

Jackie Klein writes

Time switch makes day interesting

Winter is about as exciting as watching a commercial for Preparation H.

The most scintillating thing I've done lately is to stay up until 2 a.m. to see the clock ahead to 3 a.m. It could've been more fun than New Years Eve except I loused it up.

I forgot to set the clock in our daughter's room. To tell the truth, I couldn't find it. Did you ever try scrounging for something at 2 in the morning buried under a hair dryer, an official Girl Scout Indian beaded outfit, 127

"Mad" magazines, an electric slide rule calculator, a Camp Maplehurst tee shirt and a sleeping Collie weighing 85 pounds?

Our daughter has been known to miss Sunday School when we tell her she has a cold. But this Sunday, half the class failed to show up because they slept through Daylight Savings Time.

The whole thing is mind boggling. I'm not sure if I should be exhausted because I lost an hour's sleep or an hour of daylight. Or did I pick up an hour? No wonder I flunked math.

Oh well, what's the use of wallowing in the January blahs? I've got to do something to beat those old energy crisis blues.

HERE'S MY LIST of things to do on a bleak, winter day.

- Drive around looking for a station that sells gas at 42.9 cents a gallon until you run out of gas.
- Drive around looking for a car wash that still charges 99 cents to bathe your auto if you fill up with gas. If that gets boring, you can always watch your car rust to death.
- Take a long, leisurely ride up north on a Sunday afternoon. That will also give you something to do on a Sunday.
- On Saturday, you go to your favorite neighborhood library and take out the book, "The Gentle Art of Hitch-hiking."
- Wrap your house in plastic to keep warm. It costs only \$5.60 to do it, but there are two bitches. Number one, there's a shortage of plastic. Number two, you may freeze to death. It's tough getting in with the front door wrapped.
- Shoot your washer and dryer. Dirt may be back in style this year. If not, buy a scrub board and a clothes line. Someone invented frozen foods, why not frozen laundry?
- Put a lock on your refrigerator. That will discourage bowtweers. Put a lock on your oven, all you pot watchers. A peek costs 25 degrees. Throw away the keys and eat out.
- You and your family can share fascinating hobbies. Everybody out of the tub and figuring how many gallons you can save by showering is a sure-fire cure for the doldrums.
- If that fails to capture your imagination, and you've decided against shooting the dryer, organize a lint cleaning team and disconnect outside vents. Vent in for heat and humidity bonus and family fun.
- O.K., everyone, storm windows up, thermostats down, clocks ahead, fireplace dampers closed, switch those 100-watt bulbs to 40. If that isn't enough to keep you busy, go start a stamp collection.
- Take my advice. Stop wallowing in the energy crisis.

Leonard Pogue writes

About time seniors get better programs

Senior citizens have been traditionally overlooked by politicians when it comes to providing important services.

The U.S. Congress usually gives retroactive annual benefit in Social Security benefits but there are more problems for the senior citizens than just money.

On a local level, several suburbs are doing something to see that persons over 60 as a group are more than another faction to solicit votes every two years at election time.

Too many cities restrict senior citizens' activities to "fun and games" programs within the recreation department and stop there.

It is a delight to see that several suburbs, with Westland being the latest, are providing important services and programs more meaningful to older persons, who like to be called "golden agers."

The director of one suburban program for the elderly stressed that senior citizens' needs aren't really much different from those in other age groups.

The seniors need love, attention, and recognition in addition to the legal requirements of income, transportation, housing, food, and exercise.

The only difference between seniors and other age groups is in degree of their needs and the way of delivering needed services.

One suburban mayor said that a major problem for older people is simply getting good advice, a particular problem for someone living alone.

He feels the senior citizens' program should be moved out of the recreation center and "into the community."

Federal census figures show that senior citizens represent about 10 per cent of the nation's population. It's refreshing to know local officials are recognizing that important part of their communities.

Tim Richards writes

Who wants a radio revival?

Radio station WJR is making a big pitch not only to the nostalgia buffs but to the intelligentsia with its late-evening broadcast of mysteries. It's restoring to the listener the use of a mental muscle that has grown flaccid in recent years - imagination. As Fred Allen once put it:

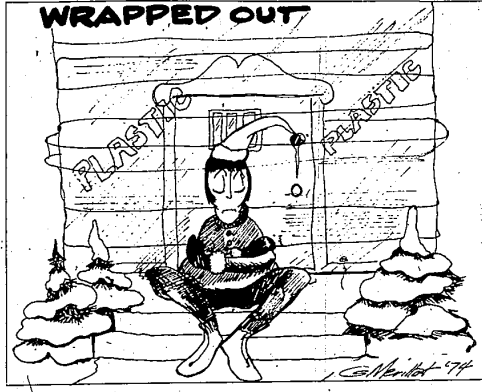
"The radio listener saw nothing. He had to use his imagination. It was possible for each individual to enjoy the same program according to his intellectual level and mental capacity. Television has taken that away from him."

As usual, I have to be a bit of a wet blanket about the thing. Yep, the golden age of radio was fine if you could stand the blatant way the sponsors commercialized during the sign-on and sign-off, and even during the program itself.

Remember how Dagwood Bumstead, when he was happy, would hum the Super Sads tune? And that Friday night favorite wasn't just the "Hit Parade," it was the "Lucky Strike Hit Parade."

Ed ("Fire Chief") Wynn had an oil company sponsor whose brand had the same nickname. Smilin' Ed McConnell's followers were the "Buster Brown Gang."

Bing Crosby's show was "Philco Radio Time," Bob Hope's was "The Pepsi Show," Al Jolson's



Emory Daniels writes

Southfield still doesn't realize it is a major city

The City of Southfield is still coming to grips with its identity. In a short 16 years, the community has leaped from the status of a township government to the commercial center of southeast Michigan.

That leap was so far forward that it has left many community leaders with an identity crisis - an acute inability to recognize what Southfield is and where it fits into the greater metropolitan area.

Many conceive Southfield as a bedroom community, a fine residential area, great place to raise the kids, etc. That's nice, but Southfield is much more than a residential community.

Others view Southfield through the old "township lenses" - purely as a local governmental unit, a separate entity unto itself. One of the hangovers from the township mentality is a myopic distrust of the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG).

The argument can be heard from any township official, or any officer of a city which was a township within the past five-10 years.

"SEMCOG is a regional agency seeking to establish regional government which would, if accomplished, take away the powers of local governments. Local government must be left completely free to make its own zoning decisions and enforce its own laws."

That type of parochial thinking is taking a step further in Southfield with some officials blaming the city's problems on its close proximity to Detroit.

"Southfield has both two problems, traffic and crime, both of which are Detroit's fault."

If this is true, then it must be that the boundaries surrounding Southfield aren't formidable enough to stop problems from penetrating. If so, then one could certainly go outside those same boundaries in quest of solutions. But Southfield seems to want to solve its problems locally without the help of regional technicians.

The transportation problem is probably the best example of Southfield's current identity crisis. The city recognizes it has a transportation problem. After all, this city with a population of 75,000 residents has a daytime population of some 500,000 persons. This is a residue to be dealt with when one becomes a commercial center.

Thus, for every person who lives in Southfield there are six more who live elsewhere but drive into the city each weekday to work. During daytime hours, then, about 85 per cent of the population are non-residents, most of whom drive automobiles into and out of the city.

If 85 per cent of your traffic problem is caused by motorists from other cities, how can a solution be reached by relying purely on local expertise? These figures cry out for a regional approach, and literally demand much greater reliance on SEMCOG and SEMTA, its sister regional transportation agency.

Surely, the Southfield resident doesn't view Federal - Mogul, The Bendix Corp., Prudential Insurance, Northland Center, Amco Oil Co., Kelley Service, Eaton Corp., Allstate, Delta Air Lines, Villacian - Lemay, American Motors, Sundberg - Ferar, or Ernest & Ernest as purely local businesses.

The list could be longer, but the point is that a portion of Southfield's taxpayers do business on a regional, national and international scale.

Southfield is, indeed, a regional, commercial center of southeast Michigan and will not begin to solve its problems until turning to regional agencies for assistance. The township died in 1957 and township thinking must go in 1974.

Be responsible to our pets

EDITOR:

This letter is in regard to the articles by Joan Weaver on pet control.

I raise and show two Irish setters and have one neutered cat. The dogs are trained to stay in the yard, and the cat always stays in the house. I am not a professional trainer, so I know anyone can and should train their dogs. The training alone would cut back on neighborhood strays.

I have these comments on the pros and cons of various proposed methods of pet control:

Non surgical contraceptives would be effective only if owners go to the trouble of administering them. We already have lack of responsibility for pets, let alone an added responsibility of administering contraceptives. Also, most people do not know how to give or are afraid to give medication to their pets.

Higher license fees will only force breeders of purebred dogs to pay a "penalty" for their profession.

More stringent leash laws are fine, but who is going to enforce them? The police are not sufficiently staffed, and the Animal Welfare Dept. of Oakland County is also understaffed.

Therefore, in order to properly enforce the leash law, more government employees would be necessary, which means additional taxes. Why should everyone be fined for the neglect of some?

Public education is a "must." Most parents buy a pet for their children and expect the children to take care of the pet as well as treat the pet with kindness. Of course, a child will promise anything to get a pet. Parents should be aware that having a pet is like having another child with regard to responsibility and care. If more breeders and pet stops in particular were more selective in selling pets - i.e., why does customer want pet? what kind of environment? - there might be fewer unhappy pet owners.

Unfortunately, "a pet is thought of as a toy or even a 'pounding board' at times. When a child is being adopted, the prospective parents are carefully screened. If a child is neglected, the courts take him from his home. Why can't we have a similar system for pets?

For example, if enough complaints (three) are made against a particular pet owner, there should be a heavy fine of no less than \$50. No one wants to be fined \$50 for anything. If after two fines the pet owner is still irresponsible, the animal should be removed from his owner and destroyed.

It sounds cruel, but the animal will probably end up that way anyway. This method might motivate people to become more responsible to their pets as well as to their community.

The word "responsibility" is mentioned quite often. If more people felt a responsibility to each other as well as to their pets, a large number of problems could be solved.

PAMELA SCHAAR
Farmington Hills

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.

UF cut protested

EDITOR:

The poor people's most tenacious and devastating problems are created and perpetuated by the continuous avalanche of babies amidst poverty-stricken families. These unfortunate children are doomed to a life of deprivation.

Not only is there not adequate food and shelter, but the most essential elements for emotional growth, such as being wanted, loved and appreciated, are denied them. They are deprived of social, cultural and educational opportunity. These children then have no alternative when they are adults but to join the vicious poverty cycle.

I question the wisdom of our United Nations' action in withholding all funds from the Planned Parenthood League, which does educate the poor in family planning. This cold-blooded act by a so-called charity organization touches us all. We pay the burden in welfare taxes, decay of our cities, crime and denying the poor to rise above their chains of poverty.

ALFRED ISMOND, Redford

Their Yule was bright

EDITOR:

I would like to thank all the people, Jaycees, Kiwanis and all the carolers that came here to Tongsuich Manor to do all the lovely things for us at holiday time.

A Brownie troop came and brought each one of us a gift they had made themselves. And our thanks to Capt. Yoder of the Salvation Army for taking us to the market through the year to our shopping.

All of these things are the real meaning of Christmas. We wish all a happy and healthy year to come.

MARY MIHOS
Tonquich Creek Manor
Plymouth

Club thanks friends

EDITOR:

On behalf of the Boys' Clubs of Metropolitan Detroit, Adam H. Sarver Building, we wish to say a big "Thank You" to the Western Wayne County Conservation Club for the tremendous help it has given the Boys' Club.

This help includes the sending of a number of volunteers to the club who have served many valuable functions such as running the Junior and Senior Rifle Club, the Stamp Club, hunters' safety course, Model Club and snowmobile safety course.

Many valuable and useful items which have been put to excellent use in the Boys' Club program are the result of the efforts of men sent to us by the Western Wayne County Conservation Club.

One of these most valuable and far reaching donations was an allotment of several thousand notebooks which were used by Boys' Clubs in seven midwest states and used at several conferences and institutes plus an inner city youth project. Hank Chrusciel contacted Fred Frohlich and Jerry Wilton of the Adistra Corp. who graciously made the above material available to the Boys' Club.

In addition, they donated 50 model cars to the Bosy' Club Christmas party.

CHARLES WILSON,
Director, Boys' Club

Editorial & Opinion

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Sense And Nonsense

Schoolcraft - College's switchboard operator responded with a common sense solution to a complicated question.

When asked by an Observer reporter to find someone on the staff who might be researching new solutions to energy problems, she put the call through to the maintenance department.

The Plymouth Township Board in discussing a suit brought against it by a developer, raised some questions about the suit.

Since its own attorney rarely attends meetings, the board asked the developer's attorney - who was in the audience to see what action it would take on the suit - for advice on what to do. He politely declined to offer advice.