

## editorial opinion

## Altruism sneaks past barrier of 'me' generation

There's a silver lining embedded in the "Me" decade.

Although examination of developments in the last six or seven years tends to make a person cynical, many persons are going out of their way to help others.

We've become used to hearing about millions exterminated in Cambodia and thousands set adrift in the Pacific by the Vietnamese government. And not until recently have many cared.

Domestically, a tirade of emotion has been vented against helping those who are in need of such basics as housing, food and medical care. The cry seems to be "everyone for himself."

But a closer examination reveals that many persons do care.

TAKE THE CASE of Garden City resident Jim McDonald. Earlier this year he saw a television report on the defacement of a Farmington Hills synagogue with Nazi graffiti. McDonald volunteered to clean up the mess.

Why? About three years ago, his house burned down and his twin sons were killed. An outpouring of good will came from neighbors and friends in the way of badly needed aid. McDonald figured he owed a debt. Cleaning the synagogue was his way of paying back that debt.

DALE WINNIE, of Romeo, is another example. A successful lawyer, Winnie dedicates 20 hours a month to helping senior citizens out of their legal tangles.

His clients include seniors from Rochester, Troy, Royal Oak and the Farmington area.

Winnie is like the old-fashioned country doctor. If the seniors are unable to get to him, he goes to them. He also caters to deaf seniors in the tri-county area.



by HENRY M. HOGAN, JR.

## An evening at the club

Country clubs are supposed to be bastions of society and respectability.

Whatever goes on there seldom reaches the public ear because they are closed communities.

However, there is a story circulating about an incident which happened at a club around here.

IT SEEMS THAT a husband and wife were involved in a mixed bowling league within a club that met, bowled at a local lane, and then went back to the club for dinner.

As most people know, in bowling leagues there is a lot of partying, and alcohol flows fairly freely.

It seems that one couple, after a few drinks, got into an argument at the bowling alley. When it was time to go back to the club for dinner, the husband said he was going home, and the wife said she was going to the club, which they both did.

However, the wife was apparently carrying too much alcohol. When she got back to the club, she got involved in a fracas and, with one swish of her hand, cleared a table of china and crystal.

SHE THEN WENT to the ladies room, which was being completely utilized, and started to pound on the doors. A lady standing nearby told her all the facilities were full, and besides that, there was a line waiting.

With that, the bowling lady ripped the dress off the bystander and ran into the first little cubicle that was available.

She then left the ladies room, went into the bar and cleared all the glasses off the bar with another swish of her arm.

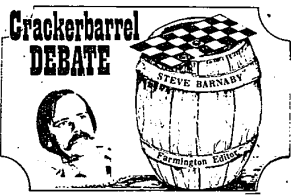
A member, seeing what was going on, started to remonstrate with her and ended up decking her.

A local media personality then thought the member was being too harsh, and when he mentioned this, he too was decked.

THE WOMAN in the ladies room whose dress had been ripped off had now repaired the damage and had come out with safety pins holding her dress together. It seems she was the wife of a prospective new member of the club, and she uttered to all around her, "You know what you can do with this club."

Can you imagine the next morning when the bowling wife comes down to breakfast and her husband lightly asks her, "Well, how was your evening last night?"

And then later in the morning when the phone rings at his office and it's the board of governors of the club?



A GREAT DEAL of aid also has come the way of Howard and Ruth Eldrege, Farmington Hills

seniors who recently were burned out of their home.

An appeal through the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers and some quick work by local government agencies found them shelter, clothes and needed medical equipment.

The Prince family of Canton has seen its kindness repaid. Through the years, the family has adopted five children. But recently they fell on bad times when their house burned down. They didn't have any insurance.

The community came through with a series of garage sales to raise funds. The First Church of the Nazarene, based in Farmington Hills, even got involved in helping these faraway neighbors.

WESTLAND ALSO has those who dedicate their time to helping others.

Joe Doline, 68, hasn't let age and three heart at-

tacks slow him down. He recently was honored statewide for his senior citizen leadership.

Doline has concentrated on lobbying efforts to get a dial-a-ride system. He also has been instrumental in seeing that a local social security and medical office was established in Westland.

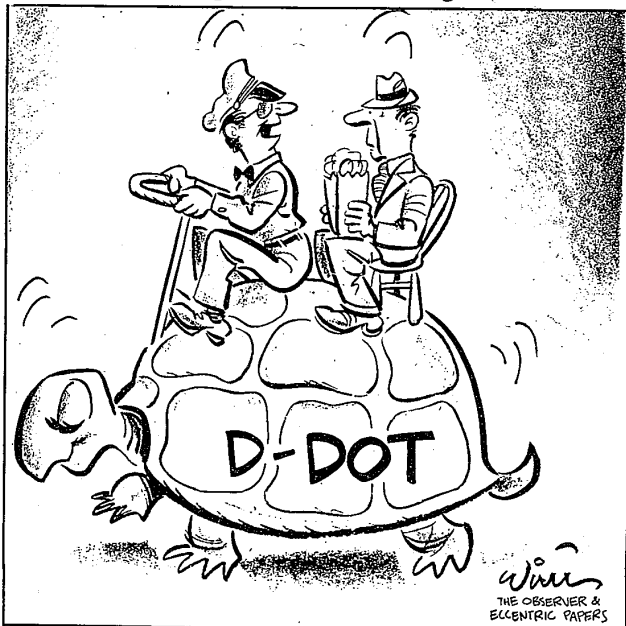
Dorothy Clayborn, another Westlander, has been honored for her work with the terminally ill. Mrs. McGuire dedicates her time by working with seven convalescent homes in Westland and Livonia.

The list of those helping others is endless. It demonstrates that the "Me" generation isn't as self-centered as we may have thought.

Although efforts to help others may not be as organized as they once were, individually persons are putting out for others.

It makes even a cynical editor feel pretty good about life.

## 'Hang on! Here we go!'



By W. W. EDGAR

## The Stroller

## Pitchers need great knees

According to the public prints, a new chapter is being written on the life and times of Mark (The Bird) Fidyrych, the young Tiger pitcher who startled the baseball world in 1976 and was acclaimed as the greatest thing to come along in years.

He has been sent to a clinic in San Diego where the specialists there will attempt to solve the problems of his shoulder and pitching arm that have kept him on the disabled list for the better part of two seasons.

As he read these lines, The Stroller was reminded of a short visit he had with a retired "country" doctor some time ago. On this occasion, he had spoken at an evening meeting of the Lions Club in Marine City. And, as usually happens, he was flooded with questions about the happenings in the sports world, where he had been a traveler for years.

IT WAS THEN that the old time doctor asked, "When are the Tigers going to get smart and get down to The Bird's real trouble?"

It wasn't an unusual question. It had been asked of The Stroller many times in the past several seasons.

Before he could furnish any sort of an answer, the old time doctor asked, "When are they going to learn that The Bird's real trouble is with his knee—not his arm?"

This was a new twist and the questioner asked the old doctor to explain.

"If you recall," he said, "The Bird injured his

knee during spring training.

"Before it healed properly, The Bird started favoring it on the mound. To do this he changed his pitching motion—and that's where the real trouble lays."

"It is this favoring of the knee that causes him to get down on his knees and 'manicure' the mound before every pitch. The Kid isn't showing off. He's protecting his knee so he doesn't make a misstep."

"If they ever get his knee back in shape, it is possible that he can get back his old pitching motion and things will be different."

THE STROLLER thought of this again as he read the latest chapter and learned that the knee would be looked at, too. So, maybe, the old time doctor, now retired, has a solution to the problem that seems to have stymied the modern specialists and left the baseball world wondering if "The Bird" is all through.

It is a funny thing about pitchers and their pitching motions. Years ago the legendary "Dizzy" Dean's career was cut short because of a freakish accident in which he was hit on the foot by a liner in the All-Star game.

It didn't seem like much at the time. But it caused him to change his pitching motion as a means of favoring his foot, and the change took all the speed and zip out of his fast ball. It wasn't long until he was on the sidelines.

ANOTHER CASE that comes to mind happened in the Tiger training camp some years ago when The Stroller was covering the daily doings in the Florida camp.

Lining up one morning, four abreast, Manager Mickey Cochrane had the squad attempt a military type march. In the midst of it he yelled "halt." Evidently Pinky Higgins, the Tigers third baseman, didn't hear the command. He took a step and his spiked shoe came down on Pitcher Roxie Lawson's ankle and inflicted a deep wound.

The wound healed, but Rox had to change his pitching motion and he wasn't long in the major leagues.

So, it will be real interesting to learn whether the big time specialists in San Diego will follow the advice of the old time Marine City doctor and take a good look at The Bird's knee.

It could be a solution.



Tim Richard

## On seceding from SEMTA

It's great political fun for Oakland County to talk about withdrawing from the Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority (SEMTA).

The talk has the effect of putting heat on SEMTA in its seemingly endless deliberations over whether to build a subway-aerial rapid transit line in the Woodward corridor.

But there is sobering news for those who have been feeling intoxicated lately after hearing the secessionist views of the Oakland County Road Commission. The road commission makes quitting SEMTA and starting an Oakland-only public transit system seem like a piece of cake.

It isn't, according to a more analytical piece of research from County Executive Daniel T. Murphy's planning staff.

LEGALLY, IT'S possible for Oakland to quit the seven-county SEMTA organization. Economically and from a public service standpoint, Murphy's staff says repeatedly, the situation is less clear. Some examples:

- There's a tri-county vehicle registration and title transfer earmarked for SEMTA. If Oakland quits SEMTA, it's unclear whether Oakland could keep a share of the revenue.

- Oakland County commissioners profess to be sore at their lack of control over Oakland's SEMTA board members. But the Murphy report points out that "the governing board of an Oakland County (transportation) authority would have three of its nine members appointed directly by the governor, while the other six members are also appointed by the governor from names submitted by the county board of commissioners."

- A transportation authority must submit an annual program to the state at least 15 months prior to the start of the fiscal year. How would a new, separate Oakland County Transportation Authority comply with this law? The answer is unclear.

- How would Oakland actually operate its own system? The Murphy report suggests it may be necessary to purchase some services from SEMTA. The irony would be that Oakland would no longer have representation on the SEMTA board from which it would buy services.

- How would trips between counties be handled? An Oakland authority couldn't carry passengers to Macomb or Wayne counties without SEMTA's approval.

- SEMTA has some "extra-territorial" rights to operate 10 miles outside boundaries even if Oakland pulled out. It could choose to operate in Rochester-Avon, Troy, the Royal Oak area, Southfield, Farmington, Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, most of Bloomfield Township and the southern two-thirds of West Bloomfield. Murphy speculates that SEMTA would retain the most productive routes which service the county, dropping the less productive routes and reallocating the vehicles to other parts of the region.

- While the road commission suggests Oakland could get a share of the \$600 million which the U.S. Urban Mass Transit Administration promised SEMTA in 1976, the executive report says it's not clear Oakland could become a "designated recipient." Reason: In promising the funds, the feds imposed a number of conditions, including the requirement of a regional consensus. Not only would Oakland's secessionists risk not getting any of the money, they would endanger the rest of the region's chances of getting anything.

WHAT THE EXECUTIVE'S report stops short of saying is that anything less than a regional public transportation system is senseless.

It can be done, yes, but that doesn't mean it should be done.

The road commission killed a lot of time and money preparing a report calling for secession from SEMTA, and better people have had to kill a lot of time and money replying to it.

It's kind of an expensive way to have political fun.

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