

Observer Newspapers

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Serving the rich Northeast Wayne County and South Oakland County Suburban markets with a group of affiliated newspapers in Livonia, Plymouth, Farmington, Redford, Garden City, Westland and the Townships of Plymouth, Farmington and Redford.

A Freedom Story

A different type of freedom talk is the foundation of talks being given by a candidate for public office in this fall's campaign. The man is Arpo Yemen, an attorney who is the Republican Party's nominee for the 15th Congressional seat. That district includes Westland and Garden City.

With minor variations, Yemen is giving the same talk to numerous organizations and public assemblies during the current campaign. The Observer, after hearing the story several times, feels that not only should all American citizens eligible to vote listen to Yemen's story but it should also be given in all high school civics and history classes.

The title of his talk should be "Only in America" where only a story such as Yemen's could come true.

Born of Armenian parents in Turkey, his parents fled from him when he was just a youngster to escape the massacres of the Armenian minorities in that country a generation ago. He grew up and went to school in Greece. But he was refused admittance to the University of Athens.

"But there was no civil rights commission, no president to escort me through the schoolhouse door, and no federal bayonets to help me," the candidate said in obvious reference to civil rights crises in American schools within the past few years.

He then went to the Nazi German occupation commandant of Greece and was directed to the University of Vienna. However, Yemen learned at that time that the German idea of freedom isn't much different than his previous experiences.

In 1945, he learned of the horrors of communism when the Soviet Union's Red Army occupied Austria and Germany at the close of World War II. Having had enough of the European style of freedom, Yemen decided to make the jump across the Atlantic Ocean and come to America.

He arrived with his excellent high school education in Greece. Yemen attended Wayne State University in Detroit to obtain his civil engineering degree. During his undergraduate days, he worked at numerous jobs, or as he put it, "fighting my own personal war against poverty without the help of \$30,000 warriors from Washington."

Yemen admits in political talks in public that the 2-1 majority of Democratic voters over Republican voters are heavy odds—but "they are the best odds I've faced yet," he stressed.

It could happen only in America.

—LEONARD POGGER

Gambler's Paradise?

"Filler up and by the way I'll take a set of those dishes."

"I know I only asked you to get a loaf of bread at the grocery store, but I need another race card. We can win that thousand dollar race. No, not that store, they have greyhound racing and I can't stand to see those scrawny dogs chasing that fake rabbit. Get the horse racing card."

"Check the oil and don't forget the Sunny Dollar card, I feel lucky today. You don't have any? Oh, this is our local gas station and your game is with safety symbols. Well, I'll match one of those."

Game-loving Americans are having a gambling gambol in such profusion that it seems you can't turn around at a grocery, gas station, or department store without some form of "bonus" bingo or quasi-gambling venture tied to your purchase.

Is all this an outgrowth of George and

Math's rather controversial evening of "Fun and Games" in "Virginia Woolf"? Or as individuals bent on making that extra buck so assiduously do we just naturally yield to such temptation of a material nature?

Whatever the reason it's high time to fight the onrush of such forms of pseudo-gambling. Can't we be honest and forthright enough to take our gambling straight from the shoulder?

At the racetrack, it's obvious you pay your money to bet on a race and make your excuses later when the horse drags in last.

Let's put gambling on a purely legal basis as a business controlled by state and Federal agencies. To try and combine the two is hypocritical and utilizes a "tease technique" that in the long run provides more harm to an individual's psyche than enjoying the game's artifice.

—WALLY ROBERTS

Sorry Elmer, We Disagree!

Elmer D. Hazleton, Executive Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce and chairman of the Redford Township Boys' Club Advisory Council can blame "people who don't like boys" with all of his breath, for the scuttling of a \$300,000 Boys' Club Building in the Township.

The fight is not of the 150 people who objected to the plan. Any idea, good or bad, will always have those who oppose it, for many reasons.

No, the fault lies with lack of real leadership in Redford Township.

If there were any real leadership (other than negative or selfish motivations) in Redford Township, not only would they have a model Boys' Club as a credit to the entire community but they would also be part of the growing and fine Schoolcraft College District.

When that issue was before the public, Township Supervisor Jack H. McDonald, with the aid of the late Mr. McGuffin and together they defeated what was called "a part of a civic center promotion by politicians in Livonia."

Negative thinking has become a sad

fact in Redford Township and the good citizens have allowed themselves to be used as stepping stones for ambitious politicians seeking with lofty ambition and little talent the time for promoting the educational welfare of its citizens.

If the Chamber of Commerce had put its muscles behind the issue of "policing," which they have no business doing, they might have convinced other groups such as the two active and bustling Business and Professional Women's clubs in the Township; or the ever-ready-to-help Redford Suburban League. The women could have whipped this one with one hand tied behind their backs. There was no one to lead the challenge.

A Redford community without leadership which boasts it is the largest township in the United States—and for good measure... it has the most gas stations.

If it weren't for two good school districts and the parent leadership that has fought for their place in the sun (by themselves)—Redford Township may as well be Detroit.

—MYRA CHANDLER

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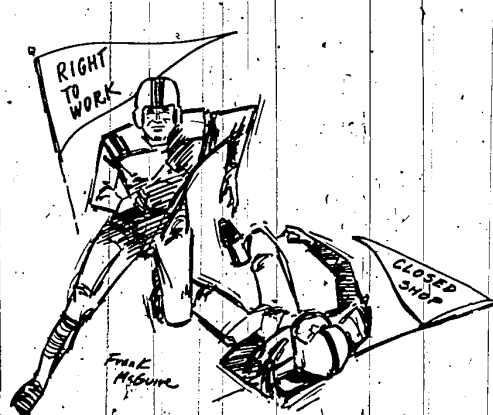
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Readers Speak Up

An Expression of Thanks

Editor:

(My wife and I received this letter from a young soldier neighbor of ours on his way to the Army at Fort Knox. So many say kids in this day and age have no sensitiveness, no appreciation. We think this letter proves otherwise. Mr. and Mrs. Leon Roy.)

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Roy and family:

I want to express my thanks for being so good to me all the time I have known you. Especially while I was in school; for Talaks help with my school work and for the encouragement I needed to see me through. Thank you for sharing part of your lives with me.

I know one thing for sure, that you cannot live without other people. You are as good as the people you know. If I am to be successful in life as a person, it is because I have known people like you.

I can't say correctly how I feel, so I will let another person say it for me.

A Prayer

"It is my joy in life to find, at every turning of the road, the strong arm of a comrade kind, to help me onward with my load."

And since I have no gold to give, and love alone must make amends, my only prayer, while I live, God make me worthy of my friends.

YOUR FRIEND,

BRIAN TALAKS
Redford Township.

Which Is He?

Editor:

I always knew Michigan was the best state in the Union. I just discovered we currently have the greatest governor.

At the recent Joint Republican 18th and 19th Congressional Convention, we were blessed to have our greatest governor speak to us. By his own admission, he stated "I am a conservative." This, of course, caused a small stir but he then said "I am also a liberal."

It is where I went into shock and I just realized I do not recall the conservative or liberal he used for these conflicting statements which naively I used to believe were conflicting.

Anyone who can enlighten me on his exact words would be over so grateful.

Sincerely yours,

BRUCE E. DUKE

(Edit Note: Sorry, we can't. The Governor is very accomplished at this dual role.)

Not For Ferency

Editor:

Notes for the week... to ZOLAN, ZOITON, Zoltan Ferency, ZEFerency, Ferency, or whatever the heck his name is... Did you ever hear an old saying "You can't use MUD and come out Clean?"

Well, George Romney has made mistakes, and will make more, since he DOES belong to the human race, but I am willing to bet my small (very small) fortune that they will NOT include ticket fixing, income tax evasion, morals charges, jury fixing, or hobnobbing with the Mafia.

Also, anyone should be able to understand why the President of the United States was courteous to the Governor of ALL the people of

Michigan. Especially, a Governor who drew more votes than he did in his own landslide of '64. LBJ is nothing if not an astute politician, even his enemies would grant him that.

Furthermore, on that RECOUNT in Redford Township (very small fortune that the election workers of this township would never cheat anyone; they are just plain, good, honest Democrats and Republicans and that, my dears, is THAT!

Cheers

JUST ME

Redford Township

Editor:

You won't print this letter, but I'll send it on to you anyway. I urge the people of our community to "Know Your Mayor Candidate," before voting Nov. 8.

The Mayor of Garden City should be more knowledgeable of the needs of the taxpayers than other elected officials are. Your Mayor is not some guy on cloud nine; he is your next door neighbor and he has a 24-hour hotline to the taxpayer.

Some people don't know the names of their Congressmen, Senators, and State Representatives. If something goes wrong they blame the Mayor.

We have a good Mayor and we need to keep him. This is why I urge you to know your Mayor candidate, as well as your Council candidates and Judge candidates. Do not be misled by rumors and dirty literature. Check the record and qualifications of all candidates.

TIMOTHY DEWEY

Garden City

OBSERVING the Scene...

By MYRA CHANDLER

It is indeed a completely innocuous word, "Agency." But when it is applied to working, and you add the word "shop," you have anything but a harmless meaning.

"There is nothing amoral, dishonest, or unlawful about an Agency Shop but in my way of thinking it is harmful—harmful to the basic concept of what the United States of America is based on, what made it grow and glow in those precious "freedom of choice."

Admittedly, it is a matter of philosophy and often it is the one ideal that separates a conservative Democrat from a liberal Republican. No God-fearing, card-carrying GOP member could possibly condone an "Agency Shop."

And yet you can listen to a convincing conceiver like Councilman Jerry Raymond who expounds the theory of the Agency Shop in an honest, straight forward and articulate fashion and be impressed.

In fact, Brother Jerry goes a step beyond—he is for a stronger philosophy, namely, a "Union Shop."

The educational process came as a result of a week-end of negotiations in Livonia with City employees. The stumbling block that kept grown men up all night long was not wine, women or song—but arguing over whether to have or not to have an "Agency Shop."

Livonia School Board just recently capitulated and now has an "Agency Shop"—you have to "belong" or move out. South Redford is arbitrating the question—Garden City recently refused it.

All over the land unions are putting "Agency Shop" as a foremost item in their bargaining. It increases its power.

Jerry Raymond based his arguments on the principle that the union pays high-powered, articulate men to speak for them (business agents, etc.) and they achieve great things for the members—and then only a few pay the expenses of these men. State law requires a Union must represent the total employment, not just members. In his thinking it follows, it is only democratic that since all benefit—all should pay.

Further, he believed even an "Agency Shop" is not right—in an "Agency Shop" all employees do not have to be members—they just have to pay dues. He feels it should be a Union Shop. Here an employee must pay dues, but also must be a member of the union, attend meetings, picket when a strike is called and vote. This, says, is true representation. All benefit, all pay—and all have a word in decisions.

It worries me. Far better, I think, that there is choice. A Union is a necessary way of life—but if it does not remain a matter of choice if one joins or not—then it becomes a threat. Even a threat to destroy itself. Freedom of choice provides the balance against this.

A Union must keep honest, keep improving, keep straight, keep selling its advantages to an employee—otherwise what good is it?

If every worker must belong, the Union can become too powerful, more evil than the monster known as MANAGEMENT. True, on the surface it would seem unfair when you hear the chant, "but your Union got your raise and now you, a non-union member, are not paying for it."

"But Mr. Union, no one appointed you my 'big brother'—you said you wanted to do this for the good of the working man—well, personally, I've got brains of my own and by golly I wanted to get that raise on my own merit. I might want to prove myself just a little better than the guy next to me. If you want to do this for the others it is O.K. with me—but I'm not going to pay you to do it because I choose not to."

We must pay taxes and be law-abiding citizens, but nowhere in the Constitution of the United States does it say I have to pay anyone to speak for me or add the word "seems" to myself. Everyday a little bit of our freedom seems to be slipping away. This must not happen.

We must be free to choose if we want to join anything—a church, a fraternal group—or a union. Isn't this what makes the United States of America?

Parents, Look Home For School Dropouts

Editor:

When it comes to school dropouts, why blame the schools and the teachers? Some of the causes of these problems can be traced to the parents. If the parents don't encourage them to study who will? When a child shows no respect for his teacher, can you blame him? His own parents can't get any respect and they supposedly brought him up.

If only the parents would stop blaming the teachers and admit their child might be wrong, then he might get along better and could be encouraged to stay in school.

BARB HYDUK

Livonia

Cooperation Pays

Editor:

Kiwanis Peanut Sale was successful due to the cooperation of many people; the generous donations by the people of Redford Township, the participation of putting a write-up regarding the Kiwanis Peanut Sale in The Observer and the hard work of all the Lolla Valley Kiwanis members.

C. Cliff Kordenbrock

Club Administrator

Redford Township

Editor:

Army Pvt. Davis G. St.

Amour son of Mr. and Mrs.

Leo St. Amour, 16454 Polly-

anna Drive, Livonia, has

completed a light vehicle

driver course at Ft. Leonard

Wood, Mo.

Ends Training

Attention:

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OMBUDESMAN

(A new feature in The Observer Newspapers — we will do our best to be a go-between, a red-tape cutter as the name indicates. When you have exhausted all other measures on a problem write to us (keep it short, please) and we'll see if we can help. Yes, John Q, you can fight city hall — with your own Ombudsman!)

Dear Ombudsman:

Why has it been impossible for the City of Livonia Traffic Department to solve the left turn problem at Plymouth and Merriman roads?

Without argument, traffic at this point ranks among, if not highest, in the City. Also the adjacent residential area is the most densely populated in the City, including four school buildings.

Despite this, a steadily moving traffic cannot turn south on Merriman but is forced to take a chance at exiting onto residential streets that are old, narrow and definitely not designed to handle the present volume and speed of traffic. The frequency of Plymouth Road accidents increases steadily. Hazard to residents increases. The problem is not new. A correction is needed and should not be delayed.

C. A. REEBER

Melrose,

Livonia

Dear Mr. Reeber:

Lt. Robert Thorne of the Livonia Traffic Bureau

agrees with you. He has been working on the problem for two years. One plan he had was scuttled by the Council for lack of finances. But help is in sight. Plymouth Road is a State Highway and state authorities claim the road does not have enough capacity to have a left-hand turn

lane now. They are going to begin the widening program probably to be completed next year and will provide a left-hand turn lane. According to figures Plymouth and Middlebelt takes the prize for the heaviest traffic pattern.

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