

# Working women no passing fancy

"WOMEN IN the Workplace" seems at first blush to be such a harmless social phrase that it's hard to believe the amount of printed material, pro and con, that these four words have spawned of late.

No longer is Rosie the Riveter being hailed as the heroine who helped turn the tide in World War II. To the contrary, there are those who preach that women who toil and need such assistance as day-care centers for their children are a new force of evil loose in the land.

School-based health clinics are being attacked as encouraging sexual activity among teenagers instead of reducing pregnancies out of wedlock, as proponents claim can be accomplished through education.

PERSONALLY, I don't think it's just fear of AIDS becoming a plague that has brought a well-orchestrated and well-financed attack of the course of family life has taken in recent decades. More likely the AIDS explosion traces to a coincidental medical discovery of our times that has been seized upon as evidence of family degeneration.

Rich Perlberg's commentary in these pages last week discussed Sally Reed's campaign against the National Education Association, a column in which Rich asserted, "Reed now works for a private agency in Washington, D.C., where she tirelessly wages a conservative war against so-called liberal schools."

He left unsaid the obvious fact that such an agency requires money, as do the cross-country tours Reed or other spokesmen are able to take in spreading their messages to the peasants.

PROFAGANDA, which you can define as a systematic effort to spread opinions or beliefs, costs money — lots of it if you intend to influence voters on a national level. That does seem the case.

When Rich mentioned "private agency" and "tirelessly," he tore the wrappings from an pretense of a bleeding heart dedicated to reform, but the example he used is not the only one available.

One of the most active is the Rockford Institute, a non-profit Illinois corporation whose fiscal 1986-87 budget is \$1.5 million and whose enrollment brochure says its purpose "is to rebuild an American ethical consensus rooted in the fundamental ideas and traditions of



through  
bifocals  
**Fred  
DeLano**

Western civilization."

The picture thus painted is as beautiful as motherhood itself.

Titles of articles received from the institute in recent weeks include, "The Merits of Political Patronage," "Schools Without Drugs and Other Realistic Hopes," "Our 'Pink Collar' GNP," "Traditional Families Force Reagan's Hand," "A Social Worker in Every Home?" and "The Costs of 'Free' Sex" to list just a few.

Re-establishing what it calls "the norm of the American family" is a prime goal of the institute, whose president, Allan C. Carlson, has written:

"IN THE FACE of rising payroll taxes and strained intergenerational bonds, it might be time to reconsider the concept of family responsibility. We might seek ways of reinforcing, rather than weakening, the social and economic bonds of the multigenerational family."

Carlson deprecates the Social Security system, elderly people living apart from children and grandchildren, couples that don't rear their own children without outside care, workers who don't retire solely on their savings, and families that don't support their elderly as a cultural duty.

Perhaps all that was accepted as the American "norm" before the Great Depression of the '30s and the war that followed, but no more.

If there's convincing evidence, consider formation of a small, but growing, group called "Single Mothers by Choice." This organization of career women was started in New York in the early '80s and now has a chapter in this area.

Jeanne Whittaker, the outstanding Suburban Life editor for Eclectic papers in Birmingham and the Bloomfield, wrote a fascinating story last week on three members who knew at the outset that there would be no father in the household.

I hope your editor reprints it as "must" reading for 1987. Meanwhile, I will mail a copy to the Rockford Institute.

## 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.

## Support Reagan on arms control

To the editor:

If the president has the support of the Congress, he will be in the best position of any president in the last decade to negotiate significant arms control agreements with the Soviet Union.

But the Congress and the president must stand shoulder-to-shoulder to achieve agreements which advance U.S. national security interests.

Unfortunately, such has not always been the case. Even as President Reagan was preparing to fly to Iceland, he was forced to negotiate with the Congress on the details of such arms control issues as SDI, SALT II and nuclear testing.

It is extremely difficult for the president — any president — to negotiate effectively with the Soviet representatives in front of him, while negotiating at the same time with the Congressmen behind him.

At the Iceland talks, American and Soviet leaders addressed nuclear arms control in some very creative and far-reaching ways. The president presented the concept of eliminating over time all nuclear ballistic missiles — a laudable goal, which deserves careful consideration.

While maintaining the goal of eventual elimination of nuclear ballistic missiles, the president's proposal for 50 percent reductions in American and Soviet nuclear arsenals established a practical and achievable goal for current negotiations.

The president's leadership in Iceland brought us closer to effective arms control agreements. It is unfortunate that the Soviets insisted on a unilateral U.S. concession of killing the SDI research program as a precondition to progress at the Iceland Talks on other arms control matters.

President Reagan has already accomplished what history will record as one of his greatest achievements. He has reoriented American defense policy away from mutual assured destruction and toward mutual assured survival.

In the future, the continued existence

of the American people will no longer depend on a balance of nuclear terror. America will be able to defend itself from nuclear attack, which it cannot do today.

President Reagan's strategic defense initiative holds that promise for America's future. That Strategic Defense Initiative also keeps the Soviet Union interested in striking an arms control bargain with our country.

The president's State of the Union Address made clear his continuing commitment to achieve comprehensive, effective and verifiable arms control agreements with the Soviet Union.

William Broomfield  
U.S. Representative  
18th District

## Downtown an attractive lure

To the editor:

The Real Estate One — Downtown Farmington office is to be commended for its decision to retain their office in the downtown center and then to select a motif for the rehabilitation of its new quarters that adds to and enhances the downtown area.

It is a positive contribution to the efforts of the DDA to create a historic atmosphere to attract shoppers and visitors to the Farmington center.

Charles Carvell  
Farmington

## Rid hockey of violence

To the editor:

Congratulations to the Observer and Larry O'Connor for the Jan. 29 article on hockey violence.

I acquired my love for hockey 50 years ago by enjoying the speed, finesse and clean hard contact displayed by the great Red Wing teams under Jack Adams.

Young players today follow their role models for the big bucks they hope for.

Stick swinging and brawling have no place in the game and should be penalized severely and on the spot.

My love is gone and I would not go across the street to watch the modern version.

John Helgert  
Farmington Hills

## Condom use — wrong answer

To the editor:

In response to your article on Feb. 5, "Fight AIDS with Ad Dollars," which adults and especially children are repeatedly told that there are no moral absolutes, that everything is "situational ethics," "if it feels good to do it," how is it possible for them to choose right over wrong?

The decreasing moral standards are destroying our children and will in turn destroy our country. The advertising of condoms is another excuse for not facing reality and remaining in our delusion that homosexuality and "untrained heterosexual sex" is "not hurting anyone."

Isn't anyone aware of the fact that over 40,000 junior high school girls aged 12-13 years are getting pregnant each year, and that the figure is much higher among high school girls?

Doesn't anyone see that ABC, NBC, CBS, cable TV, Hollywood and our schools are promoting a lifestyle that is destroying our youth?

Isn't anyone aware that these same children will someday grow up, to be adults with no moral standard to guide them except, "whatever turns you on?"

Doesn't anyone know that advertising condoms is promoting promiscuity and that abstinence is the only way to "prevent" AIDS or venereal disease?

I feel that Channel 7's running of condom ads and our schools teaching the "mechanics" of sexual reproduction (with no regard for morality) is like trying to put out a raging fire by throwing gasoline on it.

Patricia Sloman  
Farmington Hills

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