

POINTS OF VIEW

News caster wrongly indicts all journalists

Warren Pierce did the wrong thing. Then he tried to make it look right by indicting all journalists. Pierce, a West Bloomfield resident, was fired by Channel 2 last week after it was revealed he had borrowed nearly 100 cars over two years from auto companies, generally driving each for about a week.

This town has participated in this practice at one time or another. What system is that? Someone who makes a living reviewing new cars would have to drive them to do so, perhaps even for a week at a time. Someone who is reviewing a film would have to see it at a preview screening. Reviewing a book requires reading it — usually before it has hit the bookstores.



JUDITH DONER BERNE

Channel 2's Eyewitness Morning, And, in fact, his use of loaners was apparently not within the station's policies, judging from the inquiry it conducted and its aftermath.

pounded it by choosing to bring down all journalists along with him. Every profession has its abusers. I can't speak for broadcast journalists, but almost all print journalists I know take the freedoms and privileges of their jobs very seriously.

council, school board, chamber of commerce, sports and special events. So you know, the Observer & Eccentric has guidelines for its employees regarding the acceptance of gifts.

Money going to charter schools benefits church

The case against "charter schools" gets stronger and stronger. The heaviest blow yet comes from the Muskegon Chronicle, which published a two-day expose of Trivalley Academy, a 160-pupil school funded with our tax dollars, and its connection to Holy Trinity Church of God in Christ.

of the so-called "public school academies" — all, in Oakland County — turned out to be private schools just seeking public funds. That's a no-no under the Michigan Constitution, which prohibits public funds aid "any private, denominational or other nonpublic" school.



TIM RICHARD

That's a no-no under the Michigan Constitution, which prohibits public funds aid "any private, denominational or other nonpublic" school. No payments. No vouchers. No subsidies. No grants. No loans. No use of public property. The voters said so.

tions director." The son works for a housing corporation operated by Trivalley's vice president. At least one of Trivalley's teachers has been paid directly by the church.

Now you know why they want to put a screeching halt to public school annual improvement plans and reports. Now you know why Senate Education Chairman Leon Stille and State Board of Education President Clark Durant stonewall people who suggest more research is needed on the educational results of charter schools before we rush off to create more of a bad thing.

Welfare debate shifts but discussion is incomplete

The best evidence of just how far the political debate has shifted to the right over the past few years can be found in the welfare reform bill that is zipping through the Michigan Senate this week. Trumpled by supporters as "the most comprehensive welfare reform system in the nation," the plan will require all recipients to work — community service or employment-related activity — at least 20 hours a week within 60 days of going on welfare or lose their assistance.



PHILIP POWER

would be better if we just spent lots more money (a 1980s point of view) or that all the reform that is needed is to tinker around the edges a bit (an early '90s bromide). The entire spectrum of debate has moved. And because I believe that there is no political orthodoxy that holds true for decades upon decades, regardless of the ways the society and its economic base have evolved, I believe the Republic is better for it.

3 Days Only! Last Best Deals of 1995. WINDOW TOPPERS UP TO 50% OFF. DECORATOR PILLOWS \$4. KITCHEN TOWELS \$1. POLYESTER SLEEP PILLOWS any size! \$6. PATCHWORK QUILTS any size! \$38. drapery boutique Warehouse Outlet Only!