



OBSERVER NEWSPAPERS

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This Is The Week That

... By Don Hoenshell

This is a subject that is of vital moment to all of us, dearly beloved.

Go-Go dancing, and those muses who offer to us the wiggle.

There was this charade a week ago when His Honor Harvey W. Moelke, of Livonia, directed the cops to take the entertainment license and the dance permit off the wall of the Shaggy Lion.

The move was based on a confidential vice squad report that still happens to be confidential. When asked why the Go-Go business was normally objectionable, the minions go tsck tsck.

The closest description from eye witnesses was that the girls

Anyone Have An Answer?

Editor:

I am writing for several neighbors and myself, who are residents of Lyndon Meadows Sub. Most of us have lived here over five years and during that time there has been a very annoying noise.

A constant humming sound that never stops. It is heard seven days a week, 24 hours a day. At night it is very loud. No one knows where it comes from—someplace possibly two miles away.

Isn't there laws against such disturbing noises?

Many people have talked of moving out of Livonia because of this. If more people would complain of this—possibly something would be done to muffle the sound.

Does anyone know where it is coming from?

Some of the men in the neighborhood have actually driven around in the area trying to locate where this noise is coming from.

Lyndon Meadows Residents

Hey, Whitey!

Calvin Watts Jr., of 2404 McClellan, admitted being a rioter and was arrested on a looting charge.

In discussing why he did what he did, Watts said:

"I felt we needed an equal standard. I thought it might open the eyes of the whites to what we are trying to do—to live together and to understand each other."

"At least it showed whitey we are sincere in what we're trying to do."

were semi-topless, whatever that is. Some said the dancing was hardly enough to distract a dedicated philosopher with martini in hand.

At least one other bit of testimony indicated the show was too suggestive and downright dirty. You wouldn't take your wife there.

So don't.

If it was offensive to the public morals as generally acceptable in the community, Moelke was right whatever the prevailing sentiment in Farmington, Plymouth, Westland or downtown.

Go-Go dancers to this preacher's kid have never been an enchantment. You can get almost the same thing on television and very few of us become rapine monsters at the sight of a navel.

Not when there's a football game, anyway.

The nation lets you vote at 21 and Michigan insists you be the same age before entering a saloon, whether or not the Go-Go's are bouncing at you from the stage.

The wagger is at least 6-5 and even that those eligible to drink and smoke and spend time in such places don't like the music anyway and have seen better dancing at a block party.

So why do people go there? Here's a theory, based on years of boredom.

People in this day like noise and movement, maybe just to assure themselves that life hasn't passed them by. At this moment the radio and television are going and a siren is roaring by outside, presumably accompanied by a police car or an ambulance.

Life is not passing by, it's right here.

But let us get back to cases.

You can see better Go-Go's wearing less downtown, they say. Or if you're the quiet type, you can read a dirty book in front of the fireplace.

If you're looking for a point, this is all a matter of taste, not morals. Lots of people like tabs and lots of people don't. Some people like camping and marshmallows and some like hockey or that fastest game on cinders, riots.

Some like Go-Go girls, for whatever reason.

These girls are usually as married as their critics and have kids they have to see through school. For them it's less windy than selling magazines door to door. Or hosting demonstration parties.

So was the show at the Shaggy Lion out of line and a threat to the civil peace of the community? It's confidential, folks.

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From the Publisher's Desk OBSERVATION POINT

By Philip H. Power

"THOSE X%&X%& local politicians!"

You hear it in bars. When you are talking to news sources. On the golf course, and in the laundromats.

You even hear it in a newspaper office when some reporter, frustrated at trying to get a simple statement out of a local of-

fice-holder, slams down the phone.

The X%&X%& really isn't quot-

able in a family newspaper, but you get the general idea. From time to time it seems that the local politicians are being so much cussed, discussed, and generally blamed for everything that it's a wonder anyone

even thinks of running for local office.

A man comes home from work at night, tired and sore at the world. He chews out his wife and is surly toward his kids. Who gets blamed? Two to one it's the politicians.

A woman hangs out the wash

to dry, it rains, and everything gets wet. Chances are she'll blame the mayor or the city council for the thunderstorm.

I haven't heard it directly yet, but I'll bet that some of the kids blame the politicians when their high school loses a tight football game.

WELL, HERE'S a cheer (albeit a smallish one) for the local politicians. They are the guys who are making democracy live, because they're the ones who have the guts and stamina to participate directly in our local government.

Now don't get me wrong. There are lots of local politicians who are ignorant, or irresponsible, or uninformed, or just contrary. For sheer inability to face the issues, some of them outdo the best (or worst) Washington has to offer.

But the majority are thoroughly well informed, amazingly well intentioned men.

A CASE IN POINT: I dropped over to Westland the other day to meet with two of the candidates for Mayor there, the incumbent, Tom Brown and the City Council President Virgil Gagnon.

Now Westland is a new city, only a little over a year old. It's got terrible problems making the transition from the Nankin Township that it used to be to the modern, progressive city it wants to be. Just getting a city fire department set up (and Westland's is one of the best) was a big matter in itself.

The striking thing is that both these men were astonishingly knowledgeable about their city and its problems.

They know the city charter backwards and forwards. Both were able to talk in the most minute detail about some drainage problems an individual man is having with his property. Neither was afraid of new ideas or different approaches to solving problems.

Brown talked about a plan to re-align traffic patterns to give the city some kind of geographical identity around its center, and Gagnon had a real understanding of the kinds of administrative problems that must be solved in a new city.

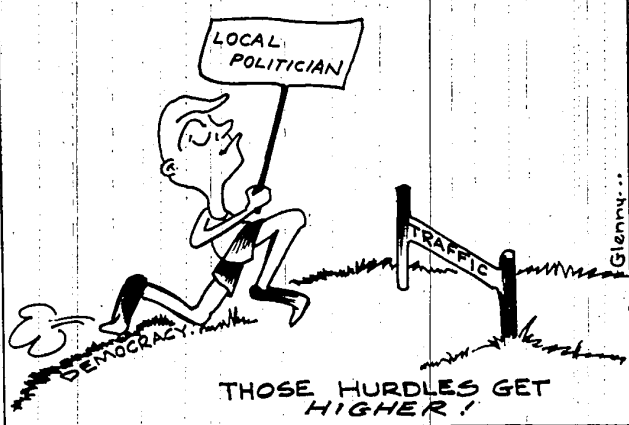
Both men obviously have put in long, hard hours at their job. Both men obviously have been awakened in the middle of the night by irate taxpayers... and have worked hard to solve their problems.

In short, they care.

They care about their city and its future. And by caring, they make our system of local government, defective as it is in so many ways, something that works.

Maybe it's about time we all realized it.

KEEP IN SHAPE ...



It's Time To Get Story Across To Youngsters

Did you wait overly long for a plumber or electrician or mechanic recently? And, when you did get one, did you choke at the size of the bill?

Don't put all the blame on that skilled tradesman for being busy beyond his capacity, nor for charging a good price for his talents.

Both his time and his talents are at a premium nowadays.

We, the mass public, helped make it so.

Sense 'n Nonsense

What with the political pot about in Livonia as Mayor Harvey Moelke and Council President Peter Ventura continue taking pot shots at each other, now comes news of a possible inter-city alliance.

Last week, in Plymouth, the City Commission had a discussion about the long-discussed suburban garbage disposal agreement.

Plymouth Commissioner Arch Vallier, commenting on a possible joint study between Plymouth, Livonia and Redford Township, noted that the Plymouth city fathers had gone to the wrong people in Livonia in previous talks.

"You spoke with the wrong people," Vallier charged. "Get in touch with the Council President in Livonia, and you'll get some action."

Looks like Ventura has an ally, whether he knows it or not.

Perhaps next week will bring an endorsement for Moelke from Westland or Farmington.

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Tells Why We're Lost

We ourselves have lost battles and opportunities, and with time growing short, we would do well to ask "why?"

First, in our concern to protect the good name of the poor, especially before the Negro poor, we have entangled ourselves in positions that have had the effect of preventing effective action to help them.

Second, in our eagerness to see some progress made we have been all too willing to accept the pathetically underfunded programs which have normally emerged from Congress, and then to oversell them both to ourselves and those they are designed to aid.

Third, in our desire to maintain public confidence in such programs, we have tended to avoid evidence of poor results, and in particular have paid too little heed to the limited capacities of government to bring about social change.

Daniel P. Moynihan (Former Assistant Secretary of Labor).

Social researchers are saying that the suburbs are going to be more vital to life than the cities. As soon as they get freeway problems, muggings, and an in-necrity all their own.

Why Are Charges Cut?

Editor:

I'd like to soundoff about something that really irks me—and many others: I'm referring to an article in a recent Observer where several motorists charged with "drunk and driving" were given reduced charges of "reckless" driving.

Admittedly, I know nothing about the case and don't know if these motorists were guilty as charged or not. The point is this: I notice all too frequently where a motorist who has been driving recklessly while under the influence of alcohol or drugs is often given a reduced charge and moderate fine, while the "average" driver who may break the speed limit (trying to get to work, etc.) has the book thrown at him by the court—particularly youthful drivers who can't afford an expensive lawyer.

Inconsiderate and drunken drivers are the biggest nuisance

on the highways (at least most of the ones who exceed the speed limit by 10-15 MPH don't get in anyone's way or try to run you off the road, etc.).

The court practice of being soft on adult (drunken) drivers and hard on a young driver who may have committed a misdemeanor is a good example of why today's youth (and adults) have such little respect for the law and the courts who are "sworn" to uphold them.

To put it bluntly, our traffic courts smell and as indicated by the Detroit Police "ticket strike," the cities and counties are much more interested in collecting revenues from traffic violators than correcting them, if they actually did violate any laws seriously.

Detroit isn't alone, this goes for every city, including Livonia. I don't like politicians and judges who say one thing and mean another.

Howard Hanks