

OBSERVATION POINT

Holiday Observations On Ethics, Driving Speed, Newspapers As Logs

By PHILIP H. POWER

A holiday grab-bag of observations, mostly Scrooge-like:

Last week the State Senate gave a big Christmas present to one of its own, Sen. Charles N. Youngblood, (D-Detroit).

Sen. Youngblood has been convicted of attempting to bribe a member of the Liquor Control Commission. As state law forbids anyone convicted of a felony from holding public office, it had been expected that Sen. Youngblood would have resigned or been removed from his Senate seat.

Not so. The Senate voted not to expel Sen. Youngblood after he decided he would not resign. One of those voting against removal was Sen. William Faust, (D-Westland). One of those voting for it was Sen. Carl Pursell, (R-Plymouth). Registered as not voting was Sen. David Plawicki, (D-Dearborn Heights). Sen. Daniel Cooper (D-Oak Park) was absent entirely.

Doesn't the law require Sen. Youngblood's removal? Yes, but the law also says that the Senate itself shall be the ultimate judge of the qualifications of its members. And after all, the case is still being appealed, and Sen. Youngblood's lawyer says he may have been entrapped by state authorities, and so forth and so on.

Well, you would have thought that if the lessons of Watergate and political morality were being heard around the country, they might have seeped into the chambers of the State Senate. It keeps occurring to me that those who hold public office have an obligation to observe the highest possible ethical standards.

Leonard Poger writes

Westland Salutes Civic Servant

Suburban politicians honoring one of their own at a testimonial dinner is a common occurrence usually reserved for pre-election campaigns.

Westland officials - past and present - gathered recently to salute a retiring city councilman who stands alone in regional political history.

The councilman, William P. Anderson, holds some kind of area longevity record by serving 16 years in an elective office in an 18 year period.

Mayor Orville Hubbard, of Dearborn, has long set a national record for being in an elective office but there is nothing unusual about a white politician being elected and reelected to office in an all-white community.

What makes Anderson's feat more impressive is that he is black and has been elected and reelected to the Nankin Township Board and Westland City Council despite the fact that blacks account for about four per cent of the community's population.

What makes Anderson's accomplishments more impressive is that he won and retained an elective office long before it became politically fashionable by suburban liberals to even mount a political campaign for a black candidate, let alone elect one.

Anderson was first elected to the township board in 1955, just one year after the U.S.

Supreme Court ruled that public schools are racially segregated by governmental policies.

It was just one year after Mr. Rose Parks of Montgomery, Ala., defied an ancient southern law and tradition.

She decided one day that she wanted to sit in the front of the bus rather than in the back reserved for blacks.

Anderson retained his political strengths not by doing what was expected of him - to fight for improvements and services for blacks to the exclusion of everything else.

Indeed, he did fight for programs for blacks when they were needed but he wisely saw the dangers of just being a "black official" instead of an "official who happened to be black."

He envisioned an entire community of people with their needs met.

He realized that people, regardless of race, want an honest government that will provide public safety, services, collect rubbish on a regular basis, and keep local taxes at a reasonable level.

At his testimonial dinner, City Council President Henry Lundquist of Westland said that Anderson was the "great equalizer" on the council.

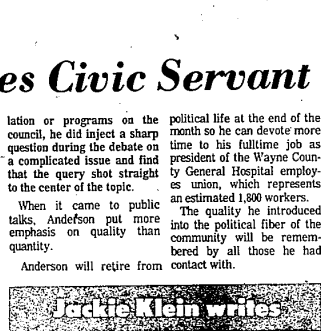
Anderson refused to breach his independence and join any political faction.

Though Anderson didn't introduce any landmark legis-

lation or programs on the council, he did inject a sharp question during the debate on a complicated issue and find that the query shot straight to the center of the topic.

When it came to public talks, Anderson put more emphasis on quality than quantity.

Anderson will retire from



Jeddie Klein writes

A Change In Yule Spirit?

"Tis the season to be jolly, Fa la la la, La la la la." All I can say is when I run out of fa la las, I cry a lot.

Just pick up a newspaper and read the gloom of doom. "Stocks Dive 29 Points." "Fuel Crisis Unplugs Christmas." "Near-Recession Coming in '74." "Jobless Rate May Hit 6 Per Cent." "Gas Shortage Spells Trouble." "Secretary Tells of Erasure of Nixon Tapes."

Do you need any more or are you still singing, "Joy to the World?" Since nobody has thought to rewrite Christmas songs to keep up with the changing times, here's some music to hang yourself on the tree by: "Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way. Since our gas went up two cents, I'd better get a sleigh."

"Chestnuts roasting on an open fire. I can't cook upon my range. I can't eat my thermostat any higher. This Christmas sure is strange."

"Come, all ye faithful, Your president's a saint. It's not what's on the tape that counts. And I'll never tell what ain't."

"On the first day of Christmas my true love gave to me.

thick. Place the piles in a tub of water and soak over night, or add one-half cup of detergent to a laundry tub of water and soak for an hour or two.

Then roll the wet sections individually on a one-inch rod and squeeze out the excess water. Smooth the surface edges, slide the rolls off the rod, and let stand on the end to dry. Burn just like a wood log when completely dry.

With firewood at something like \$50 a cord these days, this could be a real money-saver. Have a pleasant evening, courtesy of your hometown newspaper!

DECK THE WORLD WITH BOUGHS OF FOLLY



Fred DeLano writes

Playing Host Can Be Difficult

The art of being a good host isn't confined to the home. In fact, that's a role far easier to play than a role as owner or manager of any of the fine restaurants which dot Westland, where the hour - 40 - hour requirement often is to deal with over-aggressive strangers rather than invited guests.

We're among those who for years have made a game of just watching people - be it in a hotel lobby, restaurant, or any general form of public arena. If patience is demanded of management anywhere in our society, it is with this group who deal daily with thirst and appetites.

Such thoughts passed through the mind only a few days ago while occupying a secluded luncheon corner of

Don't Abort, Offer Child For Adoption

EDITOR:

I am a volunteer member of Birthright, which is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping women and young girls with problem pregnancies. We concentrate only on alternatives to abortion.

We have helped many of those who come to us reach a positive rather than a negative attitude toward the life of the unborn child they are carrying.

Must a woman have an abortion because she believes she is carrying an unwanted child? No child is unwanted. Anyone who has tried to adopt a baby in recent months finds it is almost impossible because they are being killed before they can be placed into the arms of loving, adoptive parents.

If anti-life people truly believe that abortion is a solution to stopping child abuse, as they claim, then how do they explain the fact that our representatives in Washington recently found it necessary to authorize \$50 million to study the child abuse syndrome now that abortion has been legalized?

Those battered babies are not children of unwanted pregnancies, but children who had the misfortune to be born to a sick parent or parents who choose to keep them rather than giving them to adoptive parents who would love and care for them.

Legalizing abortion did not curtail child abuse but only added to it by giving a mother the right to have her child killed before birth. This, to my way of thinking, is truly child abuse.

What type of reasoning tells us it is perfectly all right to kill a child in the womb by pulling or cutting that child apart or by injecting a poisonous salt solution into the baby's sac which causes the outer layer of the baby's skin to be burned off by its effect? It takes over an hour to kill a child with this method which is commonly used.

Is this the answer to preventing a child from possibly being born to a mother who might abuse it? God help us! Verda Bonello

Livonia

READERS' FORUM

Please type (or write clearly) and limit letters to 300 words.

- Letters must be signed, with the writer's address. Names will be withheld only at the writer's request and for good cause.
- The editor reserves the right to reject unsuitable letters.

Tell People About Abortion

EDITOR:

My family sees nothing wrong in informing people about abortion information. I have reference to the writer (Nov. 26) who was stopping your paper because you had information on abortions in it.

We all realize abortion is not the answer. Sex education is. Abortion is not murder.

ALFRED ISMOND
Redford Township

Pet Death Story Morbid

EDITOR:

We're a society of crime, murder and anything that turns us on.

When we read the papers, there's never much heartwarming news in it, and the article we're a society of too many pets, realistic as it may be, is also morbid.

Our children don't need to read articles like this. It hurts enough to see dead animals on the highway or wild life out in the bitter cold seeking shelter and food.

Some people can't afford a veterinarian's fee so that

their pets don't become pregnant.

Most people do know that animal shelters kill unwanted pets, but children don't always know this.

Please, Joan Weaver, don't write morbid articles like this. Write some jolly articles for the holiday season.

BETTY BRINK
Plymouth

EDITOR'S NOTE: The editors deliberately decided to publish the series on the high mortality rate of pets prior to Christmas because that is precisely when many emotional but unwise decisions are made to buy pets.

Indians Say Thanks

EDITOR:

Dear people of Westland:

We wish to express to you our sincerest thanks and gratitude.

We greatly appreciate all the help you did in your papers.

Again thank you very much for your kindness and generosity. Wishing you a very Merry Christmas.

LORRAINE LIVINGSTON
Secretary
Thornapple Indian Band

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Thornapple Band was a recipient of food and household items given by our readers and collected by the Indian affairs committee of the Western Wayne County Conservation Assn.

Trapping Is Barbaric

EDITOR:

Thank you very much for printing the story "My First and Last Season as a Trapper" (Southfield, Farmington, Redford, Garden City and Westland editions, Nov. 21) by Bob McClellan. I hope that many young readers will understand what the author felt when he saw the fear in the eyes of the muskrat he had trapped.

Trapping has been credited with being the cause of more animal suffering than any other form of cruelty. Fourteen countries have outlawed the steel leg hold trap because of the barbaric nature of the device.

Hopefully, the United States will soon reach a high enough level of civilization to recognize and abolish this kind of inhumanity.

DOROTHY N. THOMPSON
Westland

Editorial & Opinion

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Such thoughts passed through the mind only a few days ago while occupying a secluded luncheon corner of

one of our most popular nighttime spas.

In the room, known to the writer by profession even if not by name - which is a knock one gets on this job, were such cross-section representatives as these:

A vice president of one of the metropolitan area's best known banks and his top cohorts, a go-go dancer accompanied by her agent and a top friend, at least two car dealers plus assorted salesmen, three steel tycoons, a retired banker who still carries great area influence, present, past and yet-to-be political types, two attorneys, a handful of real estate salesmen, one whiskey peddler, and assorted delegates representing the great unwashed public where I find myself listed on that great

American principle of one man - one vote.

Keeping an even keel of service, with irritations at a minimum when catering to the broad spectrum of individualized demands, must be a physical and mental strain, albeit profitable. And with today's prices, maybe even

the latter assertion is questionable.

We are blessed in Westland with some of the restaurant profession's finest, but there isn't a housewife who has prepared for just one holiday season open house who would change places. These folks deserve a pat on the back.

Members of the audience and several council members complained of the heat in the Farmington City council chambers recently. A check of the thermostat revealed at 69 degrees, the room temperature had soared to 74.

"All those people generate a lot of heat," City Manager Robert J. Deadman commented.

Sense And Nonsense