

# editorial opinion



## Hors d'oeuvres by Lynn Orr

### The press takes a punch

The U.S. Supreme Court really knows how to hurt a guy, or a woman, or an institution, for that matter. Last Wednesday, newspapers took it on the chin, and whether or not the public agrees, public rights got the sucker punch.

In a 5-3 decision, the court ruled that police may obtain warrants to make surprise searches of newspaper offices for evidence, even though no one at the paper is suspected of a crime.

I find the decision reprehensible. The ruling was prompted by a 1971 search of a student newspaper at Stanford University in California. A Santa Clara county judge issued a warrant authorizing police to look for photographs that might identify participants in a student demonstration. Nine Palo Alto police officers were injured during the demonstration, which is probably why the police were so relentless about searching the newspaper office. It was a vain search, however.

Justices Thurgood Marshall, Potter Stewart and John Stevens argued the court's minority opinion, calling it "self-evident that police searches of newspaper offices burden the freedom of the press."

OUR ILLUSTRIOUS Nixon appointees, however, including Chief Justice Warren Burger, Harry Blackmun, Lewis Powell and William Rehnquist, overturned two lower federal court rulings that found the newspaper offices' search unconstitutional.

Reasonable search and seizure, as outlined in the Fourth Amendment, means that evidence possessed by non-suspects must be subpoenaed, rather than obtained by search, whenever possible, the lower courts ruled.

The Supreme Court turned that thinking around. Byron White, a Kennedy appointee and 16-year

veteran on the high bench, wrote the majority opinion in which he said the court declined to "re-interpret" the Fourth Amendment.

For the lawyers out there: If a non-suspect has evidence connected to a crime, can the police get a warrant and search for the evidence, or must it be subpoenaed? It's times like this when I wish I had acquired some extensive legal knowledge along the way.

BUT I'M convinced that the ruling disturbs the fragile outline of the freedom of the press. When that line is asked, the public's rights are bruised as well.

Police must substantiate to the judge why they want a search warrant, which is some protection against harassment, frivolous escapades and wild goose chases by unscrupulous police officers.

Nonetheless, I haven't quite as much faith in the judicial system as the high court justices. There are places, particularly in small towns, when the judge is closely aligned with the police and sometimes dependent on the police in certain respects.

If a judge issues a warrant, what's to prevent police from ransacking a newspaper office, perhaps seeking the names of confidential sources as well as the evidence sought on the warrant? The newspaper might be able to file a lawsuit against the police but the damage would be done.

I'm not saying newspapers live in dread of such occurrences, but like other laws that infringe on rights, why have it on the books for possible abuse?

I'd rather put my faith in the law than ethics which are subject to political winds. But the punches landed by these life appointees prove that the law, as well, sways in political breezes. That thought is very disconcerting.

# Tinkering Around

by LOUISE OKRUTSKY

## Is it bad to want the good life?

"It's terrible, simple terrible," clucked one of my neighbors the other night.

"What is?" I asked, somewhat apprehensively. You never know what will come out of Benedict's mouth in the disguise of folk wisdom.

"They're forcing people to move to the suburbs," he moaned.

"What?" I asked, somewhat redundantly.

"With the laws they want to pass to build low income housing in the suburbs. Why, people will flock to the suburbs, then," he said.

"How's that?" I asked, beginning to feel as if I was reading for the part of Sgt. Friday in a remake of Dragnet.

"Because," Benedict said, "this is the promised land and everyone wants to come here. You don't think city dwellers really want to live in a city, do you?"

"NO. THEY'RE just aching to come out here. But this is just like heaven—you have to be one of the chosen people. And they're not part of that group, I can tell you," said Benedict.

"Don't people have the right to live where they want?" I asked, relieved to be able to speak a whole sentence at last.

"What?" thundered Benedict. "Don't you know all rights are earned? We can't just give these things away. What do you think made this country great?"

"I'll tell you. The fact that we let people earn their way into a better life. We didn't give it away."

I didn't have to egg Benedict on anymore by now. He pointed his index finger at me to emphasize his words. Realizing that it would be a while before he'd stop, I shifted my weight and leaned against my car. We had met in the parking lot of the supermarket.

"We're an ethnic group fighting for our survival. We are the suburbs. Without us the suburbs would die. Just like people coming to this great land from other countries, we came to the suburbs seeking a better life.

And nobody told us about the problems we'd face.

"We came out here thinking the streets would be paved."

"With gold?" I asked with interest.

"NO, JUST paved," he said.

"Then when we became accustomed to the rural atmosphere, it was decided that the streets really should be paved. That was a tremendous emotional decision. Then, we decided to pay for sewage instead of keeping our septic tanks. Then, the school taxes started to climb.

"But we're a proud, stubborn people and we held fast," he said.

"What will happen if low-income housing is passed?" I asked.

"The character of our town will change drastically. Property values will plummet. Taxes will skyrocket. People who rent don't care about their property. We'll have slums.

"Before you know it, the new residents will be demanding a discount store in the middle of our shopping district. And discriminating shoppers know our shopping district likes to think of itself as Little New York. We're chic, not cheap."

After that tirade, I became aware that my ice cream was melting over the front seat of my car. The treat was beginning to defrost. I began to leave.

"And, if we're forced to accept those people against our will and against the tradition of this country, we'll be faced with moving again. We'll become a nomadic people. Just like the Acadians in 'Evangeline,' he said.

"AND IF we move, these suburbs will never be the same again. We'll be an extinct life style, just like the American Indian," he said.

"Yeah," I said, in a respectful tone. "It must be tough to shuttle from one reservation to another."

## Shirlee's sallies

by Shirlee Iden



## When a house is a home

This is a house that care built. It sits on a quiet Southfield street and a poster on one wall reads, "Anything is within your reach."

For the men who live in that home, that's not quite true. The six are retarded individuals.

In January, I visited that home and saw how Kelley, Donald, Kent, Kenny, Terry and Bob live, cared for by a well-trained staff whose objective is to normalize things for them.

Before they came to the large, comfortable residence, these men were in institutions. All of their previous experiences were group experiences. But

in the home, they get special attention, do school work, take field trips, watch TV, do puzzles and art projects, make their own beds and fold their clothing.

They get a semblance of normal living, even to meeting the neighbors and playing a game of catch on the lawn.

From the beginning, the neighbors have accepted the men and the facility warmly. "Many group homes have been taken to court because the neighbors can't accept them, but our neighbors have been very nice," said Colleen Brayton, the home's administrator.

"SOME NEIGHBORS have even offered to babysit and a doctor volunteered his professional services."

Marie Solich, who lives next door to the home, said the men are very good neighbors. "Everything has been quiet here," she said.

"The people are very nice and they message everything very well. I don't know why anyone would be afraid of them, they are very obedient and I would be happy to have them stay."

There's another group of retarded men, living in Farmington at the present time, who were planning to move into another home in Southfield. But the people in the Magnolia area don't feel as Mrs. Solich does. They have filed suit to prevent the move.

Silly words like dropping property values have been bandied about and hints of danger to young children dropped.

Mrs. Brayton was asked to start her home in a drive to de-institutionalize care for the retarded in this state. In that case, the effort has been very successful.

Special students in the public schools, including Southfield's, are being "mainstreamed," that is put into regular classes with the proviso that the teacher is trained to handle the situation.

In the past few months, we have seen evidence in Southfield and in other suburban communities of people getting their backs up over having someone different from them come into their neighborhood, whether it be the elderly poor, people with low incomes or mentally impaired like the men who would move to Magnolia.

WE LIVE in a world shrunk by modern transportation and modern media. We can eyeball people of different cultures any evening on the television. We fight for equal rights for both sexes and all races and creeds and yet some would shrink from a small group of men, all of whom function normally and work at productive jobs.

They ask for a chance to be part of the community. We know six others, far more severely afflicted who have succeeded in winning the respect of their neighbors.



A resident in a home where a small group of retarded live with ample supervision have the chance to greatly increase their potential development and be a part of the community. (Staff photo by Gary Friedman)

## Nazi story hit

Editor:

We are responding to the recent article by Michael Matuszewski concerning "Young Nazis" which appeared May 25. We, a group of interested and concerned citizens, would like to lodge a formal complaint.

The group we represent feels that mentioning the annihilation of 11 million innocent men, women and children in one sentence of the article was quite inappropriate. Matuszewski then seemed to designate the remainder of his time to trying to impress upon your readers that the modern Nazis "have neither the arrogance nor viciousness" of their forerunners, who were brutal sadists that brought on the tragedies of World War II.

The Zionist International Organization of anti-Nazis would like to know why it was necessary to give the Nazis such a charming description while trying to prove that the protesters were a bunch of unruly, violent extremists.

Take into consideration that according to the article "Nazi boast suburban support" that the average age of the protestors was 12%. According to the article's implications, the people who are protesting are more violent than the murders that they are opposed to.

Matuszewski stated in the "Garish but polite" article that the oldest Nazi could have been the boy next door. With that reasoning, Hitler could have been a delightful, lovely fellow, disregarding such minor faults as his paranoia, sadistic tendencies and murderous qualities.

We request that you take this letter seriously. As opposed to the "suburban support" article, this is not "something to do and not something that we oppose."

I'm sure that Zionists everywhere are in agreement with our principles, and we hope that you can see our viewpoint a little more clearly. Thank you very much.

DAHILIA SCHWARTZ,  
RACHEL BERNSTEIN,  
ZION Youth Division

## Sewage is a problem

Editor:

I appreciate your January beetle article in your May 22 edition. I can truthfully sympathize with the homeowner's viewpoints as we have had sewage draining across our residence for two years now—and all the proper authorities know about it.

We contacted Oakland County Board of Health and the City of Farmington

Hills zoning and engineering departments. Yet the problem is still current. It's not only the odor and the sight which is bad, but it's a health hazard to our two pre-schoolers.

I wonder how City Hall would like it in their yards (front, back, and side)?

SUSAN HAYES,  
Farmington Hills

## U-M guild says thanks

Editor:

Thank you for giving the Farmington Country Art Fair such in depth and well written coverage. In the two articles you wrote, you relayed important information about the guild and presented the special country essence of the fair.

It's rewarding to us to have your interest and support.

Cortially,  
ANN ROTH  
Associate Director,  
University of Michigan Artists and  
Craftsmen Guild

## Beautifiers says thanks

Dear Editor:

"An enormous thank you for the May 11 coverage of the Farmington Beautification Committee. That was really a good, compact, well-written feature. It seems we always find time to complain but not enough for compliments.

Our hats off to you.

JO ANNE McSHANE,  
and the entire Beautification Committee

## She opposes 'Flip Side'

Editor:

In the May 29 edition of the Farmington Observer, the article written by Craig Piechura, "The Flip Side," I found most offensive. It is always in bad taste to make flip remarks about religious beliefs, and especially untruths.

In the future, Mr. Piechura, it might be better to use your fine talents to choose subjects that are interesting or humorous and not belittle the things people hold sacred. Do please be sure of your facts.

MRS. C. F. EBERHART,  
Farmington Hills

## Reader blasts young Nazis

Editor:

I am appalled by your article entitled "Young Nazis—garish but polite."

Mr. Matuszewski's comparison between the segregationist of the 1960s with the Nazi party lacks even the basic understanding of what the American Nazi Party stands for.

Mr. Matuszewski should study his history and get his facts straight on how Hitler came to power.

These "polite" Nazis are espousing the same hatred and barbarism that ultimately led to the death of millions of innocent victims.

Can Mr. Matuszewski be so foolish as to believe these "nice boys" will say "please" when they welcome more victims to the gas chambers?

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**READERS' FORUM**

Letters must be original copies and contain the signature and address of the sender.  
Limit letters to 300 words.