

# In the matter of money, it's a topsy-turvy world

This is a topsy-turvy world. The Stroller came to this conclusion the other morning when he read the latest news while sipping his coffee. And with good reason.

There, in bold letters, he read that Ford Motor Co. had just exacted a \$1 billion pay cut from its hourly workers in an agreement covering the next 31 months. It mattered little that the news also revealed this meant a reduction of \$1 an hour in the wage-benefit package of each employee, dropping him to a "mere" \$20.50 an hour.

It reminded The Stroller that back in the days of World War I, when he toiled in the shops, top-rated mechanics drew 48 cents an hour — and we thought that was big money.

News of the Ford agreement came on the heels of an announcement that the famed J.L. Hudson Co. was laying off 200 employees in the downtown store; that highly-rated Hughes & Hatcher clothing stores were closing; and that the large Chatham Supermarkets company was on the verge of bankruptcy.

All this gloomy news couldn't be mistaken. The working man is in dire trouble. There is little hope of a cure for months to come — maybe the 31 months of the Ford pact.

THEN The Stroller's eyes popped when he turned to the sports section and read that Jack Morris, the Tiger hurler, was really dissatisfied with a \$300,000 raise for the coming season.

Paid \$150,000 last season, he was asking \$550,000 in a case that went to arbitration. The judge ruled against him and decreed he had to accept the Tigers' offer of \$450,000.

And he is peeved. Imagine that. A raise in salary of \$100,000 more than the president of the United States gets — added to the fact he would have to stop only every fourth day over a six-month period.

That wasn't all. There in cold type was the news that Sugar Ray Leonard, the prizefighter who stopped De-

## Is help really on the way?

By KAREN RICE

Sure, everybody knows things are bad in Detroit. But ever wonder how bad?

Well, they're sooooooo bad that . . . a relief fund is being set up in Richmond, Va., to help unemployed Detroiters whose benefits have run out. It's true, I heard about it on the radio when I tuned into a Richmond station one night.

Residents there are being encouraged to send in contributions to this relief fund, which will later be distributed to Detroit.

It's shocking to think that southeast Michigan is little short of being declared an economic disaster zone, but that is evidently not too far from the truth.

THEN THERE'S Pontiac. I don't know how many of you went to Pontiac when the Superbowl extravaganza hit town, but if you go back there now you'll find it hard to believe thousands of people flocked there for a week to enjoy themselves.

Party week before the Superbowl was like one big national drunk; the only problem is that Pontiac still has its hang-over.

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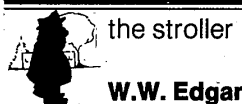
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**comment**

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the stroller

W.W. Edgar

troit welterweight Tommy Hearns some time ago, was paid \$1.5 million a week ago for slopping his foe in three rounds — less than 10 minutes of public work.

A few columns away was the news that Larry Holmes, the heavyweight champion who expected to be paid \$10,000 for defending the title next month, was peeved when the fight was delayed. He went on record saying he would have to have another fight before the newest day in June.

THEN ON THE BACK page was a series of pictures of men in women in the unemployment line — lining up for food stamps.

What a contrast! And all in one day's news. Folks literally starving and begging for work, while a fellow who works only every fourth day for six months is angry over getting a mere \$300,000 raise.

The Stroller has been a witness to many odd things in his lifetime. He remembers high industrial officials selling apples on the corners of downtown Detroit during the depression when the banks closed in 1929.

He recalls getting three 10-percent pay cuts in a single week with the payments being made half in cash and half in — with a note attached that the company hoped the scrip would be negotiable in a short time. These company-printed promissory notes were negotiable. But the mere fact that we were not paid in money made it something to remember.

Now companies are asking employees to take pay cuts while athletes are moping because they didn't get salary increases larger than the president's.

It sure is a topsy-turvy world.

## Teach all three?

# Another creation theory



Tim Richard

"Teach All Three" said the button on the short, squarely-built man's chest. But the somber look on his bronze face revealed Chief Sam Wabasso's campaign in the halls of the Michigan Legislature was getting nowhere.

A Chippewa Indian, Wabasso was looking for a friendly lawmaker to introduce a companion bill to one offered by Rep. Alan Cropsey, R-Dewitt. Cropsey, a graduate of the fundamentalist Bob Jones University, wants to require Michigan schools to teach "creationism," as well as evolution, in science classes.

WABASSO wants the Chippewa version of man's creation taught, too — hence, the slogan "Teach All Three." And he would trot out evidence that the Chippewa version has solid, scientific support — if he could get the fundamentalists to listen.

"This country," he began slowly, "was not settled by people who believe in your Judeo-Christian God. We 'Indians,' as you call us, are the native Americans. And while we find no fault with your beliefs, we want our native beliefs given equal weight."

As creationism has its recorded origin in Genesis, the Chippewa belief was collected by Nawadaha, the musician or "sweet-singer," who dwelt in the Vale of Tawawentasia.

Nawadaha's version is that Gitche Manito, the Master of Life, created the world and its inhabitants. "From his footprints flowed a river," one line says, and these giant footprints are our Great Lakes.

There's little of evolution in this tale. Gitche Manito seems to have made the species pretty much as they are.

"I have given you lands to hunt in, I have given you streams to fish in, I have given you bear and bison, I have given you roe and reindeer, I have given you brant and beaver. Filled the marshes full of wildfowl, Filled the rivers full of fishes. . . ."

**'Gitche Manito, the Master of Life, created the world and its inhabitants. From his footprints flowed a river, and these footprints are our Great Lakes.'**

pum beads possessed by the bear, Mishe-Mokwa.

Deep drilling of the mountains reveal veins of ore very much in the shape of a bear skeleton, said Wabasso, pointing to U.S. Geological Survey maps.

Nawadaha's tales reveal the seasons are caused not by some far-fetched tilting of the earth but by the annual wrestling event in March between Shingebis the diver and Kabibonokka the north wind.

I had doubts. No one, I reminded the chief, has ever witnessed such a wrestling match. What scientific evidence is there?

"POOF! you white-eyes think you have to see it yourself," said Wabasso. "Has any of you ever seen an electron, a white blood cell, or even genes? Your evolution is held together by a belief in the white priest Mendel's teaching about chains of genes called chromosomes. Have you ever seen a gene yourself?"

I hadn't, so I shut up and listened.

"Have you ever seen what makes a comet?" the chief went on. "Rarely. Once in a while, a white-eyes scientist finds a tiny lump of lead and theorizes the rest of the comet burned up."

"A comet is the princess Nokomis falling from her wing. She is rescued. Your scientists find lumps of lead because that is where their minds are, not on heavenly princesses."

We could have gone on for hours, but space doesn't permit. It did seem only fair to pass on to readers this third version of creation. I pass it on as an objective reporter, having no desire to debate the matter further with theologians or lawmakers.

The writer admits San Wabasso is fictional. The Chippewa tales are borrowed from "The Song of Hiawatha" by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, who in turn borrowed them from the reports of a Michigan territorial Indian agent named Henry Rowe Schoolcraft.