

editorial opinion

Carl Stoddard writes

Fall is raking leaves

All that greenery outside is changing to red, orange and yellow. That's a sure sign that Fall is here.

And with the coming of Fall, it's time for the first annual Fall is...

Fall is wearing sweaters that smell like mothballs.

Fall is Monday night football.

Fall is carving Halloween pumpkins.

Fall is remembering all the things you were going to do this summer, but didn't.

Fall is listening to all the gaudy promotions for the new television shows.

Fall is watching the new television shows.

Fall is reading about all the new television shows that are being cancelled. (And hearing the promotions for the television shows for the "second season.")

FALL IS BEING the first one in your family to hear piped-in Christmas music in a store.

Fall is putting away your lawn mower for another season.

Fall is getting out your snow shovel for another season.

Fall is putting up the storm windows you just got around to taking down.

Fall is finally collecting the labors of your garden for canning and then learning that canning lids are on the latest lists of shortages.

Fall is finding out how much anti-freeze costs this year.

Fall is raking leaves.

Fall is jumping in the pile of leaves you just raked.

Fall is raking leaves again.

Fall is jumping in the pile of leaves again.

Fall is finding only one of the gloves you put away last Spring.

FALL IS FINDING your ice scraper in your long underwear.

Fall is discovering that the kids have been using your snow tire as a swing.

Fall is homecoming queens, homecoming football games and homecoming dances.

Fall is fresh apple cider.

Fall is hayrides.

Fall is getting over your hay fever.

Fall is watching the birds fly south, across your windshield.

Fall is hoping your furnace will last another year.

Fall is hot chocolate and bonfires.

Fall is buying winter clothes.

Fall is sending the kids off to school every day.

Fall is waiting for the first snowfall.

Fall is playing football in the backyard on a Saturday afternoon.

Fall is never failing to be amazed at the changing of the leaves.

Fall is waking up to a cold morning and not wanting to get out of bed.

Fall is losing your summer suntan.

Fall is watching "It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown" on television.

Jackie Klein writes

Women need recharge, too

"What the World Needs Now is Womanpower Energy," a headline in the daily press shouted at me.

And all the time I thought (quoting a popular song) "What the World Needs Now is Love Sweet Love."

If you think the song is sentimental, just dig the words of the brainy "womanpower" who attended the World Energy Conference in Detroit. It's enough to make you toss your cookies.

Next time you're damp-mopping, think of the words of Mrs. Marie-Claude Vigna, a French electrical engineer and publisher for some of the largest energy councils in the world.

"It's good for women to work and have a family too," Madame Vigna purled in her sexy French accent. "I have a handsome, clever husband who is enthused about my career."

"When I am traveling to the French West Indies, Senegal, Madagascar or anywhere, he takes over the care of our two lovely little children."

YOU WITH THE damp mop, when was the last time you raved to Senegal? You've probably got a chauvinist daddar with a pouch for a husband

and he believes a woman's place is in the oven. He probably figures "womanpower energy" means scrubbing the front steps after a good dose of Geritol.

What does he do when you're traveling to faraway places with exotic names like Hemiramak, Dearborn, Pontiac, Livonia or anywhere?

Does he give you hell when he comes home to a TV dinner of swiss steak and mashed potatoes on the rocks? Does he call you an unfit mother and threaten to leave you alone with your "two lovely little children" when the divorce is final?

Madame Vigna, you may be a biggie in Madagascar. But in America, you sound like a French farce with a PhD.

Another drag is Joyce Angelo, a market researcher from New York.

"I wouldn't want to be one of the wives attending the energy conference," she said with a supercilious smirk. "They're treated like children and shuffled off on shopping trips or to irrelevant entertainment while the problems of the world are being explored by the delegates."

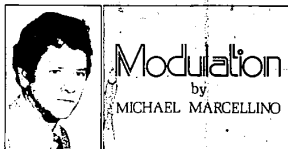
TOUGH ROCKS, Ms. Angelo. You're probably jealous because you had to listen to all those stuffy scientists while their wives were buying minks and enjoying "irrelevant entertainment" like happy hours at the local bars. You explore the problems of the world. I'll take the minks and the martinis any day!

Mrs. Jean David, another French goody two shoes, is a chemical engineer and director of information for an energy institute in Paris.

"The day before I left Paris for the conference, I gave a dinner for 350 guests at the wedding of my youngest son who is in law school," she bragged. "My eldest son is an engineer and my daughter is a psychologist."

You can be sure Mrs. John Klunk from Hoboken didn't make it to the energy conference. Her youngest son probably got married in the park and is a high school dropout on pot. Her eldest son is a Ghuru in India and her daughter lives in a commune.

The world may need womanpower energy. But where do the women get the strength?



Modulation
by
MICHAEL MARCELLINO

A plan for parking

Shoppers in downtown Birmingham utter a continual lament concerning a lack of convenient parking. This criticism is usually coupled with a pained cry over congested streets, especially Maple Road.

Two solutions would lessen the inconvenience considerably: Use the parking structures and the Ring Road Bypass.

We have not had one report of a serious incident in our parking structures. We have been told, however, that drivers, particularly women, are reluctant to use the parking structures.

POLICE RECORDS show the parking structures to be as safe or safer than other public places. If fear is keeping people from using the parking

structures, it appears to be a fear without basis in fact.

Sure, it's easy for me, a man, to tell women-shoppers that it's safe to use the parking structures. What harm can come to me?

Well, the young woman who works in my office says she will continue to use the structures. Now, if I could bring my bride to giving the same assurances...

HENRY M. HOGAN, JR., Co-Publisher
PHILIP H. POWER, Co-Publisher

R. T. THOMPSON, Executive Editor
MICHAEL R. MARCELLINO, Editor
Gerald Cowley Newspapers

WYLIE GERDES, Acting Managing Editor
ARTHUR SHAFFER, Marketing Director

Member of
MICHIGAN PRESS ASSOCIATION
SUBURBAN NEWSPAPERS OF AMERICA
NATIONAL NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

CROWLEY'S

Grandoe's fashion snacks in buttery soft popcorn knit

In a thick, munchy popcorn-stitched knit, these hat, muffler and mitten match-ups look almost good enough to eat. As they keep you fireside-warm this winter, they'll accent your new coat or cape smashing. Colors include natural, red, navy, camel, burgundy and tile of Creslan® acrylic.

Top: Marseilles beret, \$4. Center: cuffed cap, \$4. Below: flip brim, \$8. Matching scarf, \$7. Mittens, \$3.50.

Gloves (#25) at Westborn Mall, Livonia Mall, Birmingham and Farmington.



BIRMINGHAM CUSTOMERS can park free! The new Ferndale Street Parking Deck is now open. Any Crowley's salesperson will gladly validate your ticket for you.



WESTBORN CENTER
Michigan at Outer Drive

LIVONIA MALL
7 Mile & Middlebelt

BIRMINGHAM
200 North Woodward

FARMINGTON
12 Mile & Farmington Rd

The Observer & Eccentric

DIVISION OF SUBURBAN COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION