

Weight not, want not

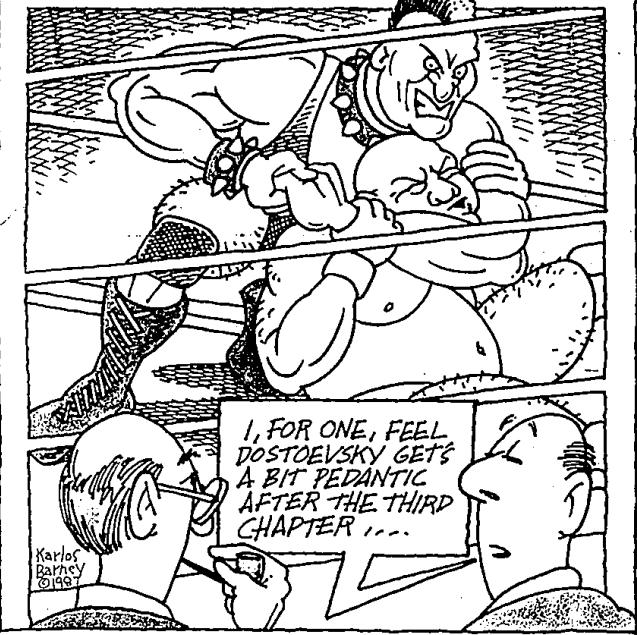
Pounds, both the number we have and the way we distribute them, are weighty topics during the calories-rich holiday season. Burning off excess fat and toning flabby physiques are wise goals for both physical and mental well-being. But make sure the cure isn't worse than the ailment. For tips on new thoughts on appropriate exercise, Street Scene gets physical on page 5D.

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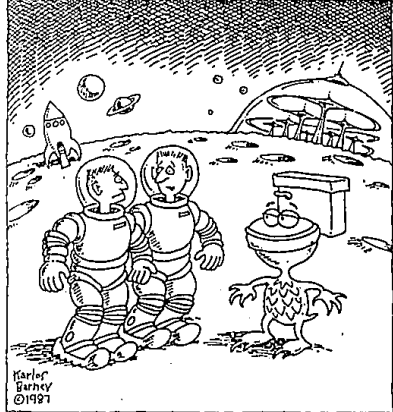
11D

DISASTERS IN PROPRIETY AND DECORUM: #429-CLASSICAL LITERARY CRITICISM DONE IN A LOUD VOICE AT A PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING MATCH.



R.U. Syrius

Karlos Barney



"Look, I know they're highly intelligent, but I still can't take the people on this planet seriously."

Harbor visit is sobering

By Iris Sanderson Jones special writer

Q: We will only have a couple of days in Honolulu and we're trying to decide whether to spend the time and money to visit Pearl Harbor. I'm sure it's interesting, but I'm told it takes a long time.

M.L.D., Rochester

A: I had the same problem during two trips to Hawaii, but last month I solved it. No cost and very little time. The secret is to be first in line when the visitor center opens at the USS Arizona Memorial. It may be 46 years since the Japa-

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Mannerly guide to being correct

By Dave Varga staff writer

Everyone knows the forks go on the right, you curtsy to the Pope and kiss the ring of the queen. Right? Good. That's etiquette, good manners. Now, let's get to some important everyday situations: ● You're swimming laps and someone is too slow in the same lane and there's no room in the pool. What do you do? ● Or you're driving on a dark two-lane roadway and you're blinded by a bright glare of light looking like the Second Coming or a Spielberg movie. What do you do? ● Or you amble up to the express checkout line with a quart of milk and pack of Trident only to find a little old lady unloading her second cartload full of cat food cans. Should you say something? Fear not. Mr. Manners, the real answer man who can really shell it out, has the answers to those tough questions and more.

PROPER PROCEDURE in the pool is to get out and ask the life guard to deal with it, or "circle swim" around the lane, according to Tora Dunn, a pool instructor at the Livonia Family YMCA. While you're swimming, don't spit. "They'll quite often spit in the gutter. We very politely ask them to go to the drinking fountain," Dunn said. And another thing. Don't let your kids in the deep end unless they can swim all the way across on their stomach and back. "Some parents are a little uptight about that," Dunn said. "You have to insist because, hey, it's your neck."

If your neck is pained from those jerko drivers who keep their brights on, don't use blinker signals or just plain flaunt the law, Bloomfield Township Officer Robert Morrow has one answer.

The cops are out there, and they see 'em, too. "As a matter of etiquette," Officer Morrow said, "you and I both have been driving down the expressway when someone approaching forgets to turn off their brights. We blink the lights. If they fail to respond, all you can do is say, 'You dummy,' or whatever and just keep going. As a police officer, we're attuned to that. We're taught that's a classic sign of someone operating under the influence or impaired."

Lane changers or quick-turn artists who don't use their turn signals probably won't draw the flashing blue light special from cops but will if they break another law like speeding or if they're driving dangerously, not just annoyingly, Morrow said.

IF YOU'RE unlucky enough to get stopped by Smokey, Mr. Manners says follow these simple rules:

● "Probably the worst thing a motorist can do," Morrow said, "is before the officer opens his mouth is to say, 'Why are you stopping me?' It puts the officer on the defensive."

● Don't start telling them about all the policeman's ball tickets you've bought and showing off all your membership cards, i.e. VFW, KFC, Moose and Moose clubs. "You get a lot of that, and I think most police officers are offended by that. They're using a tool to get out of the ticket," Morrow said.

● Last, but not least, don't treat the officer like a Robo-Dodo-Cop. "If they treat you not the way you expect to be treated as a police officer, but as a normal person, most people wouldn't get a ticket," Morrow said.

IN MORE user-friendly arenas, the customer is always right. At the grocery store, like other retail situations, the problem is when two customers have differing opinions.

At a Farmer Jack store in Farmington, the full grocery cart will sometimes show up parked in an express lane, according to one manager who refused to be named for fear of recrimination. Sometimes workers can open up another lane and move the offending person to a non-express lane.

"It really depends on the situation," she said. "If we're not too busy, we'll grab a packer and let them slide through."

Recently, a woman with about 35 items was in the 20 or less line and the man behind her raised a fuss.

"By the time he said something, she had her things unloaded. We just kinda apologized to the customer and got a bagger."

AT A RESTAURANT, don't worry about offending the server by asking where your food is. Again, the customer is always right. "It's not unusual for someone to ask about an order even if it's within the allotted time. That's not being pushy," said Debbie Schmitz, a manager at Holly's By Golly restaurant in Plymouth.

But restaurant servers don't enjoy hearing too much griping. A manager at a local Charley's restaurant, who also feared for her job, said, "Even in the best laid out restaurant, the cleanest, with the best staff, whatever, mistakes will happen."

"When mistakes do happen we bend over backwards. I would like to see a little more tolerance from our customers. Occasionally a vegetable will be cold. Please let me go back and get another."

THOSE COLD vegetables would make a perfect replacement for the German-speaking family and their translators you always get stuck next to in the movie theater, eh bunky?

"We don't even want them to whisper," explained Gary Evans, general manager at Northland Theatres in Southfield. "We send in the usher and usually very politely whisper to the customer to stop because it annoys people. If somebody refuses to behave, we give them their money back and ask them to leave."

Folks with little babies get the same treatment. "The moment the baby makes a single peep or noise, the mother has to take it out and the money is refunded," Evans said.

Bottom line is keep the movie enjoyable for everyone else and don't embarrass the offending party. "We always refund the money, even if we have to throw somebody out. We basically don't want to make enemies," he said.

It's not much different in legitimate theater. Coming in late or leaving early are no-nos, says Shirl Harris of the Birmingham Theatre. But making noise — whether it's talking, rustling papers or shopping bags — is the biggest no-no.

"It's very bad etiquette," Harris said. "Not only because it's distracting for other patrons, but what makes it worse is, if it's loud enough for the actors to hear. People have become accustomed to watching TV in their living room... and talking loud or rattling gum or candy wrappers."

QUIET IS cherished on the golf course, too, where rules cover nearly everything and etiquette covers just about everything else.

For instance, it's a matter of courtesy to let faster players play through if they're pushing up behind you and the group ahead is at least one hole ahead.

"The unfortunate situation is most slow players don't know they're slow. Maybe it's a pride thing. They don't want to seem inferior," said Glenn Pulice, assistant golf pro at Wabeco Country Club in West Bloomfield.

Obvious things like replacing divots and repairing ball marks on greens are always appropriate, Pulice said.

A tougher situation is when to hit when you're approaching the green but the foursome ahead is still on the green. Generally wait until they leave the green. Even if you're only able to hit to the fringe and roll on the green, Pulice says don't hit yet.

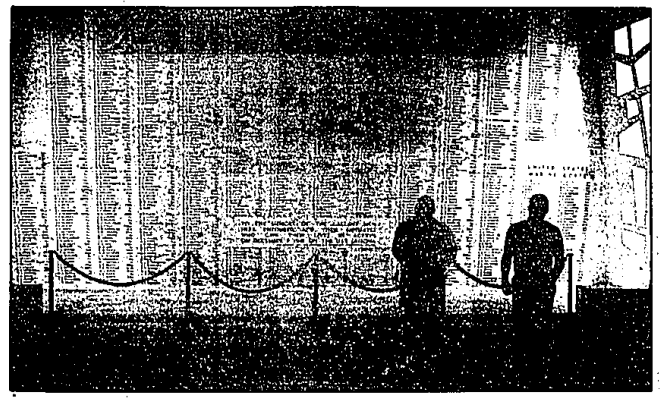
"It's acceptable, believe it or not, on a par five, but unacceptable on a par four or three. You've got a great excuse (on a par five), 'I never thought I could reach the green,'" he said.

BOWLING ALSO has its etiquette. If two bowlers are approaching the lane at the same time, the one readying to roll his second ball has the right-of-way, according to Rudy Kramer, manager of Garden Lanes in Garden City.

It's more complicated when you try to decide how many alleys away should be clear before you start your approach.

"You get right back to attitude," Kramer said. "One individual thinks he's gotta have the whole bowling alley stop when he gets up. Another person says just one lane."

Don't take forever to bowl either. "Probably if you get any complaints it's about a bowler taking too long on an approach by bowlers on an adjoining alley," Kramer said.



In the midst of an island paradise stands a solemn reminder of the horrors of war: the honor roll listing the names of those who died on the U.S.S. Arizona during the Japanese raid of Pearl Harbor.

