

Fear of phoning? Call Gene

By PATRICK TOUHEY
Ever get the mad itch to blow off your boss? Or tell that little cutesy you met last week that she's the girl of your dreams?

Probably there's only one thing stopping you—lack of nerve. But take heart. There is hope for the voiceless oppressed and the spineless coward.

In this case it comes in the form of one Gene Rodriguez who will deliver those messages that you can't or won't bring yourself to say.

Rodriguez, a 28-year-old Plymouth resident, is operating a phone messenger service out of his apartment, but only on the side, you understand.

His real job is that of a land salesman. The message service "is just a hassle I do on the side."

"I try to keep a couple things going," he said. "You know how it is—a couple bucks here and a couple bucks there."

RODRIGUEZ JUST started his phone message service last Sunday. Since then he's had four calls.

"I figure it's just a slack time of the year," he explained. "I probably should have waited until the fall to get the thing in operation."

What kind of messages has he been asked to deliver?

"Well, one guy wants me to tell a girl that he loves her. And some woman wants me to call her landlord, to complain about the bathroom plumbing in her apartment."

This is not the first time Rodriguez has supplemented his income with the message service. He ran a similar operation when he lived in New York City.

"Now that's a crazy town. I got all kinds of calls that really put me at my limit. Ever try telling a guy that another guy is in love with him? I did."

But Rodriguez has his ground rules and won't go beyond a certain point. "I don't ever use profanity," he said. "But there are plenty of words in the English language you can use to get the message across. I guarantee the person who gets the message will have no doubt about my client's feelings."

Rodriguez charges \$3 a minute for each message, with the exception of the first one—that's free.

"I'M LOOKING FOR a repeat business," he explained. "If you've got one thing to say to somebody that you can't say yourself there must be 100 things you can't say to 100 people."

Rodriguez feels he is particularly suited to his go-between role by virtue of his eloquence and background.

"I was a counselor for a while and



I've been a salesman. I have an understanding of how people feel and what some of their emotions can be.

Besides, I don't really have a stake in the outcome. I'm just an impartial party in the message. People don't have any trouble putting what they want to say in words to me because I'm not the object of the message."

Rodriguez also believes that he is offering people who use his service something of therapeutic value.

"If people bottle up their feelings over a long period of time, it can really mess up their routine. This way they can get it out in the open."

Being somewhat experienced, Rodriguez covers himself fairly well before he'll make that call. After the initial contact is made, he asks the message-giver to send him a letter with their name and address and the name and address of the person to whom the call is to be made.

He then tapes the call as proof that it was made.

"I use the letter as my authorization to make the call, and the tape records the message and the response."

In case you find yourself in need of a sample voice, you can reach Rodriguez at 459-2348.

But neither Rodriguez nor this newspaper is responsible if you lose your lover or your job in the process.

TERRY - TAURUS Tandem
from \$3995.00
We Take Trades
WALKER-RAFFERTY
25341 MICHIGAN AVE. (Corner of Gurney)
DEARBORN, MICHIGAN
(313) 562-7661

Paid Political Advertisement
"Justice for the Taxpayer"
FRIEDMAN
CIRCUIT COURT
This ad paid for by Friedman for Judge Committee

IMAGES 3
a fine arts exhibit and sale
presented by
The Creative Council
August 3-12
Somerset Mall
Big Beaver Road at Coolidge, Troy
Monday, Thursday, Friday 10-9
Other days 10-6 Closed Sundays & Holidays

Michigan's Largest Ethan Allen Dealer
INCREDIBLY LOW PRICES AT OUR WAREHOUSE OUTLET
EVERY SATURDAY 9 A.M. to 1 P.M.
Enjoy substantial savings on floor samples, one-of-a-kinds, scratch and dent items, odds & ends and discontinued styles. All merchandise is from quality manufacturers who supply our regular stores. Naturally, at such great reductions, all goods are sold "as is" and all sales are final. Delivery extra.
VISA • MASTER CHARGE • CONVENIENT TERMS
the Hearthside
WAREHOUSE OUTLET
11850 MAYFIELD • LIVONIA
Just North of Plymouth Road,
one block East of Farmington Road
OPEN SATURDAY ONLY 9 A.M. to 1 P.M.

Hickey-Freeman
CLOTHES ARE EXCLUSIVE WITH US IN DETROIT
Capper & Capper
Clothing to Gentlemen
Somerset Mall David Whitney Bldg.
Troy

THE BOARDROOM
For the most interesting ways to keep up appearances.
Somerset Mall • Fairlane Towne Center
(Inside Huggins & Mathe)

VOTE HILDA GAGE
an exceptional new voice for justice
• Active Trial Attorney (Civil and Criminal) • Endorsed by the South Oakland County Police Officers Association • Resident of Bloomfield Hills, former resident of Southfield, Oak Park • Juris Doctorate from Wayne State University Law School (Magna Cum Laude) • B.A. and M.A. from University of Michigan (with Distinction) • Former School Teacher and Instructor of Law, Wayne State University Law School • Young Lawyers Section of Detroit Bar Association Award of Achievement • Arbitrator—American Arbitration Association Commission by Governor Mitten in 1975 Reappointed in 1976 • Elected Treasurer—General Practice Section of the State Bar of Michigan (1977) • Elected Corresponding Secretary—Southfield Bar Association • Member of Family Law Committee and Judicial Liaison—Circuit Court Committee—Oakland County Bar Association • Member of Political Advisory Committee—Women Lawyers Association and Detroit Bar Association • Participant in Television Series—"Law in Your Life" (WXYZ-TV) and "Ask the Lawyers" (WXYZ-TV) • Lecturer on Family Law • Life Member of Children's Hospital Auxiliary • Board Member of Dysautonomia Foundation
Vote on the non-partisan side of ballot
AUGUST 8TH
Paid for by Committee to Elect Hilda Gage Circuit Judge, 380 N. Main Street, Clawson, Mich

Tuition, fee set to rise for Oakland students

Oakland University's first tuition hike in two years will be tiny, but student fees will go up more than 40 per cent.

The increases were approved by the

university's board of trustees last week.

Tuition for resident undergraduates this fall will rise just 75 cents to \$25 per credit hour. Graduate students will pay \$1.50 more per credit hour, or \$3.

Undergraduate fees, however, will soar from \$33 to \$47 a semester. Students carrying less than 10 credits will pay a \$30.50 fee, up \$9.50 from 1977-78. Graduate fees will rise from \$23 to \$37 a semester for students taking 10 or more credits. Graduate students taking less than 10 credits will pay a \$9.50 fee increase, or \$23.50 a semester.

The rate for non-resident students remains unchanged at \$63.30 a credit hour.

Smoke was in their eyes

When Vikings first landed on Iceland, they saw clouds of geothermal steam rising from the area where Iceland's capital now stands. They named the site Reykjavik, meaning Smoking Bay.

Wicker Works
SMACZNY POLSKI OBIAŁ
(Or, a Savory Polish Dinner in true Polish Style)
Come to Wicker Works and experience authentic Polish cuisine with all the notable accoutrements.
You'll savor such delights as Barszcz Polski (cold beet soup), Salata Mizerja (cucumber and sour cream salad) and Sweet and Sour cabbage. And you will have your choice of either Nadziewane Kureczko Duszone (smothered stuffed chicken) or Perch Fillets a la Polonaise. Polish beverages and live music will add to the festive atmosphere.
Complete dinner from \$8.50. Reservations are strongly advised. Remember Polish Night, August 4. Dinner served from 6 to 10 p.m.
Northfield Hilton Inn
5500 Crooks Rd. at 175
Troy, Michigan 48068
(313) 879-2100

TOYS "R" US
the CHILDREN'S Bargain Town
TAKE A BUCK OFF WITH THIS COUPON!
CUT IT OUT DAD!
CLIP OUT THIS COUPON AND BRING IT WITH YOU.
TOYS "R" US
ONE DOLLAR OFF ANY PURCHASE
OFFER EXPIRES AUGUST 10, 1978
ONE COUPON PER FAMILY PLEASE
WHEN IT COMES TO KIDS... COME TO US!
Come see our BIG SELECTION OF BIKES and TRIKES, GAMES and SPORTS, BOOKS, RECORDS, RECORD PLAYERS, SCIENCE, ARTS and CRAFTS, HOBBIES, PARTY FAVORS, PRESCHOOL TOYS and our BIG SELECTION OF CRIBS, STROLLERS and BABY NEEDS and ALL AT EVERYDAY LOW DISCOUNT PRICES!
WORLD'S BIGGEST TOY SELECTION...NOTHING EVER SOLD AT LIST PRICE!
MON-SAT 10 AM-9:30 PM; SUN 11 AM-6 PM

FLINT 3250 S. Linden Rd. at Miller Rd. Across from Grosse Pointe LIVONIA 29150 W. 7 Mile Rd. at Middlebelt East of Livonia Mall	SOUTHGATE 14333 Eureka Road Corner of Trenton Ave. SOUTHFIELD 27000 Telegraph Rd. at 12 Mile South of Fair 12 Mile	ROSEVILLE 32070 Gratiot Ave. at Masonic Across from Macomb Mall MADISON HEIGHTS 32700 John R. Road at 14 Mile South of Oakland Mall
--	---	--