

## editorial opinion

### Babies and bath water

Some informal group is now promoting a bumper sticker which bears the simple message: "Vote against all incumbents."

This is not only simple: it is a simple-minded exhortation to the electorate to take part in crippling the democratic process.

The very heart of that process is that it gives the electorate power to select, to make choices. Applying the throw-the-rascals-out philosophy across the board negates that power of selection. Good men and bad, they say, must go.

It is easy to understand what motivates

such thinking. Like many others, they appear to feel a serious loss of confidence in government. But their proposed remedy is without merit. Throwing out the baby with the bath water never has made any sense.

Our governments in Oakland County are basically honest and effective. School elections are coming June 10. Know the candidates and the issues. The use of incumbency as a basis for selection may be a way to vent frustration but it certainly is not effective. Turning down a needed millage will not make all politics pure nor enrich the quality of life.

### Dan McCosh writes

## Single family homes live on

Some guy on the radio the other day was predicting the end of "suburbia."

More specifically, he was saying the single-family home was just too expensive, too energy-consuming, to be practical these days.

At first I wrote him off as one of those snip planner-types who dabble in other people's life-styles from a safe distance. Like the Porsche owners who keep stumping for more mass transit, or the "urban" planner who maintains a quiet house in the country on his fees.

Then it hit me. All he was doing was repeating a line heard more and more frequently from builders, housing experts and others that single-family homes are disappearing from the market.

IT'S A TRICKY question to get hold of.

The Farmington Hills assessor once told me the fastest increase in housing prices was in the \$25,000 range.

These are houses built in the mad rush following WW II, currently selling for about triple what they were built for.

They are dear mainly because nobody has built this kind of house for years, and like owners of a Model A, this type of homeowner has cornered the market.

From this, it should be obvious the biggest demand is for a fairly cheap house. Builders, on the other hand, tell me they won't build anything for much under \$35,000 these days.

Supply and demand? All thrown out the window, unless you harbor the secret suspicion today's \$35,000 castle is yesterday's \$6,500 FHA bungalow.

Those who predict the demise of the single-family home may have just cause, but I refuse to listen to the following categories:

- Anybody without children.
- Anybody deaf.
- Anybody who thinks he wants to

live on a farm, because it's "simpler."

• Anybody who can afford a farm these days.

• Anybody currently living in a condominium.

• Anybody who uses phrases like "lucky tacky."

One of the amazing things about living on the fringe of a "big city" is how little a center of wealth and power offers in the way of the day-to-day comforts.

The small towns and villages that dot the landscape do not think of a single-family house as a luxury.

While there is some demand for multiple housing, it still seems like a second choice for most people.

The pressure to change that choice seems to be coming from developers who feel trapped by the inflated prices they paid for land, not from people looking for the best way to live.

### Jackie Klein writes

## Rookie in the scout car

I've been driving for a quarter of a century and months ago by before I see a familiar face behind the wheel of another car.

The one time in my life I rode in a police scout car. I saw three former neighbors and one of my best friends. What's worse, they looked at me funny. Still worse, my husband was sitting up front with a cop.

We weren't in the house two minutes when the phone rang. "What happened?" my friend asked breathlessly.

"My husband was stoned and he was picked up for being drunk and disorderly in public," I explained calmly. "I came to bail him out and they got me for pushing dope."

The phone rang again. "I haven't seen you since we moved away 10 years ago," a sweet voice cooed. "It was such a surprise seeing you after all that time, especially in a police car."

"IT'S NOTHING new," I replied. "You've heard of the menopausal kleptomania syndrome. This time they nabbed me for snatching a pair of panty hose. The worst part of it was the darn things sag. Let me tell you one size fits all is a real rip off."

"I could have sworn that was your husband sitting in front," my former neighbor said with just the slightest tinge of embarrassment.

"Oh yes, we do everything in pairs," I replied. "He was arrested for being an accessory to the crime. While I was lifting the stockings, he was the look-out man. They caught us in the get-away car after a high speed chase and exchange of gun fire."

My other former neighbors didn't call. They were probably saying,

"They were nice people once, but we wouldn't want to live next door to them. You know what happens to your property values when undesirables come into the neighborhood."

Here's the real low-down. Last

week was National Police Week and you get to take a one-hour ride in a scout car as part of the celebration. It really wasn't too exciting except for the part when my husband couldn't buckle the seat belt and we couldn't hear the siren for the beep beeping. Ralph Nader, wherever you are, I hope they buckle you in permanently.

It got so bad, we had to get out and cruise in an old car. We didn't get going right away. The policeman had to check his siren, his lights, his public address system and his radio. "If they don't work, we're in trouble," he said jovially.

I WAS REALLY looking forward to a break-in, a dope raid or at least a bicycle theft. I would have settled for a dumping violation. But my luck, the 9 p.m. "drive-along" passengers got to see a couple of armed robbers fleeing the scene of a gas station.

All we saw was Northland during a slow period. If we had waited another 10 minutes, we might have seen a mugging. If we had waited 24 hours, we could have been witnesses to a shoot-out.

The police officer kept the window open because he feels out of contact with the outside world if he closes it. I can understand that, but the pouring rain didn't do a thing for my hair-do.

I became very fond of the officer. He was not a chauvinist pig. He said he thought women would make darn good cops because they have a lot of insight. They could patch up family quarrels and even break up drunken brawls, he said.

But then in the next breath, he noted that policewomen would be more likely to be assaulted. Of course, my husband agreed. He thinks the closest a woman should get to the line of fire is when she lights the oven.

We saw a pretty girl hitchhiking. "That's a potential for crime," the officer noted. "Let's pick her up." My

husband quipped, staring at her legs. "Jealous wife zaps husband is another potential for crime," I smirked. "Next year we're going to sign up for the 9 p.m. ride. Maybe we'll get some action. And our friends can't see in the dark."

## Ecology calendar

Ecology-minded persons who wish to save cans, bottles or newspapers for recycling may use these facilities.

To prepare glass, thoroughly wash the containers, remove all metal caps and rings from the glass and separate the glass by color.

To prepare cans, clean only. Paper need not be removed.

Newspapers should be tied in bundles with heavy string or rope or secured in heavy paper bags.

• BIRMINGHAM - Daily newspaper pickup with regular trash. Newspapers must be bundled separately.

• BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP - Behind the township offices, 4200 Telegraph Road, just south of Long Lake Road. Between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m., Saturdays. Glass and clean cans are collected each week. All aluminum items accepted. Newspapers collected on the last Saturday of each month.

• GROVES ECOLOGY CLUB - Bundled or bagged newspapers and cardboard will be collected from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Friday and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday the second week of each month at the high school's front parking lot.

• LATHRUP VILLAGE - At the Public Services Building, 19101 Twelve Mile Road, adjacent to the high school. Newspapers are collected 10 a.m.-2 p.m. by volunteers the first Saturday of each month.

# CROWLEY'S

## We've got Wings!

We really can't fly you anywhere, but we can send you off with the finest European-look lightweight luggage from

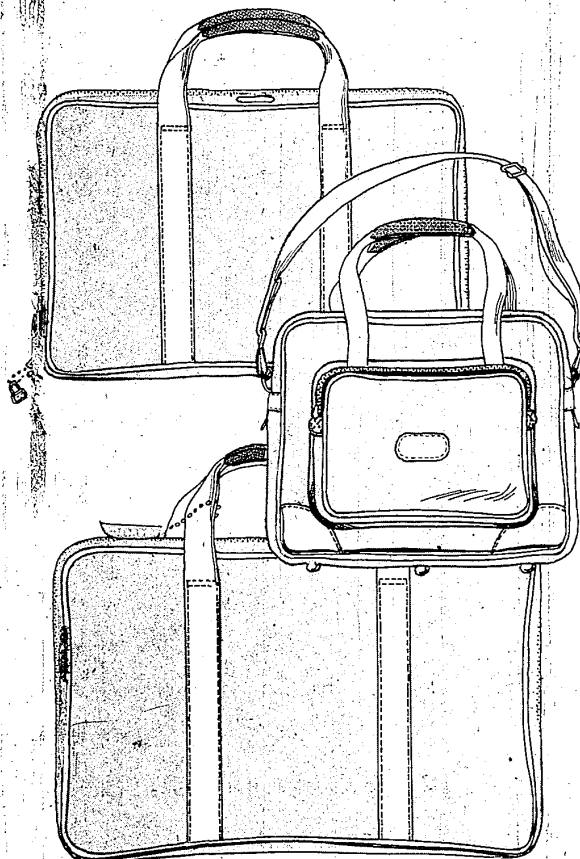
Wings. Our newest additions include leather, canvas and nylon ensembles for men and women as well as unisex

styles for the slightly more liberated. Shown below are three pieces from the "Wild Ducks" collection. These soft, heavy-duty cotton duck totes are water-repellent and light as a

feather. Break away from the dull and classic look in luggage with "Wild Ducks" in rebel red or denim blue.

Luggage (#4) at the Birmingham, Westborn Center, Farmington and Livonia Mall stores. "Wild Ducks."

\$26 to \$49<sup>95</sup>



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