

editorial opinion



Don't forsake a true skill

For some reason the muscles in my throat contract every time I hear some woman say, "I'm just a housewife."

Ye gods, is that demeaning. Not just the words, but the way most women say it—muttering through their teeth with a smug, apologetic smile. They might as well be saying, "Oh, I don't do anything. I'm just a slave."

It conveys the same impression—the lowest of the low—cooking, making beds, cleaning toilets, washing floors, scouring pans—a nothing job. They get nervous, complain, rebel, sometimes spit because who needs a nothing job?

No wonder today's young women are having second thoughts about raising families and settling down to ten years of watching kids play in the wading pool and getting up for 2 a.m. feedings and refusing invitations because they don't have the wherewithal for a baby sitter.

THE WORLD IS NOT GOING TO CHANGE and suddenly turn all housewives into princesses. I shall have to come from the women themselves. And the first step is to stop saying, "I'm just a housewife."

To replace this identification with, "I'm a career homemaker," would almost certainly be a big step forward. It may produce a double take for a second or two, but the message is clear.

It means you regard yourself as a professional that you feel responsible at least in good part, for the well-being of several persons.

You are the purchasing agent, decorator, medi-

cal advisor, cultural resource chairman, financial analyst and consultant, social activities director, education and health education and welfare chairman.

A career homemaker is usually a marketing specialist, a trouble-shooter, often a horticulturalist, sometimes a landscaper and practically always head of the complaint department.

In a democratic society that has more than average respect for titles, it will have something of a magic wand effect on the homemaker as well as those listening.

RUNNING A HOME WELL takes many skills, just as many as in the old days, maybe more. Labor saving devices have replaced labor saving domestics, but just as in industry, someone has to be responsible for running the show.

Young women have traditionally been expected to become mothers and wives. At the same time, however, the job has long been regarded as the pits.

The home should be a classroom, as well as a place to drop shoes and grab a bite to eat. And the skills and knowledge that make it a pleasant place should be perpetuated, documented and appreciated.

By the Tricentennial, I would love to think we would have moved into a finer appreciation of homemaking and child raising, and the young women who had these skills would be regarded as professionals—a vital and important part of society.

from our readers

School budget planning blasted

Editor

Your headline article in the June 17 edition dealt with the Farmington School District cuts resulting from the defeat of the recent 14 mill increase request. You listed the 18 areas in which the cuts will affect the proper education of our children, who are the sole purpose of the existence of school in the first place.

Your article clearly indicates that the intention of the Farmington School District is not to remove all areas in which cost efficiency could be implemented, but instead punish us, the voters, by reducing the opportunity for better education for our children.

After attending a recent school board meeting, I heard, for example, that the costs for the teachers' hospitalization insurance seemed excessive and that it was costing the schools at least an additional \$225,000 a year.

I called the school board which verified this information and found that one mill is equivalent to slightly less than \$500,000. Equating this to the cost of the recent 14 mill request, I find that the 4 mill would represent the teachers' \$225,000 additional insurance costs.

I also learned that this teachers' MCA union insurance is costing the taxpayers something in excess of \$125 a month for a teacher with a family. After recently receiving a 48 per cent increase in premium, I feel that these excessive and unreasonable costs in Farmington cannot be justified when I know that insurance premiums for teachers in Birmingham, Bloomfield, Clawsonville are as much as \$20-400 a month less for comparable coverage, and they belong to the same union as our Farmington teachers.

By their voluntary choice of their vocation, teachers inherit a commitment to providing the finest education to our children that is possible.

Yet nowhere in the cuts do we find any indication of efforts by the board and the teachers that this area has been reviewed to save the \$225,000 and possibly more.

Therefore, I cannot help but feel that the teachers themselves, and the board through subterfuge, have in some way

contributed to the failure of the recent millage vote.

Speaking as a resident, I agree Superintendent Lew Schulman is justifiably optimistic in expecting that "residents will eventually support a mandatory increase" while the school board and the teachers continue this irresponsible use of taxpayers' money.

I am sure that other taxpayers in the community, who have supported the Farmington's school millage in the past will con-

sider this type of irresponsibility and so-called "punishment" when we are asked again for more of our dollars for the schools' misuse.

It strikes me to wonder what other administrative cuts could reduce the two-mill balance.

You'd think that the teachers would take steps to prevent their own layoffs while providing continued education as well.

ROBERT BOUNDS
Farmington

Aid for senior citizens review needed for Hills

Editor

Congratulations on an excellent editorial on the old and young for elderly.

Many people don't accept this concept and reject elderly housing, for instance Farmington Hills. If you'll note, the three elderly housing projects aren't within walking distance to stores, shops and services.

As you know, the United States was one of the last countries to abolish slavery, one of the last to adopt a social welfare system (which is still ill-managed), one of the last to address itself to socio-economic inequality, and certainly one of the last to evaluate and correct housing for the elderly.

A review of the Farmington Hills Master Plan prepared by Vilcan Lerman Community Planners hasn't taken into consideration, nor has it devoted one word to housing for the elderly.

Housing for the elderly must be located within walking distance of stores, shops and services on economically feasible land so that excessive charges aren't passed onto the elderly in the form of high rents.

We ask that a review of the master plan be made, as well as the community planners and those who approved the plan.

Did you also know that after all this concern on housing for the elderly, the community planners were awarded another \$20,000 contract? They planned for shop-

ping centers and industrial parks, but not for 10 per cent of our population, the elderly.

There is a story there.

BRUCE ROBINSON,
Robinson Reports Editor
Farmington Hills

Brodhead is lauded

Editor

I wish to express my appreciation to Congressman William Brodhead for his vote in favor of the HEW appropriation bill, which included the funds for the National Cancer Institute. Lives are already being saved; the vote means that still more will be saved as the recent clinical advances are extended throughout the nation.

I recommend that those to whom the conquest of cancer is important vote for him in the November election.

SOLOMON GARR, MD
Chairman,
Citizens' Committee
for the Conquest of Cancer

YOUR TRANSPORTATION

Do you ever stop to wonder how you will get around in 10 years?

You should. With steady increases in the cost of owning and operating a car, and with increasing congestion on surface streets and highways, public transportation is an issue that must be addressed by citizens, local elected officials and transportation experts right now.

The Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority (SEMTA) is currently studying our future transit: what type of system we need, and where that transit should locate. You can be part of that process. How? By learning about the need for safe, efficient public transit, by talking to your local elected officials, and by attending a:

CITIZEN INFORMATION MEETING ON TRANSIT ALTERNATIVES

Thursday, July 8, 7 p.m. or Thursday, July 15, 7 p.m.

Oak Park Community Center
14300 Oak Park Boulevard
Oak Park, Michigan

City-County Building
2 Woodward Avenue
Detroit, Michigan

This is the second in a series of citizen information meetings design by SEMTA to give you an opportunity to help choose your future transit. At public hearings later this year, you will be asked to help choose the transit alternative that best suits the travel needs of Southeastern Michigan. For further information, contact Brenda Peek at SEMTA, 962-9800.

SEMTA is a regional operating authority providing public transportation throughout the seven counties of Southeastern Michigan.



Southeastern Michigan
Transportation Authority
Suite 1600 — P.O. Box 333
211 Fort Street West
Detroit, Michigan 48231

You can become a transit expert! For your free information packet on future transit for Southeastern Michigan, please fill in this coupon and return it to SEMTA.

Name _____
Address _____

☐ I would like to be placed on SEMTA's transit mailing list.

A Bicentennial Declaration Of Corporate Values...

July 4, 1776 — July 4, 1976

We, the people of MICHIGAN NATIONAL CORPORATION deeply believe in the spirit of individual freedom, which is the cornerstone of the foundation of values on which our nation was established: we also believe that economic freedom and social freedom are inseparable.

We further believe that the continuing growth and positive development of our nation, our communities, and our very personalities depends upon the whole-hearted dedication and constant efforts of every individual. The work ethic is essential to our democracy and economy.

Based upon these beliefs, we of MICHIGAN NATIONAL CORPORATION pledge ourselves to the following corporate values:

A commitment to conduct our own lives with the highest degree of integrity, in both personal and business undertakings.

A pledge to serve our customers sincerely and diligently, mindful that each person's particular needs, special dreams, and personal goals, develop, grow and change throughout his or her lifetime.

A resolve to contribute to the growth of each community that we serve, in whatever way best helps it develop its own particular style with its own unique heritage.

A promise to create and foster a cooperative atmosphere in which each of us can grow and develop his or her own individual talents, using such abilities with enthusiasm toward the efficient management of our corporation and improved service for our customers.

To these ends, we the Officers, Directors, and the Staff of MICHIGAN NATIONAL CORPORATION and its affiliates do declare our intent to give our best efforts to fulfill these resolutions that they may benefit our country, our state, our customers, our corporation, and our families.

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Michigan National Corporation

MICHIGAN'S MAJOR STATEWIDE BANK HOLDING CORPORATION

16 BANKS WITH 170 OFFICES SERVING 70 COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT MICHIGAN

\$3,500,000,000 IN TOTAL ASSETS

\$283,000,000 of Depositor Protection Accounts (Capital, Reserves, Subordinated Debt)

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 rinse 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 se-

cured in heavy paper bags.

• **PONTIAC-Oakland County Recycling Center**, 568 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.

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

• **FARMINGTON**—A glass recycling center operates on Saturdays from 9

a.m. to noon at the west end of the Farmington Hills city hall parking lot. The city hall is at 11 Mile and Orchard Lake.

• **LATHRUP VILLAGE**—At the Public Services Building, 1818 Twelve Mile Road, adjacent to the high school. Newspapers are collected 10 a.m.-3 p.m. by volunteers the first Saturday of each month.

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