

OBSERVATION POINT

DISSENT



Now Is Time To Show We Do Care

By Philip H. Power

Remember that news story a couple of years ago about the woman who was robbed and killed in New York. It happened right out in the street, with literally hundreds of people in her apartment building looking on. They watched some punk steal her purse, kick and slash her and then leave her for dead.

They watched. Silently. No one ran out to help her. No one screamed. No one called the police.

No one did anything. They just watched.

To me, that was one of the most shocking stories I have ever heard. Shocking not only in itself, but also for what

seems to suggest about the way this country is developing.

For the old ideas about the way neighbors help each other seem to be disappearing. "People just don't care much any more," is something we hear more and more these days.

I don't know why. Maybe it's the breakdown of the old neighborhood. Maybe it's people feeling contented with their barbeque and TV set in their suburban home. Maybe it's the mobility of the population, with new people moving into the neighborhood so fast we really can't establish any human relationship.

I don't know why.

But I don't like it.

WE ALL HAVE a chance to do something about it for the next few weeks.

Not much, maybe, but something.

The kickoff for the Detroit Metropolitan Area United Foundation drive was yesterday.

The drive covers all communities in Observeland, with the exception of Plymouth, which started its own Community Fund drive on October 1.

Volunteers in each of the communities in these areas will be going to local businesses and homes, asking for contributions.

In the past, we have responded well; and once again it's time to give.

For both drives are important. Both deserve all the support they can get. Both offer a chance to lend a helping hand to our neighbors.

THE RANGE of services helped by the United Foundation and Community Fund is enormous.

The Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. The Cancer Society. The Visiting Nurse program. The Family Service. Programs for senior citizens. The Salvation Army. The Red Cross.

The list is endless. Who benefits? Everyone.

The man with a drinking problem in Redford Township. The senior citizen in Livonia and the woman with family problems in Farmington. The Plymouth family with kids of scouting age and the man in Westland who is a shut-in.

The drives benefit us all, because they constitute that vital margin of concern and caring -- call it simple neighborliness -- which make this a nice place to live.

It may be that people just don't care much any more, but I can't really believe it.

Let's show we do care, and help the United Foundation and Community Fund drives.

R.T. Thompson writes

Stevenson Pays Tribute To A Real Gentleman

Stevenson High students, faculty, alumni and parents will pay tribute to the late Jim Brieske, former director of student activities and a great football star for the University of Michigan in the golden era of the 40s, during Friday's annual homecoming celebration.

An open house for the new student activities room, properly named Brieske Room, will be held after the football game. The room honors the memory of a man known as a "gentleman's gentleman" by members of the national championship team of 1947 at Michigan.

Jim lost a long fight with cancer in November 1968. He had been a member of the Stevenson High faculty less than two years but made such an impact on teachers and students alike that they decided to create something at the school which would honor his fine spirit and his love for young people.

A committee was organized and donations were accepted from student groups, alumni and anyone else that desired to pay tribute to a fine leader.

The result is the Brieske Room that will be used as the center of many student activities at the school.

The Livonia Board of Education approved a plan to alter the room from classroom to a student center. The fund-raising campaign netted more than the \$3,500 needed for furniture and carpeting.

A wall case in the room will hold a picture of Jim along with

several letters and honors he received.

BRIESKE MADE A mark in Livonia that few teachers can hope to equal. He was a teacher at Bentley High prior to moving to Stevenson a year or so after the new building opened.

He had the same enthusiasm and spirit as a teacher that made him such a standout lineman at the University. He was always willing to lend his time and efforts to assist those in trouble, even though he was in deep trouble with cancer.

His right leg was amputated in January 1967 because of cancer but he wore an artificial foot and resumed his teaching -- with the same smile and enthusiasm he had prior to the operation.

Then the cancer spread, this time to his lungs and Jim never recovered from an operation in November 1968.

Termed by Chalmers "Bump" Elliott, former U-M coach and a courageous teammate on the great teams of his time, as "the most courageous and happiest optimistic fellow I ever met -- on or off the football field," Brieske was exactly that, to his dying day.

It is only fitting that Stevenson High's students of today and the past join in tribute to a great man. He wasn't great in the sense of wealth or a position in business or finance -- he was just a great guy to all who knew him.

They'll be among those participating in the open house early Friday evening -- they'll all be remembering the happy fellow who never allowed adversity to dim his enthusiasm.

LET'S FACE IT -- WE'RE ALL WE'VE GOT.



Attendance Pressure Is Convincer, Just One Board Approves Light Measure

The Westland City Council has achieved an enviable record -- from an attendance standpoint.

A report issued last week by the City Clerk at the council's direction showed that six of the seven councilmen attended more than 90 per cent of the regular council sessions during their terms. The seventh had an 88 per cent figure but he was hospitalized last spring with a partially collapsed lung.

IT IS admirable of the council members to show diligence in showing up at council meetings. But we are more concerned about what they do after they put in their appearances.

The council has tried to get a building department secretary fired -- solely on their say so -- after a lengthy and highly-publicized investigation was held concerning an alleged forged zoning board of appeals document.

In addition, the council holds nearly as many closed meetings on such highly important issues as building expansion, rezoning requests, drainage issues, and other matters with a formal ratification vote taken in front of the public at the formal business session.

THE VOTERS are happy that the council has such a high attendance mark but there are many school violin students who never miss a class but still bear no musical resemblance to any concert violinists.

Getting an "A" in attendance merely reflects that a body with an identifiable name has been in a designated seat in a predetermined time.

What the voters want now is to get some action after the attendance call is taken.

LEONARD POGER

It was more than a year in the making, but the Wayne County Road Commission has finally taken an affirmative action on the request of the Schoolcraft College Student Senate for a traffic light at the intersection of Haggerty and Six Mile Roads.

The Observer Newspapers pressed for such a light in an editorial a week ago and was delighted to receive word from Supervisor Carl Pursell, who represents Livonia and Plymouth on the Wayne County Board of Supervisors, that the light would be installed within a week.

The Observer editorial and the pressure applied by Pursell were the principal reasons for the change in attitude of the Road Commission, which turned down a similar request of the Student Senate and the Schoolcraft College administration a year ago.

RUSSELL HARRISON, Wayne County safety engineer, notified Pursell and the City of Livonia last Friday that the much needed light would be installed at the intersection on or before Oct. 20.

Editorially, the Observer Newspapers pointed out the need for the traffic light last fall, joining with the student body and the college administration in recommending installation.

Nothing was heard for several months, and then the Road Commission denied the request on the basis of no need at this time.

Conditions worsened with the start of the 1968-70 college term with massive traffic jams at three peak periods -- 7:45 a.m., 1:45 and 2:45 p.m.

Once again the Student Senate, with the support of the Observer Newspapers, petitioned for a traffic light. Leaders discussed the proposal with Livonia

city officials and then went to Pursell.

THE COMBINATION of Pursell and the Observer Newspapers appears to have brought the results. The light will be installed this week with proper ceremonies by the Student Senate.

— Observer Newspapers

Sue Shaughnessy writes

Where Do You Live?

Where do you live?

Answering that question is easy -- I live in a particular city and at this address.

Is the answer that simple?

It isn't. Last week local radio stations emphasized that a judge under fire from the State Bar Association was from Western Wayne County and "not the metropolitan area."

THE UNITED STATES Census Bureau says that Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties are the metropolitan area.

To TALUS the six counties in the southeastern corner of the state are a region calling for regional planning and services.

To many of the residents of suburbia the City of Detroit is one huge jungle. If you don't believe that just ask around. A Farmington Township woman told us that "I don't go to Detroit -- I'm afraid."

If you live in the city the suburbs are vast wastelands with the most important thing centering around Little League and the local PTA.

View points expressed in DISSENT do not necessarily reflect those of Observer Newspapers Inc., but are presented in the belief that publication of all segments of thought on a public issue is a prerequisite to understanding and progress.

'War Is Ridiculous' Writes GI

By PFC. K. J. ROGESEON

I just received your July 30 issue, and was that a welcome sight! I can assure you that newspapers from home are sure appreciated here.

I am writing because I got the urge to tell it like it is. I know that a lot of people don't really know what it's like over here, so perhaps I can help them to know.

TO MERELY SAY that this is an unusual war is not enough. It is in some ways a ridiculous war. Right now we are just south of Danang at a place called Nui Kim Son. We are lucky (sort of) because we don't run into N. Vietnamese here. "Just" Vietnam.

But let me define a Vietnam. He is the guy you see in a street-side shop, or walking out on a rice paddy, or going to market. You see him every day. He is one of the people our men guard at night, while on patrols, ambushes, and patrol bases. He has rights as a Vietnamese citizen.

So what does he do? He sells GIs cold sodas (in 110 degree heat) with ground glass in them, ice with ground glass, poisoned beer, sets booby traps (often inside a village) and snipes at American positions and patrols.

And then the very next day cusses out the GIs because we set up a position in his field so as to stay alive. And what do we do? Pay him for his ruined crops (at ridiculous prices).

Where we do run into N. Vietnamese, we run into a soldier as well trained as ourselves, sometimes with the advantage on their side. For instance -- not long ago we lost six dead and 20 wounded. How many N. Vietnamese were responsible? A good guess is four.

YOU HAVE undoubtedly gotten the idea that this war is unpopular with me. One reason it is, is because I have a wonderful wife to come home to.

But I will acknowledge the difficulty we will have withdrawing from it. Who is to take over in the defense of Vietnam? I hesitate to think that the S. Vietnamese army or Popular Forces would be entrusted this responsibility. So far I haven't seen anything promising from them.

Please do not construe this as official policy, as it was written purely as personal opinion.

Editorial & Opinion

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