

editorial opinion

Getting a brand new wallet — what a relief it is

Lately, I've been reading a lot about back pain caused from bulging wallets.

Apparently men throughout the nation are suffering from this common malady for a few simple reasons. Now before you stop and adjust that bulge in your back pocket, hear me out.

Actually, this is an issue of which all men should unite. You see, it all has to do with this talk of liberation. If we truly were liberated we wouldn't be suffering this terrible pain in the back.

First of all, most men just aren't used to the idea of carrying a purse. Sure, the idea crossed my mind until one day I went out a priced a "man's" purse. The cost — \$125.

Now, I ask you, what is equal about that? Just walk through any women's wear department and you'll find a continual sale on ladies' purses.



John Reddy

Kill'em unborn, kill'em elderly?

It's a matter of life or death. I don't know how else one can describe it. Some are calling it euthanasia. Others call it "the right to die."

Euthanasia is described as the act or practice of killing for reasons of mercy. I'm troubled by the question of "whose" mercy? The sick or injured? Or is it mercy on behalf of those who have to tend and care for the sick or injured?

Back when the last issue of euthanasia was being debated by that body which takes upon itself great issues of our times — the Michigan Legislature — the subject was abortion.

At that time the thought occurred to me that it wouldn't be long before we would be discussing how to kill the ill and aged for the same humanistic reasons. I never thought the time would be so swiftly here.

AT THAT TIME I thought there was a correlation between disposing of unwanted embryos and the killing function of court delivered orders to kill alleged criminals. My thought was, kill neither.

It seemed to me that it made as much sense not to kill one innocent person, even if it meant someone who committed a heinous crime might be permitted to cling to life, albeit in a prison. Similarly, the potential contribution of the yet-to-be-born should not be so easily negated by our individual desires not to be bothered with the rearing process.

Back then, the matter of euthanasia was discussed in terms of "death with dignity."

I confess to having no personal experience with loved ones lingering painfully at death's threshold. I guess — to some — that would disqualify me from expressing an opinion. If that be the case, then most legislators might have to refrain from dealing with bills proposing euthanasia.

I do recall, however, some long, frank discussions with a young man who knew he was dying. It was a beautiful discussion. I remember his wife saying that dying with dignity was irrelevant.

"What really matters," she said, "was living with dignity."

THIS WHOLE QUESTION of man deciding for himself questions of life and death is scary.

Can we really trust such a decision to our fellow man? It seems an easy decision when you consider the oft-quoted examples of the comatose. We seem to hear so little today of the comatose who have been written off by the medical experts only to somehow regain consciousness and recover.

Has man given up money as his God? Is man now God? Man may not use the noun "God," but he — we — seem to want to exercise all the powers once more universally attributed to a deity.

I guess I'm just confused by it all. We are so pragmatic it seems we can make any kind of value judgment at the drop of a hat. And then, perhaps, I'm just afraid of the criteria young people will use to guide policies of euthanasia when you and I are struggling to enjoy our final years.

Could it be that the criteria for being disposed of will be to reduce taxes of the younger workers who no longer think there is any value in keeping old people like you and me on the public dole?

Euthanasia? By any definition, it's killing. What do you think?

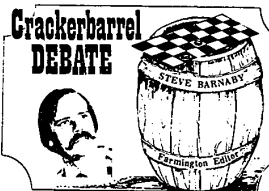
Receptionist Gail Elfond tells me her latest deal on a purse — a blue light special — cost her all of \$3. The female consensus seems to be that a good, sturdy purse costs about \$25.

Unfortunately, men's purses are still considered chic so merchants charge a guy an arm and a leg for something for women pay one-quarter the price.

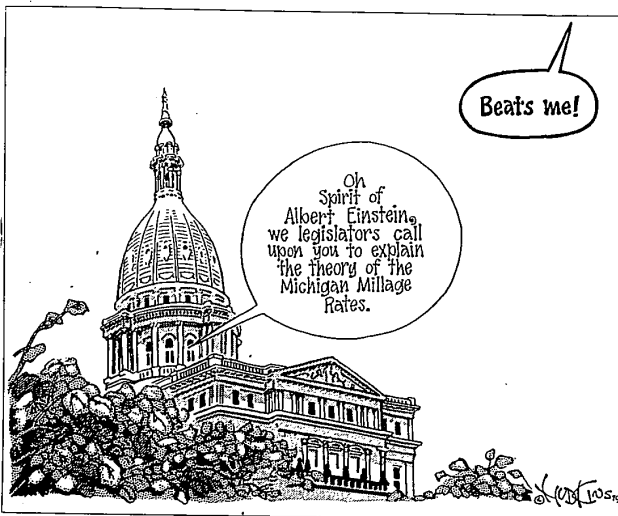
Besides, who wants to be chic? So I went out and bought myself a new wallet, vowing that I would never again carry so much stuff as to have a five-inch thick wallet, weighing two pounds.

Astonishingly, this meager piece of "cashmere" cowhide cost at least \$25. What a rip-off.

This flimsy little chunk of exotic cow was certainly anything but a blue light special.



But what a travail it was parting with all the goodies I had obtained over the years. For beginners, I found 42 business cards, 25 credit card



The new 'justice' Promote him who fails

From afar, Adamantus and I could recognize the grey head and beard of Socrates seated at a picnic table overlooking the River Rouge. "What ho, good philosopher!" we cried to him.

But it was a sad aspect that the venerable Greek sage raised to us from the newspaper he had been pondering. "I am troubled," said he, "by what I read of your system of justice."

We knew Socrates had spoken at length, through Plato in *The Republic*, on justice, the final and residual virtue in the well-governed state, and of Socrates' lifetime devotion to justice. So Adamantus inquired what was troubling him.

"I perceive that a federal judge, John Feikens, has appointed Mayor Coleman Young as the court's administrator in the operation of the sewage treatment plant. And upon my soul!" — the soul being another subject on which he was expert — "I cannot understand the judge's reasoning. Will you examine the subject with me?"

"Most gladly," said Adamantus, speaking for us both.

"IS IT NOT wise that when a man has passed the tests to be guardian of the community, he is selected? And when he fails the test, he is to be rejected?" Socrates began.

We had read those words before and knew his argument to be sound.

"But is not the city-run sewage treatment plant being called the single worst polluter of Lake Erie?" Socrates went on.

"Most assuredly so," by the Environmental Protection Agency," Adamantus replied.

"And don't Young's subjects in the water and sewerage department run the same treatment plant?"

"They do."

"And are not his other appointees having troubles with maintenance of the city's buses, so that hundreds can't get onto the streets? And are there not financial irregularities being reported in his Bicentennial Commission?" Socrates inquired.

"Even the papers which honor Mayor Young admit that," Adamantus answered.

"THEN WHAT LOGIC impels a judge to appoint



Tim Richard

a ruler with such a repeated history of failure to be his special ruler over the polluting sewage treatment plant?"

Adamantus pointed to where the newspaper quoted Judge Feikens as crediting Young with "a Herculean effort to revitalize the city — not only its restoration of its downtown area but also its position as the provider of vast governmental, cultural and other services to the people of southeastern Michigan."

"Did Young design, build or pay for the Renaissance Center?" Socrates demanded.

"Quite the reverse," said Adamantus. "Private money did that, and Young collects all the taxes."

"And the Institute of Arts — did not Young have to shorten its hours until the state gave him money? And is it not mostly state supported now?"

"It is entirely state supported," we rejoined.

"And the Detroit Symphony Orchestra — does the city provide only a minuscule fraction of its support, or does my perception of the financial report deceive me?"

"Your perception of the financial report is most correct," Socrates replied.

"And is not the state supporting the Main Library? And providing freeway patrols? And does the judge not speak falsely of the city providing cultural and governmental services?"

SOCRATES DIDN'T pause for an answer but went on: "Is not our guiding principle that 'he who has come out of the trial victorious and pure shall be appointed a ruler and a guardian of the community, but him who fails we must reject? And when a man has failed, are we not mad to reward him by giving him more powers and removing the restrictions of the city council, the paying customers and the state?"

"By your rules of logic, we would be most mad," said Adamantus. "But beloved Socrates, your philosophy is not applied any more."

"A federal judge is not guided by philosophy, a state constitution, laws or rules, nor even by the primitive instincts of the peasant classes. He does as he wishes, for any reason or no reason. A judge can even transport children away from their parents and community — quite the reverse of your principles."

"I would call such a judge most unjust," said Socrates. "What does your society call him?"

Adamantus thought a moment, then responded: "Judge Feikens known as a liberal."

As Adamantus and I continued our stroll, we looked back at Socrates and were surprised to see his eyes darker, his hair whiter, his figure more stooped.

receipts, a three-year-old fishing license, a two-year-old Michigan State Park camping permit and a license registration from 1976.

There were some other little ditties, like a very old Blue Cross-Blue Shield card which I delighted in cutting up, especially after reading that Blue's President John McCabe received a \$9,000 raise this year.

For five days now I've been courting my new wallet, relieved of the minor back pain I've so lustily about in the ladies' magazines. But, you know, it just isn't the same without the old wallet.

Now let me see, what could I find to put in the new cowhide to make me feel at home again? Maybe I should go out and put a few items on my charge accounts.

Eccentricities

by HENRY M. HOGAN, JR.



Terror closes dealers' doors

Joseph Califano, secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, said in a recent speech the three greatest lies were: 1) the check is in the mail; 2) sure, I'll marry you, sweetheart; and 3) I'm from the government and I want to help you.

Over the last couple of years, the people we have elected to represent us in Washington and the entrenched bureaucracy there have gone a long way to shackle an industry that creates the most number of jobs in the nation and has the greatest impact on the private sector of the gross national product.

Governmental rules and regulations have also pushed up the cost of cars, fueling inflation and forcing the people whom the government is supposed to represent to purchase types of cars different from what they want.

But the government isn't the auto industry's only foe. At times, the industry can be its own worst enemy.

MOST FAMILY automobiles are purchased after a joint decision by the husband and wife. Traditionally, the husband works during the day, and now almost 50 percent of wives are employed.

When, therefore, can they purchase a new car? Obviously, the answer is evenings or weekends, and particularly weekends because they have more time to shop around.

In metropolitan Detroit, most car dealers are open two nights a week, Monday and Thursday, but are closed weekends.

Maybe their attitude is that the buyer needs them more than they need the buyer, so they can force the buyer to come to them when they are open, regardless of the needs of the buyer.

The excuse most dealers give for closing on Saturday is that their salesmen want to work only a five-day week, and if they want to keep the best salesmen, they can't make them work weekends.

LAST SATURDAY we decided we needed a new car. We called several car dealers and found few were open. Most had someone answering the phone who said they can't afford to stay open Saturday.

We toured several dealerships. All had cars on display, but few had any salesmen around to give prices, trade-in values or even answers to questions.

All car dealerships with unionized salesmen were closed.

As we toured, we found why they "couldn't afford" to be open.

One dealership which was open had six policemen patrolling it.

One dealership had a broken front window. We were told about 75 persons, allegedly unionized salesmen from other dealerships, had put nails in the driveway to keep people out, broke the window and scratched the cars on display.

IF THIS KIND of thing had happened in another country, we would call it terrorism and condemn it.

But we let this type of stuff go on and let it stifle the industry that is the lifeblood of our state and nation.

We blame the government for interfering with free enterprise but accept violence as a reasonable means for unions to accomplish their goals with people with whom they don't even have a contractual relationship.

It is time we faced up to the fact that if we allow a small group of people to inject their will on business by fear and intimidation, the auto industry will just be a start on the path to anarchy.

The people and local government must stop this sort of action.

All gas stations should have air hoses for public safety

A Division of
Suburban Communications
Corporation

Philip H. Power
Chairman of the Board
(on leave of absence)

Richard D. Agnion
President
Chief Executive Officer

Farmington Observer

"Successor of the Farmington Enterprise"

Steve Barnaby

Editor

23352 Farmington Rd.
Farmington, MI 48024

(313) 477-5450

John Reddy, General Mgr.

Thomas A. Flordan, Executive Editor

George J. Hagan, Advertising Director, Fred J. Wright, Circulation Director