

Opinion

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O&E Monday, January 2, 1984

Readers speak on their New Year resolves

Today's Oral Quarrel asked our readers what is their wish or vow for the New Year.

Following are the responses:

I wish that somebody in Farmington would win one of these magazine sweepstakes and my vow is that I hope it is I.

To party more.

My wish for the New Year is the same as the last 44 and that is peace on earth.

My wish is a prayer. I pray that the person that broke into our home last week would seek God's forgiveness.

oral quarrel

mend his ways and begin doing to others as he would they to him.

Celibacy.

My wish for the coming year is we all work very hard to see the defeat of Ronald Reagan as a presidential candidate.

I wish for Farmington Hills to put up Welcome to Farmington Hills signs on roads entering the city like all other 20th-century cities. Then people will know where we're at. Then how about softball in the new park. Presently we are 34 square miles big and don't have a city-owned baseball field. Why must we borrow Farmington's gravel pits or rent their Knights of Columbus field. I guess since we couldn't afford even one set of Christmas lights to be put on display outside of Farmington Hills City Hall, we must not have the money.

My wish would be for a healthy return to good government in Farmington Hills and for some good editorials in the Observer Newspaper like we used to have on national and local issues and Willoughby Wink while you're at it.

I hope Farmington High School's football team next year has a better record than Harrison.

I would like to see my favorite editorials return to my local newspaper.

My wish is that we continue and strengthen a free press, free from censorship, either from government or the private sector.

I have no comment to make on this matter at this time.

from our readers

Reader poses ERA questions

To the editor:

With another failure on their hands, advocates of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) may want to answer some questions angrily pondered by many men, including perhaps some of the congressmen who voted against the ERA on Nov. 15:

• Are you fighting to eliminate a male-only draft as hard as you are to stop veterans' preferences, which you say discriminate against women?

• Are you pushing for a man's right to deny support for a child he doesn't want, now that you've won a woman's right to abort a child she doesn't want?

• Are you fighting for legislation to insure visitation rights, while you urge legislation to insure support payments?

• Are you, rather than declaring merely that women should have a right to be financially independent, telling them they should be? Have you addressed women's need to share the economic burdens in the same spirit you've demanded that men share the domestic burdens?

• Do you realize that speaking only of a woman's right to be independent implies she has an option to work or stay home? So you then realize that this female prerogative not only precludes a husband's enjoyment of the same freedom, but also often imprisons him in a stressful job required to support two persons?

• Are you aware that the emphasis on that choice for women means that many women will stay home and many others will regard employment frivoloously. Are you also aware that this choice, by allowing women to earn less than what's needed for one person and forcing men to earn a living for two or more, is a major cause of the income gap between the sexes — the gap from which it's derived that women are economically dispossessed and therefore are victims?

• Are you doing such things as demanding punishment for child-abusing mothers as shrilly as you demand it for rapists? Do you know that every abused child is physically and emotionally damaged and that less than 30 percent of rape victims are physically hurt? Do you realize that the message you send with your unilateral demand is that women are more important than children?

• Are you as vocal about women's privileges as you are about men's? Do you reflect on men's burdens in your zeal to make known women's?

• Do you realize that a refusal to listen to and empathize with males is behind the reason you believe females are victims of males. Do you further realize that this belief is the justification for an ERA campaign that focuses solely on increasing women's rights and disregarding their responsibilities?

I suspect few advocates can answer yes to any of these. But until must can, until advocates flush the males-oppress-females mood from their ranks, and until men's rights are an equal part of the struggle (as in Sweden), the ERA probably won't make it. It's endangered by its growing resemblance to a guarantee of female privileges and male burdens. As long as that's so, many men including some congressmen — whose different ideas about our social arrangements are shunned, will go on subverting the ERA. It's their way of keeping things from getting worse for them.

Jerry A. Beggs,
member, Fathers For
Equal Rights,
Westland

Quit peeking

Every time you open the oven door to take a peek at what's baking, the temperature drops 25 degrees, according to home economists.

To save energy, cook as many dishes as possible at the same time.

My wish is for the people in the city of Detroit that are on welfare would quit breeding like rats and then that would produce less crime.

My wish for 1984 is for the return of Willoughby Wink and Barnaby's editorials about national and local issues.

Michael Landon says:
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MORE ABOUT ASPIRIN
At times when I prescribe aspirin, a patient asks: "Aren't you concerned about the bleeding it can cause?"
Traditionally, aspirin was associated with hemorrhage from the stomach. However, new formulations in the way aspirin dissolves in the digestive tract have substantially diminished the risk of this occurrence.
Bruising over the arms and legs remains a problem no matter how aspirin is formulated. This effect is upsetting but it is not dangerous since similar bleeding does not occur within the body.
A special situation exists in which aspirin can be associated with dangerous hemorrhage. This circumstance occurs when an individual is on both aspirin and a blood anticoagulant. This combination of medications may lead to blood clotting deficiencies sufficient to result in serious bleeding.
This situation aside, experience with aspirin supports its reputation as a safe drug. Its record is particularly impressive when one considers the large amount ingested compared with the small number of bleeding episodes that are related to its use.

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