

Opinion

Steve Barnaby editor/477-5450

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Most sympathize with soup kitchen recipients

Oral Quarrel asked our readers how they feel about persons who eat in soup kitchens.

Following are the responses:

There may be some people leaching from the soup kitchens, but with our horrible unemployment problems, the vast majority of those who eat at soup kitchens truly need to do so.

Your paper covers suburban areas, and your readers seldom see hunger. They see nice lawns, two-car garages, Cadillacs, shopping centers. The people are hungry. All you have to do is go to the city to see that, and sometimes you don't have to go into the city. People who eat in soup kitchens are hungry and are not there to save money. They are there because they are hungry.

I feel you have to qualify for soup kitchens, and if you do there should be some kind of identification that you would give the person so that when you go down to the soup kitchen you would know that these persons are not just coming there just to eat for free. Some kind of identification or card to show that they qualify.

I think some of the people who eat in soup kitchens really are hungry. I think then again the majority of people are just going there for a free meal. Just some place to go.

I think it is great because I couldn't afford to feed them myself, and then I don't even have to do the dishes.

I think there are quite a few people who eat in soup kitchens don't really want to be there at all. They desperately want to find a job and it's not possible. I continue by saying that President Reagan is out of touch with this and what he has done is uncalled for.

I have personal friends, husband and wife, who eat at soup kitchens all the time because it is free. They can afford to pay for it, but they say they don't check and it's free.

I think it's gross.

I would repeat exactly what Edwin Meese said in his statement.

As a person who has been unemployed and looking for full-time work and not getting much part-time work, the people who eat in soup kitchens — I understand their feeling very well. If it wasn't for the help of some, there would be a lot of people going hungry. What we need is to share the jobs.

oral quarrel

Just posing the question you have just shows your callous disregard for the hungry people in our city.

I would have to agree with Edwin Meese. I believe that a lot of people are in the soup lines just to get a free meal. I go into the homes of many of the people down in the inner city that are on welfare. I see some of the furnishings in the

home, and some of it is very expensive. I also see a lot of fancy expensive new cars in driveways. I feel it's not just a few.

There are many people who truly need to eat in soup kitchens. However, there are many, many people I know personally that just go there because it's cheap and it's fun to be with a lot of people and they are

lonesome. There are senior citizens who have more money than you can imagine who go there even though they really do not need it.

The majority of people who eat in soup kitchens are poor, lonely and desperate. They are eating there because it is probably one of their last chances to get a hot meal.

People who eat in soup kitchens must be very hungry. They must be down and out and have exhausted all other sources of food because there is inherently some measure

of degradation involved in admitting publicly that you have used all your resources and need public charity in order to survive. I pray for them and thank God I am one who can give. When I think of them I feel angry about the waste of societal resources and guilty for any part that I have in that waste. I feel compassion. I pray that they can find a way to feed themselves without such a stigma.

They are just people like you and I who are just sharing in God's wealth.

Mother-daughter relationships are explored by writer

OFTIMES, A researching author opens up a Pandora's box or a can of worms needing only to be sealed again and left alone.

Karen Payne's search took her into the relationship between mothers and daughters as revealed through letters and resulted in a book called "Between Ourselves."

She recently described how she became interested in the mother-daughter relationship. "Talk was that it was dreadful, that a generation gap existed, and things were getting worse and worse."

Payne decided to see what happens in this relationship at a time when conditions for women are changing, women are different, and their relationships with men are often consummated without marriage.

"I listened to how women communicated between themselves," she said. She also circulated an open letter about her book so people would know about it. Some filled in her forms and returned them.

PAYNE, who lives in England, traveled through the states in 1980 visiting 10 cities. "I went to women's centers, newspapers and magazines, and I decided this was a story worth telling."

She also decided to use historic letters, even though in making the decision, she didn't yet know if such letters existed.

"Between Ourselves," published in this country by Houghton Mifflin, spans continents and centuries and gives readers a peek into the lives of famous and ordinary women.

"I looked at the suffragettes," Payne said. "I found that Florence Nightingale had a terrible row with her mother about being a nurse."

"And people threw fruit at Elizabeth Blackwell, the first woman doctor, but her mother supported her."

BORN IN Brownsville, Texas, in 1951, Payne attended Pitzer College in California where she studied English and philosophy. She worked as an editor and researcher here and in Europe and was first assistant director on the film adaptation of Doris Lessing's novel "The Grass is Singing."

Five years ago, she went to England with a friend and decided to stay there.

Several times, the book was turned down, but Payne found a publisher in England. "The editor worked with me," she said.

She's very pleased with it. "I found the mother-daughter relationship not as diabolic as people think. Mothers supported and encouraged daughters to seek out their dreams for the most part. Women do try to understand one another."

Payne said her painstaking research was very discouraging at times. "But early on, the time came when I knew I'd succeed."

"A big packet of letters came to my mailbox from a Jewish woman and her daughter. This wound up as an entire chapter of the book. That moment gave me hope."

AMONG THE noted mothers and daughters whose correspondence appears are Queen Victoria, Helen Keller to her mother, George Sand, Louisa May Alcott and Amelia Earhart.

And if it wasn't for Karen Payne, I'd have never known of Helen Claes, born in Detroit, and her daughter, Christina Claes Flaxer, a painter.

"Let me have a baby or give me a divorce," the mother said to her husband after 14 years of marriage, and so her Tina was born.

Years later, Helen Claes wrote Payne about her own idea of motherhood: "What I wanted most for my daughter was that she be able to soar confidently in her own sky, wherever that might be, and if there was space for me as well, I would, indeed, have reaped what I had sown."

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