

# Opinion

Steve Barnaby editor/477-5450

23352 Farmington Road/Farmington, MI 48024

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(B7A)

## oral quarrel

This week Oral Quarrel asked readers: What will life be like for the great numbers of senior citizens in the next century?

Following are the responses:

Very poor, I would say. According to recent government statistics, only two

out of 100 people who retire at 65 have any money. The rest must rely on relatives, friends or charity, so life in year 2000 or so won't be very good unless people invest their money. Further statistics I have read say 85 or 70 percent of people buying houses today have no financial base and are way above their heads.

Pretty dismal, I'm afraid, for what will be left of the American senior citizens. We have already seen in the last few years the legalizing of the convenience killing of the unborn, the more recent attempts to legitimize willful neglect and starvation of newborn de-

fected infants, the growing propaganda toward euthanasia and the suggestion that the elderly should consider it their duty to die.

If we weren't becoming so dehumanized, we might not face the prospect

that their offspring might be saying "Move on, Gram, let's not waste the results of your hard-earned income on your selfish survival. Why that's depleting our inheritance." Rather said, I'm afraid.

As a volunteer, I am seeing the sad

results of the neglect and the indifference of children toward their elderly parents. They seem to consider them a nuisance rather than a wonderful source of love and enlightenment, and I don't know what they teach in geriatrics courses that are sometimes appalling in practice. We have no respect for dignity for the elderly in the good old USA.

# ACLU honoring tireless Margaret Tyson

TALK ABOUT champions! Even the Tigers take a day off, but some winners stay in the game every day.

Margaret Milliken Tyson, champion of the oppressed, has been fighting down in her persistent battle for justice and a fair shake for everyone.

A few weeks back when the metro area was obsessed with the Michael Jackson appearance at the Silverdome, Maggie was there. While thousands inhaled the music of the charismatic star, our star was out in the parking lot registering voters.

Since this is the day Columbus Day is observed and Tuesday is the very last time Michigan citizens may register to vote on Nov. 6, Maggie's probably lining up allies to move a lot of folks who have no wheels at all to the registration places in Oakland County.

You may never have heard of this gallant woman, a resident of Bloomfield Hills, whose best friends live wherever people seek their civil rights and the promise of America. She's been in good company with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. when he led the Walk to Freedom on June 23, 1963;

meeting with activists Jané Fonda, Stokely Carmichael, Dr. Benjamin Spock and Cesar Chavez.

MAGGIE'S the type of unassuming person who thinks no one notices her work and her grit. Now it may be overdue, but someone has noticed. On Sunday, Oct. 28, Margaret Milliken Tyson will be the honoree at the third annual Oakland County ACLU Dinner.

It will take place at Santa Hall, Keego Harbor.

Maggie, foe of the Vietnam War and sympathetic to human needs, fit into this grass roots campaign, which made an impact.

Making an impact has been the story of Maggie Tyson's adult life. The youngest child of an inventor, Mahlon G. Milliken, she remembers accompanying her mother, Hattie Fuller Milliken, to deliver food and clothing to the poor during the Depression in her birthplace in the South.

"SHE INSISTED that our whole family try the 'relief diet' of soup, bread, and cheese on several Saturdays to gain understanding of what the unemployed were going through," Maggie said of her mother.

But the ACLU honoree also recalls that her parents, distrustful of the public schools, sent her to a Quaker Friends School "where I absorbed the concepts of brotherly love and peace along with basic education," Maggie explained.

After earning a degree in botany, she worked at the Dupont Institute for Crippled Children in Wilmington, Del. One Dupont salesman, Ralph Tyson, whom she met on a blind date, became her husband, and fathered their four sons.

Moving to Birmingham in 1955 was a turning point in her life, she said. Locally and nationally, she has marched, spoken, advocated for the underprivileged.

In 1959, a highly publicized "Pontiac Sixer," she helped staged a sit-in at the board of education offices fighting to



Shirlee Iden

desegregate Pontiac's schools. When they were jailed, it was an ACLU attorney who came to help. Later, the six conducted their own defense for criminal trespass, lost, and got two years of probation.

"But we won our fight to have the new high school built in the center of town so all of the citizenry today have access to it," she said, proudly.

A dynamic church, Northminster Presbyterian has been another base for uplifting activities. "The message I finally got was that it really didn't matter how pious I was — I had to start working for justice in this world," she said.

WHEN the church stood for open housing, Maggie stood with the cantaners, the Roundtable of Christians and Jews, and later with BOOM (Birmingham-Bloomfield Open Occupancy Movement) and VOCAL (Voice of Oakland County Action League).

She was part of an area Council on Human Relations when it published a two-page ad in the Birmingham Eclectic with names of 3,511 people supporting fair housing in the school districts in Birmingham and Bloomfield. "Less than two years later, Birmingham became one of the first, practically all-white suburbs in the country to pass a fair housing law," she recalled.

Maggie's work is done hand-in-hand with the desperate and downtrodden she seeks to help from within a long list of helping organizations.

Nobody's telling who proposed that she be so honored Maggie said, but what's fine is that her status as caring community asset is being shouted.

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**Treatment, Recovery and Aging Joints**  
Physicians face a problem when treating older individuals with joint pain and decreased ability to walk. Often older people grow impatient with their limitations and want to recover faster than nature will allow.

Even when one is otherwise in the best of health, it is difficult to speed up the healing of joints with medicine or injection. In many instances the role of treatment is to make the healing process less painful, rather than to accelerate repair.

You may ask: "Why not add or change medication?" However the elderly often are sensitive to the side effects of medication with the result that such a change can be more hazardous than the condition being treated. Therefore it is not always considered good practice to add more medicine when the one currently being used isn't working as quickly as you would like.

At times, the patient interprets this reluctance to change therapy as meaning the doctor "wants me to live with my pain." What the physician is doing is making a deliberate pause. The healing forces set in motion by treatment still need time to act.

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