

Monday's Commentary

We the people: that includes everyone

"We the people, in order to form a more perfect union, insure domestic tranquility..." The Preamble to Our U. S. Constitution reads.

It's a document that has worked well for two centuries. As long as we are careful to refer to it, we can avoid many pitfalls.

U.S. District Judge Joyce Green decided last week that the federal government was acting unconstitutionally in moving toward deportation proceedings against some 50,000 Iranian students in our country.

In an emotional response to the continuing tragedy of the embattled American Embassy in Tehran and its 49 hostages, President Carter ordered the Justice Department to review visits of Iranian students.

Civil libertarians applauded when two suits were filed on behalf of the students calling the deportation efforts illegal.

By the time of Judge Green's order, more than 50,000 students had been interviewed and some 6,000 deemed subject to deportation. More than 400 Iranians asked for political asylum, which is still being acted upon.

In all, 778 Iranians agreed to leave the country voluntarily, 47 already have done so.

NINE IRANIAN students have actually been deported.

It's difficult to judge without further data, if those deportations were justified. And even the small number can't ameliorate the injustice if they were not.

I can't help thinking about the Iranian student, living in Farmington who came into the clutches of immigration officials recently.

Shahram Shahriri, 19, a student at Lawrence Institute of Technology, was stopped by Southfield Police for failing to signal a lane change and driving with a burned-out brake light.

After questioning Shahriri, police turned him over to immigration officials after determining his visa had expired in September.

No doubt police acted properly, but would Shahriri have been treated this way if he were Jordanian, Egyptian or Polish?

It's the witch hunt aspect of recent actions that's chilling.

Those of us old enough to remember still cringe at the action of our government in internment of thousands of Japanese-Americans during World War II.

Some of them, born in this country, were herded into camps along with Japanese who had emigrated here many decades before. They were deemed dangerous and moved to inland camps.

FAMILIES WERE separated, businesses were lost, and educations interrupted. American citizens were summarily deprived of their constitutional rights.

I remember one lovely Japanese young woman who was allowed to leave the camp and work as a maid. She worked in the home of a young friend of mine, separated from her entire family.

The mass internment of those of Japanese ancestry at that time is a black mark in our history that can never be erased.

Judge Green said in her ruling: "It appears easy to foresee briefly our

constitutional beliefs and realities and yield to the moment of crisis. But consider the result..." If any future international crisis arises of any dimension between our great country and another country.

Further, she pointed out that submission to the "wash of emotion would eliminate the fair play and equality that is the quintessence of the American way and it is cardinal that the diminishment of the rights of those most vulnerable diminishes in the end the rights of all others."

When our forefathers wrote that Constitution, they assumed that certain "inalienable rights" were inherent in it. They were called on that.

CAREFUL legislators that they were, and jealous of their newly won independence, many of the constitution makers, from many of the colonies soon to become states, insisted on a written Bill of Rights.

And they only accepted the disputed document when assurances were given that specific guarantees be added.

This was the first action of the very first Congress and like the document it amends, the Bill of Rights has stood the test of time.

Once, when we had no such guarantees and Americans were still forming their propensity for written laws, there occurred a true witch hunt.

People who acted differently were

castigated, shunned, then tried and some were burned and hung. This was in 17th century colonial America.

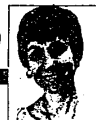
We've come a long way since then. But when folks get after people just because they belong to a certain group, we tend to call it a witch hunt even now. Witness the internment of the Japanese and the excesses of Senator Joseph McCarthy who painted so many "red."

It's easy to get caught up in the emotion of the times. And these are difficult times for every American.

But "We the People" has to include everyone, even guests in our country; the innocent are still that until proved guilty, and diminishing one man's rights takes away from those of each of us.

Shirlee's sallies

by Shirlee Iden



Jackie Klein writes

Stress will do you in—if you let it happen

You're trying to do too many things at once. The hectic pace during the holiday season is making you feel like a maniac.

If you fit the above description, sit down for a minute and read this advice from Elaine Glasser, extension home economist for Oakland County. Ms. Glasser claims there are many easy ways to relieve your tension. If properly managed, she maintains, your business can be fun and exciting. You don't have to be a nervous wreck.

Think of it this way. You have no time to fit a nervous breakdown into your frenzied schedule. Besides, the cost of a psychiatrist and a battery of tranquilizers can quickly gobble up your Christmas budget.

The tasks you have to accomplish won't seem so insurmountable if you make a list each day of everything you have to do. Ms. Glasser advises. Then prioritize each item. If you can, save the day before the festivities to catch up on last minute tasks, she suggests.

If you're like I am, your last minute tasks will be shipping for Christmas presents without a list. You'll forget to pick up something for the mailman, the paper boy, the

beauty operator, the manicurist and the babysitter.

This may entail dashing to the bank before it closes so you can get a bundle of new, crisp dollar bills to give to these forgotten people on the list you don't keep. One of the dumbest things I've done is to give my manicurist a jar of hand cream which she buys by the dozens at discount prices.

SOME PEOPLE consume a lot of caffeine in coffee or tea to keep them going when they have a lot to do. Ms. Glasser says. In excess, caffeine can make you feel more stressed than you were before, she warns. It can cause irritability, stomach upsets, insomnia and headaches.

You're better off to soothe yourself by drinking something warm without caffeine such as herbal tea, she suggests. I had something stronger in mind than herbal tea such as Irish coffee or warm Scotch. Have you ever slipped a hot rum toddy?

Listening to soothing music and keeping lights low when you work will also help your body relax, according

to Ms. Glasser. That's O.K. if you're alone. But if you happen to be with a member of the opposite sex, you probably wouldn't get much work done.

Tension is often expressed through insomnia. Ms. Glasser contends. She suggests you try to develop a regular sleeping schedule even during irregular holiday activity. Adopt some type of ritual like reading or taking a bath before bedtime, she recommends. Your body will adjust to these cues and you may sleep with less difficulty, she maintains.

I HAVE ANOTHER idea which can not only relax you but save you time. I know somebody who makes it a ritual to read paperback novels in the bathtub. When he finishes a page, he tears it out so he won't lose his place. Other people develop a regular sleeping schedule before and after breakfast, lunch and dinner. If all else fails, you can try counting reindeers.

Regular exercise during the day may also help you sleep better at night, Ms. Glasser advises. However,

strenuous exercise immediately before you go to bed invigorates, rather than relaxes your body.

I for one am not much on athletics. In fact, one of the reasons I haven't quit smoking is because coughing is the only exercise I get. Once I tried doing pushups. My back went out and I was laid up for four months. I took an exercise class and the teacher suggested I have every part of my body recalled.

Ms. Glasser recommends 20 minutes of vigorous exercise like taking a brisk walk or jog on a cold day. It helps you feel relaxed and refreshed, she claims, and it helps burn up those extra calories you gorge yourself on during the holiday season.

WALKING AND jogging sound great for somebody else. On a cold day, I can barely drag myself in and out of the car to and from work. It's tough burning up calories while sitting down at a computer screen munching Christmas cookies. One thing I'm getting for the holiday is a roll — not the kind you eat but the one that forms around your waistline.

Craig Piechura writes

Here's Mace in your face—a smelly situation

It was one of those small police shorts, buried way back in our paper.

"Man sprayed with chemical at taco counter," the headline read.

It was a news story because of its oddity. But the broader implications of the case point out a sprayer grabbed his tray of food and sat down to eat. Southfield Police arrived, and arrested him. But that's as far as it got. The sprayer was never even arraigned on a simple misdemeanor assault charge.

Roper stayed on the job. But a couple of employees were taken to Providence Hospital after complaining of a stomach ache.

Today, a month after the incident, Southfield Police Officer Duane Skuminski of the crime lab explains that police are still awaiting results of a laboratory analysis of the chemical.

The lab is "backlogged considerably," because one of the lab technicians is on sick leave, said Officer Skuminski.

According to people in the protection

and their nostrils burned. This time Mexican hot sauce wasn't the culprit. Red-pepper spray was.

INCREDIBLY, instead of fleeing after this unprovoked meanness, the sprayer grabbed his tray of food and sat down to eat. Southfield Police arrived, and arrested him. But that's as far as it got. The sprayer was never even arraigned on a simple misdemeanor assault charge.

Roper stayed on the job. But a couple of employees were taken to Providence Hospital after complaining of a stomach ache.

Today, a month after the incident, Southfield Police Officer Duane Skuminski of the crime lab explains that police are still awaiting results of a laboratory analysis of the chemical.

The lab is "backlogged considerably," because one of the lab technicians is on sick leave, said Officer Skuminski.

According to people in the protection

equipment industry, "Protect-U" is a red-pepper spray known as oleo resin capicum, as opposed to a tear gas-based spray called orthoclorobenzal-malonitrile or the more severe and familiar "Mace" brand of spray used by police which contains phenylchloromethylketone.

IS IT LEGAL for Michigan residents to sell, purchase and carry around these pressurized cans of chemical warfare?

Depends on who you talk to. "It's not an easy question," said Bill Molner, assistant attorney general. "The state of the law is very much in doubt."

The uncertainty stems from a difference of legal opinion over the wording of section 224 of the criminal code — a statute enacted during World War II — which says it's a felony for a citizen of Michigan to "manufacture, sell, offer for sale or possess a gas-ejecting device that can either temporarily or per-

manently disable, incapacitate or harm a person," Molner quoted the statute.

That section of the statute was called too broad in a 2-1 decision in 1978 by the Michigan Court of Appeals judges. In the case of People vs. Guy, defense attorneys successfully argued that by banning the concealment of all gas-ejecting devices, a woman with a can of hair spray in her purse could be found guilty of carrying a concealed weapon.

IN FEBRUARY 1979, however, the Michigan Court of Appeals upheld a felony conviction imposed by Detroit Recorder Court Judge George Crockett Jr. in the case of the People vs. Leonard Stinson. Stinson was observed by the Detroit Police holding a can of "Paralyzer" — the world's most popular tear gas device — outside his car when police approached.

Court documents stressed that the can in question was stamped with the word "weapon" on it, differentiating it from just another aerosol can.

On the basis of the latest decision, Molner said, the attorney general's office advises citizens and law enforcement agencies that selling or buying sprays containing red pepper, tear gas or Mace is illegal in Michigan.

Richard Thompson, Oakland County's chief assistant prosecutor, said it is the policy of their office to issue warrants only when the chemical sprays are used in a crime or used in an unprovoked attack.

Before troopers arrest someone for possession of a can of tear gas, they check with the county prosecutor to see if a warrant will be written, according to Michigan State Police Lt. Calvin Glassford. Otherwise, he said, state troopers follow the advice of the state

attorney general.

In an oral opinion issued in July, Attorney General Frank Kelley stated: "It is my opinion that the (Paralyzer) device in question falls within the prohibition of the above statute (MCLA 250.224). Therefore, possession and/or use of the same is prohibited at this time."

IT'S NOT that simple, said Glen Meinert, president of Protection and Security Equipment Corp., of St. Louis, Mo., the firm that distributes "Paralyzer" internationally. Meinert referred to letters he's received from prosecuting attorneys in Ingham and Muskegon counties which give him permission to sell "Paralyzer" to the Michigan populace.

A letter sent in October 1979 to Meinert by Gerald Warner, Muskegon County prosecutor, states "The Court of Appeals has issued conflicting opinions regarding the constitutionality of Michigan Compiled Laws Annotated (MCLA) 250.224. And, in addition, these devices eject a liquid, rather than a gas."

Further, the legislature is currently considering a bill to expressly legalize such devices. Therefore, this office will not issue criminal charge for the mere sale of such devices at this time. However, criminal use of such devices remains illegal."

Meinert said he's yet to receive solid evidence that his product has fallen in the hands of criminals who subverted its intended use. But, he added, he'd rather see a bank robber use a can of "Paralyzer" in a holdup than a gun.

"IT'S A LEGITIMATE concern," Meinert said of the fear that these sprays will fall into the wrong hands. "Almost any device intended for a good, legitimate, moral purpose can be

turned around to perpetrate a crime. I can send a 5- or 6-year-old over to a grocery store to buy hair spray, an aerosol that has been shown to cause permanent blindness if applied directly to the eyes for an extended period of time."

"My favorite example is 'Easy Off' oven cleaner. If it takes the grease off your oven, it can take the grease off your face."

But his product is specifically designed to be sprayed in a person's face while "Easy Off" or hair spray isn't. Meinert countered that his spray is very effective but safe. A few years ago in California when the product was banned, Meinert said, women resorted to keeping a can of hair spray in their purse for protection.

Most states permit "over the counter candy sale" of his "Paralyzer" spray, he said.

Illinois and New York restrict use of the sprays to premise protection, he added. Carrying such devices in a car, pocket or purse is illegal in those two states. Michigan and Wisconsin have no up-to-date legislation on the sprays, he said.

Asked how he feels about distributing such noxious chemicals, Meinert said he feels just fine.

"I feel very satisfied in life. I've been at it 10 years selling these types of devices. I can show you unsolicited testimonials from people thanking us for saving their lives, saving their limbs, with this product."

"We didn't create the problem (of violence)," Meinert said. "Here's a form of protection that can be gotten to the general public for about the price of a bottle of mouthwash. And what's a life worth?"

We need more triers

Everyone loves a winner, and if it's a sports winner, all the better.

Winners incite analysts to make lofty dissertations on their effects on the community. Some swear that sports winners provide large doses of therapeutic aid to the cities they represent.

As an example, they point to Pittsburgh, arguing that the world champion Steelers (football) and Pirates (baseball) have jolted the city out of its grubby stupor.

There is little doubt that Terry Bradshaw, Willie Stargell and Co. have worked wonders at Three Rivers Stadium and with the citizens of Pittsburgh. But these people are winners and are about as scarce as pirate's treasure.

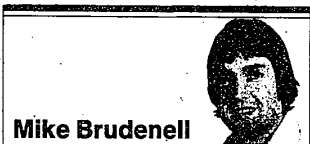
Not every successful team is studded with stars; many harbor more than their share of plodders and wackos.

So what makes them tick? The answer is simple. Winning teams are full of "triers," those athletes who missed the bus when talent was handed out but came back for seconds when they served up E for effort.

Right now I think Detroit should swap next year's Republican Convention for 20 or 30 triers to be split up among the city's five professional sports teams.

Doesn't sound like much of a deal, but triers are a contagious bunch who spread a good feeling throughout a club... a positive feeling that can turn a season around.

Of all sports adages, I remember this one best: "A champion team will always beat a team of champions."



Mike Brudenell

Forget the corn and think about it for a bit. Because champions often are highly strung individuals, they are prone to emotional and physical breakdowns. And some are loners who react erratically to the demands of a coach.

One day they will perform magnificently, accomplishing almost immortal things. However a champion in disgrace can be a selfish sot.

A sulking champion can cost a team points and upset his teammates. Yet with a sprinkling of class and a power of effort, a sports team has a winning chance.

That's all anyone can ask for: a chance to go for it.

I wonder when Detroit's arrogant sports owners will get the message and give the bullet to those overpaid, overfed, overrated "veterans" who sit back and let others do the hard work on the field. They owe the public that much.

Detroiters could do with a Christmas stocking full of triers this year.

A Division of
Suburban Communications Corporation

Philip H. Power
Chairman of the Board

Richard D. Aginlin
President
Chief Executive Officer

Farmington Observer

"Successor of the Farmington Enterprise"

Steve Barnaby
Editor

22532 Farmington Road
Farmington, Mich. 48324
(313) 477-5450

John Reddy, General Mgr.
Thomas A. Riordan, Executive Editor
George J. Hagan, Advertising Director, Fred J. Wright, Circulation Director