

from our readers

Music man tells his side

Editor:

I read your article "Musicians fight to keep 'conductor clause' intact" with great interest as I am a member of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. May I please focus on one statement made by Oleg Lobanov and quoted by you in your Dec. 16th article.

"Suppose shortly before the music director's contract is up for renewal, he drills the players and makes them sweat. He will have to worry about his contract if the orchestra has anything to say about it."

I would assume that Lobanov means that we want control over the music director in case the job gets too tough. If we are made to sweat, then all we have to do is get another music direc-

tor that would make life easy for us.

If that is the case, then why did the orchestra members encourage management to hire Antal Dorati? And why were we so upset when he was kicked out? We knew he was tough even before he came here. He had a reputation for firing players right and left. We all knew he had a fierce temper. But we knew he was good and that he would whip us into shape in short order, which he did.

He fired two people and forced another into retirement. He insulted many players in front of their colleagues. The good players played better and the bad players began to show through. As far as some orchestra members were concerned, he didn't fine enough people.

He stepped onto the podium and told us it was our job to play and we had better do it. He told management it was their job to promote and raise money, and they had better do it. We

played our best and we were successful at home, in New York City and in Europe. The management either was not able or was not capable of raising the money, so they booted him out.

So it appears that in case the going gets tough, the management wants a way out for themselves. This can be done by hiring a conductor that would fit well into their plans. We want input into the selection of a music director because we don't trust management's judgment, which, except for Dorati, has not been too good.

We want to insure the quality of our orchestra at any sacrifice to ourselves. We don't want to make the job easy. (The job was easy during the Erich Leinsdorf era.) Can the management honestly say the same? I certainly hope so because only by mutual input can we hope to arrive at the best choice.

Bruce Smith
Farmington Hills

ing a certain area of Livonia would be advisable.

I believe in God and feel that this country is here for everyone and factions should not be allowed to destroy it. Some of the scary feelings I have today is that we are being destroyed from within. Divide and conquer.

We are seeing, in other parts of the world, what happens when church and state are joined. I don't want it here ever. My father's country was European, he came to this country because he wanted a better life.

Separation of church and state is the only fair way to have a better life.

Mary C. Mell
Livonia

Officer objects to coverage

Editor:

Once again a citizen's complaint about "police harassment" has made headline news in your paper ("Cops are 'out to get us,' party store owners say," dated Dec. 13, 1982).

It's unfortunate that your paper must sensationalize on such petty items. I must say that neither this most recent story by M.B. Dillon Ward, nor her last article pertaining to this same type incident ("Fair's dream turned sour by police" dated Oct. 21, 1982) has made me feel sympathetic towards June and Ted Kopp. It would seem that when a family runs an establishment that sells alcohol, that the family and their employees scrutinize more closely by those patrons who choose their store to make liquor purchases.

Perhaps that clerk did check some sort of identification presented to him, but if he has not the sense to examine it closely and make the appropriate decision whether it was valid or not, if he should sell to a minor, then he is in violation of the law and he, as well as that establishment, must face the consequences. There is much public outcry for stricter enforcement of the present liquor laws, and officer Cook was per-

forming his duty as he'd sworn to do the day he was hired as a police officer.

I am a police officer for the city of Farmington and truly feel that the Farmington/Farmington Hills police departments are among the finest in the nation. The respect of the citizens of these two communities are of great importance to me and it seems that your "community" newspaper capitulates on putting a damper on valued respect. I think that it is time for the editor to take a more responsible position and review more closely this poor example of journalism being produced by his writers. Meanwhile, we at the Farmington/Farmington Hills police departments will continue to provide nothing but the best police services possible.

Officer Vincent Ziegler
Farmington Police Department

Forefathers were preachers

To the editor:

In reply to Steve Barnaby's article "Preachers' pulpit is an unfair plat-

form to practice politics," I don't believe that he has ever read the Bill of Rights. If he had, he would know that it does not separate church and state (as the Russian constitution) but states "Congress shall pass no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

Who does Mr. Barnaby think our founding fathers were? They were the same preachers of the pulpit who overcame by the grace of the All-Mighty Lord, untold hardships to even get here, then more of the same to try and stay alive, and then had to overcome the mightiest Army on the face of this earth, who were determined to snuff out any rebellion from its colony, by rallying our countrymen... Yes they not only believed in preaching the Lord's Word on Sunday, but living their beliefs 24 hours a day.

Now there are yokes of bondage (including as in World War II when the New Age of Hitler, tried to get rid of God out of society) ensnaring our country's freedoms (including religion). We have to stop this oppression of those who would take it away.

Frank Feldt
Westland

oral quarrel

This week's Oral Quarrel question queried readers on whether they believed in Santa Claus or whether they believed others should believe in the jolly gentleman. Following are the responses:

• I believe in Santa Claus every-time I get my paycheck from week to week.

• I believe in Santa 'cause he's a good guy. He brings me all kinds of presents and we should all believe in Santa.

• I believe in Santa Claus because he brings me nice stuff every year. I think people should believe in Santa Claus because he brings holiday cheer. What do you think of that?

• Yes, Santa Claus, I do believe in you and I like you and I'll leave you cookies and milk. I want an Atari 5200. I'll be good.

• Of course I believe in St. Nicholas. I also believe in love, hope, goodness, compassion and dreaming the impossible dream. Long live St. Nicholas.

• I believe in Santa Claus because no matter how old I get, I will always believe in him because it's fun to believe.

• In response to your question, the Farmington Jaycees sponsored a gifts for needy children project this year. We had 85 children's names and tags were placed on trees in the Farmington area banks. We had a great response: 85 gifts were bought by the people of Farmington, and if that's any clue, I think all of us have a little Santa in us.

• Of course you should believe in Santa. Imagination and fantasy makes our own daily living more of a joy.

Keep church, state separate

To the editor:

I would like to say that it was wonderful to read in the Crackerbarrel Debate that there is still someone who remembers why our country was begun. Steve Barnaby had a fine piece in the Dec. 6 paper regarding the recent rash of religious pushes to change this government we hold dear.

As he said, it is nice to want high moral standards but the church has no right to tell people how they must think and act, especially from the front of a church or through a letter.

I never let my husband's union's wishes sway my thinking, and I have a dim view of what is going on in this country in the religious sense.

I met a very and event several years ago with an organization with clout in our local and other elections. I was asked to do a survey for this organization and, when they presented the papers, the person suggested that avoid-

W33 D18 H78 in. W33 D18 H78 in. W33 D18 H78 in.

ALL 3 PIECES \$995
Reg. \$1995

Sherwood Studios
Tel-Twelve Mail 354-9050
10412 Bally Road, 114

Holiday Sale!

Greg Shoes in Farmington and West Bloomfield is having a fantastic holiday sale!

Great Saving on Shoes and Boots!

ALL MENS SHOES 10% to 50% OFF

up to
1/2 Off and more

Women's Shoes and Boots
Children's Shoes and Sneakers

10% Off All Slippers
20% Off All Womens Socks

Bel-Air Center Farmington 477-2343

Greg SHOES

Orchard Mall West Bloomfield 851-5555 Sun 12-5

SALE

starts Monday
DECEMBER 20

WOMEN'S

SELECTED COATS, JACKETS, DRESSES,
SLACKS AND SKIRTS
SIZES 6 TO 16
PLUS SELECTED SHOES
25% and 30% off regular prices

BOYS'

SPORT JACKETS AND SUITS
PLUS SELECTED BLAZERS
AND ODD TROUSERS
SIZES 8 TO 12, 13 TO 20, 36 TO 40
25% off regular prices

BOYS' OUTERWEAR
SIZES 8 TO 20
30% off regular prices

ESTABLISHED 1818

Brooks Brothers CLOTHING

Furnishings for Men, Women & Boys
645 GRISWOLD CITY NATIONAL BANK BLDG.,
DETROIT-SOMERSET FASHION MALL, TROY

Save Santa A Trip.

BAKING DISH BOUQUET
Cheerful holiday candle centerpiece in an elegant Pyrex baking dish with a beautiful floral fabric design motif.
\$20.00 and up

FTD HOLIDAY GLOW LANTERN BOUQUET
Seasonal greens and fresh flowers in a copper lantern.
\$20.00 and up

- Fresh Boxwood
- Trees
- Festive Holly Baskets
- Gift of Fruit Selections

BEAUTIFUL POINSETTIAS
Guaranteed Long Lasting Red, White and Pink from \$4.95 to \$50

Harry Miller FLOWERS

DEARBORN 14900 Michigan Ave. 581-2328

FARMINGTON HILLS 27899 Orchard Lake Rd. 553-4444

Daily Delivery throughout Metropolitan Detroit
Visa and Mastercard Accepted

Mon. thru Fri. 8:30 am to 8 pm
Saturdays 10 am to 6 pm
Sundays 12 to 4