

# Opinion

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## Save Detroit? Callers disagree

In the last issue, Oral Quarrel asked readers: What, if anything, do you think can be done to keep businesses in the city of Detroit — and to keep the jobs and tax money they provide? If you are a Stroh's drinker, do you plan to switch to another brand of beer? Here are the answers called in by readers:

When hundreds like myself thought you were set for life, and had to give your house away because no one dared inflict the law on the blacks in the same manner as it was on the whites you lost Detroit. Stroh's and Hudson's and Vernor's were bigger than an individual so were able to hold out longer.

## Shares views

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The night in jail was nothing compared to what those involved in the early civil rights movement lived, he said.

"You could spend a night in jail standing on your head, it's really nothing."

"U.S. support of 'a nation that has enshrined racism in their constitution' is unconscionable," Myers said.

"We've got to pull those (U.S.) businesses out . . . and try an economic and diplomatic tactic to try to pull off the coming revolution," he said. "The deaths and the suffering that have gone on in that country are unconscionable."

THE PURPOSE of economic sanctions would not be to destroy South Africa's economy, he said in response to a student question.

"What we're doing is trying to get them to change their system. We're not trying to break them, we're just trying to use our economic leverage."

Other measures, such as cutting off diplomatic relations with South Africa, could initially also be used, he said. If those measures proved unsuccessful, however, stronger actions would be needed.

"We're not talking about an academic subject. People are dying. They're a civilian population, totally at the mercy of this small but very powerful and racist group."

"We have a lot of racism in America. If you rationalize racism over there, it's much easier to rationalize over here."

The Friday before Conyers's speech, Farmington Hills insurance executive Richard Hendrix spoke to the Country Day student assembly. Hendrix is the 1982 Republican nominee for Michigan governor.

## oral quarrel

I'm not a drinker. The less of that slop made and sold the better.

I think Coleman Young should quit his racist ranting, and Jimmy Blanchard and the Democrats and the legislature should pass legislation that would be friendlier to business. I will keep drinking Stroh's. After all, the Stroh brewery company made strictly a money decision. That the (business) climate in Michigan is bad is not their fault.

First get rid of Coleman Young. I am really not a Stroh's drinker, I drink Labatt's.

Nothing can be done for Detroit. It's in as bad a shape as Atlanta was. The only thing that might help is gambling because that is the element that will go down there. The rest are coming to Farmington Hills which will soon be another Southfield. No change in beer preference.

I plan to switch to another brand. They (Stroh's) deserted Detroit and I'm a Detroit.

I think it's Coleman Young's fault in getting gambling instead of Vernor's and Stroh's. The only thing left in Detroit to move is Better Made. I don't think gambling is the right answer.

Get rid of Coleman Young, number one. That would help a lot. I still drink Stroh's, I'll always drink Stroh's.

I believe that the major thing that needs to be done in Detroit is greatly reduce the crime problem which has been rather extreme in the past few months. I am not a drinker so the second part of the question does not apply to me.

I don't think that anything that Detroit can do is going to change the fact that Stroh's must move. I think that should be the company's decision. I don't think there should be any pressure on them to stay unless it's diplomatic pressure. As far as drinking Stroh's is concerned, I guess it wouldn't make any difference where it's made anyway. People will buy beer if they're going to.

I was a Stroh's drinker and I will never drink another bottle of Stroh's again. What can be done about keeping businesses in the city of Detroit? I really don't know about that but I know that Stroh's planned to move out Detroit and there was nothing that could be done to keep it in Detroit.

First of all, I think Stroh's or any other company has no obligation to Detroit or any city. They function wherever they can function. They paid their way. Their taxes were extremely high in Detroit and I think many people would like to get out of Detroit but can't afford to. I, for one, feel the crime in Detroit is way too high. If I had a business I sure wouldn't want it in Detroit.

I feel Stroh's does not owe Detroit anything. Detroit is a decaying city. They are known for high taxes, high crime, welfare and crying for help to the government and even taxing people who don't live in the city. I certainly will not stop patronizing Stroh's for Detroit.

What happens in Detroit will certainly affect us in the suburbs and until we find accountability to one another, with the city government we are going to fail also. I think it's a matter of accountability, taking a concern. It's no different than raising children in your family. If you show no concern they certainly aren't going to develop. It's no different with the city government.

## Caring about people is a matter of heart

TWO EVENTS took place in downtown Detroit last week which have an impact on all of us.

On Friday Peter Stroh announced that Stroh brewery was closing its Detroit plant after 135 years of operation. The decision will cost at least 1,000 persons their jobs.

On Tuesday 12 persons, including four suburbanites from the Observer & Eccentric area, were given Heart of Gold awards at a ceremony in Cobo Hall. The honor is given for outstanding volunteer service in Detroit-area organizations.

The events are related. Our suburbs are filled with dedicated volunteers. They raise money for the local community center. They coach the youth basketball teams on Saturday morning. They visit the sick in local hospitals. They unselfishly work to make their suburb a better place to live.

But a few steps beyond the boundaries of their suburbs and work to improve a larger community. Those persons are recognized by the Heart of Gold honor.

IT DOESN'T TAKE a genius to know that the city of Detroit is in trouble. The Stroh's decision came a few months after the announcement that Vernors was closing its Detroit ginger ale plant. A year ago J.L. Hudson Co. shut down its downtown store.

In 1983 because of financial problems, Detroit was considering closing several branch libraries. Into the gap stepped Heart of Gold winner, Alicia Gillette of Birmingham.

"I decided that Detroiters needed to know that others cared about what was happening to their institutions," Gillette said last week. Gillette and a few friends began a suburban arm of the Detroit save-the-library campaign.

"That it was in Detroit didn't make a scrap of difference," she said. "If Detroit's cultural and educational institutions begin to crumble, the ripple effect will hit the suburbs."

The suburban campaign raised \$16,000 and helped give the

branch libraries some breathing time until voters approved a tax increase. The libraries were saved.

Anna Mickel of Southfield has worked for 16 years for the Jewish Home for the Aged in Detroit. She started the library at the Jewish Home.

"They had no library when I came there, but I saw to that," she said. When expansion created two new Jewish homes for the elderly in Southfield and West Bloomfield, she started new libraries there.



Nick Sharkey

DOREEN HERMELIN of Bingham Farms volunteers in a variety of metropolitan organizations, including the Detroit Institute of Arts, Music Hall, the Michigan Opera Theater and the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

She takes special pride in her work for Orchards Children's Services, a program for Jewish children with emotional problems. The Orchards was started as a home for adolescent boys. But it has expanded into a home for girls, a day camp for preschoolers and a foster care program which specializes in finding homes for hard-to-place children.

"We founded The Orchards because there was a need," Hermelin said. "There wasn't any place for emotionally disturbed Jewish children."

Marguerite Kowaleski of Farmington started her volunteer activities at the local Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic parish, but that expanded to statewide work. She is social services chairwoman for the Michigan League of Women Voters and a member of Michigan Welfare Reform Coalition, Michigan League of Human Service and the Michigan Housing Coalition.

She spends many hours working with the Friends of Oakland County Welfare Rights Organization, a group that helps welfare recipients cut through government red tape.

"In the wealthiest county in Michigan (Oakland), if you have no car and no public transportation system to get to a job, you are asked to live on \$67 a month, and you have a big struggle to get that," she said.

The problems of our metropolitan area extend beyond city or township boundaries. Fortunately, persons like the Heart of Gold winners realize that. Bless you.

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**MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS**

You may think of rheumatoid arthritis as being the "crippling kind" of arthritis. While it can reach such severity, the disease is better described as giving you a "touch" of arthritis.

That is, the condition won't devastate your life but will hamper your activities and sap your stamina. The stiffness, swelling, and muscle weakness mean that your hands can't follow your brain's instructions. As a result you aren't made crippled as much as you are left frustrated.

Another misconception is that if you have rheumatoid arthritis in the blood, you have the disease. However, the presence of "rheumatoid factor" in the blood is not specific for arthritis and the test can be positive for reasons unrelated to any arthritis. Furthermore, the blood tests can't always identify the presence of rheumatoid factor, and may be negative at a time when you are in the midst of an attack.

In short, if you learn that you have rheumatoid arthritis, don't be discouraged. If you are told you have arthritis because a blood test showed it, be skeptical.

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