

points of view

Beware

Doorstep drama yields a summons

If life can be likened to a pinball machine, it seemed to be on "tilt" last week. Maybe it was because of a full moon. Perhaps the over-lapping of baseball, football and hockey seasons can be blamed. It could even be that there was an after-effect from all the huffing and puffing during eight days in the rarefied air of the high Sierras.

For whatever reason, conversations seemed to take weird turns instead of staying in their neat, orderly and predictable rut.

For instance, possibly influenced by the argument over Judge Robert Bork, our marching and clowder society, which often gathers at the happy hour, became entangled one afternoon in a hypothetical protocol issue.

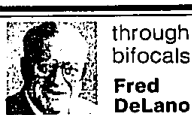
Out of nowhere one of the troops wondered aloud whether the chief justice of the United States Supreme Court or the nation's attorney general should be seated at the head of the table if two of them were to join us for dinner. You can see that we get into some pretty deep stuff in these discussions.

We left it up to Creon Smith, our house expert in these matters, and he restored sanity by saying that if the necessity arose, he would move us all to a round table and seat the two gentlemen from Washington side by side. It is doubtful that he will be put to such trouble.

Of more meaningful significance was a query from a couple of more elderly members, asking for suggestions as to what to do with their spare time now that the golf season is on the wane. Although they scoffed, I suggested they become part-time process servers and make an honest buck or two.

It's a tremendous conversational leap to go from the two foremost legal figures in the land to the oft-maligned role of process server in one sitting, but I was speaking from experience in saying it's not bad duty. Beside the fees and mileage rates, it teaches a person local geography while staying on the right side of the law.

If you're one of the uninitiated, among the numerous definitions of the word "process" is that of "a writ-



through
bifocals
**Fred
DeLano**

ten command or summons to appear in a court of law." My dictionary also says a process server is a "a person who serves summonses, subpoenas, etc."

Simple, eh? On the surface, it sounds as though all you need to do is find an attorney who needs some papers served, ring a few doorbells and hand the subpoenas to the happy recipients, fill out the proper proof of service forms and pick up your check. Any legally competent adult, male or female, can be retained for this purpose.

But perhaps I have a tendency to oversimplify and won't get into provisions regarding service by mail. Nor will I enlarge upon the moods adopted by recipients other than happy.

Please understand that I am speaking only of civil cases, not criminal matters, but even then, reluctance to accept service may be encountered, particularly in contested divorce suits. So keep your wits about you and park your car where you can exit in a hurry.

It's a field I discovered during one of the career interruptions and beats trying to sell used cars.

After proper identity information as to plaintiff and defendant, plus court address and nature of the action, a Michigan summons and complaints starts with the words: "NOTICE TO THE DEFENDANT: In the name of the people of the state of Michigan you are notified: 1. You are being sued."

There is more, but that suffices to show you that now and then plan on a reaction of shock.

Most anyone who has performed this legal function many times can relate some interesting, off-beat experiences. My friends didn't take me seriously, but it would broaden their horizons if they did and thus discovered human drama at their doorstep.

Business of America is educating youth

THIS MORNING I did something important — something lasting. It made my blood surge. For a few valuable minutes I was able to reach out to the future and talk with those who would be its leaders — or maybe be its victims.

It was a great feeling. Invited by the Troy Chamber to speak at its youth-business symposium, I talked with a group of high school seniors about taking career risks — a subject close to my heart.

The true risks, you see, are much different from the traditionally accepted one of falling off the corporate ladder.

Today's middle class society puts a lot of emphasis on that ladder. And that's a shame.

If it were smarter, society would tear it down and replace it with a backpack. Each of us could become explorers who dare to veer off the path of mediocrity onto a trail of personal and professional discovery.

THAT was the gist of my talk. And I wouldn't have missed doing it for a moment.

You see, the business of America really isn't business, it's education. And dealing effectively with educa-



**Steve
Barnaby**

tion should be the most important item on everyone's agenda.

Most of us know that, but we've set it adrift. Instead, we've opted to build expensive vocational institutions that churn out students more concerned about SAT scores than learning and graduates who worry more about "making it" than chipping in to make for a better community.

Now, it takes more than lip service to get this message across. And while money is essential, it takes something even stronger.

We need to change our basic precept of what it is we want education to do for us.

That was the message left by Professor Douglas Heath during a recent four-day conference to a group

of educators and students at a seminar on the future of education, sponsored by the Birmingham school district.

What schools need to do is help students become happy, healthy and psychologically fulfilled adults. Wow, it's been a long time since we've heard that kind of talk.

Instead, he says, most students simply are bored. High schools, he says, need a "compelling vision" for the future.

"The central message of liberal education is to educate for character," he says.

IN MANY cases we have failed. Whether it be poor district or rich, we have failed to use our educational institutions to instill values that demonstrate an obligation to serve rather than take from society.

Recently author Douglas Frantz visited Detroit to talk about insider trading. He warns that many more Wall Street types will soon become vipers (young indicted professionals) — people who illegally manipulate the stock market to boost their own fortunes.

Yet we continue to emphasize the acquisition of monetary wealth as the ultimate American goal.

Now that is a certain folly.

Testing mania seems short on substance

THIS IS ONLY a test.

You may remember the days when tests were designed to see if you knew the answer. Nowadays, they are being promoted as the answer to problems such as drug abuse, educational competency and personnel selections.

You may not be worried about this trend, but maybe you should be.

Oakland County commissioners, for instance, recently passed a resolution that will require deputy applicants to take psychological and drug tests. No problem there, right? You don't want a cocaine-crazed cop carrying a Colt .45, do you?

A state Senate committee has endorsed a bill that would require high school students to pass a reading



**Rich
Perlberg**

competency test before they can get an "endorsed" diploma. Again, how can you argue that one? No student should be given a diploma if he can't read it.

Another state legislator is pushing a bill that would allow any employer to give random drug tests. That may strike you as somewhat intrusive, especially if you are used to using the

restroom in privacy. But look at it this way: Do you want to share the road with a marijuana-smoking truck driver?

SO IT ALL makes sense, right? The tests provide some protection for honest folk, and they don't pose a threat unless you've got something to hide.

Well, that line of reasoning is stuffed with sausage, which is the other thing besides laws that you are not supposed to watch being made.

If all this testing is such a good thing, you would think that the bodies proposing the testing would serve as a good example.

Why don't all of the Oakland County commissioners volunteer to take

psychological tests, the results of which they would publish, and to take unannounced drug tests? After all, we who live by their decrees should have some assurance that elected officials do what they do on purpose and not because their minds were altered.

Ditto for state legislators. They should volunteer for random drug testing, including Breathalyzer for alcohol use. They should also indicate how many lobbyist-paid drinks a year they consume. What's the problem, as long as they have nothing to hide?

WHILE WE are at it, let's have competency tests for lawmakers. Reading would be a start. But seeing the way they balance budgets, a

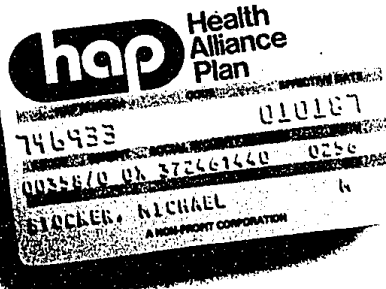
math test wouldn't hurt. Then maybe we could test them on the Constitution. See what they know about the Bill of Rights.

It's not that drug use and educational incompetency are trivial issues unworthy of concern. But this testing mania often appears to be more style than substance.

Besides, there are other less flashy, more difficult ways to face the problems. One example: Why should reading tests be required for graduation? If the schools — the teachers, principals, superintendents and school boards — were doing their jobs, how many students who couldn't read would be high school seniors in the first place?

That's not a trick question.

Think of it as a warranty card for the human body.



When you're a member of Health Alliance Plan, you get comprehensive and hassle-free health care without ever getting a doctor's bill. That's because HAP helps keep your body running smoothly by covering everything from routine office visits to hospitalization to lab tests to maternity care. Plus, HAP offers you more than 1,600 physicians at 23 medical centers, 18 area hospitals and hundreds of individual doctor's office locations. So health care is always nearby.

For more information, call 872-8100. And learn all of the reasons why your human body deserves to be covered by Health Alliance Plan.

hap
Your health deserves the best.

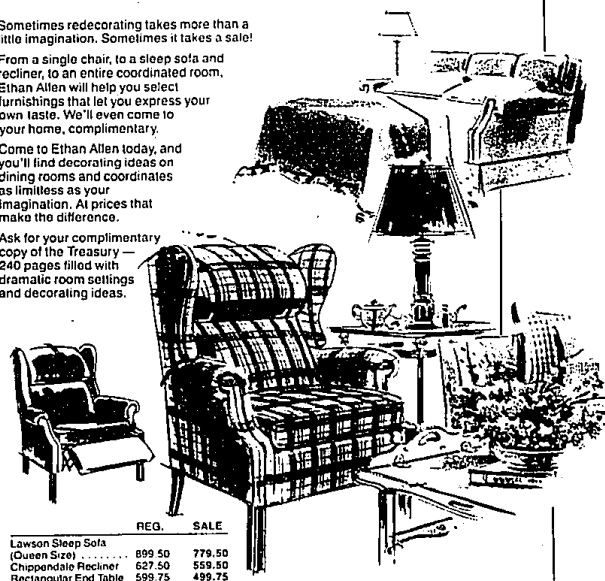
Sale
Ethan Allen
imagine the possibilities

Sometimes redecorating takes more than a little imagination. Sometimes it takes a sale!

From a single chair, to a sleep sofa and recliner, to an entire coordinated room, Ethan Allen will help you select furnishings that let you express your own taste. We'll even come to your home, complimentary.

Come to Ethan Allen today, and you'll find decorating ideas on dining rooms and coordinates as limitless as your imagination. At prices that make the difference.

Ask for your complimentary copy of the Treasury — 240 pages filled with dramatic room settings and decorating ideas.



	REG.	SALE
Lawson Sleep Sofa (Queen Size)	899.50	779.50
Chippendale Recliner	627.50	559.50
Rectangular End Table	599.75	499.75
Brass Column Lamp	179.75	99.75
Butler's Tray Table	469.75	319.75



Georgetown Manor
An Ethan Allen Gallery

NOW OPEN SUNDAYS
1:00-5:00 P.M.

LIVONIA 15700 MIDDLEBELT (at I-75 & I-96) 281-1780
UTICA 50170 VAN DYKE (at I-190 & I-96) 258-0300
Reg. Hours MON., THURS., FRI. 10-6, TUES., WED., SAT. 10-5:30