

# Why can't a woman be more like a man?

By Fred DeLano  
special writer



through bifocals  
Fred DeLano

Permit me to suggest, if you please, a new theory regarding that faded bulb, the china shop. To wit, it's obvious the poor beast must have been frightened by the sight of a matron thoughtlessly stalling traffic while standing midaisle behind a shopping cart.

Not for several decades have I heard the expression "road hogs." However, the weekly social outing wherein I so modestly tip my cap to the ladies of the community as I strive to reach across their blocking bosoms for a can of soup convinces me of the need for supermarket aisle dividers and blinking lights.

The irritations these inconsiderate buggy pushers stimulate by stopping a) to see if they have the correct discount coupons, or b) to double check this store's price against the one down the street, or c) to compare progress of little Gerlie's piano lessons against little Ike's conquest of the violin next door drive me insane.

It isn't that I don't enjoy people watching, be it in supermarkets, airports, hotel lobbies or courtrooms.

FOR MANY YEARS I declined Mother Goose's invitation to play follow-the-leader through Hudson's, Jacobson's, grocery stores et al and sought a perch to watch humans in near-ending variety as they marched by.

Then recently, I took it upon myself to organize our needs into proper lists so I could navigate aisle by aisle in disciplined fashion with specific targets in mind. Alas, I sense I have entered a house of horrors peopled by females trained to take umbrage at the slightest hint of hostility . . . and then they stop to write a check!

Actually, the original intent of this column was to quote a letter from the ombudsman of the City of Detroit, Marie D. Farrell-Donaldson, and to praise her publicly for her sense of humor.

Devout students of bifocals will recall that on March 19, I questioned whether she is qualified for her role in government because, in my opinion, a statement attributed to her in the Free Press reeked of "ill-informed, opinionated prejudice."

Marie F-D had been asked what she liked least about the opposite sex and replied, "I don't like the fact that when

they're lost on a trip they will never, ever stop and ask directions. They will drive for hours and hours and refuse to acknowledge the fact that they're lost."

MY TOTALLY successful rebuttal, albeit with tongue in cheek, was based upon the contention that being temporarily misplaced in quest of adventure cannot be defined as being "lost" per se. Thus her typically feminine judgment was out of place.

Now in writing, if you please, she has admitted to "laughing all the way" when she read the column and calls it "extremely amusing," adding that she "enjoyed it immensely."

Marie F-D, that was doggone nice of you, but why did you add, "It's amazing how men, when they are wrong, refuse to admit the fact?"

There's one other small bone to pick and it relates to a confusion in identities. Readers may have forgotten, but I asked Marie F-D where I should go when I got to Woodward and the river and couldn't find the City-County Building where she is headquartered.

"As for where you should go, I suggest straight ahead," she wrote ever so smilingly and politely.

I DOUBT if Marie F-D is old enough to remember what a pleasant voyage it was when we could cross the Detroit River to Windsor by ferry boat, so perhaps she has been misled to believe I am an Olympic swimmer. The only alternative would be that I can walk on water.

My goodness, when one works long enough for Mayor Coleman Young maybe any dream is possible. Even mine as expressed by Professor Higgins in "My Fair Lady."

"Why can't a woman be more like a man?"  
Until that impossible day, I'll quote Marie F-D one more time. "Yours for a Better Detroit." With that we all agree.

## 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.

## Pope cartoon was offensive

To the editor:

I write to strongly protest the appearance of a "cartoon" depicting Pope John Paul II on your March 19, 1987, Editorial Page.

Initially, it should be obvious to any person of ordinary sensibility that the "making of babies" should not be compared to the opening of a can of worms. We Catholics hold that conception is a sacred act shared with God.

Of additional concern is your attempt to ridicule a Pope of the Roman Catholic Church for pronouncing a matter of doctrine to his practicing faithful.

The Observer and Eccentric may well continue to embrace editorial positions on subjects such as abortion, contraceptives and now conception itself. However, please maintain minimum standards of journalism as you go about your pagan ways.

Richard P. Condit,  
Birmingham

## Help recognize our volunteers

To the editor:

April 20 to May 4 is National Volunteer Recognition Week, a time to salute our nation's 92 million active volunteers. It is estimated that the annual value of the work done by these volunteers is \$64 billion. Oakland County Probate Court estimates that its volunteers contributed \$328,000 worth of services in 1986.

The Juvenile Division of the Probate Court has a program aimed at the prevention of delinquency and child abuse/neglect, "Youth Assistance," that has 1,300 volunteers countywide.

These volunteers have a variety of responsibilities. Some work as case aides for youngsters who are court wards in residential care or on probation. Others work one-to-one with younger children who may be at risk for

future problems with the law.

Many volunteers work on committees to address the needs of youngsters, families and their communities. They provide parent education, camp scholarships, youth recreation programs and a variety of other resources aimed at the prevention of delinquency.

Jack Gillow, chairman of the Youth Assistance Advisory Council, said, "The strength of the Youth Assistance program is that citizens volunteer right in their own community. Countywide, over 300 volunteers worked one-to-one with neglected, delinquent and at-risk youngsters in 1986. Other volunteers ran parent education programs in which over 7,000 parents participated."

"Volunteers developed youth recreation programs that over 8,000 youngsters enjoyed and provided camp scholarships for an additional 1,200 youngsters. Volunteers also designed innovative programs in career exploration, shoplifting prevention and substance abuse education. They raised \$57,720 and received \$81,654 worth of in-kind services for their program."

Volunteering is a uniquely American tradition with over 50 percent of Americans reporting some degree of volunteer service each year. The Probate Court's youth assistance program offers a range of possibilities. Call 858-0041 for further information.

Deborah Hyde,  
Oakland County  
Probate Court

## Surrogate issue spurs questions

To the editor:

The issue of surrogate parenting has split the feminist movement into two factions: those who want total reproductive control and those who seek true equality.

The issue here is dignity. Where does Woman find it? Does it come from the total control of self in a world where Man is only an artifact? If no man is an island isn't that true for woman as well?

Feminists argue that the only way that equality will be achieved is by destroying the concept of continuance, that life is a continuing stream. They reason if there is no hierarchy that the patriarchy will disappear. Society will be truly egalitarian.

I believe that Woman was created to act towards the preservation of society. If Man's course will rend the fabric of culture, then it is her duty to deter his course. She must act to see that her house is not destroyed in the name of progress.

Feminists should see surrogate parenting as a new source of exploitation. The concept of baby farming has, once again, risen its ugly head: this time in the name of corporate greed. Where is dignity to come from a technology that sees Woman as a beast of burden and nothing more?

Surrogate parenting is being "sold" to those who can be led, the sheep who still haven't the ability to think for themselves. It is part of an evil plot hatched by corporations with huge financial interests at stake.

It's a technology that rapes Woman's mind with the illusion of choice, knowing that choice will breed compulsion, and profits, as the practice spreads. It offers choice by establishing a culture of dominance, resubjecting the will of the individual to the whim of others.

Surrogate parenting destroys an individual's bloodlines, tearing them out by the roots. It seeks its meat among the poor with money dangling like a carrot from a stick, lulling vanity as its justification for the dismemberment of the family. It seeks its adherents in the area of racial purity, as scientists cry nurture not nature is the key to excellence, while they quietly try to prove the opposite in the eugenics lab.

If there is any doubt that women should fight with every ounce of their strength to oppose this technology, they should ask themselves if they are leading or being led, if surrogacy will grant freedom or impose control, and finally, if commercial surrogacy should be banned.

T. James Zanotti,  
Novi

# Why Spend Another Summer Peeling?

Owning a house that needs improvements can really get under your skin.  
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