

# Wishing for a good year

If 1983 were my dream year then E.T. would phone home and find less hunger and human suffering, a chicken in every pot and a job for all who seek one.

- Our new governor would cut waste first and cut public education, at all levels, dead last.
- State Senator Jack Faxon would get a styled haircut before the opening of his Southfield art exhibit this week.
- Festival 2001 would draw more people to Southfield for a positive, cultural happening than Superbowl XVI brought to the Silverdome last January.
- Annetta Miller, the state's most dedicated public education booster, would be elected president of the State Board of Education.
- Clues to the mysteries of cancer, multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy and an entire alphabet of human ailments would fall like rain on the dedicated researchers of the world.
- Another Big 10 championship and another Rose Bowl victory for the University of Michigan football team would crown the career of Bo Schembecher.
- Neither injuries, slumps, nor flying leaps into sportsmanlike forays (by pitchers named Rozema) would deter the Tigers from their rightful division win, American League pennant and World Series victory.
- Our country would not outdo our Communist adversaries by killing unions such as the air con-



**Shirlee Iden**

trollers while the Polish government only wounds Solidarity.

- Use of terms like "revenue enhancement" for tax increase and "Peacemaker" for MX missile would become punishable offenses.
- A Southfield soup kitchen, currently on the drawing board, would become unnecessary as unemployment eases and the economy revives.
- A flock of "angels" would swoop down, pick up the pieces, and supply the monetary transfusion to assure the Thanksgiving Parade will roll again in Detroit, and the Bob-Lo boats won't sink.
- Lightning would strike those who say "more unique," "very unique," etc., etc. etc.
- Our country would export more books and fewer war toys to the children of the world.
- The Chinese would speak to the Taiwanese, peace would come to the Middle East, Africa, Afghanistan, Iran and Iraq and anywhere else I missed.
- Humans would use computers — and not vice-versa — in seeking beauty, vision, understanding, progress and the safety and well-being of humanity and the planet.

# Farmington Observer

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 (BAP)

# comment

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## New Year resolution Only worthy projects this year

LAST YEAR, I made only a minor New Year resolution — to stop eating pancakes. I can't understand why a guy who has learned how to get along without tobacco, alcohol, salt and money can't stop eating pancakes, but there it is.

I think it wasn't a challenging enough goal. This year I've decided to make more serious resolutions, ones which will encourage me to work toward benefiting not only myself but society. I have, therefore, pledged to work on the following projects:

**DROP-IN CENTERS FOR ADULTS** — A few years back all the parents and school officials were concerned about kids taking drugs — marijuana, LSD, amphetamines, barbiturates, etc. Cities and school districts combined forces to establish centers where kids could drop-in and rap with their peers with counselors about anything bothering them.



**Bob Wisler**

These centers would help kids understand their problems better, the backers said, and thus they could be weaned away from dreaded drug addiction.

I say it's time for all those kids to return the favor. They should all be drug-free and successful adults approaching middle-age by now. They ought to get together and establish some adult drop-in centers for our cocaine addicts. The volunteers could rap with the cocaine burn-outs to find out where they are coming from and explain how they put it all together in overcoming lesser addictions.

With this kind of counseling, the cocaine sufferers could get back to being productive attorneys, tax counselors, accountants, television and movie producers and child psychologists.

We would stop hearing about how

the problem affects people who can spend \$2,000 a week to make themselves think they feel good and get back to deliberating over the good old-fashioned basic American problems — recession, inflation, unemployment, mid-life crisis, boring marriages, backaches, the taste of tomatoes, etc.

**COMPUTER RECOGNITION** — Time magazine editors had an excellent idea when they picked the computer as the magazine's Man of the Year. Too often computers have labored away steadfastly and resolutely without receiving proper recognition.

I say more should be done to recognize the computer. How about computer Appreciation Week, with a proclamation signed by the mayor? How about Computer Day, some time in June?

The object, of course, will be to have a personality which the kids can look up to. Working together, parents, educators and business people will be able to establish role models for the adults of tomorrow.

"Look at ISOM23x," the parent, can say. "He never missed a day of school while he was being programmed and he has met his goal for work output each month for the last 33 months without once complaining."

The parent can compare his child with the family computer in an effort to get the child to behave more appropriately. "Why can't you be more like the computer," the parent will say. "Does he keep his lights on after 11 p.m.? No. Does he have other computers calling on the phone six times a day? No. Does he do all the housework he is supposed to? Yes. Why is it you have to be the rebel and he's so good?"

Having perfect computers as role models rather than imperfect brothers, sisters and other people will, of course, make children behave better and learn more.

**DEGLAMORIZING REPORTERS** — A few years back a couple of unknown reporters working for the Washington Post — Woodward and Bernstein — stumbled into the biggest newspaper story in the history of government.

Their enterprise and success in helping unravel the business known as Watergate was an admirable and unparalleled effort. It was, in fact, the courts which played the biggest role in uncovering the sordidness of the Nixon administration. But it was Woodstein which got most of the credit, in an avalanche of newspaper stories about the Post's Watergate stories and in the book and movie "All the President's Men."

Immediately the newspaper business was deluged by hordes of would-be journalists each of each of whom was sure he or she was destined to be an investigative reporter capable of bringing corrupt governments to their knees. Of course, as the law of supply and demand invariably proves, when there are hordes of job seekers, the price necessary to hire such people falls to its appropriate level.

And of course, as time has proven, there is just so much government corruption to go around. Not every reporter can bring governments to their knees. Even Woodward and Bernstein fell on hard times. After several months as a boring metropolitan editor of the Post, Woodward was shifted to a less demanding job. Bernstein was ousted from his highly-touted post as head of a TV Washington bureau.

I say it is time to counterattack, to put reporters in the proper perspective and discourage the eager beavers from flooding the market. Let's get reporters back on the public respect scale where they used to be, right there with cab drivers, Congressmen, waiters, and life insurance salesmen.

### Advice to parents

## Reading aloud helps children

The following guest column was written by Harriet Hartman, a reading specialist.

"What can I do to help my child meet with success in school?" Parents frequently ask this question. If I had to choose one activity to suggest to parents, it would be to read aloud to your child as often as possible. It is important to remember that reading aloud benefits children of all ages.

Hearing correct language patterns, being exposed to a rich vocabulary, and learning about other people and places carry over to the formal reading process. Also, reading aloud stimulates independent reading and leads to library experiences, book clubs, and a love of books.

For preschool and beginning readers, choose easy readers for the most part. Books with a repetitive pattern, poetry and rhymes are excellent. When children ask for the same story over and over, give in because this is a way for children to practice beginning reading.

Favorites of this age group include: "Where the Wild Things Are," Maurice Sendak; "The Very Hungry Caterpillar," "The Grouchy Ladybug," Eric Carle; "You Read to Me, I'll Read to You" (poetry), John Ciardi; "Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day," Judith Viorst.

Others: "Ira Sleeps Over," Bernard Weber; "Fortunately, Unfortunately," Roy Charlip; "I Love My Antaeus with an A," Dahlia Ipar; "Leo, the Late Bloomer," Robert Kraus; and "The King Who Rained," Fred Gwynne.

STUDENTS in upper-elementary grades love adventure, suspense and humor. And they still love being read to. Continuing stories are effective; reading a chapter each evening keeps one's interest high.

Some popular books are: "Sounder," William Armstrong; "Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing," Judy Blume; "Charlotte and the Chocolate Factory," Ronald Dahl; "The Great Brain," John Fitzgerald; "The Haunted Mountain," Mollie Hunter; and "Soup," Robert Newton Peck.

You may be able to corner junior high students for a story in between their phone calls. At least start reading to them. Hopefully, they will finish the book on their own.

New titles for this challenging age include: "Fawn," "A Day No Pigs Would Die," "Millie's Boy," Robert Newton Peck; "The Chocolate War," "I Am the Cheese," Robert Cormier, and Judy Blume books. All ages love Sil Silverstein's "Where the Sidewalk Ends" and "The Atlas."

Reading aloud generally tapers off at the high school level. However, you may try sharing passages from a book that you have enjoyed.

The importance of reading aloud cannot be minimized. There is definitely a carry-over from this activity. To the areas being taught in school. In addition to practicing and reinforcing basic reading and language skills, you are developing a love of books in your child and spending time together in a meaningful, valuable way.

— Harriet Hartman

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**VEILLETTE om**

**Arthritis Today**  
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**WHAT CAUSES JOINT INFLAMMATION**

In my last column I discussed the effect of inflammation on the joints. Today I will focus on the events that initiate inflammation and cause it to continue.

In rheumatoid arthritis the problem begins when an irritant enters the blood stream. In traversing the hairpin turn of blood vessels in the joint, particles of irritant lodge in the joint area.

The body recognizes the irritant as a foreign substance and develops antibodies to it. When the antibody and irritant come together in the joint, white cells enter the area to clear the tissues of the antibody-irritant combination.

However, this effort destroys the white blood cells. Enzymes and acids usually locked into the cell now spill out into the surrounding tissues. Irritation to the tissues result and bring in more white cells causing continuation of the events that we see as inflammation.

Armed with this understanding, the rheumatologist views his role as being more that to provide pain relief. Additionally, it is his responsibility to undertake therapy that will end the cycle of events that is the source of the patient's pain.

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