public distrust of government officials at all levels, Farmington Hills can ill afford getting itself involved in a compromising situation such as the Lowe affair.

MARY LAZARTON,
West Bloomfield-Farmington LWV

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