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Taxpayers foot bill for junket to foreign lands

By M.B. Dillon Ward
staff writer

Congressman William S. Broomfield, R-Birmingham, recently returned from a two-week trip to Brazil, Africa and Greece that has some of his constituents concerned.

Among those who have expressed interest in the purpose of Broomfield's recent journey is Southfield attorney David E. Bocan. Bocan, a Farmington Hills resident, learned of Broomfield's government-paid trip via a CBS Radio Network broadcast by Charles Osgood Jan. 19 entitled "Do You Know Where Your Congressman Are?"

"I'd like to know what they feel is so important about making a trip to Brazil and Africa when our economy is as bad as it is," said Bocan, who called the Observer & Eccentric to express his displeasure.

Osgood listed Michigan Congressmen George Crockett, D-Detroit, David Bonior, D-Mt. Clemens, Howard Wolpe, D-Kalamazoo, and Donald J. Albosta, D-St. Charles, among those who accompanied Broomfield and colleagues from 18 other states at the invitation of Wisconsin Democratic Congressman Clement Zablocki, chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

He also noted the trip was bi-partisan.

"Though they may disagree on some things, Republican and Democratic congressmen think alike when it comes to going to Brazil in January," commented Osgood in the CBS Radio Network broadcast.

The group met with African heads of state at African-American conferences in Zimbabwe and South Africa and attended NATO meetings in Greece. Broomfield also visited Brazil, Kenya and Italy.

Food and lodging expenses for Broomfield's trip came to \$1,686, according to a Foreign Affairs Committee spokesperson.

Broomfield said he was among the 30 members of the state and defense departments who were flown by U.S. Air Force jets. Transportation expenses will be compiled by the Foreign Affairs Committee later this month.

"There were a number of trips made overseas (during Congress' district

work period), and I don't know of anyone who has more responsibility than members of the Foreign Affairs Committee," Broomfield said.

Staying home would have been an oversight of responsibility, he said.

"I don't apologize for the trip. It was extremely important and useful in gaining a better understanding of the issues confronting African leaders. As members of the Foreign Affairs Committee, this is an area we deal in all the time.

"It's important to have the opportunity to meet face to face with the leaders of these countries. The meetings have important repercussions as far as our own national security and interest."

Broomfield said he is preparing a report on his trip, outlining the extensive problems that were discussed and describing the people who participated in the conferences.

The congressman last left the country in October 1981 when he accompanied former presidents Nixon, Carter and Ford to attend the funeral of slain Egyptian President Anwar Sadat.

Broomfield said his new Farmington-area constituents will notice that their U.S. representative is more conservative than his predecessor.

The veteran congressman succeeds Democrat William Broadhead, who opted to resign prior to the November election.

Broomfield's redrawn 18th District encompasses Farmington and Farmington Hills, and is bordered on the north by Rochester, the west by South Lyon Township and the east by Troy.

"We're probably somewhat philosophically different," said Broomfield, contrasting himself to Broadhead.

"Obviously there's a difference in the fact that I am a Republican and probably somewhat more conservative than Bill. As far as constituents' requests, I think they'll find we place very high priority on things that constituents are interested in," said Broomfield, a ranking Republican on the House Foreign Affairs Committee and the Committee on Small Business.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Discussion with an expert over conflicts caused by religious intermarriage can be a help as this couple found with psychologist Bernette Miller.

Couples seek solution to intermarriage strife

By Mary Klemic
staff writer

At one time, it was considered a shocking thing for a young man and woman of different religious faiths to be married. Sometimes the parents would disown the couple and the community would reject them.

But stories of intermarriage don't have to end in unhappy endings, says Sherwin Wine, rabbi of the Birmingham Temple in Farmington Hills, as long as the two people have mutual respect for each other's backgrounds.

"Labels are deceptive," Wine said. "It's very important to deal with people first as individuals."

"The reason they're getting married is that they share a philosophy of life. They don't sit around arguing religion. They may have gone to the same school, grown up in the same neighborhood — they have a lot of bonds."

"All marriages are intermarriages," said Bernette Miller, owner of the Center for Contemporary Psychology.

"The issue really is going to be how much tolerance the other person has for the other beliefs."

Wine and Miller will be two leaders of a workshop in new approaches to intermarriage that will be presented from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28.

Also conducting the workshop, which will take place at the Birmingham Temple, 28611 W. Twelve Mile, will be Gail Parker, TV and radio psychologist, and Dr. Robert Handelsman, another owner of the Center for Contemporary Psychology.

Wine said that new approaches to intermarriage emphasize the cultural instead of the theological. Love and individual freedom are more important morally than group identification, he said.

A person doesn't have to repudiate his or her own cultural attachments to take part in another culture, Wine said. He added that such a philosophy wouldn't work if the couple was very religious.

"It's possible to enjoy the culture of your partner and for your partner to enjoy both backgrounds," the rabbi said.

In North America today, two out of five Jews marry a non-Jew, according to Wine. He said he officiates at an average of 75 intermarriage ceremonies a year.

"When they come in, I'm delighted that they're in love and they want to get married," Wine said. "Part of the problem is they're getting all this disapproval as though there's something wrong with them."

Wine said the major fears of couples contemplating an intermarriage are parental disapproval, and the possibilities of confusing children and endangering the group's survival.

Wine said children can share the different backgrounds of their parents and can decide themselves later what kinds of ceremonies they want.

Please turn to Page 4

Army is aiding hungry

By Mary Klemic
staff writer

It's a young family — the parents are in their 30s, the three children are all in school. They were working to have a home of their own, but then the parents lost their jobs. The unemployment checks ran out as the foreclosure notices piled up. It looks as though the home will be lost.

It's a true story, one that is often told in the Salvation Army office in Farmington Hills these days, according to the office's commanding officer, John Crampton.

Crampton said the office answers both the immediate and long-term needs of the poor. It provides food and clothing, along with counseling and referrals to available services.

"We don't say, 'Here's your food, all your cares are taken care of,'" Crampton said. "We try to prepare them for the future. We have some counseling as far as how to deal with situations that may come up."

"Sending someone out the door with a couple bags of groceries, that's temporary," he said. "We help start some paperwork for the services they are eligible to receive."

An average of 15 families a week has been stopping in for assistance at the outpost, located at the corner of Inkster Road and Shawwassee. The number is a "substantial increase" over the last few months, Crampton said.

More of the people who stop in at the office are middle-aged — between 35 and 50 years old — than in other years, according to Crampton. Many of the visitors are the "new poor" who don't know what services are available.

"They're the ones now out of work and their unemployment ran out," Crampton said. "Maybe they ran out of assets over the years but they still need help feeding their family."

A lot of people just don't realize that we do have food available here. It's just a matter of coming in."

Anyone who wants help calls the office at 477-1153 to set up an appointment. They will then meet with a Salvation Army worker for a brief interview to determine their need.

The office is open from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, but the hours are "flexible," Crampton said.

Hug a buddy

Radio doctor says love helps

By Kathy Parrieh
staff writer

Three hugs a day keep the doctor away.

Well, not always. But Dr. Leonard Portner firmly believes a little loving helps.

So the Farmington Hills MD prescribed some for his Troy Town Hall audience recently.

"Stand up and hug each other," said the radio talk show host, urging each of the 450 listeners to embrace three strangers.

"Now, who out there doesn't feel better?"

Known locally through his popular WKYZ-radio show "Ask the Doctor," Portner's unconventional medical practices also have drawn notice.

Along with methods learned at Wayne State University's Medical School, he uses massage, acupressure, acupuncture and herbs to control common physical pains. Because of its cost and possible side effects, he avoids medicine whenever possible.

And his Michigan Center for Holistic Medical Studies — which has a staff psychologist — is as concerned about the mind, emotions and spirits as about the body.

"STRESS I THINK plays a role in all illness and disease," said Portner, who advocates proper nutrition, exercise, meditation and a calm, positive environment.

"The job is to get rid of bad stresses and replace them with good before the bad breaks down into disease."

His own bout with illness led Portner to get involved in "modern and ancient" medical techniques.

At 33, the Detroit native faced disability due to high blood pressure. He took a year off from his busy medical practice for visits to clinics in Cleveland, Ann Arbor and William Beaumont Hospital.

When his illness persisted, Portner

started reading and traveling to learn more about unfamiliar subjects like herbal remedies.

"I went from a black period of factory general practice to a white period of pure holistic medicine," said the West Bloomfield resident, who quickly learned that "people with bacterial pneumonia don't want you sprinkling herbs over their heads."

"There has to be a gray area."

Now the MD combines traditional medical techniques with advice about vitamins and minerals, nutrition, massage, acupressure, acupuncture and herbs to control physical pains like

Please turn to Page 4

oral quarrel

Tell us how you feel about guns at home

More and more people are filing for permits to carry guns. Others don't even bother getting a permit, they just keep a handgun in the home.

One mayor of a Michigan city even suggested that everyone might consider keeping a gun at home for their self defense.

Today's Oral Quarrel question is:

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT PERSONS KEEPING HANDGUNS OR OTHER WEAPONS IN THEIR HOMES FOR SELF DEFENSE?

To answer this question call 477-3498. You will have until 1 p.m. on Friday. You will have 30 seconds to give your answer. Look in Monday's Observer to see how your neighbors feel about this issue.

what's inside

Club Circuit 4B
Community calendar . . . 3B
Editorial 14A
Obituary 2A
Recreation News 6A
Sports Section C
Suburban Life 1B
YMCA Highlights 6A

"ALL THE RESPONSE I NEEDED!"

E. Prucher was delighted with the response she received on the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers classified ad placed for "Florida Rentals."

Remember...
One call
does it all!



591-0900
Use your MasterCard or Visa



Dr. Leonard Portner is as concerned about the mind, emotions and spirit as he is about the body.