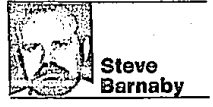


points of view

# Lone crusader seeks support for just cause

I'VE NEVER been one for petitions. But join me in helping Sharon Lemieux get hers signed. Her cause is just. Chances are you've seen her around town. She's a photographer who works with the Observer & Eccentric on occasion. But a bigger story lurks behind the camera work she does for this newspaper.



Steve Barnaby

You ought to know about it. Sharon, a former Oakland University student, is fighting to save the reputation of an organization to which she is very committed. Unfortunately, some in that organization feel Sharon's concern is unwarranted. She is one of the many young women who signed up with the Jaycees earlier this decade after the courts struck down the all-male membership barrier. As a young businesswoman, Sharon was anxious to join a group which offered contacts with other people her age who share similar interests and ambitions. The Jaycees sounded like the right choice. She takes the organization and its bylaws seriously. And one section of those bylaws says the Jaycees oppose discrimination. Now, Sharon thinks the organiza-

tion should give this issue more than lip service. HER CONSCIENCE was jogged earlier this year after listening to a report on National Public Radio which chronicled a blatant case of racial discrimination by a local chapter of the Jaycees in Saluda, S.C. Outraged, she brought the tape to my office. To make sure I listened, she also dropped off a tape player. I, too, was outraged. In short, black children were forbidden the use of a swimming pool owned by the local Jaycee chapter. The children were part of an interracial group from a local Methodist Church. The incident, she says, gives a black eye to Jaycees around the country. "It goes against what the Jaycees stand for," she says. "Here we are with bylaws which say we don't be-

lieve in discrimination. Now, what's wrong with saying (to the public) we don't believe in discrimination?" And the best way to say it, she believes, is by launching a recruitment program to encourage minorities to join the Jaycees. "We think this is a moral issue. Now is a good opportunity to make a statement against racism," she says. But she has met resistance. An attempt to make a statement about her concerns at the recent state convention in Traverse City was rejected. A call to a national Jaycee officer brought a ho-hum reaction. But she has had better luck on other levels. Along with a hand full like-minded Jaycees, she is calling upon local chapters to speak out on this issue. Some chapters have been receptive. "Everyone who isn't a state official says 'get on the bandwagon,'" she says. She hopes that the local chapters can bring state and national officers to their senses by submitting petitions expressing their concern. If you want to help out Sharon, give her a call at 864-4288. Steve Barnaby is managing editor of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.

# Like classical music? Tune to WQRS today

MY FISHIN' buddy hoisted a cup of java and said, "I learned to like classical music from the radio, too. "When I was a kid, my mom would listen to the soap operas on the radio, and they had classical themes. I would play with my toys and listen to the music. Those were pleasant associations."



Tim Richard

That was similar to how I learned to appreciate the classics. I'll share some of those delightful explorations with you at 9 this evening on WQRS, 105.1 on the FM dial. "Yep, I'm the guest Bach jock on "Guess Who's Playing the Classics" with Charles Greenwell, a cascade of knowledge on the subject. But more of CHAS, later. "The Lone Ranger" radio program as a kid was "The Lone Ranger," which used a lot of classical music between acts, not just the finale of Rossini's "William Tell" overture. "The Lone Ranger" originated 50 years ago in Detroit. The reason I know that is because WQRS played "William Tell" earlier this year on the anniversary. I called Dick Wallace, the mid-day DJ, and suggested one could do a whole program of "Lone Ranger" music. He allowed me to how it was a good idea. Little did I realize I'd get to do the program myself tonight. As the plot developed, they'd play Mendelssohn's "Fingal's Cave" overture. For Indian scenes, they'd play a minor key excerpt from Borodin's "Polovtsian Dances," originally intended to describe Mongol tribes on the steppes of Asia.

As the Lone Ranger and Tonto wised up to the bad guys and closed in, they'd play Liszt's "Les Preludes."

A LOT OF old-time kids' programs used classical themes. "Challenge of the Yukon," about Sgt. Preston and his dog King, used Rimsky-Korsakov's "Flight of the Bumblebee."

You could get a tremendous schooling in the classics on AM radio in these days. Monday evenings you could catch "The Telephone Hour" with guest artists like Lauritz Melchior and the legendary violinist Fritz Kreisler. The latter helped turn me into a violin zealot.

Attending Detroit public schools didn't hurt a guy, either. Every so often they would pop us on a bus to the Masonic Auditorium to see Valtter Poole conduct the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. It turned to be almost as much fun as when the safety patrol boys got treated to the Shrine Circus. Pleasant associations.

I HAVE TO tell you a story about

the programming genius of my host, the erudite Charles Greenwell. A few years ago, Greenwell conducted the Plymouth Symphony for a season. Now, instead of playing two hours with an intermission, most conductors doing a young people's concert will play 75 minutes without intermission. Not Chas.

He programmed a full two hours and 12 minutes, with intermission, of high quality opuses. The kids didn't run up and down the aisle to the restroom. They didn't twitch and fidget or buzz to each other. They didn't slump and doze off. Everyone paid rapt attention.

That was superb programming. Well, station manager Dave Wagner has approved, with compliments, my list of recordings for this evening. Here's hoping I can do for others what "The Lone Ranger" and Valtter Poole did for me back in the Peleostocene Era of my youth.

TRIVIA QUESTION: On the "Lone Ranger" radio program, who was trumpet soloist in the "William Tell" overture?

First clue: Since the program originated in Detroit, you can guess which orchestra was employed. Second clue: The musician is still active in the Detroit area, though not with the DSO.

Stay tuned. Tim Richard is director of the Suburban Communications Corp. service. SCC is the parent company of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.

# Set aside a regular study time for kids

Q: Our oldest child will be entering the sixth grade this fall and we have always prided ourselves in being able to help him with his homework. Our son does quite well in school. He carries a 3.5 average. However, looking over the materials he will be working on in math at the 10th grade level and looking at our neighbor boy's books in science and math at the 12th grade level, I do not see how we will be able to help with his homework. In fact, it gets more difficult each year for us even though we both graduated from high school. We worry about this because when he was in elementary and middle school, we could help him with

his school work. Do you have any suggestions? A: Join the crowd. My homework services for my children — in some areas — peaked at about the 11th grade, especially trigonometry. Recognize that you are one of many parents who go through this metamorphosis. For instance, many basic concepts of geometry we parents had at the 10th grade level years ago are now being taught at the middle school and even upper elementary level. Many high school chemistry concepts taught today were college chemistry concepts taught 20 years ago. Nevertheless, since your son has



Doc Doyle

maintained a 3.5 average, you obviously have been doing many things right over the years. Your question is, what can you now do to help your son as he moves into the higher level curriculum areas which you have little background in or have forgotten. First, your son needs to continue in the established regular study

schedule you indicated he follows. Indeed, all children/students need a set-aside study period — and no TV. By having a regular study time set aside, children will view this time in the same manner as they view dinner time: "It's time to eat." "It's time to study." Be consistent, but not compulsive if some special event comes up.

Next, your son should find a peer tutor who is a "star" in algebra II, his present problem. Forming a peer study group for those courses that are giving him trouble is ideal. Encourage these peer study sessions at your home (serve pizza, make it fun). We had many brainstorming peer study sessions in our home for our children. After the usual adolescent gossip about boys, girls, teachers and parents, the work session always became productive. Adolescent peers have such loyalty to each other (peer group loyalty) that the atmosphere tends to be a non-threatening, nurturing experience for those students

in the group who may be struggling with a certain course.

Not only does a peer tutor or a peer support study group do wonders for the students who are falling behind but also crystallizes the knowledge for the "star students" by the very nature they are acting as teachers.

Finally, know your child's teachers, know their expectations, set up meetings with teachers if needed, at-

tend parent-teacher conferences and demonstrate a continuing interest.

Dr. James Doyle is an assistant superintendent in the Troy School District. The answers provided here are the opinions of Doyle and not the Troy School District. Questions for this column should be sent to Doc Doyle c/o the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150.

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