



By Philip H. Power
Publisher

OBSERVATION POINT

Cultural Flowering Of Suburbs Shown In Artrain Visit Here

Time was when people who didn't know any better referred (usually with a sneer) to the suburbs as a cultural wasteland.

Well, times have changed. Over the past few years all kinds of cultural institutions have sprung up in this area.

Schoolcraft Community College has developed a first rate music series. Groups like the Livonia-Redford Theater Guild's production of "A Lion In Winter" won the Metropolitan Detroit Community Theater Festival's first prize for the best show in the area over the past year.

These are not merely amateur, slapdash performances. Only two weeks ago the Livonia-Redford Theater Guild's production of "A Lion In Winter" won the Metropolitan Detroit Community Theater Festival's first prize for the best show in the area over the past year.

This spring, things are just as lively. The Farmington Musicales premieres an original musical, "Mackinac!", this Friday at Harrison High School in Farmington.

The Plymouth Symphony features Khachaturian's violin concerto this Sunday afternoon in the new Plymouth High School Auditorium.

Schoolcraft College will be the scene of an original rock drama, "Little Man With Star", on April 13-16.

PERHAPS THE biggest cultural event in this area this spring will be the visit to Plymouth of the Michigan Artrain, beginning Wednesday April 19 and continuing through Saturday, May 6.

The "Vision of Art" exhibit, which was created last year by the Michigan Council for the Arts will be located at the C & O siding at the Starkweather Avenue freight office in Plymouth's Old Village.

Of the 23 appearances booked throughout Michigan in 1972, the Plymouth showing of Artrain is the only one that has been arranged for this area. The exhibit on wheels had a showing in downtown Detroit last year, but not many people from this area got down to see it.

With admission set at "no charge," the price is right.

THE ARTRAIN is a bold experiment, testing the idea that it is possible to compress into five railroad cars an

exhibit which tells the story of the instinct to create.

It deals not only with painting and drawing, but also with man's attempts to come to grips with his imagination and his environment in music, sculpture, jewelry, wood-working, pottery and weaving.

The train carries a distinguished gallery of many original pieces of traditional and contemporary works of art. Visitors walk through this fine collection while listening to a

well-written discussion of man's creative instinct and looking at a slide show of other fine pieces.

In a rear car, artists have studios for their particular craft and will be practicing their craft for everyone to see.

It's a good show, well worth while for both adults and children.

And it's just one more example of how strong and how deep the cultural flowering of the suburbs has become.

R. T. Thompson writes

Ladies Days Are Thing Of Past

Ladies, you have had it as far as promotions at baseball parks, race tracks, theaters and sundry other events are concerned.

That's the word passed along to the management of the various promotions by state officials following passage of the new equal rights bill.

Effective Monday, there can't be anything like a special day for the girls or a reduced admission fee tagged only for members of the opposite sex.

The new equal rights act specifically states that such special days and special rates are discriminatory. . . to members of the other sex, we men.

First to get caught under the new provisions of the law are Wolverine Raceway, which operates at the Detroit Race Course and Hazel Park track.

FOR THE PAST several years, Wolverine has had ladies night events on Tuesdays. Hazel Park had a special ladies day each week with reduced admission charges and gifts for all ladies attending.

Following is a notice printed on the cover of the program at Wolverine Raceway starting Saturday:

"We regret to announce that because of the new non-discriminatory state law, we have been forced to cancel Ladies Nights. Such law 'doesn't allow ladies admitted free' on Tuesday nights."

Track management could have added another line. . . the

law doesn't allow ladies admitted free any night unless it is a free gate to everyone.

Tim Richard writes

Strange Things Creep Out In April

Just a little April Foolin' around:

The first day of spring means that the days are as long as the nights and will get longer until the first day of summer. The cause is the earth's tilting on its axis. The days are longer when our northern hemisphere faces the sun, and vice-versa.

That's the simple, scientific explanation. But some mediums in the news media have a knack for making it a whole lot more complicated. Here's how some of them might handle it ...

THE SUBURBAN NEWS: "Over the objections of parents and taxpayers, school officials

are refusing to keep days and nights the same length.

"Parents and taxpayers said in a petition that longer days would only allow delinquents and hippies to chase around more, but school bureaucrats and social planners overruled them and stuck to their pre-determined scheme..."

THE SOUTHFIELDM EC-CENTRIC: "Days are longer than nights this week, as forecast in the last edition of The Southfield Eccentric."

"The condition of days being shorter than nights was first exposed by The Eccentric in an article earlier this month, and the condition has now been corrected. 'It's another example of our community service to the residents of this city,' said Publisher Henry M. Hogan..."

SONNY ELIOT: "Ho, ho, ho, the weather will be wizzly. That's a cross between windy and drizzly. And the days will be longer than the nights from now on up in a little town called Mancelona. You know, there's a man up there who's so skinny, he has to stand twice in the same place to cast a shadow..."

CHANNEL 7 ACTION REPORTER: "And now, Mrs. McCormone, what was your problem?"

"Mrs. M: 'Well, I was sick and tired of the nights bein' longer than the days. I called the Weather Bureau and Mayor Gribbs' office, and they didn't do nuthin about it.'"

"Reporter: 'And what happened when you called the Action Reporter on March 20?'"

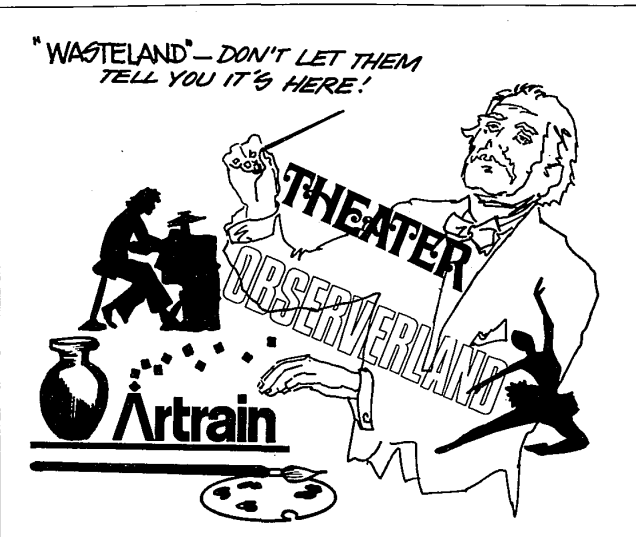
"Mrs. M: 'Next day, the days is as long as the nights, and next day they is longer. That Bill Bonds, he is so authoritative, he must have a pipeline to God...'"

HUBERT HUMPHREY, of course, is not a newsman, but it would be charitable to let him tell how he would handle a story on the first day of spring:

"Half of our days - only half, mind you - are longer than the nights, and I say that's pitifully inadequate. It's another measure of the moral and intellectual bankruptcy of This Administration."

"The first goal of My Administration will be to make 90 per cent of the days as long as the nights. We won't play into the hands of the wealthy electric power companies who are financing the Present Administration..."

Happy springtime!



Betty Hanson writes

GP Rated Films Are Big Reason For Moves Toward Censorship

The Detroit News is now refusing to advertise or review X-rated films. Charges of "censorship" are being hurled at it by the National Theater Owners of Michigan.

While I hold no brief for censorship (or X-rated movies), I do believe that even an institution has a right and a duty often to make moral judgments.

Censorship bothers me, both because of the ever-present dangers inherent in such restrictions and also because most of the people whom I have met who supported censorship had no sense of humor whatsoever.

BUT IT'S REALLY NOT the X-rated films which are the most controversial. If an adult happens to like violence and pornography, that's his problem, and he can visit the X films, whether or not they've been advertised.

The X is warning enough.

It's the GP-rated films which really cause problems for thoughtful parents.

When the Rating Administration of the Motion Picture Association of America first introduced its rating designations, those films

coming after G (General Audience) were labeled M for "suggested for mature audiences - adults and mature young people."

The exhibitors were quick to complain that parents were keeping their children home from these films, and the designation was changed to GP, "all ages admitted - parental guidance suggested."

The public took this to mean "general patronage," and parents would let their children attend without investigating what they were going to see.

The national film agencies of both the Catholic and Protestant churches withdrew their support from the rating program in May 1971, giving as their reason the Rating Administration's inability to furnish parents with reliable guidance, especially in the GP category.

IN JANUARY of this year, MPAA very quietly made still another change, and GP became PG, with the words "Parental guidance suggested." Some material may not be suitable for pre-teenagers." But so far the organiz

MPAA very quietly made still another change, and GP became PG, with the words "Parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for pre-teenagers." But so far the organization has not made available its standards for this label.

How much violence is allowed? How many sexual encounters are permissible? In many cases, even this rating allows more of both than I believe some teen-agers should see.

Thus movie reviews may be more valuable today than ever before.

No reviewer can tell you what you should or should not allow your children to see. This depends on too many variables, the child's age versus his maturity, the parents' own standards, and so on.

But a careful reading of the reviews should give a parent a pretty good idea of what the movie is all about...and a basis from which to decide. It isn't enough to see that the picture is rated GP or PG and stars John Wayne or Judy Garland's cute little daughter, Liza Minnelli.

If enough people care about what their children are seeing, the movie-makers will get the message.

IN JANUARY of this year,

Editorial & Opinion

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Philip H. Power, Publisher

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