

Bond shaped long ago now stronger

"AND SOFTLY, through a vinous mist, my college friendships glimmer," wrote the great English poet, Lord Alfred Tennyson, more than a century ago.

When I came across that line recently, I realized nothing could come closer to describing the mood that will exist this evening when Mother Goose and I sit down for dinner with a man and his wife who have been among our most treasured friends for several decades.

Hopefully, you have discovered that there were people with whom you have been out of touch perhaps for months, maybe even years, and then upon getting together again find you can pick up right where you left off.

Ron and her Fred are in that category. The vino may not be of Tennyson's taste, but through the mist there'll be recollections worthy even of a poet laureate. Maybe a few will stir memories from your own life.

THE BOND between three of us, my younger wife having joined that circle some years later, was forged at the University of Michigan in an era that saw the end of prohibition. It also was marked on campus by the ban on student automobiles.

What I'm hinting at is that not all practical knowledge is gleaned from textbooks. Agony of the first hangover never was taught in a classroom. Nor were students given directions to find Ann Arbor's downtown bookie joint where Depression waging of half a dollar on a house was acceptable as the "wire" brought the call from tracks across the nation.

Ron, the obvious nickname for a pretty girl with the maiden name of Ronald, didn't know yet that fate had decreed she eventually would wed a Michigan Daily columnist who reversed Olympic miller William Bonthron's name to write under the pseudonym of Bonth Williams.

Their love affair, which now dates back half a century, survived its cruelest test on the first Saturday in May of our senior year. Thoroughbred aficionados know this is the date when the Kentucky Derby is run. What they



through bifocals
Fred DeLano

don't know is that the spring ball is equally important to the girls of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority at Ann Arbor.

DURING THE year in question, Fred had kept a Ford coupe garaged in Ypsilanti and we had cruised to Chicago to see Gypsy Rose Lee in person, and to Philadelphia for the Michigan-Penn football game.

In the lobby of our team's hotel in Philly, the first person we encountered was Walter (Bud) Rea, the dean in charge of enforcing the auto ban. The dean's wrath was only a minor hindrance to our plan for driving to Louisville for the Derby. The real crisis was in the fact that the Theta dance was to be the same date.

Have you ever asked, "What are good friends for?"

To make a long story short, Fred and another pal got to Louisville and Ron got to the dance after all, simply because I was drafted as her escort. If she wept in chagrin all that weekend, she never has admitted it.

However, ever since then she has tried to improve my mind. We have traveled together as married couples, and every now and then she sees that I get a piece of classic writing. James Lipton's "An Exaltation of Larks" was one, and David McCullough's story of Theodore Roosevelt, "Mornings on Horseback," was another.

Through the many years after a four-some evolved, the warm friendship led to sharing many experiences and even some professional undertakings. Those pictures will be ever in mind, but guess what pictures will be passed around the table tonight?

The latest photos of all our grandchildren, of course. After all, what are good friends for?

Farmington readers' forum

Letters must be signed, original copies and include the address and telephone number of the writer. None can be returned. Names will be withheld from publication only for sufficient reason. Letters should be limited to 300 words in most cases. We reserve the right to edit them. Send letters to Readers' Forum, Farmington Observer, 33203 Grand River Ave., Farmington 48024.

Family offers pivotal bonds

To the editor:

Our young people need to find themselves in their own strength and endurance.

I dedicate this article to the "family," where the real love and strength finds its origin.

CRACK

Can't wait to open the sack

Hope it's filled

Full of "crack"

Hopes and dreams

Will it fulfill

Life's pleasures

For me — I'll climb any hill

It demands my body

It demands my money

It demands my soul

To make life sunny

Oh youth, don't you see,

It's making a fool of me

Find your parents

Find your friends

Their help and love will make

amends

Find your strength in work and

dreams

Life will flow again,

Like a sunlit stream

Find your tomorrow in your self

Put the "crack" back on the shelf.

Richard Quevy,
family physician,
Farmington Hills

Halloween — a time to beware

To the editor:

Once upon a time, Halloween was a fun time for children and adults alike. For the children, it meant dressing in costume and roaming their neighborhood after dark, collecting an assortment of goodies.

For adults, it meant the enjoyment of viewing youngsters in various and often ingenious costumes and awarding them with treats.

Time changes. People's attitudes change. Joy is no longer a part of the holiday. It has been replaced with fear for parents over the welfare of their children; fear for homeowners over property damage if they do not participate in hand-outs.

I would like to suggest some guidelines for the benefit of all:

• **CHILDREN BE ACCOMPANIED BY A PARENT OR ADULT** — Absence of sidewalks, along with infrequent street lighting in many suburbs, is a safety hazard in dark and inclement weather. Without supervision, children scamper over lawns, oblivious to decorative boulders, raised plank or brick-lined flower beds, etc.

• **LIMIT TRICK OR TREAT HOURS 6-8 P.M.** — A two-hour limit should be sufficient time for young children to seek treats. Homeowners who wish to participate should illuminate their porch lights for only those two hours or any portion of that time they wish to participate.

• **TRICK OR TREATERS VISIT HOMES WITH LIT PORCHES** — Indoor lighting does not constitute participation. The porch lights should be extinguished at 8 p.m. sharp.

• **LIGHT-COLORED OR REFLECTOR-TABBED COSTUMES AND ELIMINATION OF FACE MASKS AFTER DARK** — Dark costumes and face masks add to the fun and festivities at supervised school or home parties. Both can be hazardous to children in the dark of night.

The above in no way assures parents that the inclusion of foreign substances to treats will cease. We can only pray it may deter this dangerous practice.

Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Kropp
Farmington Hills

Vote McDonald on Election Day

To the editor:

We know that county government is involved in our roads, drainage and law enforcement, plus other areas of activity, but we don't know exactly how and to what extent.

One of the chief reasons for this low profile is that the county is working very well, thank you. Oakland County has an excellent group of executives directing its affairs, including Dan Murphy, county executive, Brooks Patterson, prosecutor, and John Nichols, sheriff. The county commission deserves a great deal of credit for the job it is doing as well.

We in the 27th District are very fortunate to have Jack McDonald representing us on the Oakland County Commission. Jack is knowledgeable, dedicated, honest, always available and always receptive to the ideas and needs of the constituents in his district. At the same time, he has the vision and perspective to act for the county as a whole, as well as the entire southeastern Michigan area.

I reread Joanne Maliszewski's articles in the Oct. 9 Farmington Observer comparing Jack McDonald and his opponent in the upcoming election, Johannes Spreen. I found much more agreement than differences in the candidates' statements.

This is understandable because Oakland County is thriving and the county government is managing and accommodating this growth with well-conceived plans and programs. There is always room for improvement, however, and Jack McDonald's statement identifies those areas.

In summary, I urge your readers of voting age to go to the polls Tuesday, Nov. 4, and re-elect Jack McDonald. "If something works, and works well, keep it!"

Sylvia and Ed Becker
Farmington Hills

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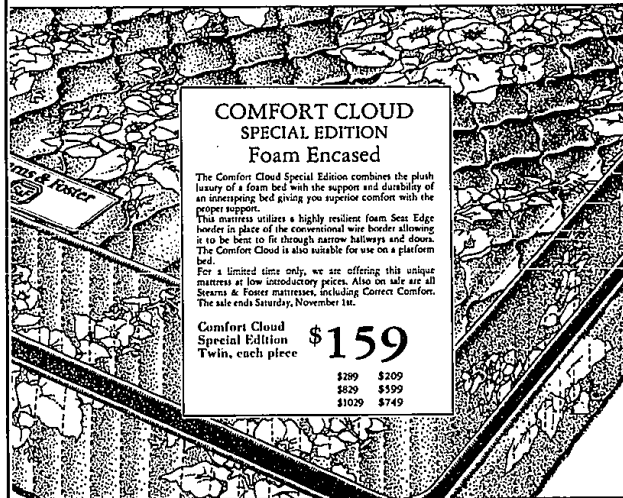
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