

## points of view

## Unnecessary 'courtesy' titles raise ire

Following other national trends that have carried us back to the Dark Ages — kicking and screaming — a decision has been made at two news publications that is simply prehistoric.

Just when I thought we could call ourselves progressive, the Atlanta Journal and Atlanta Constitution announced they will begin using "courtesy titles" once again. Although the papers are not main sources of news here in Michigan, the change should still be a concern.

This has been a pet peeve of mine since I started reading newspapers, even before I started writing for them.

Courtesy titles label a news source on second reference, usually with a Mr., Mrs., Ms. or Miss. The Observer & Eccentric and most other modern papers treat everyone equally on second reference — by using last names only.

Exceptions are sometimes made in obituaries in respect to the deceased.

THE ATLANTA newspapers are taking this step backward, as most other publications are moving ahead, by ridding themselves of this half-and-half tradition. While Atlanta officials boast about their city's revival and urban progress, that is not reflected at their two



**Casey Hans**

**The proper "courtesy" calls for treating news sources equally.**

metro newspapers where this anti-progress stance is being taken.

Bill Kovach, editor of the Journal and Constitution, arrived in his present position from the New York Times where courtesy names on second reference have always been a tradition.

"For some time, we have been troubled by the limited use of courtesy titles in our news columns," he said in a front-page editor's note, announcing the change.

It troubles me that Kovach (or shall I say, Mr. Kovach) would force a label on his news sources.

The proper "courtesy" calls for

treating all news sources equally. Using such titles is not only stodgy and out-of-date but creates choppy sentences that are difficult to read. A "Mr." or "Ms." interjected throughout a news or feature story simply interrupts the reader.

IT ALSO interrupts a more important flow in our society toward treating men and women equally in the eyes of readers. This change is not only a step backward for everyone, it is truly a giant leap in that direction for womankind.

For men in this debate, the courtesy title only adds a "Mr."

Women being interviewed must decide whether to define their marital status — which may be totally irrelevant to the story — or to label themselves as "Ms." which in many readers' eyes plants them firmly in the throes of radical feminism.

Those who have earned the title of "doctor," either in medical or academic worlds, will have that referred to in a news story when appropriate.

As a reader, I expect my newspapers to give me the "courtesy" of good writing, a good mix of news and not to use titles on second reference for those they interview.

## Don't malign day care Schools asking for loyalty

SOME OF THE self-appointed experts who write about day care have done nothing to disprove the theory that intelligent life is impossible in a vacuum. These people must live in a vacuum to be so dumb.

I have read suggestions that day care may be responsible for the spread of serious contagious diseases, that children in nations with a heavy reliance on day care suffer from mental illness and suicidal tendencies, and that low-income, single mothers don't really need day care help because they are usually rely on a relative or a neighbor.

I would like to take the authors of these comments and stick their heads in my kid's used diaper basket. Ditto for those who kindly point out that even the best day care is no substitute for mother's love.

Exposing reality to such deranged people is usually a futile exercise, but if I could meet these people, I would crouch down at their level and tell them a thing or three: • Day care is not a prerequisite to villainy. Charles Manson, Richard Speck and Adolf Hitler all made their black marks on history without the benefit of day care.



**Rich Perlberg**

• Children got sick before the advent of day care. There is no proof that polio, malaria and the bubonic plague started at day care centers.

• There is no law that children can only get parental love from a mother. Fathers can love children, too. Few media types recognize this. I have yet to read a story or column where the writer suggests a child's development might be enhanced if the father stayed home from work rather than sending the kid to day care. It's always mother who is supposed to stay home. That's a crock. Women don't want to stay home; women aren't able to stay home. Women shouldn't have to sacrifice their career to become a parent anymore than a man should.

• Businesses don't deal adequately with day care when businesses are run by men and men have a vest-

ed interest in keeping women in sole possession of child care responsibilities. It has been said that if men got pregnant, abortions would be as controversial as fossililectronics. Similarly, if men had to equally divide child care responsibilities, day care as a benefit would be as common as lunch breaks.

(Here's a revealing story: A suburban businessman felt that his male colleagues would ridicule him if he said that he had to leave a meeting early to pick up his child from day care. He thought they would say something like, "Don't you have a wife for that?"

(So he said instead that he had to pick up the laundry. "Don't you have a wife for that?" someone asked.)

• In short, it should be realized that few parents like to leave their children every day, but that men have been doing it for years without having to suffer well-aimed but unjustified guilt attacks. It also should be noted that for all the election year talk about family values, the government and businesses of the United States have about the worst day care policies of all Western industrialized nations. Finally, it must be accepted that there is work to be done and those who refuse to accept that women are a part of the work force have no right entering the day care debate.

NOW COME the cool days of September. Our minds are relieved from the burden of heat.

We watch as children, in great anticipation and a sense of renewal, pack off to school with new books, new clothes and (we hope) new and more mature attitudes.

Just days earlier, the children were bored and bewildered; the parents were frustrated.

But all is forgiven, maybe even forgotten. Peace has returned to the American subdivision — well, almost.

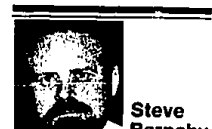
With Labor Day comes a sense of renewal and a hope that life will, indeed, be better for our children.

Children, you know, are once-again fashionable. You must have noticed the contrast from the late '70s and early '80s when most everybody was more concerned with getting his, being in the fast lane and climbing the corporate ladder.

Newspapers are full of stories concerning the educational system — some hopeful, some not so uplifting.

ON THE DOWN SIDE, we are seeing some things that make us question whether we really are getting ahead.

Southfield, a city battling to maintain its sense of community, is in upheaval over its highly paid school su-



**Steve Barnaby**

perintendent's move to neighboring Farmington Hills.

Under normal circumstances, no one would notice. Lots of education chiefs live in towns outside their district.

But Southfield is going through a tough time. Facing an ever-increasing black population, it is struggling to make racial integration work. This is certainly a monumental task in a metropolitan area that has been labeled as one of this country's most segregated.

Many believe that the city needs all the foot soldiers it can find — especially its leaders.

In reaction to the superintendent's move, the school board has implemented a residency policy, requiring future top administrators to live within the district. Present Superintendent Carl Hassel is excluded.

He defends his right to live anywhere he chooses. And being one of the highest-paid school administra-

tors in the state, he can afford to move where he wants.

It's a tough call all the way around. But under the circumstances, any sensible person has to ask why he wanted to move in the first place.

You've got to believe many residents are asking themselves if their school leader thinks he's too good to live in their community.

ON A MORE UPLIFTING note, several items show we are making progress.

Child day care is one of the top issues of this presidential campaign. Quality of education has got to come in a close second, with report after report coming out saying that once again we have to pay closer attention to how our children learn.

Heavy emphasis also is put on a higher standard for those who are doing the teaching.

Not since the late '50s when the Russians scared us with their sudden leap forward in the space race, has the public been so concerned with education. But this time, instead of chasing the elusive and illusory Red scare, we are staking ourselves, challenging our own system to rid itself of abuse and neglect.

Like that long-ago cartoon figure, Pogo, told us, "We have met the enemy, and he is us."

**Incredible Close-out Prices!**

**tadross & zahrloute**

FINE ORIENTAL RUGS SINCE 1897

330 E. Maple Rd., Birmingham (313) 844-8200

**THE SECRET'S OUT... QUICK WEIGHT LOSS PROGRAM WORKS WHEN ALL OTHERS FAIL!**

**I LOST 72 LBS!**

"I was never hungry and it was easy as 1,2,3!"

-Caridad Bouza

1. Call and make an appointment
2. Come in for your Free Consultation
3. Follow the program, never be hungry and lose 3 to 6 pounds per week!

**BEFORE 197 LBS. AFTER 125 LBS.**

**LOSE 3 TO 6 POUNDS PER WEEK**

Supervised by Weight Loss Specialists

No Hunger

No Exercise

Free Stabilization and maintenance

No pills or injections

Special program for dieters!

**50% OFF!**

ON ALL NEW PROGRAMS

**QUICK WEIGHT LOSS CENTERS**

Call for a Free Consultation

Rochester	800-3888	Canton	477-8282
Pontiac	887-8788	Livonia	477-8282
Ten-Twelve-Bingham	328-3703	Troy	838-3888
Novi	478-8474	Westland	381-3810

HOURS: Mon.-Fri. 9-7; Sat. 9-1 MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

**Pennsylvania House**

**What's New Sale!**

Sensational savings on new Traditional heirloom looks—new Additional styling departures! Limited-time introductory prices!

**PENNSYLVANIA HOUSE**

It's what you've wanted all along.

**Solid Mahogany Bedroom**

Significant savings on enduring quality and superb craftsmanship. Group includes rice-carved poster bed, bed steps, 66" dresser and pediment mirror, chest-on-chest.

**WAS NOW \$8089 ONLY \$5599**

(Optional nightstand, was \$965, NOW ONLY \$665)

**L'Esprit Nouveau Oak Bedroom**

Group includes panel headboard, dresser and mirror, door chest.

**WAS NOW \$5138 ONLY \$3499**

(Optional nightstand, was \$710, NOW ONLY \$499)

**Stewart-Glenn**

of Bloomfield Hills

2000 N. WOODWARD

JUST SOUTH OF SQUARE LANE

FINE FURNITURE SINCE 1977

332-3345

OPEN MON. THROUGH SAT. 10 A.M. TUES. THROUGH SAT. 10 A.M.

FREE! Stop in for your new Pennsylvania House Collector's Book.