For the record, my name is Casey Hans

A NAME is something we own. Something that gives us a special identity. Something no one can take

nway.

But, alas, mine is gone.

It was snatched from me by the It was snatched from me by the faceless bureaucrats in the treasury department in Lansing. Yes, our youthful state treasurer Bob Bowman and his staff have fallen behind the times, even more so than the traditional, white-bearded Uncle Sam — who boasts an even larger bureaucratic family,

We've come to label it the "Lansing name game" in our house.

You see, my husband and I have

You see, my husband and I have different last names, as do many couples today.

different last names, as do many couples today. Yes, stubborn me in-sisted on making a "statement" when we got married. It's one I still believe in strongly.

UNCLE SAM has no trouble han-



Two years ago, they labeled me "Casey Crawford" on the refund. My last name was gone, replaced by my

husband's, although not at my re-

Last year — after sending a detailed explanation — I was "C.M. Hans." Better, I thought.

We recently got 1988 forms, which address me as "Hans Crawford." Now I've lost my first name. Hopefully, this is not a sign of problems in the year to come.

IS THIS a lost cause? When questioned, staffers in Lansing explained that new information is fed into computers each year as returns are sent in. There's no "master list."

They don't simply enter a Social Se-curity number and use previous in-formation. Incredible.

There is really nothing anyone can to to straighten out such a mess, one said. "Why do you have different names?" another asked. State treasury employees must fit "many letters into a limited space," was the excuse given for the mistake.

It's a mistake that is easily corrected, but someone in Lansing just doesn't agree with our choice of names and, so, does what they please in a traditional vein.

I'LL ANSWER to just about anything anymore, without opset. Much of my mail comes addressed to "Mr." because my first name could be either male or female. No problem. Many friends use the traditional "Mr. and Mrs." when addressing cards and letters. I can accept that.

But when filing a legal document, I insist on using my legal name.
Take that and stick it in your treasury files, Mr. Bowman. And make it stick permanently, please.

Casey Hans is a staff writer for the Farmington Observer.

New super weapons endanger innocents

AL CAPONE wasn't done in by a gun. His downfall came at the hands of an accountant.

That bothers some police officers.

That bothers some police officers.

It instead of annoying them, it should be a lesson heeded by the sub-urban police departments, which are demanding, and getting, the funds to carry the ultra-lethal, le-found semi-automatic handguns.

So far, communities as diverse as Beverly Hills, Southfield, Canton Township and Birmingham have equipped their police officers with the 9 mm weapons that can spray an area full of lead quicker than you can count to three.

area full of lead quicker than you can count to three.

LIVONIA VOTED recently to spend \$80,000 on them.

Purchasing semi-automatic weapons for general police use is a waste of money and dangerous to the general public and police officers.

Contrary to common opinion, being involved in a gunflight is a thinking person's predicament — at least for those who want to survive. Wasting ammunition is no way to see tomorrow.

tomorrow.

My father wore the police blue for 25 years. Several times, the grief of a family whose parent was killed in the line of duty was brought close to home as one or another of my father's colleagues was murdered.

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In each of those cases, the type of weapon the officer carried wouldn't have changed the outcome.

SOME POLICE have taken to the idea that since the drug dealers and addicts are armed with automatic and semi-automatic weapons, so should they.

But the logic falters, Cops aren't crooks, Their reason for carrying a weapon is entirely different from that of the local drug carr.

Like the thugs of the prohibition era, the modern-day or riminal's raon for carrying a weapon is to kill and to do it in a wanton manner.

The number-one reason that police

and to do it in a wanton manner.
The number-one reason that police carry a weapon is to protect the public. Secondly, they carry a weapon to protect themselves.
Police officers who carry weapons for any other reason than defense shouldn't be police officers at all.

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My Belongs To

Madame

Alexander

Escalating the weapons race on the street only serves to endanger the

EVEN THE popular .357-caliber EVEN THE popular 357-caliber Magnum, popularized by Dirty Harry movies, and izuned by many police departments dolay, is more fire-power than needed for an officer on the beat.

After all, blowing a hole through an engine block hardly is necessary to incapacitate a criminal.

Those who know weapons realize that a .38-caliber service revolver it plenty of fire power to fulfill a police officer's duty.

Spraying 16 rounds in the general area of a target will only serve to malm or kill some innocent bystander.

The best protection an officer has The best protection an order mas is accuracy, And that takes practice. One well-placed shot will do the job just fine. Even in the military, sol-diers are taught to be accurate, to conserve ammunition by firing one count at a time.

conserve ammunition by firing one round at a time.

Good, sound police work catches criminals. Weapons are secondary to that job. Just ask the accountant who put away Al Capone.

Steve Barnaby is managing ed-itor of the 12 Observer & Eccen-tric Newspapers.



Probe pornography's ties to mind of Bundy

THE TOP OF the newspaper told of the final moments of Ted Bundy, a disturbingly normal-appearing man who was executed in Florida. He was who was executed in Florida. He was convicted of killing a 12-year-old girl and two Florida State coeds. He is thought to have killed maybe 30

is thought to have suited mayor womer women.
His story has been told many times and he was the subject of a television movie. His execution was long sought by many lawmen. Several Florida residents rejoiced at his death with crude jotes and jeers. A radio station asked citizens not to use electric appliances that morning so that there would be more juliec to finish off Bundy.

If was a circus-like atmosphere. Such reactions to a man's calculated death got my liberal knee to jerk wildly. So this is what L. Brooks Patterson wants, I steamed, Is this demeaning behavior all that's unexpected if the state coldly executes one of its own?

one of its own?

But my thoughts cooled before my knee stilled. Patterson, the former Oakland County prosecutor who campaigned vigorously for the death penaity, and other capital punishment advocates don't promote uncivilited behavior at executions. It's untain to juage their position by the actions of the crude.

BESIDES, AN adjoining story brought home the difficulty of black-and-white positions on most contro-versial issues. The story was actually the tran-

Rich Periberg

script of a conversation between Bundy and a psychiatrist the night before Bundy died. During the dialogue, Bundy strongly implied that pornography – particularly pornography that giorifies violence against women – provoked the evil ("crystallized" was the word he used) that resulted in the abduction, rape and murder of so many women.

The story must be taken with a grain of sail. The interviewer, Dr. James Dobson, once served on the president's council on pornography and his view toward the subject may have influenced Bundy's response. Even near death, Bundy's self-interest might have been reason enough to choose pictures and words as content scapeasts for his murvellent scapeasts for his murvellent scapeasts for his mur-

to choose pictures and words as convenient scapegoats for his murderous life.

Still, a defender of the First Amendment and a foe of censorship has perhaps his toughest days when he pivtees the rights of hard-core, women-haling pornography.

I STILL remember the day I sat in the office of a Methodist church where three respectable women hauled out magazine after magazine of disgusting magazines that were

sold in one of my hometown's best-known and best-regarded stores.

They wanted to boycott the store and they expected many people would not understand. They did not understand. They did not the store of these their targets were far worse than pinups for college dorm rooms.

They were right. Most of us, I suspect, are unaware of the content of some of these magazines. In pleture and deed these publications not only lumillate women, but they encourage (at least through fantasies) harmful and brutal behavior.

Even worse, the publications of ten indicate that women, who might at first resist, actually want their men indicate that women, who might at first resist, actually want their men indicate that women, who might at first resist, actually want their men indicate that women, who might at first resist, actually want their men indicate that momen, the many harmful and the store in the store of the store

Rich Periberg is the assistant managing editor in charge of Oakland County editions at the Observer & Eccentric Newspa-pers.



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