

# Cities Using Double Standards In Judging Movies?

The suburbs, led by Detroit, have gone on a rampage adopting anti-obscenity ordinances to curb undesirable, objectionable portrayals of sex in movies and books.

Pornography control ordinances have been adopted or revised in Southfield, Livonia, Redford, Garden City and Westland.

Oakland County Prosecutor L. Brooks Patterson has launched an anti-smut campaign, with the first thrust being banning of the movie "Deep Throat."

Garden City was an early pioneer in this field when a group of concerned citizens attempted to ban "Catcher in the Rye" and "To Kill a Mockingbird" from the school reading lists.

But, now all suburban municipalities are on the bandwagon. The distaste for "dirty" movies, it would seem, is more intense than

the fear of cross-district busing.

There is a serious "prior restraint" civil libertarian issue at stake here, but the courts should be capable of reading the First Amendment even though suburban councilmen are unaware of what those protections mean.

Aside from the legal challenges which will soon arise, I suggest consideration ought to be given to the double-standard hypocrisy being practiced by city councils, the movie industry, the media, and movie-goers.

Although "Deep Throat" has been banned across the nation, and maligned by the media, the same attention hasn't been given "Last Tango in Paris" starring Marlon Brando. Indeed, "Last Tango" has received cover-story treatment from Time and Newsweek and over-articulate reviews from the New York Times.

From reviews read on both films, it strikes me that "Deep Throat" is merely a silly, possibly nauseating flick while "Last Tango" depicts a type of violence in sex which deserves critical review. But, because Brando is a name actor, "Last Tango" has been receiving favorable reviews and will likely draw long lines to the box office.

Another double-standard stance of society is rejection of what is considered "dirty" sex scenes, but acceptance in films of violence of the worst sort.

How does one explain "The Godfather" winning an Oscar instead of such non-violent, wholesome entertainment as "Cabaret" or "Sounder"? The movie producers say the public demands violence, and 1973 films will include more bloody, gory scenes. It is downright silly that we get

upset over a bare breast or bod scene, but seem to have an appetite for watching killings, beatings, maulings, and pools of blood.

I'm unconcerned about the "violence" in cartoon shows for youngsters, although "Speed Racer" does throw me for a loop. Children have an ability to sort out the real from the unreal. They live in a world of fiction and imagination. But adults don't.

Adults have long ago lost their imaginations and are subtle enough to empathize while watching films. Many, apparently, need an escape from boredom by watching somebody's face get bloodied. Others have suppressed feelings of hatred or envy which they cannot outwardly release and feel violence in films is needed to channel (sublimate) these negative emotions.

Healthy adults are much more preferable than providing psychological outlets of escape for sick minds. Violent films, to me, can be more harmful to an individual than pornography.

Crime statistics will bear out that there are more killings and

beatings each year than rape or incest. There may not be any relationship at all to what is shown on the screen and illegal acts on the streets. But, whatever the motives of the anti-pornographers are, their sense of priority is out of order.

...OR, "TIN CAN ALLEY"



## Why Not Change Name Of Xway And Benefit Some Indian Tribes?

State Sen. Stanley Novak, who in his 18 years in the Legislature has never been particularly noted for leadership or scholarship, is raising statewide Cain against a bill to change the popular name of US 12 from "Pulaski Memorial Highway" to the "Great Sauk Trail."

He points out that the Sauk Indians lived in Wisconsin, not Michigan, and further demurs: "To change the name of that road would not only deprive a great war hero, Gen. Casimir Pulaski, of the honor due him for his many contributions to our nation; it would be an insult to the people of Polish origin of this state."

Apparently, back in Salemville, Pa., where Stosh Novak hails from, they didn't teach a lot of history. To begin with, Pulaski never came near Michigan. He distinguished himself at the Battle of Brandywine, which is someplace around Philadelphia; he stuck it out at Valley Forge, in Pennsylvania; and he performed well in South Carolina, where in 1779 he was fatally wounded.

It was stretching things quite a bit to name the road for the count in the first place.

Sen. Novak is correct about one thing: the Sauk tribe has no particular association with Michigan history. Yet for centuries before the first fur trappers arrived, the Indian path that connected the site of Detroit to the site of Chicago was called "The Great Sauk Trail."

Apparently it was called that for the same reason we have roads around here named Southfield, Greenfield, Inkster, Orchard Lake, Farmington, Wayne, Plymouth and Ann Arbor -- not in honor of those communities but because they go TO them. If you were a Michigan Indian and you

wanted to trade with the Sauks, you took the Sauk Trail.

Another reason for applying Indian names to our roads is that they actually followed old Indian trails. The Detroit-Toledo route, old Grand River, the Detroit-Chicago Road -- all the old highways and even today's freeways are based on Indian trails.

Considering our custom today of naming things in honor of persons or groups, "Sauk" does seem like a bad choice. What else then?

I'm against "Ottawa" ever since I read about how Pontiac's forces executed British captives and floated the corpses past beleaguered Fort Detroit. No one can spell "Potawatomi," not even the Potawatomies. "Miami" seems inappropriate, even though that tribe lived in southwestern Michigan along the Sauk route.

A compromise is in order -- one that will satisfy those of Polish ancestry as well as the Indian

lovers. I have a constructive suggestion.

Hank Chrusciel, who lives in Livonia, is of Polish ancestry, although with his weathered face he could pass for Indian. Hank has gained fame across the state for his efforts to collect toys and cans of food for poor folks -- white and Indian -- in Detroit, Berrien County, Muskegon, Cross Village, Harbor Springs, the Soo and other points.

Last year one grateful tribe honored him by giving him the Indian name of "Little Crow." In the meantime, Hank has kept his nose politically clean by not messing around with Marlon Brando and those kooks at Wounded Knee.

So let's call US 12 "Little Crow" Highway; or if you prefer the Polish wording, "Maly Wrona" (pronounced "mayee vrona," and roll the R a bit) Highway.

We could also make it a toll road. For every 20 miles of the

Little Crow/Maly Wrona you travel, you'd kick in a can of food to Hank Chrusciel's Indian affairs committee of the Western Wayne County Conservation Assn., and Hank will get it delivered to the right place at Easter time.

## Knight On White Horse Shafts Senior Citizens

President Nixon has been portrayed by his supporters as a knight on a white horse carrying a lance into battle.

The lance is really a shaft

which Observerland suburbs received in the mail last week.

The shaft was a form letter from the federal Housing and Urban Development agency con-

cerning federally-funded housing for the elderly.

The government said it is returning the applications filed by cities because of the president's suspension of subsidized housing programs.

It should be noted for the record that some of the Observerland applications have been on file with HUD and awaiting approval for up to two years. The form letter came within three months after the presidential decision to refuse federal funds for housing for the elderly.

Garden City and Westland housing commissions and administrations have spent a lot of time and money preparing applications for senior citizens' housing and there was no reason to feel that the government would say "no" when neighboring cities like Livonia and Inkster received funds.

What makes the lance -- or shaft -- more painful is the president's revenue sharing program will fail to provide much help for the financially-distressed elderly in the suburbs.

The 65-plus retiree or widow is forced to maintain the school tax rates required by growing enrollments and school operational costs.

Although they have the help of property tax relief, the burden is still overwhelming for many families faced with a \$500-\$800 tax bill with an annual income of \$3,000-\$5,000.

The federally-funded housing for the elderly would have solved a genuine problem for senior citizens -- housing.

Revenue sharing could have been used to either cut taxes or provide services for the elderly.

But in reality, this won't happen.

So the knight on the white horse came riding out of the White House to do battle with the "big spenders" in congress and reduce the national deficit.

His rhetoric may help soothe the feelings of conservatives and supporters but it doesn't help the senior citizens in Observerland who may have a hard time sitting down.

## Plymouth School Board Gives In To Band Parents... For One Year

Our Observerland readership was left hanging in mid-air last week by an editorial which spoke of high school band problems being weighed by the Plymouth Board of Education. The conflict between the board's meeting date and our press time gave R.T. Thompson the opportunity to pass on some advice to the board, but not the outcome.

To end your suspense, Thompson lost. However, it would seem

in order that views from the other side of the coin be presented by one who believes the board acted correctly.

You may have noticed in the past that expressions of Observerland editorial writers on issues of the day do not always agree. This right to disagree is something in which we take journalistic pride.

Plymouth is engaged in a unique educational experiment. To begin with, you must realize this is a monstrosity of a district which covers 54 square miles, straddles the line between Wayne and Washtenaw Counties, and includes all or parts of six governmental areas.

It bodes well of becoming one of the most populous districts in Michigan, with an enrollment that is expected to double in five years.

Several years ago, anticipation of this growth led to acquisition of a parcel of land of more than 300 acres three miles from downtown for development as an educational "park."

Purpose was to concentrate all high school activities of the entire district in that acreage on which an educational complex -- not a compound -- would emerge. It was decided to operate each new structure as a separate school with its own identity instead of calling it one big PHS campus.

Behind this decision was the concept of "shared facilities." This means that with schools virtually side by side, students may have classes in any or all buildings. One major auditorium, one stadium, etc., would suffice for

all. Yet student identity and loyalty is to be with one school.

The Plymouth-Salem building opened in 1970. The Plymouth-Canton building went into use last fall, but will not have its first senior class until 1974-75. A third high school on the same site (Plymouth-Superior) is now on the drawing board and a fourth is under discussion for the future.

Each will eventually have its own full-fledged status, with its own sports teams, bands, separate leagues, etc., yet continuing to share many facilities ranging from laboratories to the stadium.

Quite obviously, many problems lie ahead which will dwarf the debate which arose over what to do about the 1973-74 marching band.

Plymouth-Canton will begin interscholastic competition next fall in the Western Six. Plymouth-Salem continuing in the Suburban Eight. In simplest terms, the argument which developed within the community was whether Canton should immediately have its own full instrumental music program, even without a full complement of students, or should musicians from both schools combine in a unit that would perform at functions of both institutions.

The latter compromise was accepted -- but just for one year. When Canton is of age, it will boast its own marching troops as it should.

Plymouth long has been proud of its school instrumental music program in particular, and its products starting at the junior high level consistently earn the highest ratings possible.

So great is the participation that the structure includes a symphony band at the top, the concert band and finally varsity band. Membership is determined through personal auditions. The marching band, which functions only through the fall with football games as the showcase, is made up of volunteers from the other three.

Charges of ego-building, self-centered badgering arose in the Plymouth debate.

The basic desire was that all students be eligible to participate in a unit which would maintain quality. The fact of the two schools standing together made the combination answer possible under a commitment that this all-Plymouth band will tout just as hard at Canton games next fall as for the Salem gridders.

## Sense And Nonsense

There are probably a lot of Observerland families who are living off stored and frozen supplies rather than buy meat this week in protest of prices.

But no doubt some of the people in line at Farmer Jack's in Plymouth were surprised Sunday when they saw one man buy 100 frying chickens.

It wasn't that he was stocking up so he could boycott prices though -- his church was having a chicken dinner and he was in charge of buying the meat.

## Editorial & Opinion

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