

By mail, that's the best way to cast your vote

Blessings on those, Esther Hulsing. Hers is a name that will ring a bell with many of you in Eccentricville and Observerland because of her leadership in southeastern Michigan Scout and educational matters.

Right now I'm willing to award this magnificent matron no worse than third behind the win and place duo of Impresario David Wolper and fund-raiser Lee Iacocca in bringing home to John Q. Citizen what all the hoopla and fireworks were about during Liberty Week-end.

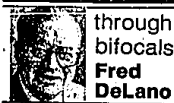
Mrs. Hulsing is the elected clerk of the township in which Mother Goose and I live, and in our mailbox on Saturday, July 5, were our application forms for absentee ballots for the Aug. 5 and Nov. 4 elections.

IF THERE WAS a personification of what all the New York Harbor celebration was about, what it meant to the millions in this nation who can trace their heritage to the Old Country, and the message it sent to populations that are politically captive even today, it was in those two envelopes.

They were our invitations to vote as free people.

Being a suspicious, cynical sort, I asked Mrs. Hulsing if there had been an edict "from on high" within the framework of Michigan politics to see that these symbols of freedom were delivered throughout the state on the same day. Her answer was negative.

Her insistence of coincidence is belied, however, by a lifetime of dedication to the good of her fellow citizens. She has grown from a pig-tailed, pony-riding child of the Montana prairies to giant community stature as wife of a retired GM executive, and poetic license allows me to challenge her contention. I think she had July 5 mail delivery in mind all along.



through bifocals
Fred DeLano

If I were asked (which I haven't been) about preference of voting procedures, I'd go with the "vote by mail" idea every time. You kids will have the privilege when you reach 60, or can qualify under such other provisions of Michigan law as "being confined to jail awaiting arraignment or trial."

QUITE SOME elections ago (circa 1972, h.m., which meant, "before merger") Observer editors were invited to write opinions on the elective process, and my own pushed for the mail idea. It never got anywhere beyond introduction to a Congressional committee.

Tim Richard, the senior brain of the editorial page, is the only person likely to have saved that edition with at least half a dozen divergent position statements, and I wish in his deluge of Tim would dig it from the files and see how those ideas mesh with 1986.

In the foregoing, I have given credit to Esther Hulsing for her subtle tribute to Liberty, because she is my family's governmental contact. Maybe in your case, you had an elected clerk who sensed the same wonderful opportunity of timing. I hope so.

With only the echo of New York fireworks remaining, we still have on our calendar the Aug. 5 primary and Nov. 4 general election. Please stay awake for both. If you don't, a day later you'll have to blame it on Guy Fawkes, more of whom as November nears.

Farmington readers' forum

Letters must be signed, original copies and include the address and telephone number of the writer. None can be returned. Names will be withheld from publication only for sufficient reason. Letters should be limited to 300 words in most cases. We reserve the right to edit them. Send letters to Readers' Forum, Farmington Observer, 33203 Grand River Ave., Farmington 48024.

Humane society's lawyer speaks up

To the editor:

As general counsel for the Michigan Humane Society, I was astounded to read in the May 15, 1986, edition of the Observer & Eccentric an article regarding a HouseA number of veterinarians at that meeting attacked the MHS with less than gentle hands. The society never had an opportunity to respond to clearly erroneous statements as we were unaware that the committee meeting was scheduled.

Small businesses (the private veterinarians) have been up in arms for years over the fact that the MHS, the largest and oldest animal welfare/rights organization in Michigan, operates animal hospitals. The society has operated these hospitals for over 30 years.

There is nothing new in the debate, except for one thing: The MHS recently sought and received definitive guidelines about its animal hospitals from the Internal Revenue Service after an intensive review and audit of the society's operations.

SO TO put the record straight, the MHS is operating its animal hospitals legally. The society charges fees, not tax-deductible donations.

According to the IRS, the MHS's animal hospitals are different from private veterinary clinics. We provide veterinary services which benefit the animal, not their owner (no ear-cropping, dew-clawing, tail docking, advice on breeding programs).

We provide free services and payment plans upon proof of economic stress, as well as accept the full-paying client. We turn no animal away. We need our animal hospitals for our cruelty, rescue, education, wildlife and countless other programs which benefit animals immensely.

The money received from the MHS's animal hospitals, including money from full paying clients, helps to fund every

aspect of what the MHS does for animals. We do a lot.

IF THE private veterinarians are planning on putting the MHS out of business, which is what any effort to circumvent the IRS opinion concerning our animal hospitals would do, they will have to do battle with every animal lover and humanitarian in this state.

If they really think that a humane society's only job is to find a few homes for a handful of lucky animals and ignore the major causes for their suffering, they are sadly out of tune with the animals they are supposed to be dedicated to serving.

Sienna LaRene,
General Counsel
Michigan Humane Society

Botsford Inn offers thanks

To the editor:

We at the Botsford Inn would like to thank everyone who helped make the "Stand-up America" Concert such a pleasurable success. You will probably remember the relentless rainstorms on Tuesday, July 8 — but that did not dampen the spirits of those involved.

Congratulations and thanks to the Farmington Community Band. They performed a tremendously uplifting and patriotic salute to the Statue of Liberty's 100th birthday, the Inn's 150th anniversary and their 20th anniversary.

We greatly appreciate the co-sponsors, who helped make this event possible — Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Co. and Avrey Bakeries Inc. Avrey Bakeries donated a cake decorated with a raised figure of "Liberty."

Vernon Lunn, senior vice president of corporate services/human resources, Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Co., presented the band with a generous donation of \$300 from his company, the

Botsford Inn and an anonymous donor.

Much of the evening's excitement should be credited to the concert-goers, who enthusiastically attended despite the weather. They generously contributed an additional \$105 for the band.

Last, but not least, we would like to thank the Farmington Observer for the article announcing the concert. You have all been very cooperative and supportive with articles and coverage of the inn and its yearlong list of events.

Thank you.

Kent Nickol,
public relations intern,
Botsford Inn
Farmington Hills

Death penalty can stop killing

To the editor:

Regarding Steve Barnaby's column "State death squad is bad form," July 10.

Mr. Barnaby doesn't favor the death penalty in Michigan for among other reasons he states, "how Michigan will look upon itself for the next couple of generations. Children for the next couple of generations will learn through a general acceptance of society, that it's perfectly all right to kill somebody."

This makes Mr. Barnaby mighty uncomfortable. What about the present? Isn't he mighty uncomfortable with kids in school armed with all sorts of deadly weapons.

Apparently Mr. Barnaby favors putting the poor criminal behind bars where, in already filled and overcrowded prisons he can enjoy the existence until an early parole puts him back in a position to kill again.

Maybe one can't vote crime out of existence, but it sure can eliminate the return to society of potential killers.

David Greenfield,
Livonia

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