

## editorial opinion

## Shirlee's sallies

by Shirlee Iden



## Susan B. Anthony — that's a dollar that makes sense

Some people just are not ready to believe that women are for real.

A subcommittee in Congress has been debating, along with the Treasury Department, whose image should go on the new small dollar coin. The coin could be circulated as soon as mid-1979 if the arguments ever cease.

Now, the subcommittee favors a design with a symbolic Miss Liberty—a woman who stands for all womanhood and yet is no one specific. Feminists contend there are magnificent woman heroines from history, and indeed in the present, who should grace the coin.

Mostly, they agree it should be Susan B. Anthony. A wide spectrum of women's organizations have lobbied to see that the face of the historic suffragette be the first woman to grace a U. S. coin.

If it wasn't for Susan B. Anthony, I could just sit by these days and let all the political debate go over my head. I could forget trying to discern which of six Democrats or two Republicans will make the best U.S. Senator.

IF IT WASN'T for Susan B. Anthony, I could concentrate on lighter summer reading, ignore the large field of candidates for governor and forget about tax proposals. PBB

and the voucher plan for education bringing back parochialism.

But I've been a political creature since I was a kid, when I'd hang on every word of discussion when the men talked about government. Franklin Delano Roosevelt and the morality of dropping an atom bomb.

By the time I was old enough to get interested, the way had been smoothed for me. Women had gotten the vote in 1920 before my birth when the 19th Amendment to the U. S. Constitution passed after decades of controversy.

Susan B. Anthony was in the forefront in that battle. Born in 1820 at Adams, Mass., her work paved the way for that amendment and for the world-wide recognition of human rights expressed in the charter of the United Nations later.

Miss Anthony taught school and organized temperance societies. After 1851, she devoted her life to the anti-slavery movement and women's rights.

For four years she was the agent for the Anti-Slavery Society preceding the Civil War and she published, with Elizabeth C. Stanton, a New York liberal weekly called "The Revolution" for two years.

HER WRITINGS demanded for women the same civil and political

rights that had been extended to male Negroes in the 14th and 15th Amendments.

In 1872, she claimed her right to vote and was arrested, tried and convicted. Soberly she endured the indignity of imprisonment. But she adamantly refused ever to pay the fine levied.

Susan B. Anthony died 14 years before her dream of women's suffrage became reality with the passage of the 19th Amendment. If she had been born later, I contend she would have marched alongside Gloria Steinem, Bella Abzug and Martha Griffiths and the like to lobby for the Equal Rights Amendment.

Much of what women fight for today depends on the right to vote. Feminists and anti-feminists alike have the privilege of registering their discontent every time they exercise their franchise or lobby a representative, senator or committee of government.

When the coin, copper and thicker than a quarter, is put into circulation by the U. S. mint, I hope it will bear the likeness of the legendary suffragette.

And I hope that wherever she is, Susan B. Anthony knows I value the right she won for me and along with thousands of other women will take the time to arm myself with the facts and vote intelligently on Aug. 8.



## Hors d'oeuvres by Lynn Orr

## HUD, housing and racism

I'm moving back to Detroit.

That simple declarative sentence shouldn't have the tone of a thunderclap, but it prompts the same question from friends, relatives and acquaintances: Why?

I think my motives for returning to Detroit have a lot to do with what's wrong with the suburbs. Although the idea that anything could be wrong with Paradise is abhorrent to devoted suburbanites. But some of us are convinced there's a lot wrong with the suburban ambience, particularly three common denominators — they're too expensive, too white and too bigoted.

Did I live through the '60s to rear a child in an atmosphere of materialistic pursuits? Do I want my son to grow up without friends of different races and be exposed to the kind of bigotry some of us thought we were overcoming?

What's coming for the suburbs, including Farmington, is a replay of the Birmingham scenario — a test of the liberal challenge.

FOR a long time, northern metropolitan areas slipped by these kinds of questions. The white flight to the suburbs was the response to questions raised in the past two decades about integration, busing and assisting those without the advantages provided by 200 years of domination.

But the '70s response to those challenges are clear, both in the populace and the courts. What we've got now is a reverse discrimination bandwagon, tax limitation proposals which will certainly result in fewer social programs, and blatant attempts by suburban cities to take federal money while avoiding the intended social motives of those funds.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) wants some guarantees from cities that low and moderate income housing will be built. In return, cities such as Farmington Hills are scooping up such sums as \$400,000 annually in community development funds. HUD has dictated that the cities will face a cut-off if they fail to comply with HUD guidelines.

To determine how Farmington Hills will develop its program, the Hills council had a study session last week to polish the plans for community development in the next few years. The session itself was very revealing of suburban attitudes.

THE COUNCIL, quite properly, agreed to draw up a feasibility study to see if the city could economically develop a program that would meet federal guidelines and the needs of the city. But it's also clear that some members of the council are opposed to the intent of the HUD guidelines.

Councilman Earl Opperhauser verbalized those feelings when asked if he favored such a study. "If a feasibility study can be made at a reasonable cost to determine whether we can meet the HUD guidelines in a manner beneficial to the city," was his reply.

The key word is beneficial. He went on to add that if HUD agrees to allow the city to rehabilitate existing homes, it's a good deal. If HUD wants the city to build new public-assisted housing, then it's time to think about "calling the marriage (between Farmington Hills and HUD) off," he concluded.

## Editor:

Your article, "Low Income Housing Starts Hornet's Nest" (July 27) was a revelation to most, if not all of us living in the area targeted for government-subsidized low income housing — the area bounded by Inkster, Eight Mile, Orchard Lake Road, and Ten Mile.

I am grateful that someone stirred up enough hornets to at least get the facts out in the open.

I understand that, before the HUD application can be approved, a public hearing must be conducted on all pertinent facts relating to the program. The city, apparently, deems the location of low income housing as not pertinent and not important enough to notify residents.

There are many of us living in the targeted area who are opposed to the location choice. Before the federal government moves in, we would like some of our questions answered and a chance to be heard. Why was the most densely populated area of the city cho-

sen? Why were HUD guidelines calling for shopping centers and public transportation ignored?

WERE OTHER areas of the city even considered? Will this housing project be occupied by present Farmington Hills residents or will it be open to non-residents? Why didn't we, the residents of the city — especially the residents of the targeted area — have an input in these considerations? If the targeted area is shifted, precisely what area will become the targeted area?

This is an issue that involves the future city and I believe, we, as residents — whether we are for or against government-subsidized low income housing projects — should have an input in the decision-making process.

In an editorial appearing in the same issue of the Observer, Steve Barnaby made a very emotional appeal, sprinkled with some logic, for, I think, such housing projects. Although I may not necessarily agree

In other words, if Farmington Hills can take the more than \$400,000 a year in federal funds without building new low and moderate income housing for those "expected to reside" in the city, as the new guidelines indicate, it's OK by him.

Well, it's not OK by me. If the suburbs don't want to integrate, and that's what we're talking about — blacks moving to Farmington — don't take the money. Sit out in your big, overpriced homes and make your ridiculous commutes to work. What the suburbs are going to do in the future, when there aren't enough people to move into these overgrown monsters, will be the suburbs' problem then.

THE RAMBLEWOODS may become the slums of the '80s and '90s.

There's going to be a lot of public hearings about low and moderate income housing, senior citizen housing, and HUD-subsidized housing facing Farmington Hills in the future. The problem is that those who turn out for those hearings are invariably against such concepts. HUD is a dirty word, and project is synonymous with slums.

But it doesn't have to be that way. And there may be some fresh breezes blowing out there. All the untapped bigotry expected to surface just might get a backlash of its own. I find it hard to believe that all those who rode buses to Selma and pushed for liberal legislation will sit back in their cushy jobs and cushy homes and let the bigots take over.

We may have to sleep through the '70s to get there, but I'm convinced there'll be a replay of the '60s somewhere along the line. Since my boss always tells me that's where I'm stuck, I hope to feel more comfortable in the future.

Those of us moving back to the city are taking one step. We'll have some other advantages in addition to a clear conscience. We'll be able to afford movies and theatres and skiing, while the bigots are paying off huge mortgages and color TVs. And if HUD gets tough, perhaps the cities will reap the federal funds they deserve for making a real stab at social reform and housing rehabilitation.

IF THE suburbs aren't ready to share the wealth, too bad for them. But for those out there who back publicly assisted housing, I suggest you get out to those public hearings. The League of Women Voters and other groups should take a stand in person. And it's time for lip-service liberals to get involved actively.

If you care about your communities, let them know not everyone shakes in their boots when HUD and housing are mentioned in the same breath. Get out there and try and get in a good word about low and moderate income housing.

And those of us who believe the HUD guidelines should be followed will be out there making sure Farmington Hills doesn't try to "pressure" HUD into bending the rules, as one councilwoman suggested.

We'll be looking over the shoulders of council members, legislators, public officials, congressional representatives and senators to make sure you play if you want the pay.



## Around the edge

by Jackie Klein

## Can you top these pains?

Do you know any card-carrying members of the Disease of the Month Club? I met the president and vice president the other day.

I was in the waiting room at the hospital where I was busy clutching the back strings of my jazzy, white gown in preparation for an X-ray. Two women sitting next to me were excitedly discussing their ailments with up-to-the-minute news flashes. Here's how it went.

Lady No. 1: "I've just read the most marvelous article on headaches. It really gives you all the dope."

Lady No. 2 with eyes gleaming: "Oooh, can I read it? You see I get these awful headaches over the right eye. I've been to 10 different doctors and they can't diagnose it."

Lady No. 1: "You think you have troubles. I'm a borderline diabetic and I have low blood sugar besides."

Lady No. 2 (scoffing): "Borderline, you say. I'm a genuine diabetic and also have a touch of anemia. By the way, have you read, 'Low Blood Sugar and the Married Woman'? It's a thriller."

Lady No. 1: "I haven't read that one, but I must put it on my must list. I loved 'The Heartbreak of Psoriasis.' It's a four handkerchief book."

LADY NO. 2: "Did I tell you my doctor discovered a heart murmur? He says it's just a little murmur, but I know better. When I run up and down the stairs 10 times, I can't catch my breath."

Lady No. 1: "I haven't told you about my gall bladder operation. The doctor said, in all his years of practice, he's never seen a gall bladder that size or color. He might even write a paper on it, and I want a copy to frame."

Lady No. 2: "I bet you never had your varicose veins operated on. Let me tell you, you don't know what real suffering is."

Lady No. 1: "What do you mean I don't know what real suffering is? How about my kidney stone, my goiter and the lump on my third toe? Believe me, I've been through plenty. The only thing my husband ever had was a nervous breakdown, and he blames it on me."

Lady No. 2: "I know what you mean, dear. My husband won't even take off work to drive me to the doctor. He says he'd have to retire first."

Lady No. 1: "What do men know about pain and sickness? I was in labor three days with my last baby. It

was a breach birth, and I almost lost him."

Lady No. 2: "It was tough and go with me. I got the feeling if my husband had to make a choice, he'd want to save the baby."

LADY NO. 1: "I'm not a hypochondriac, but I worry about PBB poisoning, air pollution and food preservatives. I'm sure plenty of mice have overdosed on artificial sweeteners. My doctor tells me to lose weight, but what good is it to have a skinny figure and cancer?"

Lady No. 2: "Did you watch the television show with the black lung from smoking too many cigarettes? My husband smokes four packs a day, and he drinks himself to sleep right after dinner. Naturally, he says it's my fault. When he says I'm putting him in his grave, I get the feeling he'll be happy to go."

I felt pretty good when I came into that waiting room. But as I sat there, I was sure I had diabetes, heart murmur, varicose veins, psoriasis, gall bladder, low blood sugar, cancer, the PBBs and a few other ailments the women overlooked.

And they think they've got problems.

## Your Ecology Calendar

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

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

To prepare cans, separate steel from aluminum cans; paper need not be removed.

Newspapers should be tied in bun-

des with heavy string, rope or secured in heavy paper bags.

• **SOUTHFIELD** — A glass recycling center operates 24 a day at the Burch, 36800 Burch Road, at Civic Center Drive.

• **SOUTHFIELD** — A mobile aluminum recycling unit is in parking lot at Northland Center, Tuesdays, 1:30-4:30 p.m.

• **LATHRUP VILLAGE** — A recycling center operates at the public service

building, 19101 Twelve Mile, adjacent to Southfield-Lathrup High School.

Volunteers collect newspapers the first Sunday of each month, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

• **FARMINGTON** — A glass recycling center operates Saturdays, 9 a.m. to noon at the west end of Farmington Hills City Hall parking lot, at Eleven Mile and Orchard Lake Road.

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## From our readers

## Housing plan needs hearing

with his implied conclusions, I do agree with his statement that "This is the main event, the big bout, for Farmington Hills . . . Now is the time to pay attention to that town you helped to build."

I hope that the council realizes that this is an important issue to the residents of the city and that we not only want to be informed of the benefits of the government grant program, but we also want the other side — the location of the housing projects that accompany the benefits.

MY APPEAL to city council — please let us know, before you sign agreements with Washington, what is going to happen to our neighborhoods in Farmington Hills. I trust before any further action is taken, there will be a public hearing on this matter and that all the residents of the city will have an opportunity to be heard.

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