

OBSERVATION POINT

Things Of Plenty In Days Of Shortage

By Philip H. Power
Publisher

But, as you drive along at 50 miles per hour, already 15 minutes late for your important appointment, it might be helpful to your peace of mind to contemplate some of the things which are not in short supply.

DURUM WHEAT, for example, had a bumper crop this year, according to the friendly folks at the U.S. Department of Agriculture who brought us the sale of so much of the rest of our wheat to the Russians.

That's good news for pasta lovers, since about the only thing you can do with durum wheat is turn it into spaghetti. And vermicelli and noodles. Macaroni. Rigatoni. The mind reels with the cornucopia of pasta to be available to us during the coming year.

What's to put into the sauce isn't as clear, but

the dairy industry (boomed with increased government price supports - another thing seemingly in plentiful supply) says there is plenty of cheese and butter.

To cut the starch, you might consider Maine sardines, which were harvested in record numbers again this year. Or try the vegetable supply stand-outs of 1973: turnips, rutabagas and Brussels sprouts.

California grape growers have just harvested the biggest crop in history after last year's bumper, so we'll have plenty of raisins for dessert after the grapes dry out and can be packaged.

OTHER THINGS in plentiful supply these days come readily to mind:

Trucks driving at 55, whizzing by one on the expressways, their drivers waving jauntily at the slowpokes holding up traffic in their private cars.

Cadillacs and Continentals sitting in profusion on local car lots, just waiting to be purchased by that lucky man who happens to own a gas station and have a friendly wholesaler.

Neighbors who walk around their house in shirt sleeves, giving the clear impression that their thermostat is set at 74 degrees, while you are trying to persuade your wife the old sweater that Aunt Minnie knitted years ago makes her look lovelier than ever before, your breath making frosty swirls in the air as you expostulate.

Cramps and aching muscles, as you wake up on the Monday morning following the Sunday driving ban, having decided that the five mile walk to the friend's house to watch the game on TV was a mere nothing.

The list is endless, if you only think a bit. Like the man said: Enjoy, enjoy!

How To Cooperate During Crisis

Because my husband honestly believes I started the energy crisis singlehandedly, I'm figuring ways to conserve power. I've even taken to polishing only every other tooth with my electric toothbrush.

I admit I may have contributed my share to the energy shortage, but swear my ever loving spouse conspired to create it just for my benefit.

How many guys do you know who leave all the lights out for burglars, expect their wives to read Braille and turn the house into an igloo because they insist Eskimos are healthier and live longer?

Some men save stamps. Mine saves matches to light our way through the darkness. We have 500 match folders that say, "Happy Marriage Sophie and Addolph." "Bar Mitzva Blessings Jeremiah." "Trusty Towing Service." "Marvy Mufflers." "Tuneful Tune-ups-24 Hours a Day." and "Have No Fear With a Maidenform Brassiere."

When the matches run out, I'm going to get my hubby a candle-making kit. For some couples, dinner by candlelight is a romantic occasion. In our house, we use electricity for special events like when I cook.

OK hubby mine, I'll cooperate. But just keep in mind it can't be different strokes for different folks.

For the sake of saving gas, you can buy me a high-speed Schwinn. Remember when you said the way I drive, a bike is the only kind of wheels I deserve? But you've got to promise to get a Honda, goggles and a helmet. I'll supply the black leather jacket with the emblem that says, "The Over 50 Daredevil."

I'll stop beating the oven for your frozen TV dinners if you'll promise to love what the Colonel cooks and settle for Big Macs, Dunkin' Donuts and "Peppie Pizza Parlor." Or how about that charming little cafe where you asked if they had botulism and they said, "No,

only what's on the menu."

Don't think I'm unwilling to do my share. I'll even make you Wheaties and swear not to burn them. If you'll let me shave one quarter of each leg per month with your electric razor, I'll let you grow a beard. And don't forget hot water uses energy. There's nothing like 10 pushups and a cold shower to get you going in the morning after a hearty

breakfast of iced Sanka.

I have to concede three televisions going at one time puts a strain on the energy supply and am perfectly willing to compromise. Once a week you can watch football and a rerun of "The Three Stooges." Once a week I can watch "Return of Peyton Place" and "As the Stomach Turns."

The rest of the nights we do something really spec-

tacular like talking to each

other. You can do things like calking the frames of the windows and doors and installing weatherstripping to keep the warm air from escaping. You can put up storm doors, insulate the ceiling, clean the furnace, fix the leaky faucet and seal all openings to prevent air flow.

I will do my little bit for the energy crunch effort by washing and drying your shirts only once a month and buying your disposable jockey shorts. I'll trade my toasty electric blanket for Dr. Denton's. I'll trade my curling iron for rollers that clink upon the pillow and wake you up so I can trade in your electric clock radio.

Did I just hear you say the energy crisis is all politics? Let's turn on all the lights and celebrate.



TV Muffs Game Color

Like many broadcast firms, ABC-TV puts its better minds to work promoting programs rather than actually producing and directing them. The botched handling of the "color" surrounding the Michigan-Ohio State football classic is a case in point.

ABC-TV boasts it is "recognized around the world as the leader in sports television" - so says its promotion writer.

Yet anyone with an ounce of show biz sense (and after all, sports television is show business) would have known that three of the most interesting things about that game were:

1. The Michigan band - best in musicianship and second best in marching in the country.

2. The Ohio State band - best in marching and second best in musicianship in the country.

3. Whiskey - the perky whirlwind for terror who pushed a maize and blue soccer ball the length of the gridiron, giving the last performance of her brilliant career.

So what did the great minds of ABC do at half-time?

They cut half or more of OSU's band show for commercials. Well, that can be justified for economic reasons, but the injustices went further.

Only the last minute of Michigan's band show hit the screen, and the plucky Whiskey was reduced to what seemed like two seconds but could have been 18.

In their place, we were treated to a halftime discussion of the play by Hugh (Duffy) Daugherty, retired head coach of Michigan State, and Ara Parseghian, Notre Dame's coach.

Duffy blew at least a minute making a joke about the spelling and pronunciation of Ara's last name before getting around to asking Parseghian

what he thought of it all.

Parseghian was appallingly ill-prepared. First he admitted he had never seen Michigan or Ohio State play. Then he described the strategies of the two teams in a synopsis of what he doubtless read in a morning newspaper. Unable to analyze further, Parseghian discussed replays of first-half scoring.

If ABC-TV had been interested in first-class sports coverage, it would have brought in someone who had at least seen the teams play - maybe the sports editor of the Ann Arbor News, a Detroit or Columbus newsmen, or perhaps our own Eddie Edgar.

The decision to show first-half replays was stupid beyond belief. Those plays had all been replaced once or twice after they occurred; they were shown again on evening news shows; they'll be shown again on Bo Schembechler's own program Tuesday evening.

All the while, remember, ABC-TV was ignoring the OSU band, the Michigan band and Whiskey. These factors as responsible for 1973 attendance at the Ann Arbor and Columbus stadiums as Schembechler's and Woody Hayes' three - yards - and - a - cloud - of - dust football.

As things worked out, there was considerable footage of the Michigan band's postgame show. But never a word that it was coming, so a lot of viewers missed it.

Ever the careful newsmen, I watched the screen credits at the end of the telecast and am prepared to tell you the names of the stooges responsible for such a dull-witted halftime show.

Chuck Howard was the producer and Andy Sidaris the director of that ABC-TV sports mispresentation.

When Will Board Learn To Keep Its Nose In Joint?

There are times when politicians are breaking speed records in putting their feet in their mouths and looking foolish.

The Wayne County Board of Commissioners held the local record four years ago when it tried to push through fulltime salaries for the part-time posts.

Since then, little has been heard from the commissioners - which is probably a good sign.

But a committee of the county board last week shattered the calm when it voted 4-1 to adopt a resolution calling for the impeachment of President Nixon.

The resolution is a good example of the county - which isn't the first public agency to approve a similar resolution - sticking its political nose into an area which isn't its business.

The anti-Nixon resolution from a predominantly Democratic county committee is galling for a few reasons.

One is that one factor listed for Nixon's impeachment is his refusal to obey a federal court order to turn over specified tape recordings of conversations in his offices.

That sounds good and proper from the county point of view.

But it was the county board which, earlier this year, refused to obey a circuit court order to pay salary boosts for various county employees.

The commissioners' nose only deliberately disobeyed the court order but even offered to accept a jail term for contempt of court.

So much for consistency. But the biggest gall of the county committee is that the impeachment issue is a federal government matter and certainly one too complicated and important for any county figures to worry about.

The practice of political bodies stepping into areas which they were neither asked nor welcomed started

two years ago with the

cross-district school busing issue.

At that time, every group of politicians from a township board to a city council was approving resolutions left and right expressing opposition to busing.

Some of the agencies were told by their lawyers that busing is primarily a matter between the federal courts and state and local school districts.

It doesn't involve city, township, or county governments but that didn't stop local politicians from passing their beloved resolutions.

For those readers who aren't familiar with these type of resolutions adopted by governmental agencies, copies of the statements are mimeographed and sent to appropriate state, county, or federal legislators.

The county committee's resolution on the Nixon impeachment should be aimed only at the waste basket.

The Reader Speaks Up

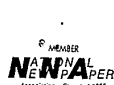
Abortion Advertising Is Distasteful

Editorial & Opinion

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Philip H. Power, Publisher

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EDITOR:

It is hard to believe that your paper is in such dire need of funds that you resort to accepting ads from an abortion clinic. Are you doing the community a service? Even putting it on the society page along with the weddings and engagements.

Strange, isn't it, that not too long ago the killing of in-

nocent people in Vietnam was so loudly protested. Why is it acceptable here, and you advertise it?

I do not wish to have your paper in my home. So as not to embarrass my delivery boy, I am asking you to see that it is not delivered to this address.

MRS. R. JAMES
Livonia

Haunted House Helps Many

EDITOR:

I would like to thank you for the outstanding coverage of our Jaycees' haunted house. We had the most successful year in history, largely due to your efforts. The articles were informing and comprehensive, and I'm sure they were responsible for the tremendous attendance we had.

And other thanks to the people who attended the house. We hope you enjoyed this year's haunted house as

much as the Jaycees did in presenting it. Your participation has given us funding for future community projects, like the Mother Waddles feed-a-city canned food drive, shooters' education, Christmas shopping tour for needy kids, and senior citizens Christmas lighting tour.

You were all greatly appreciated.

BOB CAREY
Livonia Jaycees

Why Not Tax Rebate?

In 1972 an effort was made to encourage grass roots participation in the political process by allowing a tax deduction (kickback) to individuals donating money to a Presidential candidate.

That effort was less than successful because the grass roots donations were diluted by corporate contributions prior to the April 7 disclosure deadline.

Now, the Senate Watergate Committee is considering legislation to strengthen the impact of grass root donations by curbing corporate contributions.

It is doubtful whether any campaign financing reform can do much to generate grass roots involvement. The main reason is that it is the non-involvement of the masses that necessitates expenditure of such large sums to obtain a national office.

A more effective piece of legislation might be a program of kickbacks to individuals as a monetary reward for exercising the responsibilities of citizenship. Congress could enact a law granting a tax credit of \$10 for each time an individual votes.

The tax credit could be allowed for each city, township, school, county, state or federal election. In this manner, citizens would be encouraged to do their duty at all levels - instead of just every four years when the "biggie" comes around.

If involvement is the goal, it makes more sense to offer tax credits for actually voting than for merely making a campaign contribution. Isn't it more important that each citizen vote?

It may sound crass to reward citizens financially for voting. Well, it is crass but

nothing else has been successful to get citizens to be citizens.

It is far more undesirable to continue holding local municipal and school elections with the outcome decided by less than half the registered voters. Democracy shouldn't function this way.

Perhaps it is time to admit we are living in a capitalistic-dominated democracy. Citizens are moved by money, not duty. America is a materialistically oriented society and, unfortunately, it might be that only money speaks.

If it takes money to get citizens to vote, then maybe that ought to be considered. This may have a familiar ring, but maybe citizens should get a kickback for doing what is in the best interest of the giver. I don't like it, but know nothing else which might work.