

## OBSERVATION POINT

## Our Very Own Men On The Moon!

By Philip H. Power

The plaque which the Apollo Astronauts will place on the moon reads:

Here men from the planet earth  
First set foot upon the moon  
July, 1969 A.D.  
We came in peace for all mankind.

It's a nice plaque, and the sentiments are both dignified and humane.

More's the pity, then, that there can be only one plaque. Somehow one would give a great deal to hear what some of our local leaders would say if they were to be the first to set foot on the moon.

With the help of our staff of reverent if imaginative staff writers, we present here a group of likely quotes by a selected group of public figures in Observerland:

Livonia's Mayor Harvey W. Moelke: "Well, let me assure you all that when I made my humble start in politics, I never expected to go so far. I guess that's what clean living, honesty in all things, and trusting the little people can do for you.

"In fact, there are some real advantages to being up here on the moon.

"First, (Council President) Ed McNamara isn't here.

"Second, it should be easy to keep the mayor's salary way down. That'll scare off any opponents who might want to come to the moon.

"Third, I'm sure we can keep apartment construction down to an acceptable level up here."

Farmington Township Supervisor Curtis Hall: "Now maybe they'll believe me about the bad roads. It's not our fault. The people who supervise the moon public works budget simply have ignored the pressing needs of Farmington Township."

Wayne County Supervisor Carl Pursell (in unison with Farmington City Councilman John Richardson): "I'm sure that with local government boundaries so unformed up here, we won't have any problem getting a 'yes' vote on our consolidation proposal. Otherwise we'll just have to start a campaign to annex the earth; we need more tax base."

William Oppfer, City Clerk in Garden City: "Gosh, I wonder if I can get away without posting this city job up here. I'd hate to see another picket line."

Plymouth City Manager Richard Blodgett: "Let's see, we could install 200 parking meters over here, and another 350 over there in that small crater. I wonder what the downtown mer-

chants are gonna say now?"

Wayne County Supervisor Ralph Turco: "Well, it was a tough flight. But anything to get away from that recall movement. I just hope the Jaycees don't get hold of the NASA brass. I'd hate to fight a recall from here."

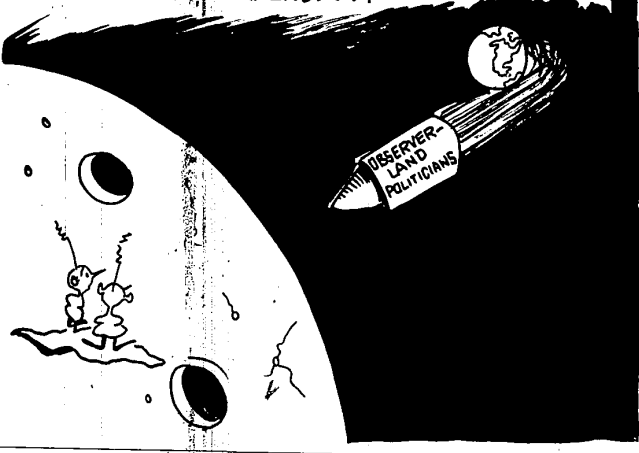
Westland Mayor Thomas Brown: "Let's see. It's 253,710 miles to the moon, times eight cents per mile. That makes \$20,296.80 in mileage. I wonder if I can get that through the city council?"

Plymouth Township Supervisor John McEwen: "I trust this landing site is only temporary. There is entirely too much noise from the rockets, and I've got some constituents to worry about. We will have a study shortly on a site for a permanent airport."

Redford Township Supervisor Aldrick Bellaire, together with his traveling companion Township Clerk Dawn Rice: "That nice spot over there might be rezoned, but only with proper controls. It would make a nice development. We might even be able to call it Glenhurst Up."

IF ANYONE gets any other ideas, send them in. We'll be glad to print them. Or maybe even enter them in the Free Press contest. All prizes to the author.

HERE COME THE LEADERS. . . !



## "This Is The Week That . . ."

## Sex At 7 Is For The Birds-- And Bees

By Don Hoenshell

This is an exclusive report and it should be played on Page 1 under a boxcar head: "Year-Old Speaks Out On Sex Education."

Ho, ho, fellas, we've scooped you again.

It seemed that with Livonia's James F. O'Neil shouting "egg" and "sperm" as though they were four-letter words that it was crucial to go to an expert.

WE SQUARES (adults, folks) are locked in a terrible battle over whether sex and its implications should be taught in the pub-

lic schools. The only guy not interviewed is the 7-year-old.

So, at great expense (one Pepsi) and a Kleenex to clean up a bruised toe from a bicycle mishap, Observer Newspapers Inc. herewith brings you, dear reader, an exclusive interview:

Q. Where did you come from and how did you get here, sir?

A. I came from my mother. She

borned me, yep she did.

Q. How about your father? Did he have anything to do with it?

A. Nope. He doesn't have babies.

Q. How did your mother get you to be borned, sir?

A. I don't know, but I'd sure like to.

Q. A Mr. James F. O'Neil has been saying "egg." When I say that word what does it mean to you?

A. It means a bird lays an egg. The mother bird hatches it and the little bird comes out of the egg.

Q. The mother bird gets food for it. Then the other birds teach it how to fly and pretty soon the bird flies away.

Q. What about Mr. O'Neil's

other word, "sperm"? Do you know what that means?

A. NO. Can I have another Pepsi?

Q. You're seven years old. Do you have a girl friend and, if not, would you like to have a girl friend?

A. No. I don't have a girl friend and I wouldn't like to have one.

Q. What do you know about girls?

A. I know they swear a lot.

Q. Do you think girls are nice or not nice?

A. I think girls are kinda nice.

Kinda.

Q. Why do you suppose a man and a woman get married?

A. Because they like each other, something like that.

Q. Let's get back. How do mothers get babies so that they can be borned?

A. Gee, I don't know. I think I'll get a drink of water. The Pepsi is all gone. My sisters got it.

Q. NOW HERE'S the big question. When I say the word "sex," what does that mean to you?

A. I don't know about sex.

Q. Have you heard about the birds and the bees, then?

A. You mean like the birds and the bees and the flowers on the trees?

Q. Why are you laughing?

A. Because you're funny. That's another thing that makes it an exclusive: It is the first time a newspaperman for 28 years has been conned by a seven-year-old.

So take THAT, James F. O'Neil and Mrs. Jane Tall, and the John Birch Society and the rest.

Seven-year-olds are a lot smarter than most of us on the subject of sex education.

And they make more sense than 600 in a hearing room in Lansing.

Tim Richard writes

## Fanciful Reporting Could Ruin It For All

Newsmen represent the general public in finding out facts about crime, arrests and trials and reporting them.

Lawyers represent accused persons, and there has been a worrisome movement among lawyers to reduce as much as possible the amount of pre-trial information that gets to the public. Indeed, some lawyers prefer a system whereby a newspaper could print nothing about criminal proceedings until the defendant is convicted and sentenced.

Newsmen staunchly resist the lawyers' desire to restrict the public's right to know. By and large, newspapers have made great steps in cleaning their own houses by halting the sensationalizing of crime that took place in

the first three decades of this century.

AND SO, THE LAST thing professional newsmen need is to be stabbed in the back by a paper as large as The Detroit News. Yet that is precisely what happened July 9 when the News published a front page speculative story headlined "Co-ed slaying a 'loyalty test'?" It said in part:

"Was the murder of University of Michigan co-ed Margaret Phillips dictated as a test of loyalty by some revolutionary group?"

"Was she assassinated . . . ? Was the killer hired to do the job?"

After three paragraphs of such inflammatory stuff, it turns out that those are only "theories"

the police are checking. No facts are presented to support the theories.

The harmful part is that a man, Ernest R. Bishop Jr., has been charged in the slaying. He could go to prison for life, if convicted. The News quotes police as quoting Bishop's friends as saying he was "always talking about a revolutionary group on campus."

NOW, HOW ON EARTH is

Bishop ever going to get a fair trial when the air is poisoned with such speculation as that?

Juries are made up of registered voters — solid citizens — and they would have difficulty wading through their minds such prejudicial speculations. A juror can say to himself, "I'm going to be fair," but always, when he looks at the black face of Ernest Bishop Jr., there will lurk this suspicion:

If Bishop is in fact a revolutionary or a paid assassin, there is a proper time to tell the public.

That time is when the prosecutor introduces his evidence in court, where the 12 jurors have been picked and instructed not to read the newspapers. It shouldn't be reported prior to the trial.

It wouldn't be surprising if the Circuit judge grants a change of venue—moves the trial to another

county where the prospective jurors are less likely to be Detroit News subscribers.

But the harm the News has done isn't confined to prejudicing the trial against Bishop. The long-range result will be more pressure from defense attorneys in bar association committees to restrict not only harmful pre-trial publicity, but to restrict practically all information.

R.T. Thompson writes

## Legislature: Winter Racing Bonanza Needed

For reasons as yet unexplained, Michigan's lawmakers have ducked a decision on whether winter racing for thoroughbreds and standardbreds (harness horses) should be permitted.

Winter racing in Michigan has been very much of a controversial subject since the opening of the trim little plant just outside of Windsor where the pacers and trotters start in mid-October and continue through mid-March.

Opponents of racing through the ice and snow contend that Michigan days and nights has enough with the present schedule which finds the standardbreds starting in March, the thoroughbreds in April and the season finally coming to a close on New Year's Eve.

SUPPORTERS OF wintertime programs point to the losses to the state treasury by allowing Windsor to operate without competition, costing Michigan millions from what would be the state's

share of the mutual handle. Windsor handled approximately \$50 million during its 1968-69 campaign. Those close to the scene estimate that more than 80 percent of those attending the Windsor races go there from Michigan.

This a great share of the wagering is generated by money from the United States, principally from Michigan.

These same supporters they have figures which purport to show Michigan would have picked up something like an additional \$6 million for the state treasury had the races been held at one of the Detroit area tracks.

But getting back to the original statement, the legislators' last week placed winter harness and thoroughbred racing into hibernation for the summer. The action was taken in the House.

The House postponed until September further consideration of Senate bill to establish a November-March schedule of racing

dates. And that means none of the tracks, with the exception of Northville Downs, will go ahead with plans to enclose their grandstands, install heating units and go ahead with winterizing programs.

Northville Downs started winterizing several weeks ago to take care of a harness racing meeting which starts on Nov. 24 and carries to the end of the year.

THE QUESTION of winter racing is a rather important one for the Observerland area.

In the first place, winter racing in Northville is bound to have a definite bearing on the economics of racing during the winter, believe it or not. It will mean business for the hotels and motels and the eating places. It will also bring people into the business section during the winter season.

Livonia is very much interested in the decision on winter racing.

It is the home of Michigan's largest racing plant—the Detroit Race Course—one that supporters of racing during the winter believe can be converted and winterized much quicker than Hazel Park.

More than that, the DRC changed hands last fall and the new owners are reportedly ready to release plans for a large modernization program that includes enclosing the grandstand. It has a large enclosed clubhouse.

At Hazel Park, track officials already have a large glass-enclosed, air-conditioned clubhouse and are ready to glass in the grandstand.

ALL OF THESE decisions will be delayed now until the Legislature acts.

With something like \$6 million at stake for the state and probably investments of nearly that amount needed to modernize the existing race plants, one raises the question of why the delay.

## Editorial &amp; Opinion

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