

# Opinion

Robert Sklar editor/477-5450  
Rich Perlberg assistant managing editor

33203 Grand River Ave./Farmington, MI 48024

Philip Power chairman of the board  
Richard Aginlan president  
Dick Laham general manager  
Steve Barnaby managing editor  
Fred Wright circulation director

16A(F)

O&E Thursday, December 18, 1986

## Extend support to Goodfellows

IT'S ONE of southeast Michigan's fastest-growing communities and one of Oakland County's most prestigious addresses.

But don't be fooled by the Farmington area's overall prosperity — its gleaming office buildings and its exclusive subdivisions.

It may not rival the pervasive poverty in inner-city ghettos, but lack of food and clothing is more prevalent in Farmington and Farmington Hills than you might think.

"It's not true that a good economy translates into a major reduction in the number of families who need help," says Dick Tupper of the Farmington Area Goodfellows.

"A lot of families we serve are on Social Security or have a family member with a serious injury or have no one working."

LAST YEAR, the Goodfellows delivered holiday baskets to 200 families and 120 seniors. About 160 families and 120 seniors will receive a basket this Saturday.

For 40 years, the Goodfellows have helped make the holiday season brighter for the needy. They also offer limited emergency assistance to victims of fires, illnesses, accidents or layoffs.

Make no mistake: There's a genuine need for the kind of old-fashioned help provided by the Goodfellows, who have no trouble dispensing their baskets of joy.

Each basket typically contains canned foods, knitwear and toys. Included are gift certificates redeemable for fresh food and winter clothing. Baskets for seniors are specially packed, based on individual diets and needs.

To contribute to the Goodfellows, call the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce: 474-3440.

CASH IS welcome, but you may get a warmer feeling by donating something that goes directly to the less fortunate — canned or dried foods, a new winter coat, a homemade toy, a knit scarf, a doll.

Don't worry about cash contributions. Virtually all go directly to the community. About the only things the Goodfellows have to pay for are stamps, boxes

But don't be fooled by the Farmington area's overall prosperity...

It may not rival the pervasive poverty in inner-city ghettos, but lack of food and clothing is more prevalent in Farmington and Farmington Hills than you might think.

and telephone service. Packing sites are donated.

Strictly volunteer, each of the 32 active Goodfellows must look to an inner motivational spark.

For Tupper, a Goodfellow for 21 years, that spark is a heartfelt desire "to help people who are part of our community, but who, for various reasons, can't provide very much for their children or themselves."

A sure sign of success is when your effort is copied. And the Goodfellows' cause has proven worth emulating.

MANY OF the Goodfellows' major corporate contributors have been so deeply touched by the cause that they also now provide food, toys or clothing to the needy at this time of the year.

Given the growing number of corporate and community Santas, Tupper wisely looks "to the day when we can join forces and try to eliminate duplicated services. When you stop to think about it, we could be more effective together — if we combined our strong points."

Clearly, those of us more fortunate should make it our business to strive to assure no one goes hungry or without winter clothing during the holiday season.

By helping the Farmington Area Goodfellows, you'll undoubtedly be rewarded by knowing their good will helps ease the pangs among the down-trodden.

People helping people — plainly put, that's what the Goodfellows are all about.

— Bob Sklar

OHIOXERO



## Presents for the politicians

TIME IS running out but there is still ample opportunity to buy a few Christmas presents for our government leaders who have served us so well during the year.

If you need any suggestions, consider the following:

● For Wayne County Executive William Lucas, a copy of the "Newcomer's Guide to Washington, D.C." Lucas will be out of a job Dec. 31, and chances are he will be moving to Washington to accept some kind of position in the Reagan administration.

When the GOP leaders such as George Bush and President Reagan wooed him to run for governor of Michigan as a Republican, there had to be a tacit or implied understanding that if his candidacy failed, Lucas would still be able to serve the GOP in a national role.

The GOP leaders seem to be dragging their feet on this one, however, and Lucas said no specific job has been discussed. Wonder if the fact that Lucas did not, as some Republican leaders expected, convince a good percentage of Michigan's blacks to vote Republican in the November election has anything to do with the lack of speed.

● For Gov. James Blanchard, a year's membership in a Lansing Vic Tanny Club. Blanchard's being taken to a hospital while visiting Washington might indicate that the boy-guy isn't as young or healthy as he looks. Either that or he grew faint from being too



Bob Wisler

high in the sky following his landslide victory over Lucas in November. Either way, Blanchard could use some conditioning.

● For businessman and sometime political candidate Richard Chrysler, a copy of the book, "If at First You Don't Succeed in Winning a Political Office, Try, Try Again" by Harold Stassen, with an introduction by Brooks Patterson.

Chrysler, who took a financial and political bath when he ran against Lucas in the GOP gubernatorial race, now says he is thinking about running in 1988 against U.S. Sen. Don Riegle, D-Michigan. Chrysler thinks the things that made him headline news — his alleged involvement in a scheme to have his employees subsidized by state unemployment funds — won't be a factor in the next race.

Perhaps not, but it isn't very often that a candidate loses a big race by a substantial margin and then goes on to be a winning candidate in another election. But there's always the example of Richard Nixon who went from prime schnook (before the Checkers speech) to

presidential candidate (losing to John Kennedy by a hair) to schnook (trounced in his bid for governorship of California, the famous "You won't have Richard Nixon to kick around anymore" era), to president. (And then, once again, to schnook.)

● For the state Republican Party, a copy of "Who's Who in National Politics" so that the political leaders can begin scouring names to see who they might entice into running as a Republican against U.S. Sen. Don Riegle in 1988.

In the last two state elections the GOP bigwigs first went to Texas to find one-time Michigan resident Jack Louma to run against U.S. Sen. Carl Levin in 1984 and then to the Democratic Party to find Bill Lucas to run for governor. A lot of people think that Don Riegle might be in trouble in the next election, but so far the only names that have sprung up are those of Spencer, Abraham and Colleen Engler. If they think they lost with Louma and Lucas, wait till they see what happens to one of these birds.

● For Oakland County Executive Daniel Murphy, a copy of the "Murphy's Law" calendar for 1987. He should have at least one month that reminds him, "When anything can go wrong in an election it will." Murphy's attempt to become the GOP gubernatorial standard bearer was doomed from the start, perhaps because Murphy wasn't aware of Murphy's laws.

## Combatting a season of fear

OBSERVATIONS during a Christmas shopping foray:

A young woman stands by the shopping center door nervously waiting for a friend.

"I just can't bring myself to walk to the car myself. I'm just too afraid," she tells a nearby sales clerk. "Last night these guys followed me all the way to my car."

It is 5:30 p.m. A long day of shopping is at an end. The search for gifts has been supplanted by a journalist's fascination with an overwhelming public concern — crime and personal safety.

A faulty security alarm keeps tripping as shoppers leave a department store. Shoppers fidget with packages waiting to be checked by a polite but embarrassed security guard.

GROUPS OF youths crowd mall corridors as leary shoppers give them a wide berth, wondering whether the young people are just groups of teens or gangs in search of victims. Security guards walk and ride through parking lots.

Merchandise that used to be openly displayed is now tagged with security devices or locked securely into cases.

It's tragic, you know, this state of restrained anarchy and violence in which we live.



crackerbarrel debate

Steve Barnaby

The newspapers and television broadcasts have been full of stories. Shoppers kidnapped, shoppers beaten, shoppers slashed, shoppers robbed. Articles advise on how to shop safely. Don't walk to your car alone. Don't carry money in your purse. Always act like you know where you're going. Thieves prey on people who look lost or disoriented.

Sometimes you just want to run away from it. But most of us can't. At one time we thought it was possible to leave crime behind in the city while we moved to the suburbs.

BUT AS the middle class left the city, so did the shops and stores. Criminals follow the crowd and the crowds are at the super malls.

We shouldn't have to put up with this treatment. We should be able to shop alone anytime we want in any manner we want.

We've become too passive, too accepting of crime. Just so it doesn't happen to us, we tell ourselves.

That's not good enough anymore.

We should feel outraged at being prisoners in our own society. We should be infuriated that a handful of thugs determine how we live.

Hiring professionals won't do. Check out how much your community spends on law enforcement. Lots, believe me. The largest chunk of any municipal budget is for police — a real sign of false security.

BUT YOU can't employ enough hired hands to stop what has made us prisoners in our own cities. You can't build enough prisons for the outlaws.

As predicted decades ago, a true underclass has developed. It's young, uneducated and unemployed. It also is dangerous.

And it's time the middle class takes its head out of the sand and deals with it in a constructive manner. We must be willing to spend the resources and dedicate the time to see that all in our society are brought into the mainstream — educated and employable.

If we don't do it, no one else will, and your kids and mine will be another generation living in fear.



RANDY DORST/Staff photographer

Kathy Sacco of Farmington Hills packs toys for the Farmington Area Goodfellows Tuesday night.