

# Opinion

Steve Barnaby editor/477-5450

33203 Grand River Ave./Farmington, MI 48024

Philip Power chairman of the board  
Richard Agnlan president  
Dick Isham general manager  
Dan Chovanec advertising director  
Nick Sherkey managing editor  
Fred Wright circulation director

O&E Monday, December 24, 1984

## oral quarrel

This week's Oral Quarrel question asked readers: What would you do if you were the finder of two suitcases stuffed with expensive jewelry?

Following are the responses:

If they weren't found, I would keep it.

Definitely return them. You have an obligation to somebody if you find an expensive item. The person that doesn't attempt to return them has no integrity whatsoever and is just as bad as a thief.

I would do just what he did. Turn it

in because it is the honest thing to do and I have to live with myself the rest of my life. We are proud of him.

If I found two bags full of jewelry and knew who they belonged to, I would return them to the owner, and I would refuse a reward. Shame on the

person that was so mercenary to accept a reward for returning that jewelry to the store.

In answer to your question what would you do with found booty, I would shake, shake, shake, shake your booty,

shake your booty.

My initial reaction would be to say that I would keep them. I think if they were from a regular department store, I would do that. If I found they were from an individual, I would probably return them.

I, as an individual, if I were to find two suitcases full of jewelry or whatever in the middle of the highway, would keep them. I think most of my neighbors around us would probably say the same thing.

I would keep it. Finders keepers.

## from our readers

### They defend manger scene

To the editor:

We as young adults of today's society wish to comment on the rights as American citizens to display our religious beliefs in the form of a Nativity scene. According to our belief, we feel that the Birmingham court ruling on Nativity scenes in front of City Municipal Buildings is detrimental to our society and sets a precedent for unconstitutional rulings.

In this editorial we will show you why we feel this way.

Four major topics will be dealt with: first, that Christmas is a holiday centered around the birth of Christ; second, the Constitution guarantees accommodations of religious expression; third, the court decision is contradictory in the fact that we express religious ideas in many ways including our money, in court systems and in the date we use; and our final topic is concerned with our country's past and its rich history of influential and respected leaders who have made

accommodations for our Christian religious expression in our society. Certainly no one would be ludicrous enough to believe that allowing this Nativity scene that represents the very core of America to set in front of a city municipal building would set a precedent for those wishing to display things that are diametrically opposed to the very essence of America such as Adolf Hitler.

When the holiday known as Christmas began, it was centered around Christ's birth, but many people fail to see this. They limit this joyous celebration to just the giving of gifts. Many members of today's society have limited Christmas to a secular holiday, in other words, they take Christ out of Christmas and celebrate only the "mas." This is as foolish as celebrating George Washington's birthday without recognizing George Washington.

The Constitution grants freedom of religion and it says everything needed to be said on this subject. It states "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting free exercise thereof." Last March the Supreme Court ruled that it was alright for Pawtucket, R.I., city councilmen to

include a Nativity scene in the city-sponsored Christmas display. In accordance with this case, Chief Justice Burger declared that the Constitution "affirmatively mandates accommodation, not merely tolerance, of all religions."

The new test for any governmentally aided religious practice will be whether it presents "a real danger of establishment of a state church," said Burger.

The question then that needs to be asked should be, "Is any city council in accordance with Justice Burger's proposition to 'mandate accommodation, not merely tolerance' in the case concerning the prohibition of a Nativity scene or any other religious expression?"

It seems most contradictory that a country which guarantees freedom of religion and freedom of speech (expression) can prohibit a public display of symbols commemorating Christ's birth. Christ's birth is a fact in history, represented by such things as the year in which we live, 1984 A.D. — the year of our Lord. God is also noted in our money, when one gives an oath in court and when the pledge of allegiance is recited. Do we really want "Big Brother" to have the power to exploit history? Many respected and influential leaders of America have made ac-

commodations for religious expression in public. In Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address, Lincoln addressed the nation on the issue of slavery.

This is what he said, "If we suppose that American slavery is one of those offenses which, in the providence of God, must needs come . . . shall we discern therein any departure from those divine attributes which the believers in a loving God always ascribed to Him?"

He goes on to say that "the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether." In his third state of the Union message, John F. Kennedy, on January 4, 1963, spoke — in the spirit of the Lyden pastor

John Robinson — of the new light and the new ways ahead. He speaks of "turbulence that lies below" and "the winds of change blowing more strongly than ever." He closes with this: "Today we still welcome these winds of change . . . With thanks to Almighty God for seeing us through a perilous passage we ask his help anew in guiding the good ship 'Union.'"

After having read this, we hope you will come to realize that this type of thing is occurring all over the United States. We, as Americans, must stand up for what we believe. It is our constitutional right to be able to express our religious beliefs. Even more importantly, if we let the government

take God out of our government, our nation will crumble. As quoted by Benjamin Franklin:

"We have been assured, sir, in the Sacred Writings that except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it. I firmly believe that, without His concurring aid, we shall succeed in this political building no better than the builders of Babel."

Sue Brauns  
Lutheran High School Northwest

BIANCHI • CONCORD • SHOGUN • COLUMBIA

**GREAT SELECTION OF BICYCLES IN STOCK FOR Christmas**

OPEN CHRISTMAS EVE 'til 5:00 p.m. FOR BICYCLE PICK-UP

All Bicycles Assembled FREE

D & D Bicycle 5383 Middlebelt Westland 522-BIKE Mon.-Sat. 10-9 Sun. 12-5

SMITH BICYCLE CENTER 4141 W. 12 Mile Berkley 541-0585 Mon.-Sat. 10-9 Sun. 12-5

TAKARA • MIYATA • RACE INC. • G.T.

Don't miss the greatest sale of the year!

OPEN DEC. 26th 8 A.M.

OUR FAMOUS **1/2 PRICE SALE**

COME AND HELP US CLEAN OUR SHELVES! CHRISTMAS MERCHANDISE AT 1/2 PRICE. STOCK UP NOW FOR NEXT CHRISTMAS WITH THESE BARGAINS.

Ben Ten Shoppe

**WILL HARRY J. FUNERAL HOMES, Inc.**

3 locations • all new fireplaces

(313) 937-9970

Hedford - 25450 Plymouth Rd  
Livonia - 31000 Cox Rd  
Detroit - 4412 Livonia Ave

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
To receive medical assistance you do not have to exhaust all of your assets.

Send for "Did You Know, Report #1" for facts on pre-paid funeral exemptions.

James Will

(Phone us, mail or bring in the coupon)

Yes, I am interested in more information on pre-paid funeral exemptions. No cost or obligation.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Arthritis Today**  
Joseph J. Weiss, M.D.  
Rheumatology  
20317 Farmington Road  
Livonia, Michigan 48152  
Phone: 478-7860

**CORTISONE ISN'T ALWAYS BAD**

You are correct in believing that taking cortisone by mouth for a period of weeks is potentially harmful to your health. Side effects of this medication include fatigue, hypertension, increased fat deposition, soft bones and decreased resistance to infection.

However cortisone remains in use because of its ability to fight inflammation. In the field of rheumatology, cortisone is indicated in polymyalgia rheumatica, systemic lupus erythematosus and in rheumatoid arthritis unresponsive to other therapies.

A number of drugs developed to take the place of cortisone have not lived up to that promise. Other medicines, as useful as cortisone against inflammation, have unwanted reactions that are more severe and less reversible than the side effects of cortisone treatment.

Do not become upset when this drug is recommended by your doctor. Keep in mind that when used appropriately, cortisone provides a return of health and well being unequalled by any alternative therapy.

**BERGSTROM'S**

Showroom and Sales **SUPER SERVICE**

**COUPON WEEK**

25420 W. Five Mile  
Livonia 532-5848

EXPIRES 12-31-84

Store Hours  
9-6 Monday - Friday  
9-5 Saturday  
12-4 Sunday

**Eljer NEW EMBLEM**  
SAVES WATER  
SAVES MONEY

White \$79.95 Reg. 104.40  
Color \$99.95 Reg. 132.40

LIMIT 2

**30 GAL. GAS HOT WATER HEATER**

\$129.95 Reg. 169.95

LIMIT 1

**MOEN Single Handle Washers**

#7533-A

**KITCHEN FAUCET**

LIMIT 1 Reg. 65.25

**ameri-therm**  
Thermally Activated Vent Damper

**SALE**

T-300 3" \$49.95 \$29.95  
T-400 4" \$59.95 \$36.95  
T-500 5" \$69.95 \$41.95  
T-600 6" \$79.95 \$48.95

LIMIT 2

**OAK PANEL VANITY**  
WITH WHITE MARBLE TOP

\$69.95 Reg. 129.95

LIMIT 1

**THE LAU VAPOR-AIR 8 POWER HUMIDIFIER**

\$69.95 Reg. 99.95

LIMIT 1

**SEPCO BATHROOM FAUCET**  
SOLID BRASS, WASHERS, WATER SAVER

\$99.95 Reg. 168.95

AVAILABLE IN CHROME, POLISHED BRASS, ANTIQUE BRASS, WITH PORCELAIN LEVER OR PORCELAIN CROSS HANDLES

LIMIT 2

**"DON'T PROCRASTINATE... INSULATE"**

For Greater Energy Savings

**INSULATION SPECIAL \$300.00**

Per 1000 Sq. Ft. Ceiling  
6" Blown Fiberglass (R-14)

**JONES INSULATION SUPPLIES INC.**

Call 348-9880  
Blanket Insulation Available

**TEACHING KIDS TO SKI**

ought to be fun!

- Ages 7 to 17
- 10 Saturdays, weather permitting
- Supervised bus transportation
- Small, personalized classes
- Certified Ski School
- Lodge supervision

ENROLLMENT NOW OPEN  
CALL 626-9500 for information

**MOUNTAINEER SKI SCHOOL**

SINCE 1969

6600 Telegraph at Maple • Birmingham