

Opinion

Steve Barnaby editor/477-5450

23352 Farmington Road/Farmington, MI 48024

Philip Power chairman of the board
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Daughters should be given same chances

TO SOME folks this is Jaycee Week. But for others of us, this is the week to honor those who are denied membership in that organization despite their contributions to society — women.

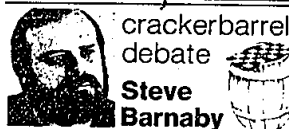
This year is especially appropriate considering the recent report by the U.S. Census Bureau showing that women have actually lost ground in wage parity over the last decade.

Imagine, in 1970 women entering the marketplace earned 86 percent of the average wages paid to men who were starting work. After a decade of struggle for equality in the workplace, their average has decreased to 83 percent.

Even worse, those women who started work in 1970 have seen their wages, compared to men with comparable experience, decrease from 86 percent to 68 percent.

I offer no apology for the anger I feel at this deterioration. I give no quarter to those who offer feeble excuses.

I only look at my daughter, who has lived barely a decade, and grieve over the discrimination she will face and the battle she is destined to fight because our society fosters a philosophy of separation for men and women.



crackerbarrel debate
Steve Barnaby

Like any father, I would like to fight the battle for her, to protect her from the hurt. But time is passing quickly — too rapidly for the millions of fathers who want to see their daughters have an equal chance.

DESPITE ONGOING discrimination, more and more women are breaking the psychological bonds of subservience. They are persevering in the face of discrimination based on ignorance and fear.

The recent television dramatization of the Willmar, Minn., women is an inspiring example.

For three years, these valiant women fought their employer who had forced them to train men who were then promoted to higher paying, more influential jobs. The women went on strike, lost their

jobs and faced rejection from neighbors, friends and family in a community where escape was impossible.

No, this didn't happen in 1927 or even 1957. It happened in 1977.

But don't kid yourself. It continues. And a person only has to look around to see that society provides, and even lauds, an environment which fosters this discrimination.

From the beginning of life, men and women are taught to be separate, to learn different values, play different games, read different books and seek different careers.

We allow our school districts to divide boys and girls into separate teams and sports. Former presidents, actors and business executives who give lip service to equality get on television and promote the

virtues of the Boy Scouts.

Certainly, these are all seemingly well-intentioned actions. But it's time we questioned practices, no matter how well-intentioned, which discriminate against the daughters of our nation.

WE CERTAINLY should question the validity of an organization whose creed vows: "That the brotherhood of man transcends the sovereignty of nations; that economic justice can best be won by free men through free enterprise," and which goes on to exclude women from its ranks.

Those who cotton to that creed should open their eyes and take a look at the real world. In the Farmington and Farmington Hills area, they should look at:

• Mary Wagner, director of the Community Living Centers.

• Josephine Bushey, Farmington city clerk

• Margaret Schaefer, district court judge.

• Jan Dolan, hospital board trustee, activist in behalf of senior citizens and

Farmington Hills councilwoman.

• Joan Dudley, educator and politician.

• Joann Soronen, executive director of the local Chamber of Commerce, Farmington Hills councilwoman and board member of the regional transit authority.

• Emma Makinen, school board trustee.

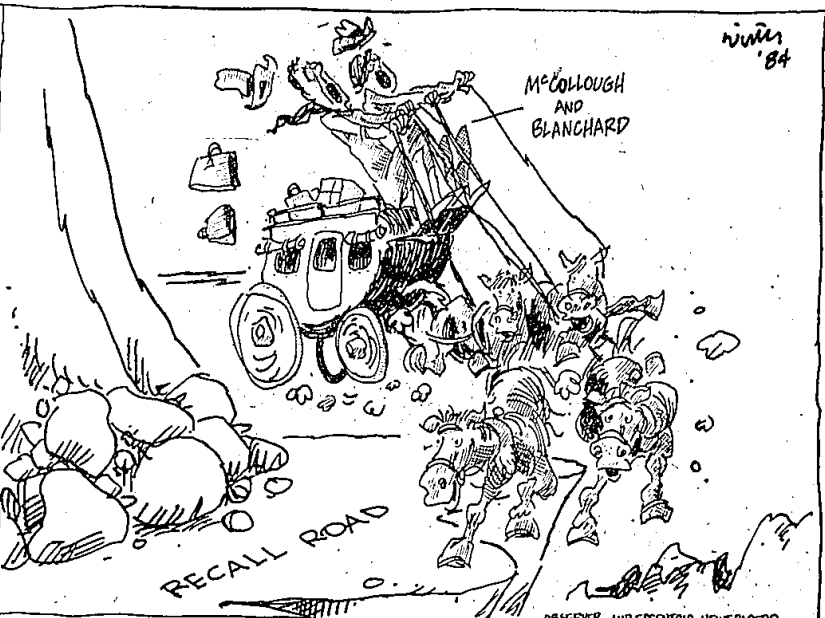
• Helen Prutow, school board trustee.

• Susan Rennels, savings and loans executive and school board trustee.

• Janice Rolnick, businesswoman and Farmington school board trustee.

These are women who persevere despite organizations which foster the exclusionary rule.

These are all women who have learned that "service to humanity is the best work of life." These are the women who are fighting the battle for future generations. We — my daughter and I — thank you.



Will lower taxes aid McCollough?

GOV. JAMES Blanchard's decision to sanction a cut in October of the state personal income tax came after he said he would oppose any cut before January 1985. At that time, the rate is scheduled to drop from 6.1 to 5.35 percent.

Blanchard's most recent statement indicates that he is willing to have the rate cut to 5.35 percent Oct. 1 rather than Jan. 1.

It isn't much of a concession. The person earning \$20,000 a year would save about \$2 a week, or \$25 over three months. The decrease probably won't satisfy most taxpayers.

BUT THE MOVE could have been calculated to give the governor some time and leverage in dealing with legislators who are intent on a pre-election tax cut.

And it could have been designed, in part, to help state Sen. Patrick McCollough, D-Deerborn, escape the wrath of an outraged public. McCollough, who represents Garden City, Dearborn and Dearborn Heights, was a candidate for governor only four years ago, after two terms in the Senate. After a four-year layoff, he came back last year to be re-elected state senator.

McCollough's chances of escaping the recall scythe aren't good, even if Blanchard campaigns for him. Recall organizers have turned in sufficient signatures to order an election. If enough signatures are valid, the election will be held in March.

Even his colleagues in the Legislature seem to have given up on him when they reappointed their districts recently.

Democrats allowed huge Republican hunk of Livonia to be shifted to McCollough's district. The theory may have been that McCollough is a goner anyway, so why worry about protecting his Democratic lead in the district?

THE LOSS of McCollough would be another blow to the Democratic administration. Two recalls have cut the Democrats' 20-18 Senate majority to an 18-18 tie. One



Bob Wisler

Democratic senator is incapacitated, leaving Republicans an 18-17 edge which should grow once elections are held to replace the recalled senators.

If McCollough somehow could escape recall, the administration would have a victory which would reverse the anti-Blanchard, anti-tax tide.

But those who think McCollough might escape are counting on Democratic voters to support him. His district is much more Democratic leaning than those of the departed Philip Mastin and David Serotkin.

Of course, this supposes Republicans are much more upset by the state tax hike last year than Democrats. It's possible Democratic voters in McCollough's district may be just as eager to send Lansing a message as were conservative Republicans in Mastin's district.

BUT THE BIGGEST reason for Blanchard's revising his previous stand on the tax cut is that the Michigan economy is recovering at a nice pace. Unemployment has dropped from near 17 percent to some thing over 11 percent. Public assistance cases have declined.

With more people working and paying state taxes, state coffers have gotten healthier. Instead of a \$900 million announced deficit the state had at the beginning of last year, we now hear that the state has up to a \$200 million surplus.

But the likelihood persists that the majority of the public will remain unsatisfied with symbolic gestures and their mood will be communicated to state representatives, who will look for an even bigger tax cut before they face voters Nov. 6.

Television: tool or tyrant for today's school kids?

MARJANE BAKER was worried about the effects of television programming on youngsters. Because she is a teacher of fifth graders at Allen School in Plymouth, she has a particular interest.

Baker noticed that her students' conversations revolved around favorite TV programs, shows watched the previous evening and commercials featured on TV.

Baker decided to do something about it. She had her students study the viewing habits of other grade-school children.

"I wanted to make the children more aware of television and its effects on them," she said last week. "I hoped that if they studied television, they would approach it with more purpose and give themselves more time for activities like reading."

That was three years ago. Since then Baker has had her Plymouth grade-school classes conduct the TV project every year.

This year 28 children surveyed the TV viewing of 480 Allen School children. Written surveys were given to students in the third through sixth grades. Children in the first and second grades were interviewed.

RESULTS OF THE study were eye-opening:

• 32 percent of the students have a TV in their bedrooms. "I would recommend



Nick Sharkey

that parents move TVs out of bedrooms," Baker advised. "Bedroom TVs give children too much freedom and encourage unsupervised viewing."

• 34 percent have no rules for watching television. The most frequently mentioned rules are: "Don't watch certain shows" and "Do homework before watching TV."

• 24 percent said that if they had to choose between television and friends, they would give up their friends. Asked to choose between toys and television, 47 percent said they would give up their toys. "Parents should see if television is becoming too important to their children," Baker said.

Children's favorite programs (in order) were "A Team" and "Webster." Allen School children use many other types of video equipment including: cable television, 55 percent; home computer, 25 percent; and video cassette recorder, 28 percent.

SO WHAT HAS the study meant to the Plymouth students?

Besides learning new skills of interviewing and organization, some have changed their TV viewing habits.

Earlier this school year, the fifth-grade class presented its results to a group of parents. One mother asked if any of them had been affected by their work.

"I used to be a TVaholic," one girl confessed. "I watched TV four to five hours every school day and eight hours on weekends. Now I'm down to two hours a day."

During another presentation last week, student Jonathan Tkacz said: "My mom recently asked me if I wanted to watch television, and I said 'no.' I now know there are more things to do with your time than watch television."

IN HISTORICAL TERMS TV is a new baby. No one knows its long-term effects.

But many people are worried. Some have joined The Committee for Children's Television in Birmingham, a group of volunteers which monitors TV and regularly reports its results. Anyone interested can contact them at 6255 N. Telegraph Road, Birmingham 46010.

As Marjane Baker says, "Are you going to allow television to be a tool or a tyrant for you and your children?"

from our readers

Benefit ballet was a sellout

To the editor:

We, as co-chairs of the 1983 Nutcracker Ballet Benefit for Children's Hospital of Michigan, wish to thank you for publicizing this year's stellar event. The Dec. 22 performance of the much-loved holiday ballet at Ford Auditorium was a sellout. We also thank the residents of Metropoli-

tan Detroit area for their part in making this gala event a financial success.

Since all proceeds from this performance will be used to equip the new nuclear medicine department at Children's Hospital, the ticket sellout has a special significance. . . . It indicates that our community has a great love and concern for all the children who are served by Children's Hospital of Michigan.

Mercedes Lichtwardt
Blanche Benton
Children's Hospital of Michigan Auxiliary