

# Monday's Commentary

## Council election key to housing success

Supporters of senior citizen housing shouldn't rest on their laurels.

While the recent victory on zoning approval for the land on Drake and Freedom is reassuring, the battle is yet to be won. Barriers still exist and must be faced or setbacks could occur.

One of the big challenges is the

city council election. Deadlines for candidates to file is this week.

Early completion of the senior citizen housing program rests with who will be elected. If the legislative body's sentiment swings away from the concept, the program could be delayed for years.

Unfortunately, many persons

refuse to understand the relationship between politics and social programs. They mistakenly believe they will "soil" their hands if involved in a local political election.

Frankly, most elections are won by default — simply because so few persons get involved. Candidates are elected by a minority of a

minority of locally registered voters.

But political participation goes hand in hand with seeing socially significant programs through. The adage "To the victors go the spoils" has special meaning in the upcoming election.

All the years of hard work and compromise could go down the

tube if senior citizen housing opponents are elected to city council.

And there will be plenty of opponents running, although their intentions will be masked in rhetoric.

Senior citizen housing advocates must examine the candidates closely and decide who they best think will represent their interests.

In short, get involved. Do more than vote. Work hard for the candidates in which you believe.

While political participation might take away from the time you spend on recreational activities, it will be worth the sacrifice in years to come.

Your participation will ensure a better community for everyone.

## Cast aside those coats and keep business cool

It appears as though we're making progress at the local level when it comes to complying with President Carter's decree that businesses keep their thermostats turned up to at least 78 degrees.

Farmingington Metro Bank President Jim Wibby has come up with a super idea. Let's ban neckties and coats in all public buildings.

Jim is mailing out letters which outline his plan of attack. His angle is that if everyone agrees to abandon their coats and forget the ties it will become the business norm.

"This would be somewhat difficult for a single business to do as many of us are expected to present a traditional business appearance to the world," he says.

But united, we can win this energy battle. Frankly, I like Jim's next idea the best. He wants to kick off this drive by having a luncheon or dinner where ties would be burned or put in the deep freeze.

Posters and decals would then be handed out to participating businesses which would say, "we are saving energy by keeping our thermostats at 80."

"I am not suggesting we all become completely sloppy by wearing T-shirts and shorts to work, but only to take off coats and ties," he goes on to say.

Now you've got to understand that Jim isn't exactly what a person would label as a wild-eyed radical. He's simply out to make this world a little more bearable for the working stiffs who for years

have been forced to abide by certain rules to make a buck.

But Jim realizes that the whole darn situation has changed since our Arab friends have decided to be a little more stingy with the black crude.

After all, if you can't beat 'em, join 'em. You sure don't see any sheiks walking around with coats and

## Something oily is afoot in gas shortage saga

If there isn't a 40-year-old movie with a scene like this, there should be.

A young man and woman are sitting in the club car of a moving train, sipping wine and laughing as wheat fields pass by the window. They both wear hats. A newspaper dated 1939 lies on the tablecloth next to a cut-crystal vase.

"You had identity papers, yes? Traffic papers, no?" A Teutonic voice screams suddenly. It is the Inspector. He looks like Peter Lorre in a black uniform.

"In my country, you just get up and go when you want to," replies the indignant young man, as he takes the woman's arm and rises to his feet. He looks like Jimmy Stewart.

"Not so fast, pliz. We haf different customs," replies the Inspector.

Camera climbs above the brass glittering on his peaked uniform cap to focus on the wheat fields whizzing by. There are grunts and the sounds of rubber hoses at work.

"Especially on odd numbered days," screams the inspector.

GAS RATIONING is lurking out there, and pretty soon you may not need Peter Lorre checking travel papers to make sure you stay at home.

Last week, a sort of traveling black plague swept five Michigan cities. It was a fact-finding group out to test the waters of public opinion on two varying methods of gas rationing. The odd-even system already in use in several states was one of them. The other would set a minimum purchase requirement to eliminate the practice of needlessly topping off gasoline tanks.

Personally, I find neither of these methods repugnant. They might even be good for the economy — odd-even rationing would be a boon to somebody smart enough to market easy-off, Velveco license plate tabs. The \$10 minimum purchase would spur plenty of people to install 25-gallon gas tanks in Toyotas. This would allow them to drive from state to state until they found a pump without a line.

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## Farmington Observer

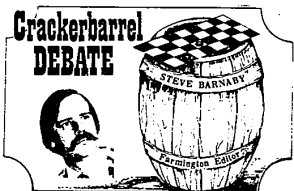
"Successor of the Farmington Enterprise"

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ties and they've got oil to dump in the sea.

But traditions die hard. This can be seen by the reaction to Texas U.S. Rep. James Maddox when he sauntered into the House chambers devoid of coat and tie.

House Speaker Tip O'Neill raised the roof with his big Irish voice, lauding the tradition of sweating it out on Capitol Hill. A majority of his less-than-progressive colleagues lauded his speech and booed Maddox.

But why wait to take our cue from Washington. Everyone knows that if we wait for our national leadership to take action, many of us will have succumbed to heat prostration.

And what good is a businessman to anyone when he's slumped over his desk, gasping for breath. So big deal, all you've got is a dressed up, overheated and grumpy victim of the energy shortage.

So business leaders, let's get Jim a hand. Whip off that coat, leave that tie to the wind and let's get on with business.

Damn the weather and full speed ahead!



Mike Scanlon

Something has to be done about gas lines and fossil fuel panics, and since I don't think my personal plan stands much chance of running the gauntlet of oil lobbyists, maybe rationing is a realistic answer. I still like my idea, though — every time a gas station runs out of gas, we all get together and hoist the chairman of the board of Exxon into the air, where he twists slowly until the pump no longer runs dry.

Two things, it seems to me, are at work here. First, Americans waste incredible amounts of energy. Second, a gasoline shortage in America is stupid, and will remain so for at least 10 more years.

This country is the world's primary consumer of crude oil, but it is also the second largest producer of crude oil. Something screwy is going on when, as was the case earlier this year, oil imports are up while gasoline supplies are down and oil companies PR flaks mumble something about Iran. I also don't understand the logic of restricting oil imports — if oil really is in short supply, whose oil do you want to use first? Ours, or theirs?

Charging world prices here is also stupid — we've got it, Europe and Japan don't, and simple arithmetic says they should pay more as a result.

It works that way with Perrier water, which is cheap in France and costs more than a buck a bottle in a lot of swank bars around here. So why not the same with gasoline?

On the bright side, though, think of the contribution to language made by the oil crunch.

This whole situation is giving the phrase "Burn, baby, burn," an updated, contemporary meaning.



by Jackie Klein

## Guru urges unity of faith

"Truth is one, many are its names."

That's the belief of Sadguru Sant Keshavadas, founder of the Temple of Cosmic Religions. The Sadguru (Sanskrit for self-realized master and expeller of darkness) often comes to Southfield to lecture at a branch of the church. He's hailed by followers as the "prophet of divine love and universal peace."

I met Keshavadas in 1977, and he's not your everyday, garden-variety guru. I'm not into Indian religions, but I was impressed with this man. He's articulate and charming, holds a law degree from Udupi Law College, Karnataka, India, is a gifted composer, musician, lecturer, teacher of yoga and author.

Vantage Press has just published Keshavadas' book, "Stories and Parables." In his mission to show the essential unity of all world religions, he has made 12 global tours with his wife and three children.

"Universal peace is a myth if religions divide man," Keshavadas maintains. "I have dedicated my life to spreading the word of one God. As Albert Einstein and Mahatma Gandhi predicted, interplanetary peace is possible only through universal love. Problems are created by hatred between religious sects in the world."

YOU MAY not agree with the 44-year-old author's firm belief that the future religion of the world will be mysticism, the voice of saints. But isn't it true that many a bloody battle has been fought in the name of religion?

In his new book, Keshavadas said he tells the stories of those who seek the way and who struggle to understand and accept the all-pervasiveness of God.

"Holy men and nobles, sages and common people try to attain oneness with God," he wrote. "Man must learn that only when he gives up all does the peace of God come to him. Then he learns that God is everywhere, but most powerfully he's carried in men's hearts."

"The forms of God are here, too, in stories of Rama And Krishna and the holy figures and saints. Their lives illustrate the manyness of God and his unity, the oneness of self."

When I last interviewed Keshavadas, he said he had established five temples on the east coast and others in India, Trinidad and London. About 500 devotees then lived in the Detroit area.

Keshavadas appeared on a number of Detroit area radio and television shows during his sixth visit here in 1977. Many persons came to him when Yoga groups first became popular.

"THEY LEARN I am giving meditation to them to attain universal consciousness," he claimed. "It is the meditation of light, asking God to illumine

one's intellect. The approach is Godward, emotion, devotion and knowledge.

"We have symbols of all religions in my temple. We worship through 'Mantra,' the word of God. That is also the way of healing which I have done successfully. We try to unite the world through songs, chanting, reciting scriptures and meditation. The songs of saints and messages of great masters light the way."

The American version of yoga, as I perceive it, is a relaxing exercise often done standing on one's head. I have friends who say certain mantras for concentration and clearing their minds of all distractions. They claim it works wonders for their psyches but has nothing to do with religion. It's like going into a trance.

But getting back to Keshavadas, he often lectures at a retreat in Vanderbilt, Mich. on land donated to the temple by Lowell Blumberg, an attorney and follower. Every September and October, the sadguru conducts a Himalayan retreat. He had an audience with Pope Paul VI with whom he discussed the harmony of all world religions.

On his birthday, July 22, during a three-day session in Virginia Beach, he married and remarried 108 American couples. They renewed their vows and expanded their consciousness, he said.

"LOVE BORN of wisdom solves the problems of humanity and unites the world," he said. "Love is the law of life. It is one sun that reflects in all ponds. Systems of faith may be different, but God is one."

Keshavadas said many parents believe they are losing their children to religious cults. Children who lack family and divine love, he maintained, come to a teacher who protects them and gives them psychological peace.

This view may well turn off all mothers and fathers, especially those who have children in "brain-washing" cults. But Keshavadas believes that to organize in such a way that children can't contact their families, kills the spirit.

"We don't alienate young persons from their parents," he said. "Leaders who think they are Messiahs lack humility and have lost the way to worship truth."

In 1961, Keshavadas established Dasashram International Center in India followed by other temples of Cosmic Religion around the world. As I recall, he didn't say he got the money for the temples from kids in the Hare Krishna movement.

Maybe I'm naive, but the sadguru doesn't impress me as a prototype of Rev. Sun Myung Moon whose Unification Church is supported by "Moonies." Keshavadas appears to be sincere and well-educated and some of his beliefs are valid. But, on the otherhand, I've never met Moon and I doubt if he'll ever come to Southfield.

## From our readers

### Caring wins season

Editor:

Last night our 10-year-old son, Gregory, went to bed with stars in his eyes, a glow in his heart and a plaque on his pillow which reads: "NFVB Minor League Champs — 1979." It had been a great baseball season for the American Minor League Yankees, but it had been much more.

There were so many lessons learned — like perseverance, diligence, team work and stick-to-it-ness. But most of all there was caring — really caring, and the encouragement offered on every front was the outstanding quality that shined brightest.

Every single team member learned and utilized a most important lesson

that life can offer — helping another individual to achieve his very best. This was truly a season of team effort and the boys did not fail to support each other.

Thank you Dick Geraghty, manager and Bob Giroux, coach for teaching the boys this lesson. You have given them more than just a winning season. You have given them a special kind of love that comes from feeling good about themselves and caring for those around them.

VIVIAN COHEN  
Farmington Hills

### READERS' FORUM

Letters must be original copies and contain the signature and address of the sender.  
Limit letters to 300 words.

### Road facts

the studies. Knowing that, his readers will probably also recognize that minority viewpoints are not always reflected in final reports and recommendations.

He also tried to ridicule the Road Commission as lacking expertise in transit planning. He ought to check his facts before speaking. In fact, the Road Commission has on its staff a transportation planner with significant experience in planning a multi-county transit system.

In fact, the Road Commission has drawn upon the expertise of outside consultants in formulating both the basis for its recommendations and the recommendations themselves. Details about the staff expertise and the consultant expertise have been published in a manner which gives Mr. Richard access to such facts.

JOHN L. GRUBBA,  
Managing Director,  
Oakland County Road Commission

## Gymnasts encouraged

Editor:

I would like to congratulate Loraine McClish on the very well written article about the Farmington Gym gymnasts which appeared in your paper on Monday, July 2.

Your fine feature article gave a lot of encouragement to girls who are participating in a sport which is very important to them, but does not ordinarily receive much public notice.

My staff really enjoyed creating their hairstyles, and I very much appreciate the accompanying publicity for my business, which as you know, is always very helpful.

My daughter, the other members of the team, and I all join in saying thank you for your generous coverage of this activity.

GRACE SCALIA