

editorial opinion

It can't possibly happen --never!



News stories you'll probably never get to read:

DETROIT—In a major policy change, Channel 8 announced it will drop its "entertainment" format on its 6 and 11 p.m. news programs and attempt to report the news.

"Our hiring policies will emphasize reporting competence and knowledge of public affairs," said station manager Bill McGroom, "and activity ability will no longer be sufficient."

Tim Richard writes

In the ensuing personnel shakeup, anchorman Bob Stocks left the station and at last report was working for a rural weekly newspaper, where he was learning to write obituaries.

WASHINGTON—The president of the United Industrial Workers said today his own union was to blame for the economic suffering of its members. UIW President Ben Partridge promised his giant union would attempt to put its own house in order before blaming the companies, the utilities, the legislature, the governor, Congress, the president and the Arabs for massive unemployment. "The truth," said Partridge, "is that we ripped off too much in that last contract. We helped send unit costs sky-high, and consumers are rebelling against the resultant high prices." "And we intend to face squarely the fact that our own members were to blame for the slogan 'Never buy a car built on Friday or Monday' because of their poor attendance habits."

PLIFORD—Voters in South Pliford School District will be asked June 9 to replace an eight-mill operating levy with one of 6.5 mills. "Conditions are changing," said SP Supt. Paul

Hobver, "and we're going to pass the savings onto the taxpayer."

Main reason for the cut, said Hobver, is that enrollments have declined and fewer teachers are needed.

A less obvious but noteworthy second reason, he said, is that all the pre-school, special education and remedial programs given younger children are finally paying off. "We're flunking fewer high school students now, and teacher productivity has thus improved," said the superintendent.

Heavy police costs on the part of the city have cut school vandalism, window breakage and heat loss, resulting in further budget reductions.

WASHINGTON—President Ford today signed into law a bill eliminating the word "rip-off" from the English language.

DETROIT—Mayor Elder said all future department head appointments will be made on the basis of merit and ability. He disavowed plans to build a personal political empire and said instead the city administration will concentrate on public service.

GARDENLAND—The editor of a newspaper said he would produce no editorials this week because he had nothing new, interesting or intelligent to say.

Carl Stoddard writes: Smoke eaters have tough job

The fire that smoldered and smoked and defied firemen for an hour at Franklin Simon left me with one definite impression: it takes a lot of guts to be a fireman.

Television has done a lot to remind us of the glories and dangers of being a cop. Firemen, however, have received far less attention. But the fact of the matter is, a fireman's job is just as dangerous and just as important.

At the Franklin Simon fire last week at Northland the fire churned out thick, choking smoke. With no place to go, it got thicker and thicker. By the time the Southfield Fire Department arrived, it was impossible to get through the front door of the store—much less down to the basement—because of the smoke.

SO THE FIREMEN pulled clear masks over their faces and strapped air packs onto their backs. Then they disappeared into the smoke.

They felt their way through the store to the back stairway, precariously edged their way down the stairs and finally made it to the basement.

The basement is normally well lit, but the fire had knocked out the electricity and the lights the firemen carried were ineffective in the thick smoke.

Two hours after the fire had been brought under control, I went down into the basement to survey the damage. Half way down the stairs the smoke and humidity hit me and my glasses fogged over. I was blinded. Fortunately, I was able to take off my glasses and still see where I was going.

Later, I asked Chief Donald Foote how the men wearing those clear face masks could see.

He said they couldn't see. They simply crawled across the floor, trying to stay below the smoke and inched their way forward until they found the fire.

ONCE at the fire, they had little time to fight it. The air tanks, under such severe conditions, only lasted about ten minutes.

Do I want to be a fireman? No. Do I respect them? Yes.

It takes a certain personal quality to crawl down into a dark, smoke-filled basement that happens to be on fire. And it doesn't help when the water is ankle deep, your air supply good for only

ten minutes and you can't see your hand in front of your face. I don't know if you need to be brave or nuts to want to do that. Maybe both.

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Southfield Fireman Tom Dudley
(Photo by Craig Newman)

f.y.i.*

*For Your Information

Hand signals for drivers of vehicles without mechanical signals have been brought into line with federal standards and those of almost all other states under a new Michigan law. Under the old law, the driver was merely required to extend his hand horizontally to indicate a stop or a turn.

The new law requires you to extend your arm straight for a left turn, extend your arm upward for a right turn and extend it down when stopping or slowing down.

Three Week Bonus for Green tickets
WIN \$3,000 WORTH OF GROCERIES IN THE LOTTERY'S \$225,000 MARKET BASKET BONUS.



75 Bonus prizes worth \$3,000 each. Plus over one million dollars in regular prizes each week. After the regular 50¢ Green game drawing on March 13, 20 and 27, three 3-digit Bonus numbers will be drawn. Your ticket will be a 3-digit Bonus number. If the numbers on your 50¢ Green ticket for that drawing match any two of the three 3-digit Bonus numbers, you will win a \$1,000 prize. If the numbers on your ticket match all three 3-digit Bonus numbers, you will win a \$3,000 prize. The 3-digit Bonus numbers will be drawn at 11:00 a.m. on the day of the drawing. The numbers will be drawn at 11:00 a.m. on the day of the drawing. The numbers will be drawn at 11:00 a.m. on the day of the drawing.



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Market Basket Bonus tickets are on sale March 4 to noon March 25.