

Open Mind—Utopian?

"If I weren't affected I'd be home watching television." This is a very typical reaction to citizens towards the local government and Board of Education. Attend just about any session of any governmental unit and the local citizenry is conspicuous by its lack of presence.

This is one reason why the press has an obligation to report the happenings of such meetings. Very often individuals are unable to be present to keep themselves informed. We have no quarrel with the citizen who is unable to attend a meeting.

We do take exception, however, to those citizens who, when directly affected, attend a meeting of the local Council, Commission, or Board of Education without bothering to maintain an open mind.

Don't misunderstand—it is the inalienable right of every citizen to attend any open session of any governing or policy making body. It is especially when directly affected that the individual has a right to plead his case with his elected officials.

The individual also has an obligation in such cases to appraise himself of the facts and to allow the other side the courtesy of being heard.

A case in point—although there are many—is last week's meeting between the administration of the Livonia Schools and parents in the Monroe School area.

Guilt by Omission

Sunday, March 14, may go down as a watershed in the development of this city. The Alabama State Troopers who beat Negro freedom marchers senseless that day, while television cameras ground on, may unwittingly have beaten racial prejudice to death at the same time.

The reaction of Americans from coast to coast was one of horror, disgust—and guilt.

There were immediate, spontaneous demonstrations of public support for the civil rights workers in Selma. The largest was in Detroit.

The Observer, along with most of the conservative news media in the Detroit area, was on the scene.

It began rather small. But as it moved slowly, silently, through the streets of downtown Detroit, it gathered numbers.

The recruits were mostly white business people and shoppers, compelled by force of circumstance, to walk along. The number reached 10,000.

Quite a few of them were from within the circulation range of this paper. Many were surprised by their own presence.

Over and over, one heard people say that they had watched the film "Judgment at Nuremberg" just prior to seeing the attack on the marchers in Selma. They said it made them realize that to remain silent in the face of tyranny is to share in the guilt.

We who make our livings in the field of communications have come to realize this also. We have a special obligation here.

We simply cannot remain silent on the great moral issues of the day. For if we do, history will certainly include us among the guilty.

ALLEN ROSENFELD

Editorial Footnotes...

FOOTNOTE TO The Observer's editorials on Libraries and Censorship.

Throughout history, the battle to let books live—especially if they are controversial—has been ceaseless. There are always people and governments who would censor that which is critical of the prevailing social, religious, or political philosophy. Because fear of ideas tends to breed even greater fear of ideas, the "rag list" is ever expanding. The list of proscribed books in Ireland includes most of Thomas Wolfe, "Anthony Adverse," "Elmer Gantry" by Sinclair Lewis, "No Star is Lost" by James T. Farrell, "Silver Nuts" by Norah Lofts, "The White Tower" by Ramsey Wilmam, to mention only a few.

Censorship has had a long history in the Western world. The list is long; the examples are too numerous to list. Book burning is as old as books. There are still censors in most lands.

Censorship is alien to the American system. William O. Douglas, Justice of the Supreme Court 1954

NATIONAL POISON PREVENTION WEEK... MARCH 14 to 20

1. Clean out Your medicine cabinet.
2. Do not take medicines not properly identified.
3. Don't be careless with poisons even for one minute.
4. If your child swallows something which might be poison or dangerous even aspirin—don't wait.

CALL YOUR DOCTOR

You can help to Poison-Proof your home by recognizing many everyday products which could be harmful through improper use. Make the labeling of potentially poisonous materials a joint act with children and explain the danger of poison.

OBTAIN WARNING LABELS FROM PHARMACIES LISTED BELOW

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Levon Pharmacy, 15250 Levon Rd.
Asher Smith Pharmacy, 33326 W. 7 Mile Rd.
Godfrey's Pharmacy, 21101 Schoolcraft
Dunne Drugs, 6883 Middlebelt
Grand Beach Pharmacy, 25706 Grand River

Seward Drug, 25190 VonBom
Bond Drug, 12950 Fennell
Yale Drugs, 33315 Plymouth Rd.
Peterson Drugs, 840 W. Ann Arbor Trail
D & C Drug, 26433 Plymouth Rd.
Rouch's Livonia Drug, 33325 Five Mile

GREATER NORTHWEST PHARMACISTS ASSOCIATION



THE READER SPEAKS UP: Killing Animals 'For Kicks'

Editor:

We often wonder, what kind of person is it who can commit the acts of violence that we read about every day. Perhaps this incident which happened this week in our middle-class Livonia neighborhood, holds a small clue.

For the past three weeks, a little brown dog, obviously lost but not sought by owner, had sort of adopted the home of his favorite dog friend. Yesterday, the 11-year-old son in the family, with two companions, all 4th graders, and all of whom the dog had trusted, picked this little dumb animal as their target for a sadistic killing. Upon inquiry by someone who had missed seeing the dog, and to whom the boys had previously bragged that they planned to kill it, these boys gleefully told every gory detail of how they had thrown the dog into water in one of the nearby ditches, stoning it and poking it in a savage way until they tired of the fun, as they called it. This is almost unbelievable, except that last summer I saw these same boys poking sticks into an opossum, shrieking with delight all the while.

Believing as I do, that animals are far more dependable than people as friends, this cruelty is sickening and makes me wonder if this could be the beginning of a pattern of what kind of amusements will be required as these boys grow older. It is certain that something is sadly lacking when a child is raised for 10 or 11 years, in such a way as to not know that you don't get your kicks from killing, or even to be capable of such cruelty.

IONE BICKEL

Really Concerned?

"Concerned Over Unhappy Neighbors" is captioned under a picture of Mayor Healey and others looking over rubble and rubbish strewn out on Garden Ave., south of Plymouth Road. The Mayor is apparently not aware of the Weed and Refuse Ordinance No. 468 and amendment No. 491 or he could have shown "concern" by walking across the hall in City Hall and asked that the City Clerk send notice of the Ordinance to the owner. The Mayor used an "excuse" himself that with now, though, as I have already done it myself.

I tried to interest the Mayor in the need for an effective Weed and Refuse ordinance for nearly a whole year now by letters, telegram and to delivering weeds to his office. Had he read the Mayor's Corral of last July 8, he should have drawn the conclusion that the Weed and Refuse Ordinance just wasn't working out. I know nothing he has done towards up-grading the ordinance.

If he was as "concerned" then as he is now, he could have had his picture taken in front of a clean lot as there would have been no excuse for the condition of the lot he was shown standing in.

No doubt the mails will be flooded with "Clean Up/Paint Up/Fix Up" literature and the usual quotation from the Mayor on a cleaner, better city in which to live. How much more effective it would be if it also gave instructions on how citizens can get the Weed and Refuse Ordinance implemented and some of the debris might just happen to disappear!

ALFRED D. YOUNG

Ally For Dr. Allen

Dental Den:

When are you going to learn the ropes. I'm afraid you're a greenhorn through and through. If you are to succeed—or at least survive in the political machine, you've got to learn the "wheelin'-dealin'-not offendin' routine.

"These pet words of yours 'why' and 'where' are sure-fire trouble makers. You're bound to embarrass some pretty highfalutin' folks.

"Can't you get it through your dense mud of hair that you must be pliant; you must be able to change your mind without blinking an eye at the right hat-drop; you must keep silent when speech is unnecessary; you must speak only when necessary—in an estoteric generalization.

Candor and courage are luxurious qualities reserved for noble losers.

P.S. Never admit being wrong.

H.M.

Not Anti-Apartment

Editor:

We wish to call your attention to a mistake in your article of March 10, entitled "Township Rejects Apartment Units."

We are not traditional foes of apartment development, having voted to include multiple housing in our Township zoning ordinance. At that time we were assured by our Township planner and Attorney Brennan that we would have plenty of time to review the text, and make changes as to apartment building boom was anticipated in the future.

Since passage of the ordinance we have voted for apartments on the following parcels of land:

12 Mile near Power Road
Gill Road and Nine Mile
Independence, between St. Alexander's property and the Botsford Hospital.

In all three of these proposals the developers proposed to use a much lower density than our zoning allowed, and apartment use for this land solved a problem, as they were not ideal for single home development.

Contrary to your article we did not dissent from the rest of the board when they approved apartments between the Botsford Inn and the Botsford Hospital. It received unanimous approval. We did object to the density the proponent proposed using and did warn him that he would have to abide by the lower density if and when it was changed in the zoning ordinance.

We would appreciate your publishing this correction so that the records can be kept straight.

CHARLES HANNAN and DAVE MILLIS

May your house be free from tigers—and until it is there is no "safe" place for you or your children to work or play.

All week long, one could hear the discussion of the nation's greatest social problem—race relations.

At church, at a dinner party, at the beauty shop, at the theater, at a committee meeting, at work, from the butcher, from the egg man; the plight of the Negro was the topic of conversation. My pastor, like most contemporary leaders, says we must protest the inhumanity of Selma, Alabama, with our minds, with our hearts... with our very beings.

Why do these messages fall on so many deaf ears? Fear, it seems, is the reason. People, frightened by the winds of change are finding scapegoats for their inadequacies.

They agree, when you take this problem back one step beyond the Negro aggression it was the white man's greed which initiated the problem two hundred years ago. This doesn't seem real to them. This is history and does not seem to be on their conscience. They find it hard to relate themselves to the gross cruelty of wrestling strong native black men from their families, comely women from their children; putting them in chains and bringing them to work as slaves—so that the land of the free and the home of the brave could prosper.

If 1,000 white ministers die—it will not erase the cruelty that has been inflicted on the American Negro—these past 200 years.

That established—if the leadership of our country, after the freeing of the slaves 100 years ago, had not cheated on the law, and had lived up to the emancipation proclamation—a program to uplift these freed men would have begun. If the leadership of our country had offered homesteading to these people, encouraged them to move into all corners of this big and wonderful country, they would not be concentrated in the South. Perhaps the revolution through which we are now living would have been avoided. Who knows?

Now, on the brink of great bloodshed our leaders are acting. Let us hope it is not too late. There is a grave risk. There is imminent danger of bloody strife, between the young Negro hotheads aching for a fight and the white demagogues, bent on reconquering.

Many of our youth between these two extremes are caught in unrest. There is a short fuse on a very large keg of dynamite.

It exploded last week at the U of D High School gym. Where we as kids, might have formed a snake dance in the street, to release our excitement at a school game, violence was supplanted.

Don't think violence exists only in the inner city—the police are nervous in all of our communities, wherever kids gather.

The school authorities and the police have two versions on many happenings. We have got to stop sweeping facts under the rug. Three separate incidents involving youth DID happen in Redford Township this week—all involving kids between 14 and 15. One stole a car, two others stole some road equipment and another paid made off with a supply of whiskey from a party store. This they consumed at a school dance.

The day parents start obeying the law, whether it be against bingo games, against driving while drunk, or against racial injustice; that will be the day we will begin to have a clear mind when our kids go to school parties, to the movies, to picnics, to bowling alleys, to roller skating rinks or just to the shopping centers on afternoons.

The President of the United States proposed Monday night, and no doubt the Congress will approve—new civil rights legislation, outlawing voter discrimination. But as long as we need Federal marshals to enforce this law—as long as the lady in the beauty shop, the egg man, the butcher and most of all we parents fail to obey this law in our hearts, the tiger of prejudice will stalk our footsteps, and those of our children.

Editor:

You'd think that the city and county road officials had relatives in the car spring repair and replacement business the way they leave those big chuckholes in suburban roads. I know. Last year my springs broke on a big one on Five Mile Road. Since then I've learned to zig and zag around the holes, hoping it won't happen again. Others zig and zag around them too, creating traffic hazards. We act like a bunch of drunken drivers and we will probably get tickets for reckless driving. Let's repair those chuckholes for Safety's Sake!

MAD MOTORIST

No Bottleneck, Please

Editor:

Highland Park has always been a traffic bottleneck because its leaders have not had vision or a desire to cooperate. Witness the week-long tieup during and after the big blizzard of 1965.

But are we in Livonia any less guilty? We are lucky that we are a younger community and we can still be rescued if our city and county leaders act now. Livonia is a bottleneck for our citizens and for those who visit or pass through our town. The least we could do is to widen all north-south and east-west mile roads at all intersections so that cars waiting to turn left or right don't hold up hundreds of vehicles during rush hours.

ACTION, PLEASE

Yesterday's Headlines

25 YEARS AGO
The census of Livonia Township will start April 2 as reported in the LYVONIAN of March 20, 1940. It was estimated that it would take 30 days to complete the survey. Residents are urged to be careful of "unauthorized surveyors."

15 YEARS AGO
The March 24, 1950 LYVONIAN reported the dates for the Tuberculosis Tests in Livonia. The tests are only available for children in grades K, First, Second and Third. Each child is charged 25 cents in fee, or 50 cents if required.

20 YEARS AGO
The LYVONIAN of March 21, 1945, reported the dates for the Tuberculosis Tests in Livonia. The tests are only available for children in grades K, First, Second and Third. Each child is charged 25 cents in fee, or 50 cents if required.

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or thousands—to invest—learn about Mutual Funds—and what they may do for you.

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CHECK THESE LOW RATES

1,000	1.00%	6.00% per month
2,000	1.00%	6.00% per month
3,000	1.00%	6.00% per month
4,000	1.00%	6.00% per month
5,000	1.00%	6.00% per month
6,000	1.00%	6.00% per month
7,000	1.00%	6.00% per month
8,000	1.00%	6.00% per month
9,000	1.00%	6.00% per month
10,000	1.00%	6.00% per month

2nd Mortgages slightly higher.

BORROW FOR ANNUAL USEFUL PURPOSE

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- Home Repair and Modernization
- New Car

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