

# Tax-cut attitude hurts many

**T**HE SHORTSIGHTEDNESS of the anti-tax movement was driven home twice last week. Consider that a big issue in this year's Michigan legislative elections will be how our local heroes voted on the temporary income tax increase.

Consider the crowing and boasting which went on in Washington when Congress in 1981 passed a federal income tax cut.

Big victories for the anti-tax movement, eh?

The first example occurred when the Schoolcraft College board scheduled a "truth in taxation" hearing for 7 p.m. Wednesday. The college wants to levy its full voted 1.77 mills of property tax, without the Headlee rollback caused by assessment increases.

For our three-bedroom rancher — an average-sized house in the Schoolcraft district — the operating tax increase will amount to about \$5 for the year. When you subtract the reduction in the debt millage because a 1964 bond issue has been retired, the net increase in college property taxes will be less than \$5.

For this, a state law requires a public hearing? Big deal.

**NOW LOOK** at what has happened to students at Schoolcraft. Their tuition and fees will go up 15 percent — from \$22 a credit hour to \$25.50.

The average Schoolcraft student takes 7.6 credit hours a semester. So 7.6 hours times a \$3.50 an hour increase times two semesters amounts to a tuition increase of \$53 a year.

All without a public hearing.

All without a howl from the anti-tax folks.

I suggest we may be paying too little in state taxes.

That income tax is paid only by those of us still working. Many of those community college students aren't working and are trying to get some job retraining. They will have to scrape harder for their additional \$53 than the rest of us will for the \$5.

**THE SECOND** example involves a modest proposal in the U.S. Congress to levy fees on recreational boaters.

Now, Ronald Reagan and Jack Kemp are probably the only two persons left in Washington who don't think the 1981 income tax cut was too much, too soon. Everyone else is scurrying around, looking for things to cut or \$20 billion in new taxes to shorten the \$100 billion deficit.

Gov. William Milliken and the Great Lakes Commission are blowing the whistle at the proposal to levy fees of \$25 to \$200 a year on recreational boaters. Those boaters already pay a federal tax on gasoline, even though they don't sail their boats on federal highways.

"Michigan, which has more recreational boats registered than any other state — 666,884 — would be especially hard-hit if the proposed fee system is adopted by Congress," said the governor.

As you might expect, the anti-tax movement is silent on the boaters fee issue. The anti-tax movement is shortsighted.

**POLITICALLY**, we are seeing the old "divide and conquer" routine.

College students are a smaller group than taxpayers. So state officials cut appropriations for colleges, and college boards raise tuitions.

Boaters are a smaller group than taxpayers. So the federal government ducks from admitting it was collectively wrong about the 1981 tax cut, and seeks instead to levy boaters fees.

The anti-tax movement can be pretty shortsighted sometimes. Like last week.

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## comment

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### A world city

## Grand Prix gave us a boost

**S**O WHAT DID it all mean?

I'm talking about the Detroit Grand Prix. I've spent more than a few minutes trying to sort out my feelings about it.

At first, the Grand Prix turned me off. Maybe it's my not understanding international road racing. With its strong Monte Carlo tradition, the Grand Prix is associated with Europe, not the United States. Only one driver (Eddie Cheever) was from this country — and even that tie was tenuous. He was born here but has lived in Italy since he was two years old.

Also, the "jet set" image of the parties surrounding the event didn't add to my interest. Any environment that attracts socialites Tom and Diane Schoenheit is not for me.

Reading that the city of Detroit paid \$800,000 to pave the roadway for the Grand Prix made me wonder. This is the same city government that is cutting vital services to its residents. Remember the unemployed condition of Detroit's residential streets last winter?

Finally, I learned that local investors were spending about \$4 million in hopes of getting a return of \$2.5 million.

Something was wrong about the Grand Prix. If it wasn't good for Detroit, then it certainly would not benefit the suburbs.



Nick Sharkey

relieving some of the poverty.

Yet, these events help give Detroit a positive image among persons throughout this nation. That can only help to attract and keep more businesses and jobs.

Or here's another way to look at it: With all of the negative news coming out of Detroit because of the slump in the auto industry, what would its image be without the Republican convention, Super Bowl and Grand Prix?

**BY THE TIME** the Grand Prix was about to begin, I was a booster. I worried on Saturday when rain delayed the time trials and threatened Sunday's race. But the sun came through on Sunday.

Jim McKay and Jackie Stewart of ABC sports enthusiastically described the "friendly but cosmopolitan" people in Detroit to millions of viewers. ABC cameras showed the Detroit River filled with boats and the magnificent shoreline behind.

Even those familiar with the city had to think again of its virtues.

Now I can't wait for the return of the Grand Prix next year. Maybe I'll even learn what the race is all about.



discover Michigan  
Bill Stockwell

**DID YOU KNOW** food production could play a big part in helping to rebuild the state's economy? Already, agriculture and the related industries generate more than \$16 billion in the state's economy. Producing and marketing agricultural products spells jobs and income for the state.

## Neck brace opens the doors

**TAKE IT FROM** me, Rodney Dangerfield should wear a neck brace.

You know who I mean. That burly comedian who does clubs and television and always says, "I don't get no respect."

I don't have to ask Nick the Greek or take any bets at all. I know first hand. People who wear neck braces, those thick fabric collars with a place for your chin, well, they get respect.

The reason I can lay claim to expertise on this subject is that I've been wearing one since the latter part of April. Even worse, my doctor hasn't given me my parole date yet.

Every hour of every day when I am not eating or sleeping, this orthopedic apparatus and I are inseparable.

WHEN I walk around the newspaper office, people slow down and

walk around me as though their collision insurance were not paid up or something.

"Were you in an accident?"

"What happened to you?"

And, snidely, "What did you do to make your husband do that to you?" are the most common questions.

Mostly, I just say I'm much better than I was and on the mend. Outside the office, strangers seem shy about asking questions about the collar, but they do give me respect.

**EQUAL RIGHTS** or not, doors are being opened for me all the time. I'm offered a seat in crowded places and waitresses defer politely to my visual affliction and ask whether certain chairs are better than others or whether any chair is better than a booth.

Since I am only allowed to drive a car for a maximum of 10 minutes, I've been tempted to pull into a space allotted for handicapped persons once or twice. Each time I thought how grateful I am that my problem is a temporary one and I didn't do it.

MY AFFAIR with the collar, and

its no love affair, began when I developed a pinched nerve in my neck. Since I thought I was either becoming permanently paralyzed or was suffering a heart attack when the intense pain and numbness hit me, the diagnosis was good news.

It's tough looking fashionable, or even neat, with this goofy looking band around me. It looks just like the neck bands they put on horses to sweat them down in spots.

Any time now, I may get permission to fling it away, or into a drawer.

What I'm wondering is, when I look just like most everyone else walking around, will I miss all that respect I'm getting wearing this orthopedic oddity?

**THE GRAND PRIX** was on my mind last week when I read a story about the retirement of Rabbi Hertz of Birmingham's Temple Beth El. Hertz talked about the inner turmoil he went through when he moved the state's oldest congregation from its temple in Detroit to Birmingham. He said many persons, including Jews, had left Detroit for the suburbs, and he reluctantly decided he would have to follow them.

But he never lost his love for Detroit. He believes Detroit and its suburbs are linked.

"A city divided between the inner city and the suburbs will only result in frustration," he said. "We're all part of Detroit. It's one city."

That got me thinking more about the Grand Prix. A city is made up of many elements — some good and some bad. The ghettos and unemployment are part of that. And so are ethnic festivals, the symphony orchestra and the art institute.

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