

editorial opinion

New Year's Eve at 10:59?

Farmington Hills has embarked on an effort to make the town a quieter place. It is obvious the ordinance is long overdue.

If it is passed, it will likely give the common man the full weight of the law in circumstances where he formerly had to merely grit his teeth.

If a rude and inconsiderate person leans on his horn the next time one dallies too long at an intersection, one can quote the section: "the creation by means of any such signal device of any unreasonably loud or harsh sound, the sounding of such device for an unnecessary and unreasonable period of time" is illegal.

If one's teenage son insists on practicing his electric guitar in the bathroom at midnight because he likes the vibes against the tile, one can quote: "The playing of any radio, television set, phonograph or any musical instrument in such a manner or with such volume . . . or at any time or place so as to annoy or disturb the quiet, comfort or repose of persons in any office or in any dwelling . . ." is also against the law.

ON THE OTHER hand, the prohibition of "Yelling, shouting, hooting, whistling or singing or the making of any other loud noise on the public street, between the hours of 11 p.m. and 7 a.m." is likely to cause problems.

Is Farmington Hills about to force the celebration of New Years to 10:59 p.m.? While the constant resetting of clocks in this part of the country has most of us pretty flexible about time, this is going a bit too far.

If the noisemakers and bells go off in Farmington an hour early, it will generate no end of confusion in Livonia, Southfield and points west. If, on the other hand, one waits until 7 a.m., it could be worse.

The rush to the streets at such an early hour will likely terrify milkmen, newsboys and others with legitimate business at that hour.

On the whole, the ordinance seems like a good idea.

But one must remember when the horn blows behind you, it will also be illegal to turn around and swear.

Or if you do, do it quietly.

Change in classified ads

Our readers in the past few months complained in large numbers about the difficulty in gaining information from sections of our classified advertising columns.

Soon after this fact was pointed out we began development of a computer program which we believed would better sort the classified ads and make reading easier. The program took three months to develop and is now in operation.

Real estate, miscellaneous for sale and

household goods for sale columns are now sorted by geographic location.

Automobiles for sale advertising is listed alphabetically and by year.

These changes were made as a result of your letters and comments. We not only appreciate your concern and commentary, but we solicit them. And we are always pleased when we can act to correct a situation.

From our readers

Runs on record

To the Editor:

The political candidate runs for office on his record of past performance and on what he tells the voters he will do, if elected. I hope the co-publisher of the Observer & Eccentric is not suggesting that we ignore the record and concentrate on just promises.

This would surely suit two of the candidates in the 17th District Congressional race who have records they might like the people of the district to ignore.

Mr. Power criticized Pat McDonald for telling voters that Rep. William Broadhead's name was on a legal brief asking the State Supreme Court to "Strike down Michigan's Marijuana Statute," so defendant-appellant John Sinclair, leader of the radical Rainbow People's Party, could be released from prison.

Mr. Power makes light of being "soft on grass." I hope Mr. Power never has to deal with a child who is "high" on grass. The use of marijuana produces a breakdown of restraints that leads children out of school and to theft, so that it can be purchased.

MARIJUANA leads to experimentation with sex, hallucinogens, drugs and narcotics. The unspecified socially unacceptable practices referred to were those of John Sinclair, not the members of the Legislature. They include urging children to use marijuana, disregard for the law and contempt for the courts.

Broadhead's rebuttal that the brief urged reducing criminal penalties rather than legalization was strange, coming from a man who first denied knowledge of the brief, and then denied being associated with it.

Only when the brief was produced, Broadhead admitted he knew his name was on it. He said he didn't fulfill his obligation as an attorney and officer of the court to have his name removed because, he "didn't think anyone would find out about it."

THE BRIEF, in fact, asks the State Supreme Court to "strike down Michigan's Marijuana Statute" not to amend it or reduce penalties as board members in Legislature. Representative Broadhead was not being accused of being "soft on grass" as much as he was being accused of exercising plain bad judgment.

John Sinclair was hardly a charity case as far as getting help was concerned. Beatie, John Lennon, was only one popculture superstar working in his behalf. If Bill Broadhead's views are those con-

tained in the legal brief, the voters of the 17th District have every right to know about them.

Unless we are to assume that the attorney who filed the brief picked Representative Broadhead at random from the phone book, the voters of the 17th District are entitled to know how his name got on the brief and why.

William Broadhead was listed not as an individual but as a state representative. In the absence of meaningful consumer protection; campaign reform legislation; a method of preventing school strikes; help for senior citizens; welfare reform; progress in care of the mentally ill and retarded; curtailment of constant utility and health insurance increases; a voter may wonder how Bill Broadhead had time for John Sinclair.

H. B. Driscoll
Bloomfield Hills

June 11, 1974

A job well done

To the Editor:

Friends and patients of Planned Parenthood League, Inc. throughout greater Detroit will join the board of directors in wishing Mrs. Frances Levine, executive director for eight years, a fulfilling retirement.

Under Frances Levine's innovative guidance, PPL achieved a national reputation for extending high quality birth planning information, education and care to the young, the working poor and the foreign-born of our community.

Mrs. Levine's concern for the well-being of each patient, as an individual, will continue to motivate Planned Parenthood's staff and volunteers in the years ahead.

Mrs. Walter Shapiro
Chairman of the Board
Detroit

Sign petitions

To the Editor:

It was noted in your paper last week, in an article on the West Bloomfield School Board recall, that Mrs. Diane Ransom urged people not to support due to the cost of such an election.

She does not state that either Mr. Carter, Mr. Grossman or Mr. Brewster are fulfilling their responsibilities as board members in a manner responsive to community need. It is also interesting to note that, although the board of education is required by statute to provide the numbers necessary for recall, it steadfastly refuses to do so.

Since the board is planning a late-fall, early-winter election in order to place a multi-faceted bond issue before the public, there is a

strong possibility that the two issues will be combined.

I strongly urge citizens to sign the recall petitions—at this time recall petition library in this district meets the state minimum standard of 10 books per pupil. We have received unofficial estimates from board members ranging from \$7,000 to \$20,000 to move the administrative offices from Abbott to OLMS.

THAT MONEY could purchase from over 700 to over 2,000 books for our children. In addition, it costs \$1.15 (per Mr. Rossmann) to educate each child in our schools; it was this same board, these same officers, that gave Dr. Herman the health insurance benefits of tuition-free (non-resident) enrollment for each of his five children.

While we receive state aid of \$600 per pupil, the district absorbs the other \$515. There is no objection to the children attending our schools, as long as the taxpayers of West Bloomfield do not pay for it!

It is vital that our board members spend our money wisely! Abbott parents as well as OLMS parents are equally involved in this improper usage of our funds.

I sincerely hope that they are aware of the fact that Abbott will be receiving no extras as a result of the transfer . . . the transfer of children, teachers and equipment is on a per student basis.

There will be somewhat larger classes, longer lunch lines and a school filled to 92 percent capacity.

Due to the millage failure (notably in the Scotch-Roosevelt precinct) we still have inadequate libraries, leaky roofs and are short on equipment needed to match growing enrollment.

Only a handful of parents spoke for the Abbott parents at board meetings . . . hope they too will voice their concerns for the education of all our children by signing recall petitions and voting in the recall election.

This district needs to spend its money on books and equipment, not on moving vans and buses!

Judith Miller
June 19, 1974 West Bloomfield

Do as I say, not . . .

Cruising along I-696 at an easy 55 mph has given drivers the chance to see more of the countryside.

It also helped some people to see more clearly the car owned by the State Highway Department as it passed cars holding at the limit.

The speeding didn't bother that much, unless you stop and consider: who put the signs up?

Eccentricities

by HANK HOGAN



Man-made ugliness

In crossing this great nation of ours you realize that within its borders we have all the natural beauty a human being can ask for.

We have mountains, canyons, oceans, the Great Lakes, deserts and tropical areas.

Slowly but surely this natural beauty is being buried by mountains of litter.

Alongside our great expressways, floating down our beautiful rivers, lying along our sandy beaches, are broken bottles, discarded gum wrappers and other trash.

UNDER MICHIGAN LAW, if you are caught littering you can be fined \$100 or imprisoned for up to 90 days or both if you can be convicted. But, littering is not the type of crime that is easily detected and the fine doesn't seem to be much of a deterrent, considering the results.

Since it costs the nation millions of dollars each year to clean up this blight and still we are falling way behind, maybe we ought to do what California has done.

They passed a law providing a \$50 reward for anyone giving information leading to the arrest and conviction of a litterer.

THIS MEANS that instead of relying entirely upon their police departments to enforce the litter law, every citizen becomes a helper in keeping the

state clean, and the added incentive of a reward makes it worth their while.

It does seem a shame to pit one citizen against another, but if everyone took it upon himself to make our country a better, cleaner place in which to live and play we wouldn't have a problem.

Since it is summertime and we are more likely to be using the great outdoor playgrounds our state and nation offer, we should pledge to ourselves that every place we visit will be left in better condition than when we first visited it.

IF EVERYONE not only made sure that he cleaned up any mess that he might have created but, on top of this, cleaned up a little of the mess someone else left, we would be progressing toward retaining our natural beauty.

And to take care of those who won't face up to their responsibility, if we could get the legislature to follow California's suit we might be able to impress our citizens that while we do have a beautiful country it will only stay that way if all of us pitch in and contribute.

Let's work to preserve those beaches, rivers, mountains and canyons for our kids and our grandchildren.

It takes work, but anything worth preserving is worth a little effort on everyone's part.

Observation Point

by PHILIP H. POWER



The very good and very bad

Auto executives. UAW leaders. Small businessmen. Retailers. Even bankers and Realtors.

They're all smiling a little more just now than they have in months, because economically things look better today for the Detroit area than they have in a long time.

With the (for now) end of the gas shortage, the consuming public seems again willing to think about buying new cars. The automobile industry has caught the swing in public taste to smaller yet more luxurious models and has a whole slew of new cars scheduled for introduction this fall.

Two signs of evidence: Late at night drive by the tool and die shops in the suburbs, and you'll see a whole lot of overtime being worked. Talk to commercial printers about automotive business (usually every good leading indicator of just how the wind is blowing) and they'll smile and say they see signs of life.

In short, 1975 looks as though it may be a very good year.

WE SURE NEED one

Although the rising prices of our inflationary times tend to mask it, the Detroit area has been through a pretty serious recession in the past year. Unemployment, even without counting the big auto industry layoffs, has been very high; with them, it's been at near-record levels. The housing industry has been in trouble, with money tight and interest rates out of sight. Retailers have experienced soft sales for nearly a year.

After a 21st, it's nice to contemplate the idea that times will get better later this year after the model changeover.

BUT THE RETURN of good times should not obscure the fact that one of the major problems we face in the Detroit area is the boom and bust quality of the economy in general and the auto industry in particular.

The pattern has existed for years, owing to the excessive reliance of the area on the auto industry. A durable good, whose purchase can be deferred by people when times are tough, unlike non-durable goods such as food, which must be purchased willy-nilly.

But the swings of the business cycle in Detroit seem to have been greater in the last several years than in the past. There was the boom starting in 1958, followed by the bust of late 1959 and 1960. And there was the boom of 1972, followed by the most recent bust.

I suspect that this pattern of swings in the business cycle will get worse for the rest of this decade, not because of what's going on in Detroit but rather because our country is in the middle of a little recognized revolution in economics.

WHEN THE GREAT economist John Maynard Keynes proposed his revolutionary theories, they seemed a far-seeing cure for the cycle of depressions that had plagued the western world for centuries and nearly brought it to grief in the 1930's.

He pointed out that the two main methods of controlling an economy had been through varying

the money supply (causing interest rates to move up or down) and allowing employment to shift. He noticed that reliance on these two factors inherently led to the boom and bust of the business cycle.

Keynes argued that there were two other ways of fine-tuning an economy which worked to even out the swings of the business cycle and which could be used to keep employment high. Tax rates could be increased or decreased to reduce or stimulate overall demand; and the government budget could be increased or decreased to produce similar shifts in demand.

Keynes argued that those two new factors in economics could be used consciously to overcome recessions; President Kennedy proved him right when he cut taxes in the early 1960's and set off a period of unparalleled economic expansion that lasted for most of the decade. Keynes also argued that increasing taxes and cutting the size of the budget could also reduce inflation; no politician has entirely proved this correct, although most economists think that's because they don't have the guts to try it.

WHAT IS INTERESTING about our present situation is that Keynes' two revolutionary methods of calming the business cycle—tax and budget manipulations—are no longer feasible in practice.

Whenever anyone proposes a tax change, Congress takes so long to wrangle about it that by the time it gets a bill passed the effect of the change is almost precisely the reverse of what was intended.

And whenever anyone asks why not reduce the size of the budget to stop inflation, no one in Congress can say just what the budget will wind up to be, since appropriation bills are passed by lots of different committees (even if Congress had the self-discipline to stop special-interest budget grants. No one can tell at any point just how much money had been appropriated).

For political reasons, the two great devices for fine tuning the economy proposed by Keynes are no longer available to us. We are, in fact, back to a pre-Keynesian economy, with the only instruments of control being the interest rate and employment levels. And these lead inevitably to the swings of the business cycle.

CONGRESS ONLY last week passed landmark legislation establishing a coordinated joint committee to review budget proposals and a staff of experts to provide the kind of information needed to control the budget. But this legislation will not take effect until 1978, and probably it will not be until the 1980's for it to have much effect.

All of which means that the nation will go through the boom and bust cycles that characterized the pre-Keynesian economics for the least another four or five years.

And the Detroit area, plagued by its heavy concentration on durable goods, will have disproportionate swings: When times are good, they will be very good; When they are bad, they will be very bad.

Your 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 separately 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.

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

• BIRMINGHAM TOWNSHIP—Behind the township offices, 4200 Telegraph Road just south of L-16 Highway. 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—Bundles or bagged newspapers and cardboard will be collected from 7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Friday and 8 a.m. to 2 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. every Saturday. Groups bringing in more than 500 lbs. of glass will receive \$10 per ton for glass.

• SOUTHFIELD—In the old city offices, 26000 Berg Road at Ten and One-half Mile, one block east of Telegraph. Glass, tin cans and newspapers may be dropped off at any time.

• TROY—At the DPW Yard, 4695 Rochester Road, from 9 a.m. to noon on the first and third Saturday of each month.

Open Forum

Letters to the "From our readers" column should be limited to between 100 and 200 words and be signed with name, address and telephone number. Letters of a longer length will be considered in terms of content and availability of space. The Observer & Eccentric reserves the right to edit all letters for length and good taste. Names of letter writers may be withheld under exceptional circumstances.