

Are schools hypocritical on smoking rules?

Are public schools hypocritical in their writing and enforcing students' anti-smoking rules?

There is some evidence they are. And yet there is room for hope. State Sen. Robert Geake, R-Northville, wants to remove the double standard and, more importantly, protect people's health in a bill he has introduced in the Michigan Legislature.

His bill, which is sure to go up in political smoke in the capital's backrooms, would prohibit smoking in public schools.

The ban would apply to both students and adults. It would apply not only to student areas but to adult lounges as well.

Purpose of the bill, said Geake, is to promote public health and discourage youngsters from

starting smoking. He cited American Cancer Society statistics that show 4,000 children start smoking every day in America.

Geake's point is clear: Smoking is the single most preventable cause of illness and death in America, and discouraging youngsters from taking up the habit would improve the nation's public health.

BUT HYPOCRISY will get the best of a good bill. School employees and adults who use the school buildings will insist that the state should have nothing to say about whether they smoke in school buildings, especially if they smoke in a room or section closed to students.

Many high schools — such as Livonia's Bentley

and Franklin and Garden City's East — have active student anti-smoking programs.

In those programs, high school students develop their own demonstrations among elementary and junior high pupils to show them that smoking damages their health and shortens their lives.

Geake's bill will probably go nowhere. But the reaction of most adults reminds us they would prefer to tell rather than show youngsters what (not) to do.

IF HIGH SCHOOL students are encouraged to teach younger pupils to avoid smoking in the first place, then adults at least can set a good example by snuffing out their own cigarettes in school buildings.

That adults may smoke in their own designated lounges in public schools isn't a good enough example.

The ash trays in the lounges, teachers' eating areas and offices — which students do visit — are evidence that adults aren't willing to give up the weed.

We wish Geake luck. Knowing the political and social realities of life, however, we realize he won't get far.

At least the senator, along with school persons who support his bill, will get high marks on trying to focus public attention on the problem of smoking and its harm to public health.

Shell favorite target as boycott takes shape

Watch out, big shot oil barons. The people are speaking loud and clear.

"We're fed up with padding the pockets of oil executives and Arab sheiks with our hard earned dollars," people are saying.

Some fool has been spreading the rumor that you folks out there are apathetic.

He hasn't seen the Observer & Eccentric mailbox.

Ever since Thursday, when I asked who was interested in selectively boycotting an oil company to bring down the outrageous prices, the mail has piled up on my desk in an unprecedented mound.

So far, we are averaging about 40 letters a day and are now in the hundreds. Our phone is ringing off the hook from persons wanting to know what they can do to stop the great American ripoff.

Don't stop sending in those cards and letters. Numbers count in this high-stakes game.

The excerpts you read on this editorial page are only a portion of the letters we are getting. The word is spreading all over southeastern Michigan.

BUT WE HAVE ONLY begun to fight.

Make copies of this column and the other Crack-barrel that have been written on the proposed boycott and take them to work to show your friends. Urge them to join the ranks of the concerned.

We feel this is a particularly important issue in the Detroit area because our livelihood depends on the automobile industry. While many factors are involved in the economic downturn of the American auto industry, one thing is certain: It's not going to get any better if oil prices continue to climb.

We can build all the fuel-efficient cars we want and still lose out — if the price of gasoline continues to be jacked ever higher by a clique.



All this talk about conservation was a joke. Saudi Arabia just announced it is cutting back production by 500,000 barrels a day in April and another one million by fall because we aren't consuming enough.

BY 1982, OPEC will have cut off an additional 3.3 million barrels a day, according to the Petroleum Intelligence Weekly.

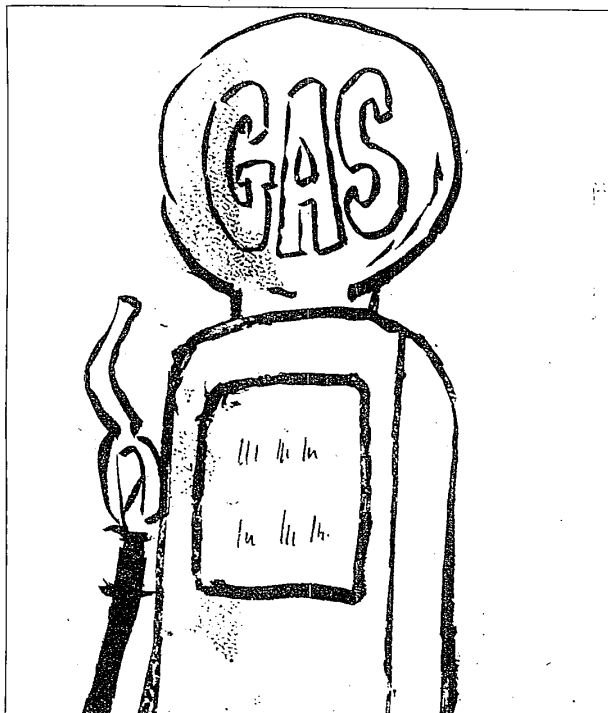
At the same time, OPEC plans on increasing its prices even more, according to the publication.

If you think \$1.50 is bad, think about \$2.50 or \$3 a gallon. How will that fit into your budget?

Forget all this nonsense about the oil companies using the profits for exploration. They're buying hotels, department stores and restaurant chains.

So far, you have told us that Shell Oil is your favorite target. But keep the opinions coming. We're going to let our politicians know how you feel. Then the real battle begins. We have ways . . .

Look for further information next week.



Readers are lining up to join Big Oil boycott

Editor:

If this letter will help in any way to do something about the horrible way we are being choked by the oil companies, I would be very grateful.

I don't know which company is the worst, but the Shell on my corner is always 10 cents more than anyone else. If only we could bring down the price by at least one-third.

MARGIE KURZMANN
Southfield

Editor:

We protest the price of oil. We are tired of going to the gas station and having the price increased by at least two cents every couple of days. We want to boycott Mobil Oil. The price should be brought down at least under a dollar.

MR. AND MRS. CHARLES OSBORN
Livonia

Editor:

Boycott the oil companies. Make it statewide, citywide, nationwide and for one month at a time. Start with Standard, Exxon, Shell, Mobil, independents included. And while we're at it, let Lansing know we'll not tolerate gas tax or license plate fee increases. We purchased small cars and drove less, as they suggested, and now, since their revenues have fallen, their "reward" to us is more increases. NO WAY!

Let them cut back like we are doing, or charge the true cost of gas. It is their rights that tear up the highways, not our little cars.

MR. AND MRS. KYLE ADAMS
Garden City

Editor:

I nominate Shell Oil as the No. 1 target of the boycott. However, I feel two companies should be involved — with good old Mobil Oil the second one.

C. BRENNERT
Plymouth

We are fed up with all the gasoline companies are ripping off the American people with their price gouging. It is our opinion that these gasoline prices are increased almost daily and are totally uncalled for since they raise the cost of gasoline on their existing inventories.

readers' forum

We were inundated with responses to last week's Crack-barrel Debate by columnist Steve Barnaby calling for a boycott of a major American oil company. Here's a sampling of your comments.

We would like to see a gasoline boycott against Exxon, Shell, Gulf and Mobil in that order.

Mobil Oil Corp. again this week is loaning \$55 million interest free to its subsidiary, Montgomery Ward & Co. Is this where the profit of the American gasoline dollar is going instead of drilling for oil? They already have loaned them \$355 million since 1980.

MR. AND MRS. RICHARD W. KRUGER
Southfield

Editor:

We have not had free enterprise since before 1900 anyway — when the form of large trusts and monopolies began. America has, now a form of private socialism that benefits large corporations and rich stockholders. I favor a movement toward democratic socialism with the people owning the large corporations.

Let's nationalize the oil companies and use the profits to reduce taxes and to look for alternative safe forms of energy like solar. It is refreshing to read a newspaper article in which free enterprise and capitalism is not treated like a religion.

Let's boycott like you suggested. It's too bad that there is no good public transportation in the Detroit area. Reagan should cut the military spending and start to build an areawide train/subway system in all our large cities.

TOM PINKERTON
Plymouth

Editor:

My target would be Mobil. Those darn, condescending commercials and advertisements drive me up the wall!

The "world price" is artificial and has nothing to do

with the production cost, and everyone knows it. If the whole thing didn't answer the oil companies' fondest dream, how fast do you think the cartel would be broken?

VIRGINIA CAMPBELL
Farmington

Editor:

I hope my letter arrives in time to add my protest to the "oil ripoff."

I would like to see Exxon receive our attention. I don't want them to starve, so I believe we can tolerate \$1.20, \$1.25 a gallon and hope if they bring the price down, they take it out of the paychecks the "big" executives make, not the little guy.

While you're at it, maybe you could organize a "boycott day" for the Detroit Tigers.

IRENE BERAS
Southfield

Editor:

Give the greedy bums a drubbing. Shell. (Reduce the price to 30 to 40 cents a gallon.

B.C. SZEWIC
Livonia

Editor:

We protest the high cost of gas — so the oil companies can get richer and we, the middle class, can suffer.

SHARON & DON PHILLION
West Bloomfield

Editor:

I am in full accord with what you are trying to do in regards to the way gasoline prices are becoming out of control.

When gasoline dealers prepare their price signs one week in advance of the price increase, they can no longer say they are just following the leadership of the guy down the street.

I classify this as premeditated and a scheduled ripoff.

I'm a Livonia resident of 22 years on fixed income. Let's choose the weakest supplier of petroleum products in this area as the number one recipient of our ire.

THOMAS P. CHISHOLM
Livonia

Editor:

I say pick Exxon — the biggest — for our attention. I cannot believe that gasoline prices doubling every two years is good for anyone but the greedy oil barons or Arab sheiks.

DAVID FABAIA
Livonia

Editor:

You're certainly right on the mark when discussing how the energy crises are being exploited for economic gain by the oil companies and the Arab oil sheiks.

DAN GREENBURG
Farmington Hills

Editor:

I thoroughly agree on boycotting the outrageous price of gasoline. Shell and Exxon are first on my list. I feel \$1 per gallon on no-lead and slightly less for regular gas would be a fair price.

ARVETA W. KOLOMPSKI
Westland

Editor:

The government states that decontrol of price is necessary to conserve gasoline. That is a lot of malarky. Decontrol is unfair to low-income and senior citizens who have to live on a fixed income such as Social Security.

If the government is serious about conserving gasoline, why not ration it so everyone, rich and poor, will or can purchase their minimum needs? As it is now, the low-income people cannot afford to buy any gasoline while the rich do not care how high the price soars, as even at \$5 a gallon they can get all they need.

As for high profits needed to look for more oil — what a laugh! Oil companies are buying up stores (Montgomery Ward), hotels and large businesses of all kinds. I am boycotting the big oil companies and buying minimum needs from the independents.

STANLEY TRUSKI
Garden City

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