

Meaning of 'good life' has been lost

The letter said that "the good life Americans once enjoyed was threatened — for many, it seemed impossible to achieve."

This was stated immediately following a paragraph describing the condition of the U.S. four years ago when annual inflation was running over 12 percent, prime rate climbing, unemployment rising and excessive taxation preventing "families from enjoying the fruits of their hard work."

To be sure, this is political rhetoric, and cannot be trusted for any length of time. Political interpretations and judgments change frequently.

The association of the "good life," however, with the experience of lower taxes, interest rates etc. has been an important ingredient in 1984 campaign rhetoric, and claimed often



Rev. Lloyd Buss

enough to make it something more than mere talk for show and effect.

The American public is quite prepared to believe that the "good life" comes through lower taxes, just as a number of politicians claim that it does. That is most regrettable.

Basing the "good life" on economic or material goods has been a common experience through history. Both the Old and New Testaments record the

experience of material being.

The "good life" comes to those who care for others, who reach out in service, who share the gifts of providence and strive daily to effect justice throughout the land.

Political rhetoric is much like the morning fog. As more and more light penetrates the dense concentration of partisan notions the more one is able to see. Unfortunately, being able to see the needs of our society has not spurred us on to action.

We would rather not see or learn what could be done with a people of our resources. We settle for rhetoric and close our eyes to the "good life" people have when they love God, their neighbors and themselves in equal measure.

people of God desiring the accumulation of things instead of carrying out the will and commands of God.

And both Old and New Testaments are pleading and withering in their denunciation of this consumption that destroys the community fabric.

The Judeo-Christian heritage has clearly based the "good life" in the care of life and not its acquisition nor

volunteers

The Oakland County Volunteer Bureau (OCVB) has a current file of volunteer opportunities for more than 200 agencies. Non-profit organizations needing assistance may list with the bureau. For more information about these and other volunteer openings, call the bureau at 642-7272.

PERINATAL COACH AND AIDE — Oakland Family Services needs coaches and staff for its program of counseling and support for new or first-time parents. Coaches will visit. Staff members will handle articles of interest for them.

SPECIAL FRIEND — Friendly, patient individuals who love children are needed by Wing Lake School to befriend retarded children and become his/her "social life" during schooltimes. One or two days.

BP TAKER — Volunteers with good vision are needed to take blood pressure readings and fill out forms for Pontiac General Family Practice. Times can be arranged.

INTERVIEWER — OCVB is looking for interviewers for face-to-face or on-phone interviews of potential volunteers or to solicit opportunities for Oakland County agencies. Should have volunteer experience.

FACILITATORS — Birmingham Community Women's Center is in need of two group facilitators. One for the Working Women's Support Group to help them set goals and how to achieve them. The second will work with physically handicapped and should have counselling or physical therapy background. Two or three hours per week.

PARADE WORKERS — Many volunteers are needed to work on the Michigan Thanksgiving Parade. Needed for hospitality, as dressers, as band and float marshals and in production.

Please don't bother hospital patients

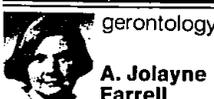
Dear Jo:

Do you mind if I "let off a little steam" in your column? Last month I was admitted to the hospital by my doctor for a very painful medical problem. I have no complaints about the hospital, my doctor, or the nursing staff.

My biggest problem ended up being the large number of visitors who just dropped by to see how I was. They just about did me in. Some of these people were family and others were friends — these visitors I really didn't mind because if I felt particularly ill, I could say so and they would leave.

Others who came were friends of friends — acquaintances I barely knew and some folks I didn't know at all. One man, again, whom I hardly knew, stayed so long that I thought he was glued to the chair!

In the real world, I never entertain when I'm sick, nor when I'm in bed, nor do I receive guests when I'm in my nightgown. I felt I had to be gracious



A. Jolayne Farrell

(which I was) and kind, but it was exhausting.

I wanted and needed a complete rest. This was something I didn't get until I got home. The only time I got some peace in the hospital was when I placed the "no visitors" sign on my door — and then my family thought I'd had some kind of a medical crisis.

Somehow I just couldn't win.

Please remind your readers, Jo., that when an older person is ill and is in the hospital a short phone call or pleasant card are appreciated and if visitors are welcome and encouraged, the invitation should come from the

patient. Thank you.

Dear Mrs. K:

I agree, visitors should be invited by the patient, and this can be done over the phone. If the patient doesn't have a phone at the bedside, check with the family or the nursing staff to see if visitors are allowed or encouraged. If so and a visit is planned be sure it is a short one unless asked to stay longer by the patient. Thanks for your letter.

Dear Jo:

Exactly what is arthritis — and is it the same as rheumatism?

Dear Mary:

Arthritis is the inflammation of a joint. There are more than 90 different types of arthritis and the degree of inflammation varies considerably from one kind of arthritis to another.

Rheumatism is a lay term that covers many more conditions in which pain is felt in joints, muscles and soft tissues but does not always arise in them.

Mrs. E.K.

Mrs. D.

Dear Jo:

My husband and I have retired to a small vineyard in the Niagara region. We both work in the grapeery and have noticed changes in our nails over the past year. Is this something we should be concerned about or is it part of just being 65?

Dear Mrs. D.:

Nail changes occur as part of the aging process but over a period of several years. To notice changes in just one year might be related to your new lifestyle. I suggest you show your nail changes to a dermatologist for an expert opinion. Before going to the appointment you should note the names of any chemicals you are using in your grapeery.

Readers can write to Jolayne Farrell at P.O. Box 256, Postal Station G, 1074 Queen Street East, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

class reunions

As a public service and when space permits, the Observer and Eccentric will print announcements of class reunions. Send the information to Marie McGee, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150. Please include a first and last name with telephone numbers.

will hold a 20-year reunion. For information, call 851-1059 or 646-3323.

● **TROY**
Troy High School class of 1974 will hold a 10-year reunion Saturday, Nov. 24 at Rochester Golf Club. Contact Debbie Wiles, 585-0874, Eileen Vanderbeck, 889-5097 or Pat McGee, 643-7181.

● **ROCHESTER**
Rochester High School class of 1969 will hold a reunion Saturday, Nov. 24 at Rivercrest Hall, Avon Road at Livonia. For more information, call Marty Blair, 651-3749 or Debbie Eiert, 623-9230.

● **ST. LEO**
St. Leo High School class of 1944 will hold a 40-year reunion at the Monaghan Knights of Columbus Council, 19801 Farmington Road, Livonia, Friday, Nov. 9. For information/reservations, call Jerry Macks, 547-1156.

● **SEAHOLM**
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