

## editorial opinion

# Ryan's regional system bill could improve metroparks

It is the kind of coincidence that makes you think there's some kind of order in public affairs. One is a special legislative investigation into the operations of the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority (HCMA), the five-county agency which operates some of the finest, cleanest parks in Michigan or any other state.

That legislative group's public hearings is scheduled for 7:30 p.m., Monday, Sept. 29, in the county commissioners auditorium of the Oakland County Service Center, 1280 N. Telegraph, Pontiac.

The other is a hearing by the House Urban Affairs Committee, headed by former Speaker Bill Ryan, on his so-called Ryan Bill. The bill would reconstitute the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) with expanded and clearer duties.

The Ryan Bill hearing is at 9 a.m. Friday, Sept. 26, in the City-County Building, Detroit.

HURON-CLINTON, despite its fine record in developing and operating parks, has come under a lot of criticism in recent years for locating its parks so far from the urban areas. For example, its proposed Mill Creek Metropark would be in the western hinterlands of Washtenaw County.

Some of the criticism is cheap politics. Much of it, however, comes from the aforementioned SEMCOG. It seems that SEMCOG is the duly ordained planning agency for the seven-county region, but the men at Huron-Clinton don't want to locate parks where SEMCOG's planning talent says they should be located—closer to Detroit and our suburbs.

A number of special study groups, most recently Metropolitan Fund, have suggested HCMA, the Detroit Metropolitan Water Department and other such multi-county operating agencies be brought under a single "umbrella" agency so that everyone would be pulling in the same direction.

Specifically, the proposed reforms are that SEMCOG's general assembly would appoint the boards of HCMA and the rest, review their budgets, ap-

prove their federal grant applications and coordinate their personnel policies.

As it is, HCMA gets its board from appointments made by five county boards of commissioners. They really answer to no one. HCMA's annual report is addressed to the governor. It's doubtful the governor even looks at it. HCMA, though it's composed of a bunch of good people, really needs to be brought into the regional fold, and maybe the current legislative investigation will point it in that direction.

By the way, that special committee is headed by Rep. Warren Gommers (D-Roseville) and contains two local boys: Reps. W.V. (Sandy) Brotherton (R-Farmington) and Tom Brown (D-Westland).

SEMCOG itself is coming under some needed re-examination with the Ryan Bill.

Oddly, SEMCOG's leaders are wary of the Ryan Bill because it would make membership of some 300 local governments mandatory and require an elected board that would, in part, be directly answerable to the people. Fearing the hobgoblin of "metropolitan government," SEMCOG's executive committee has gone on record opposing that part of the bill.

But another part of the Ryan Bill would allow the reconstituted SEMCOG to write its own charter (subject to state approval), and here is the interesting part. The charter could be drafted so that HCMA, the Detroit Water Board and others would be under SEMCOG's umbrella.

Despite the wide publicity that SEMCOG opposed the Ryan Bill, it actually liked that last portion. These regional issues are frequently bewildering to newsmen and nearly always bewildering to the public. But, in essence, the questions are simple: Can the Huron-Clinton Metroparks agency be made to answer to someone? Will SEMCOG be allowed to grow up into the kind of responsible agency that can truly coordinate regional policies?

TIM RICHARD



## The Stroller...

### Saturday orators

By W. W. EDGAR

Now that the collegiate football season is under way the Saturday afternoon orators will move to the center of the stage.

And until you have heard a football coach talking to his squad just prior to a game, you haven't heard anything approaching these oratorical masterpieces.

You may have heard, or read about, the famed William Jennings Bryan and his "Cross of Gold" address that he gave while stumping the country as a presidential candidate in the early days of the century. But, even at his best, he would have a hard time of it competing with these dressing room experts.

Just imagine you are in the University of Michigan dressing room when Head Coach Bo Schembechler takes over to get his players at their emotional peak in the minutes before meeting Michigan State or the big game with Ohio State.

Unfortunately, the general public never gets to hear these pleadings and oratorical nuggets. They are enough to make a player do most anything to uphold the honor of his alma mater.

OVER THE YEARS in his career

as a sports writer The Stroller has been privileged to sit in on some of these dressing room dramas and it is interesting to see the different approaches the coaches made.

Some of them scream and shout while pacing the floor. Others do it very quietly, like a father talking with his sons. And still others accomplish their purpose by remaining silent until the last minute.

One of the shrewdest of these dressing room orators was the late "Dad" Butler at the University of Detroit. The Stroller recalls one afternoon when he was talking the players to give that "little extra."

Not satisfied with words, "Dad" went to the blackboard to illustrate his theory. He wrote down the figure 10. Then he added another 0 and said, "See, fellows, just adding a little zero made the 10 so much more valuable. It is the little extra that will pull us through."

On another occasion, the Titan coach, Gus Dorais, kept the team waiting until the last minute in the final game of what had been an undefeated season to that day.

Stepping to the center of the room he told the players that the happiest

days of his life had been spent playing football at Notre Dame. Then he inspired the players to take the field with a smile.

"GO OUT THERE smiling," he said, "and enjoy yourselves. It makes no difference if you win or lose, St. Mike Road will cross Livestock tomorrow morning. So, enjoy yourself for it is a day you should always remember."

They had good cause to remember because they conquered a strong Georgetown team, 35-13, and the survivors still recall the game as one of their brightest performances.

You can imagine the late Fielding H. Yost, with his southern twang, talking to the Wolverines before a big game. He'd be chewing on a cigar and telling them to do or die for "Michigan."

There are countless others—Bob Zuppke at Illinois, Knute Rockne at Notre Dame and Elgie Mason at Michigan State.

These Saturday afternoon orators were in a class by themselves and they were something to see and hear. They have handed down a great tradition.

**THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH**

Produced by IRVIN FELD and KENNETH FELD  
Staged and Directed by RICHARD BARSTOW

**NEW!**

SEE THE WORLD'S MOST AMAZING FEMALE ANIMAL TRAINER WITH LIONS, TIGERS, BEARS, PUMA, BLACK PANTHER AND LEOPARD ALL IN ONE CAGE! SEE THE LARGEST HERD OF PERFORMING ELEPHANTS! SEE DRIVING ACROBATS! BEAUTIFUL GIRLS! WILDLIFE! CLOWNS! AND MUCH, MUCH MORE!

ALL NEW! 104th EDITION.

THE GREAT AMERICAN VALUE

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

thru

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5

OLYMPIA STADIUM • DETROIT

• TUESDAY (Sept. 23)...CIRCUS FAMILY NIGHT. 7:30 P.M.

\$2.00 OFF ON ALL TICKETS

• WEDNESDAY (Sept. 24)	4:00 & 8:15 P.M.
• THURSDAY (Sept. 25)	4:00 & 8:15 P.M.
• FRIDAY (Sept. 26)	4:00 & 8:15 P.M.
• SATURDAY (Sept. 27)	11:00 A.M. 3:00 & 8:00 P.M.
• SUNDAY (Sept. 28)	1:00 & 5:30 P.M.
• MONDAY (Sept. 29)	4:00 & 8:15 P.M.
• TUESDAY (Sept. 30)	NO PERFORMANCES
• WEDNESDAY (Oct. 1)	4:00 & 8:15 P.M.
• THURSDAY (Oct. 2)	11:00 A.M. & 7:30 P.M.
• FRIDAY (Oct. 3)	4:00 & 8:15 P.M.
• SATURDAY (Oct. 4)	11:00 A.M. 3:00 & 8:00 P.M.
• SUNDAY (Oct. 5)	1:00 & 5:30 P.M.



TICKETS ON SALE AT

OLYMPIA STADIUM BOX OFFICE

• OLYMPIA TRAVEL BUREAU & TICKET SERVICE

• THE VILLAGE KNOLL

(Maple & Lahser, Birmingham, Mich.)

• ALL GRINNELL'S STORES

• USE YOUR MASTER CHARGE

• For Ticket & Group Sales Information

CALL (313) 895-7000

ALL SEATS RESERVED-

\$4.00 ★ \$5.50 ★ \$6.50

SAVE 11% ON KIDS

UNDER 12

MONDAY thru THURSDAY

FRIDAY AFTERNOON at 4 P.M.

SATURDAY MORNING at 11 A.M.

FUR BEST SEATS...M...E...E...E...

Ringling Bros.-Barnum & Bailey Circus  
Olympia Stadium, 5926 Grand River  
Detroit, Michigan 48206

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Adult Tickets \_\_\_\_\_ at \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per ticket \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of Child Tickets \_\_\_\_\_ at \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per ticket \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Under 12 Years)  
Total Amt. of Check or Money Order \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Never Mail Cash! Make check or money order payable to OLYMPIA STADIUM. Enclose self-addressed, stamped envelope.

O & E

**Farmington**  
**Observer & Eccentric**

DIVISION OF SUBURBAN COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION

STEVE BARNHART, Editor  
353-3400

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

JOHN REDDY, Executive Editor  
THOMAS KETZOLD, Retail Advertising Manager  
ARTHUR LANGER, Classified Advertising Manager

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

## 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

ties with heavy string or rope or secured in heavy paper bags.

•PONTIAC—Oakland County Recycling Center, 800 S. Telegraph, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. every Saturday. Groups bringing in more than 800 lbs. of glass will receive \$10 per ton for glass.

•ROCHESTER—Bottles are collected at Jayco Recycling Center Mill Street, under the bridge, the first and

third Saturdays, between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Separate colors into brown, green and white—no plate glass or light bulbs.

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

•LAYERUP VILLAGE—At the Public Services Building, 19191 Twelve Mile Road.