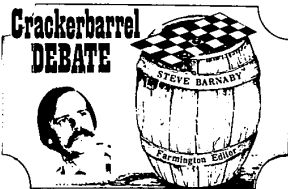


## editorial opinion



## Chip in bucks for center

The other day Alberta Taylor and Harold Gibson dropped by the office to talk about a subject close to their hearts—the Farmington Community Center.

Alberta, executive director of the center, and Harold, who is this year's fund drive chairman, are out rustling up interest in the center which sees 2,000 persons a week come through its stately doors.

Their challenge is to raise money to keep the center operating for the next year. But actually, it's much more than that.

Their job is to see to it that the center continues to help the residents of this community help themselves. You see, the problem with a place like the community center is that most persons take it for granted.

THE MAJESTIC mansion has been open to the public since 1969. Its first budget was \$60,000. They offered just nine classes to 120 students. Today, the center offers 186 classes to 2,300.

The figures speak for themselves. Calculate the increase in classes and throw in the inflation factor and you come up with a \$248,000 budget.

Of that amount, the center must raise \$35,000 through public donations, 14 per cent of the budget, to keep its doors open.

Needless to say, this isn't the most ideal year to be out hawking for funds. With the YMCA drive to raise \$900,000 from community donations, another agency looking for bucks has built-in resistance.

KEEP A FEW things in mind when you're asked to give to the community center.

In the first place, the center is completely self-sufficient. It hasn't any United Fund support. It doesn't receive any government handouts.

It's on its own.

Also remember that real estate dealers, when trying to convince persons to become residents of one of our sister cities, almost always makes sure the prospective residents get a good look at the community center. Yet business contributes little to the center's operation.

To be sure, the Farmington Community Center is an asset to this two-city community. It deserves your support because it is part of you, the community.

## Fill a 101st slot

A new book purports to list "The 100—A Ranking of the Most Influential Persons in History." It is heavy on religious leaders, philosophers, political leaders, inventors of paper, movable type, internal combustion engine and discoverers (of lands, microbes, penicillin).

One terribly important field of intellectual activity was entirely overlooked by author Michael Hart. It is an invention without which modern government couldn't function and corporate organizations would collapse, not to mention most smaller organizations.

We refer of course to accounting by the double-entry bookkeeping system. As an intellectual tool, it is almost as important as the alphabet and far more important than genetics (whose discoverer did make the list).

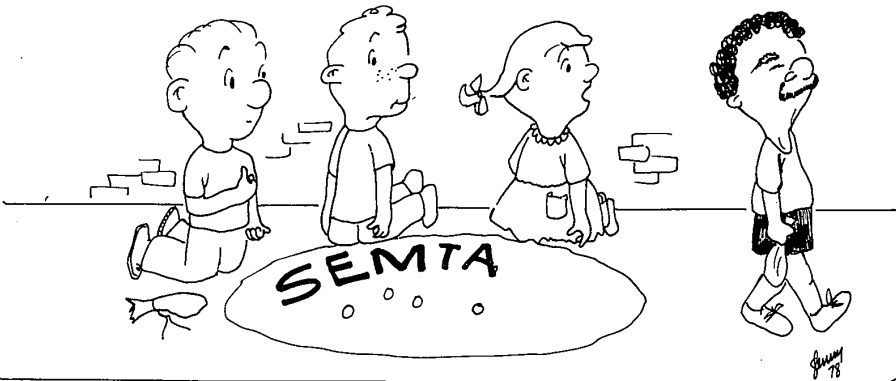
Without double-entry accounting, an administrator handling money would have no notion of how he is doing except by counting the cash in the drawer at the end of the day, and even that can be a poor system. Accounting provides us with balance sheets, which tell us what we have in assets matched with our liabilities and owners' equity. Accounting tells us, after we add up the monetary deductions (materials, wages) and non-monetary deductions (depreciation), whether we have made a profit or suffered a loss.

Our encyclopedia fails to tell us the name of the inventor of accounting, although this most logical of practices is believed to have been developed by the Italians in the Renaissance.

The ancient Athenians had statues to their gods and one spare statue to "the Unknown God." Maybe a list of the 100 most influential persons in history should have a 101st slot for the anonymous inventor of accounting.

John F. Kennedy (No. 80—"prime mover of the Apollo space program") couldn't have launched more than a paper airplane without the accountant's tools for raising and allocating money.

## HOW 'YOUNG' CAN YOU GET?



## 'We're gonna pull out and go it alone'

Politicians, like other human beings, can have fits of pique. So it was a week ago when Detroit Mayor Coleman Young threatened to withdraw the city he dominates from the seven-county Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority if he can't have his way—a lengthy and costly subway—on rapid transit.

One could almost hear some suburban politicians cheering him on. Many would just as soon see Detroit pull out and stop dipping into suburbia's pockets for the taxes that provide the region's share of SEMTA funding. "Let Detroit tax Renaissance Center and build the blamed subway itself," they probably chorused.

Realistically, Young's not going anywhere without the rest of the region, and vice-versa. His is only the latest version of the child's play, "If I can't have my way, I'm going to pick up my marbles and go home."

REP. TOM BROWN (D-Westland) is playing the game with his bill in Lansing to create a county of "Suburbia" in western Wayne County.

Rep. Dominic Jacobetti (D-Negaunee) is playing the game with his bill to split the upper peninsula off from Michigan and create a state of "Superior."

The Oakland County Board of Commissioners, that seething band of statespersons, has been known to want to quit SEMTA.

Out in Macomb County, they don't want to know the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments exists. It's just as well Macomb doesn't join SEMCOG, though, because they would only gum it up.

Businesspersons in northwest Detroit have been known to squawk about the city administration's obsession with downtown. The Old Redford folks have talked about de-annexing from Detroit.

THE GAME is international in scope.

Scotland, a poor country except for the towns fortunate enough to distill good spirits, found itself with oil in the North Sea and has talked about splitting out of Great Britain to keep its oil.

Closer to home, the French-speaking province of Quebec, forgetting the French lost the Seven Years War of 215 years ago, is talking as if it won and wants to split from the rest of Canada. (Can you see it? One day students from Montreal University begin demonstrating against the United States' imperialistic presence in the St. Lawrence Seaway. The president agrees, with the advice and consent of the Senate, to turn over its interest in

## Delay, delay

Deploring the condition of the world, Shakespeare's Hamlet bemoaned "the law's delay." Last week's war had two bad examples of how long it takes American law and government to move.

The Rev. Gary Berthiaume of Farmington was sentenced in Oakland Circuit Court in a morals case—six months in the county jail, five years probation and psychiatric examination.

The incredible thing is that even though he ultimately pleaded guilty and there was no trial, the matter took 6½ months to resolve. The foot-dragging and secrecy in this case, both on the part of the defendant's lawyer and the court system, are just plain wrong.

No one wants a kangaroo court or vigilante justice, but the legal industry runs that kind of risk when it takes more than a half-year to process a guilty plea.

In Washington, the U.S. Senate last week ratified only one of two Panama Canal treaties. The treaties were penned late in 1977 by President Jimmy Carter and Gen. Omar Torrijos Herrera.

Panama, a banana republic of 1.6 million souls, was able to conduct a national election on the treaties in a fraction of the time the 100-member U.S. Senate was able to ratify only one treaty.

We're lucky we don't have to fight the Revolutionary War with our modern, \$400 billion-a-year government. We'd all be in British chains by the time the Declaration of Independence got out of committee.



Tim Richard

the seaway to the Nation of Quebec, and the Eisenhower lock is renamed for Montcalm or DeGaulle.)

Egypt and Syria once formed the United Arab Republic, but Syria got sore after a few years and they're separate nations again.

Nigeria and Pakistan have had wars over separation movements within their borders in only the last decade.

Being isolationist and provincial—which is another way of saying "community-minded"—is rampant.

SEPARATION MOVEMENTS are rarely successful. To pull it off, you have to have a major outside ally.

## A rule book for teacher.

I ran across an item in the Marshall (Minn.) Messenger, which showed what school teachers agreed to when they signed their contracts with local boards in 1923.

Quite a few old-timers will remember these points vividly and know they were true—and, of course, quite different from nowadays.

The story didn't say what salaries were, but it was less than \$100 a month. But here are the points a schoolmarm agreed to in her contract:

- "1. NOT TO get married. (This contract becomes null and void immediately if the teacher marries.)
- "2. Not to keep company with men.
- "3. Be home between the hours of 8 p.m. and 6 a.m. unless in attendance at a school function.
- "4. Not to loiter downtown in ice cream stores.
- "5. Not to leave town at any time without permission of the chairman of the board.
- "6. Not to smoke cigarettes. (This contract becomes null and void immediately if the teacher is found smoking.)
- "7. Not to drink beer, wine or whiskey. (This contract becomes null and void immediately if the teacher is found drinking beer, wine or whiskey.)
- "8. Not to get in a carriage or automobile with

Panama tried several times to split from Colombia but was unsuccessful until it got support from the bold Teddy Roosevelt and the then-bold America, interested in building a canal.

West Virginia was unable to part company with Virginia until the Civil War. If the Confederacy had been successfully established, one wonders if there would have been a West Virginia.

Mayor Young has no power to pull Detroit out of SEMTA, an agency created by state law. On the other hand, if Young were willing to see western Wayne County split away as the price for separation, he might find himself a deal.

Both Young and Rep. Brown might approach Jacobetti—before "Superior" pulls out, of course—and cut a deal.

Maybe the ultimate answer will be that we should disintegrate the state and 83 counties and just be 2,900 separate cities, villages and townships—each with its own local government, its own bus system, its own air pollution control rules, its own water pollution standards, its own industrial parks.

Okemos Township for the Okemos Townshippers!

## Eccentricities

by HANK HOGAN



any man, except her brother and father.

"9. Not to dress in bright colors.

"10. Not to dye her hair.

"11. Wear at least two petticoats.

"12. NOT TO WEAR dresses more than two inches above the ankles.

"13. Keep the schoolroom neat and clean. (a) Sweep the floor at least once daily. (b) Scrub the floor at least once weekly with hot water and soap. (c) Clean the blackboards at least once daily. (d) Start the fire at 7 a.m. so the room will be warm by 8 a.m."

After reading the list, one wonders if the present day schoolmarm could survive without violating most of the items on the list.

Will the 1978 contracts seem as ridiculous 50 years from now?

## Watch out for kids

## Spring is time for caution

Predictable things happen when spring arrives.

Temperatures rise and the sun shines more often.

Snow and ice melt, and roads become dry.

Motorists, more confident on dry pavement, increase driving speed.

AT THE SAME time, children shed their heavy winter coats, leggings and caps, and don spring jackets.

The television is shut off more during daylight hours. The parlor games are put back on the shelf. That's because kids streak for the outdoors when spring arrives.

After being cooped up inside all winter, there are plenty of exciting things to do outside—flying kites, jumping rope, playing hop-scotch or baseball, playing in the park, or walking to town.

This same "release" effect of spring also strikes adults, who either hop into the car more often for leisure trips or take off on foot to enjoy the new warmth in the air.

Kids and big folks will predictably get the bicycles out of storage, pump up the tires, and hit the trails or roads. Half-hearted joggers, who retired during the winter months, will be running along the shoulders of streets trying to get back into shape.

THESE ACTIVITIES are not only predictable but are almost an automatic human response to spring's arrival.

And that's the problem. The reactions are too natural—too human. We respond to spring without consciously thinking about our changes in behavior.

Motorists speed up, children dart into streets, adults weave around parked cars cycling or jogging. By now, you can see that these natural, human responses to spring carry with them the elements of danger and tragedy.

Faster-moving cars and more kids on the streets make up a formula which yields injury or death, unless we add another variable—caution. Caution as a variable will lessen the probability of death or injury. Thus, speed plus kids (plus caution) can equal a fun spring without tragedy.

But mathematical formulas cannot, with assurance, generate fun or prevent tragedy. Every one of us, whether driver or walker, must make a conscious effort to be more alert, to exercise the rules of safety we learned in grade school, and to keep a close eye out for those predictable activities—faster cars on dry pavement, kids darting on sidewalks or across streets, bicyclists weaving around parked cars, joggers trotting along the roadside at dusk or dawn.

Only by being aware of these predictable changes can we prevent predictable tragedy.

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