

# Which oil money grubber would you boycott?

OK, brother and sister oil boycotters, you asked for it, so fasten your seat belts and let's go.

A few weeks back, I penned a column suggesting it was about time we stopped bankrolling the good life for Arab sheiks and oil barons.

Let's start a selective boycott of gasoline companies. I said, to bring down the price of the black gold.

Since that time, readers from Rochester to Canton Township have deluged this office with phone calls wanting to know where they could sign up.

Never have I received so many phone calls about a column. Frankly, I was astounded.

So now is your chance to fight back. Let's see what we can do about this ludicrous oil rip-off.

All you have to do is drop us a note saying you want to give the greedy burns a drubbing. Tell us which company you believe deserves our attention (or lack thereof) and by how much you would like to bring down the price.

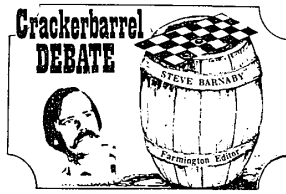
natural levels, you and I know the "natural level" is what the Arabs and oil barons say it is.

Forget all this nonsense about the oil companies using the increased profits to search for more oil. That's bunk. They're taking your hard-earned bucks to buy hotels, restaurants and department stores.

No sense waiting for the politicians in Lansing or Washington to take action. That won't happen until we let them know we mean business.

**WE'RE GOING** to let them know how we feel. Every card and letter we get is going to be sent off to President Reagan and Gov. Milliken.

But that's only the first step. This game is called "power in numbers" and to be effective we need every last one of you to respond.



Tell your friends, tell your neighbors, tell your mother-in-law to drop us a letter of protest.

Imagine, maybe right here in the Motor City we can start a movement to call the oil tycoons' bluff.

If we have enough responses, we can start our own movement to fight back.

**NEVER UNDERESTIMATE** the effort which could be made. Too much is at stake. Our home-grown auto industry will never have a chance to get back on its feet until we get those gasoline prices down.

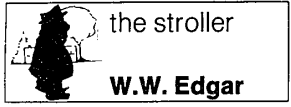
Our highways will decay and our tourist industry will disintegrate.

This month we'll send them a message. Next month, we'll let them know we mean business.

**MAIL THAT PROTEST** to Steve Barnaby, Farmington Observer, 23352 Farmington Road, Farmington 48024.

Don't hesitate. With the way gas prices are zooming out of control, we've got to move fast — faster than you can say Shell, Exxon, Mobil or Gulf.

And forget all those preconceived notions about the free enterprise system. Today's oil prices have nothing to do with that. Despite what Ronald Reagan says about letting oil prices rise to their



## Dull times in national sport

In all the years he traveled along the sports trail, The Stroller has had a dislike for only two assignments — the 500-mile auto race at Indianapolis and the first two weeks of the Tigers spring training camp in Florida.

The remainder of the year was just a series of enjoyable times as he followed golfers up and down the fairways of the land, sat at ringside of world championship fights and watched in the press boxes of college football stadiums from coast to coast.

These were enjoyable times. The traveling up and down the land might have tired most fellows, but The Stroller thrived. When it came to the Indy 500 and the early days of the baseball training camps it was another matter.

**WHAT WAS WRONG** with the "500"? To most folks, the big auto race is a thrilling affair. But The Stroller's assignment was to get to the track two weeks early and write daily comments on the trials before the big race. This sounded swell. But it was boring because that event attracts a different following than the other games.

At Indianapolis, the followers in those days before the race talk about nothing but tire fabrics, gas consumption and gear ratios. These things interested The Stroller not a bit. He was eager to know who would cross the line first — and that was all.

Strange as it may seem to the uninitiated the early days at the Tiger camp are dull. The athletes do nothing but jog around the park and play one 'ol cat. There sure is nothing exciting about them. It is difficult for a fellow to get material for his daily tasks.

So, in cases like this, a fellow must use a bit of imagination and contrive with the managers and coaches to get them to talk. More often than not there are weird stories coming out of camp, stories that confirm the old adage that the sports world is the haven of wonderful nonsense.

The Stroller was reminded of this the other morning when he read in his morning paper that the Tigers were coming up with a novel idea this year. The pitching coach, Roger Craig, was going to call the pitches from the dugout.

What a laugh.

**FROM THE TIME** that Abner Doubleday invented baseball it has been the catcher's duty to call the pitches. Ofttimes the pitcher would shake his head while standing on the mound and refuse the signals until he got the one he liked. And when things went wrong he could blame the catcher for calling the wrong pitch.

But now things will be different — if the Tigers are serious. No pitcher is going to second guess his coach, so the burden falls to the masterminds in the dugout.

Can you imagine the pitcher refusing his coach's signal in the closing innings of a tight game? And what happens to the catcher? How is he going to know what is coming his way if he doesn't see the signal?

Such ideas as these often are the products of the writer's imagination and that's why The Stroller always frowned on the early weeks of the training camp. Things were so dull that stories had to be invented — and oftentimes they were wicker than some of Grimm's Fairy Tales. No wonder he disliked those two assignments.

**"Oh, shut up! You don't hear him crying!"**



OBSEVER & ECCENTRIC CAREERS  
Wally '81

from our readers

### A bright idea?

**Editor:**  
Energy conservation. C'mon, what a laugh! Just drive north on Telegraph in Southfield and lo, and behold, you will come upon the huge new Detroit Edison building. You can't miss it, as every light in every office suite is lit up like a Christmas tree.

Of course, all office personnel are long gone for the day, but the great energy expenditure carries on with bright lights glowing into the night — from where else but the Detroit Edison building.

CONRAD R. PEARL  
Southfield

### Artfully done

**Editor:**  
Without the dedication of the literary arts to the promotion of the cultural arts in the city of Southfield, our communicating with citizens of this region concerning concerts, performances, workshops and various other activities would not be as effective.

Needless to say, we are extremely grateful for the support given by your paper and aware of the tremendous following the Observer & Eccentric has, especially in the arts.

We recently embarked on a new concept of presenting chamber music on Sunday mornings in the Prudential Town Center indoor garden. Thanks to your help, this resulted in a sell-out for the February concert. Our March 22 and April 26 concerts have quite, continental (breakfast) and coffee-only seats available.

A special thanks to reporters Shirley Iden and Corrine Abbott, who have gone beyond their normal duties to bring the literary picture to your readers. Thank you, Southfield Eccentric.

MARLOWE BELANGER  
Supt. of Cultural Arts  
Southfield Parks and Recreation

### Uncage the birds

**Editor:**  
We cage them, tie them up, we neuter them, we spray them, we debilitate them, we demoralize them, and then we have the nerve to call animals and birds "dumb."

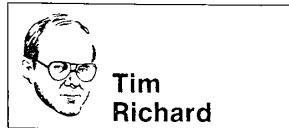
Left alone, without any education or college degrees, animals and birds instinctively make, bear young and tenderly and lovingly care for them and, given all circumstances, conduct their lives far better than "humans" do.

If more people knew of the wretched and inhumane methods of capturing and transporting birds, they would not buy one.

There simply is nothing quite so exquisitely beautiful as a bird in flight. A bird without his wings is like a man without his legs. The National Geographic magazine says, "Birds are nature's most eloquent expression."

Let's put birds back in trees where they belong. Insensitivity and cruelty to animals and birds throughout the world is solid proof that a very low and stupid form of animal exists — "humans!"

ANNE XANTHIPPE GEORGE  
Westland



## Reagan's economics has drawl

Conservative? The Reagan federal budget is Western and Sun Belt-oriented. That explanation makes more sense than ideology if one wants to understand the new president's fiscal policies.

Suburban congressmen provided these examples:

**Defense** — "The defense boys were in total glee," said Rep. Carl Pursell, R-Plymouth, after Reagan's address last week. "His budget will be a big bonanza to defense contractors in the Sun Belt and Southwest. We have to consider, how can Michigan impact on that? I'm going to watch the Pentagon like a hawk."

Pursell wants to repeal the so-called Maybank Amendment so that defense contracts need not necessarily be awarded to the low bidder if another (northern) bidder is within 5 percent of the lowest price.

**Public works** — "The public works area was left untouched," said Rep. Bill Bradhead, D-Detroit. "Large numbers of those projects are not meritorious. Their (western states') biggest problem is water. Much money is spent in damming and rerouting rivers. Three-fourths of all the rainfall in the U.S. is east of the Mississippi. These projects are hugely expensive and benefit big landowners, particularly in California and Arizona."

"Many of those projects are boondoggles which can't stand on their own merits," said Rep. Carter made an effort to get after some of that by vetoing many public works rivers projects. Reagan is apparently not going to cut it at all," said Bradhead.

**Speed limit** — "Many western state politicians, in the Administration and Congress, want to raise the 55 mph speed limit back to 70," said Rep. David Bonior, D-Mount Clemens, adding, "It's the most ludicrous thing I've ever heard of."

**Foreign policy** — "The whole western thought in (Reagan's) foreign policy," said Bonior, "is the concept of manifest destiny, which was the moving foreign policy thought at the turn of the century. Reagan speaks of God and This Country in the same breath, and he parades it in front of foreign ministers in a way that is not very diplomatic. He's got the John Wayne mentality about foreign policy."

**Chrysler** — Reagan once remarked he would have let the ailing automaker go bankrupt, and Budget Director Dave Stockman was the only Michigan congressman to vote against the federal aid package last year. Rep. Jim Blanchard, D-Pleasant Ridge, wonders what the "conservative ideologues" will do not only with Chrysler but with such other ailing northeastern and midwestern industries as rubber, steel and glass. "Will they wake up?" Blanchard asks.

**Business taxes** — Some economists say the Reagan proposal to allow new factories to be depreciated in 10 years instead of 25 benefits the West, where such new construction is going on. The Northeast and Midwest, they say, would be better helped by policies that reward rehabilitation of existing plants.

**Synthetic fuels** — Reagan's proposed cuts in this area hurt the energy-short Northeast and Midwest.

**Oil price decontrols** — The policy is aimed at encouraging oil production in the U.S., most of which occurs in western states. Montana and Wyoming, as Sen. Carl Levin, D-Michigan, points out, tax the living daylight out of oil and gas. They cut their own sales and income taxes (New Mexico), which makes them more attractive to business and raises energy costs to the Northeast and Midwest.

The Reagan program isn't Adam Smith conservatism. It's cowboy conservatism, podnuth



Did you know that Michigan is widely famed for its native (wild) mushrooms? The University Herbarium at Ann Arbor has the largest and best documented collection of North American specimens in existence. Mushrooms are mostly water; some last only a day or so, but harder specimens may last two or three weeks.