

editorial opinion

Jackie Klein writes

If the plants could talk

Have you ever wondered what people say when they carry on a whole monologue with their plants? When I have nothing else to worry about, I wonder what the plants would say if they could answer back.

I was a Philodendron or a Mother-in-Law's tongue. I would tell my chatty master, "Look, I appreciate your talking to me and I know you mean well. But you're boring as hell."

"You think it's such a big deal because you give me a drink every day. I'm supposed to be the potted plant and you're the one who guzzles the martinis. Personally, I think you're off your tree."

"How would you like to be a terrarium and live in a glass bowl with no privacy? And I'm getting darn sick and tired being poked with that green thumb you're always bragging about."

"And just don't be so motherly and get me a plant sitter while you go on vacation and have a ball. The last sitter you got nearly drowned me and

the one before let me dry up while she made out with her boyfriend."

"I DON'T KNOW where you ever got that weird idea that I respond favorably to music. It's not bad enough that your kids play acid rock loud enough to blast my roots off. But then you start singing, 'When Autumn Leaves Start to Fall,' and you know how nervous that makes me."

"Don't think you're doing me any favors giving me that lousy plant food with chlorophyll. That's the stuff they use in tooth paste and I hope it makes your teeth green."

"I swear if you come near once more with a scissors and transplant my parts to make babies, I'll scream. Haven't you ever heard of planned parenthood? Don't you know there's a plant population explosion?"

"I know you're just using me. Ecology is in this year and everybody's bringing greenery into the house. But next year, there'll be a new fad and you'll bounce me out like an old rubber plant."

"You're always blabbing about women's lib, but what about plant lib? What rights do we have? Do we have an identity crisis? We're stereotyped as beautiful, mindless objects to adorn the homes of male chauvinists."

"WE DON'T HAVE a satisfying sex life. We don't even have a sex. When was the last time you heard of a plant getting a letter addressed to Ms.?"

"A cactus living on a desert has a more exciting life than we have. We never get out of the house and the only change we get is when you get some dippy idea that we need more sunshine or a cool, dark place. Why don't you make up your mind?"

"Just because you brought your kids up according to Dr. Spock, you don't have to buy 27 books on plants. It's about time you used your own common sense. If I turn out like your kids, forget it."

"O.k., so I've got a big mouth and I'm ungrateful. But anyone nutty enough to talk to plants deserves it."

Carl Stoddard writes

Fear in the night

My neighbor has a gun. His neighbor's house was broken into.

My wife and I have developed a good case of suburban paranoia. And who can blame us; it is simply a matter of cause and effect.

First, the folks across the street had their home entered while they were gone. I guess illegally broken into would be a more apt description.

Secondly, my wife and I were coming home late at night. While I fumbled with the front door key, she emptied the car litter bag in the garbage can.

Hearing the clatter of the garbage cans and seeing a figure standing in front of the door, our neighbor came running over.

Alarmed by our noise, he came over carrying a gun. Well, it didn't really set us at ease. I mean, it would be small consolation knowing you were shot by mistake.

Besides, I have enough troubles finding the right key at night. I don't want to worry about people with guns-burglars or neighbors.

Anyway, once my wife and I got inside, the paranoia sank in.

I DECIDED it was time to put on the storm windows.

It is harder to break through a storm window and a screen than it is to cut through a screen. Isn't it? Well, while I was putting up storm windows on a chilly September night Bill Bonds told 11 o'clock news listeners about the latest murders in Detroit.

"Police described it as an execution style murder," Bonds said. "The victim's hands were tied behind his..."

I put up the storm windows in 10 minutes. Then I double checked the locks on the doors. I spent most of the night huddled

under the blankets on our bed. Once my wife bolted up. "What's that?"

"I don't know," I said. "I'll check on it in the morning." Such ploys, unfortunately, don't work.

So, with sleepy apprehension, I ventured forth in search of the elusive thing that had allegedly gone bump in the night.


Thank God, I didn't find anything.

BUT IT DIDN'T ease my mind and later I stayed awake trying to remember: Is 9-1-1 the emergency number and 4-1-1 the number I call for directory assistance? Or is it the other way around?

Or is the number 9-1-4? 4-1-9? Or 9-4-1?

And my neighbor has a gun. And my neighbor's house was broken into. And Bill Bonds said they're still killing people in Detroit. And I can't remember the emergency number.

Now that's paranoia.



Modulation

by
MICHAEL MARGELLINO

A resource for everyone

Right here in our back yard most of us have a resource overlooked by many and used almost daily by young and old alike. The public library generally gets taken for granted.

Need a name and address? The Baldwin Public Library, 351 Martin St., Birmingham, and Bloomfield Township Public Library, 1099 Lone Pine Road, Bloomfield Hills, have the following in reference sections:

BRESSER'S Criss Cross for Oakland County, Dun and Bradstreet Middle Market and Million Dollar Directories, local area Polk city directories, Polk's World Bank Directory and telephone directories for Michigan cities and large cities throughout the world.

Libraries in Troy, Rochester, Franklin, West Bloomfield Township, Southfield and Farmington carry similar items.

Records from Rock to Rachmaninoff are available to residents who appreciate music.

Interested in investments? Legal information? Searching for marketing information? Looking for a product? Take advantage of one of the better investments you have made in your community, your library.

AT ONE time I was a regular weekly visitor to Troy's library. I checked out three or four record albums a week. I was really getting my money's worth. Have you ever heard of a book called, "Morivagine, the Life of an Idiot"? It was on the new book shelf. The hero, or anti-hero, in his own world proclaims, "Consciousness is a congenital hallucination."

Entertainment and information at your fingertips, written, oral and visual. The resources of the library await.

And, the best resource of all, the people who serve the communities through the library. Stop in and you'll meet one of the most accommodating group of employees in town.

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 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 a.m. to 5:30 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. by volunteers, the first Saturday of each month.

• PONTIAC — Oakland County Recycling Center, 550 S. Telegraph, 9 a.m.-4 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.

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

CROWLEY'S

Little girls greet the sandman in patchwork nightwear

Kids will enjoy our bright and happy patchwork night things by Her Majesty. Then when eyes get sleepy and it's

early-to-bed, they'll be warm and cozy in these cotton flannels that are flame retardant for safe keeping.

All are in predominantly bright yellow patchwork.

Left: quilted robe, sizes 4 to 6x, \$15; 8 to 14, \$19.

Right: pajamas with footies, 4 to 6x, \$11; 8 to 14, \$13.

Also available: matching gown, 4 to 6x, \$8; 8 to 14, \$10.

Children's Nightwear (# 68) at Livonia, Birmingham, Farmington.



BIRMINGHAM CUSTOMERS can park free! The new Ferndale Street Parking Deck is now open. Any Crowley sales person will gladly validate your ticket.

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