

Memory — It's a reason for tears

SHE WAS crying. It was the Memorial Day holiday. "Taps" was playing. And she was crying.

Quiet tears at first, but then loud, steady sobs. The kind that make people look in astonishment and then turn away. The kind that make small children stare, wondering why someone would cry on a day when the sun was shining and the band was playing. Still she cried.

I do not know why she cries so much. No family members or close friends were killed in battle.

I do know this. She cried when she looked upon the rows and rows of neat white gravestones at Arlington. And again when she read the inscription of how many died fighting various American wars.

"Those poor families," she said. "So many broken hearts."

PERHAPS IT was the thought of all the broken hearts, all the crushed dreams, all the devastated families that flowed down her teary cheeks on Monday. Perhaps it is because she has an infant son and she prays against all fear that the broken heart will never be hers.

The question, though, isn't why she was crying. The question is, Why wasn't I? Why weren't you?

Perhaps the second-greatest insult to those who die in war is the fact that survivors won't even give up a mid-week day in their remembrance. It has to be a Monday; it has to be a three-day holiday.

There were complaints this last weekend that uncertain weather reduced the tourist trade in sunny Michigan. The weather, however, didn't stop



Rich Perlberg

the travel plans of 37 families whose sons and husbands were killed aboard the USS Stark. They have sacrificed far more than a weekend.

RATHER THAN feel shame for turning a memorial into a holiday, some seem to flout it. A caller to this newspaper was justifiably outraged at five businesses on Orchard Lake Road in Farmington Hills and West Bloomfield. The stores were flying the American flag but failed to fly it at half-staff.

If you fly the flag you have a responsibility to fly it correctly, said the caller. Otherwise, it is better not to fly it at all. He told two businesses of their mistake. They said they couldn't do anything about it. Imagine that.

So what's the greatest insult to those who die in war? It's the fact that it doesn't take much of a memory to remember why we have Memorial Day.

You don't have to be a graybeard spinning yarns about World War I. You don't have to recall the pre-baby boom days of World War II. You don't need to recall the "police action" in Korea or the "conflict" in Vietnam.

You don't even have to remember Grenada, for cripe's sake. Or the 241 Marines who died as sitting ducks in Beirut.

You don't have to remember much further back than yesterday. Memories like that should make us all cry.

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.

Lottery winnings would be taxable

To the editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Tim Richard and the Observer and Eccentric Newspapers for the fine article written on the Nichols Equity in Education Development (NEED).

Not only did the article more than adequately explain the proposal, but it went on to show comparisons with some of the other proposals in Lansing as well.

There is one point, however, that should be noted. While the headline said "No New Tax Under Nichols' Tax Plan," there would, in fact, be one. This would be a tax on lottery winnings, at the income tax rate.

I would also note that while, at the onset, some districts might be "losers," this will only be temporary. In the long run, as millage rates decrease everywhere, all school districts and taxpayers become "winners" under NEED.

Again, thank you for your coverage of this proposal. As always, I welcome any comments or questions your reading audience may have.

Rudy J. Nichols, State Senator

There's a desire for racial change

To the editor:

In my opinion, Tim Richard's column April 9 on the University of Michigan president's "other dream" throws cold water where it should not be thrown.

I concur that U. of M.'s achievement of a 12 percent quota is not only unlikely (note, I didn't say impossible), it demeans the work of regents, administrators, faculty and students toward excellence and maintenance of standards in that university.

Clearer minds, unhampered by zealous media coverage of visiting, self-appointed "problem solvers" on the campaign trail, see that U. of M. has been more successful than most of higher ed in enrolling populations fre-

quently under represented on college campuses throughout this country.

It is unfortunate the media do not choose to provide evidence of actual accomplishment of faculty and students of many races and nationalities. The best example of such achievement was available for all to see at the Kellogg Center on MSU's campus April 8. The media were conspicuous in their absence.

THE MICHIGAN Association of Governing Boards honored faculty and students from the public colleges and universities in Michigan. It provided clear evidence that the U.S.A. is no longer (if it ever were) a "melting pot"; it is a salad — each ingredient retaining its identity and making its contribution to the whole, and the whole benefitting from the variety of its content.

Of the 25 faculty members honored, nine were black, Hispanic, Asian or European foreign-born. Among the 26 honored students were eight who could be identified as Hispanic, black, Middle Eastern, Asian, or closely tied to Europe, including one who'd been an exchange student in this country during high school.

I do not claim these are typical. They do, however, show what is possible. Progress doesn't occur unless someone has the vision and courage to dream. The Martin Luther King Jr./Rosa Parks Fund won't show marked results of campus visits until those current 7th and 8th graders enroll in colleges? The eventual outcomes of the State Board of Education's recently adopted "Goals 2000: Education for a New Century" will not become evident immediately.

Although it has become a cliché, the future of this country does lie with its youth and in its schools. The solutions to problems will be developed in pre-school, K-12 and community colleges as well as Michigan's outstanding public and private colleges and universities. Our society is changing rapidly and will continue to do so. Failure to accept that fact and adapt strategies for success are counterproductive, to say the least.

Constructive criticism can be helpful; blanket derision is not. It would be very helpful if future columns helped point

out the way, not challenge the will.

Dorothy Beardmore, trustee, Michigan State Board of Education

Thank you for fine coverage

To the editor:

Just wanted to thank you for the fine coverage in last Thursday's edition. Your paper does a real service to the community in reporting local events.

Thank you once again for helping the Friends support the libraries.

Roslyne Greenberg, president Farmington Friends of the Library

Detector users' aim — break law

To the editor:

Many people rationalize the use of radar detectors by saying things like "It keeps me more aware of my driving speed so I don't drift up." Cars can come equipped with cruise control devices that can be purchased for less than a radar detector. Also, we should all be aware of our driving when the police are not around as well!

I'd like to take a good look at the "Big Brother" issue. The most popular is, "If the police can hide behind buildings or bushes to ambush me, then it's only fair that I can find them" via the beep from the radar detector. "It's police surveillance, and I have a right to know when they are watching!"

Watching our driving and enforcing traffic law is a high priority of police departments. Priorities are issued by elected officials that represent us. If you do not want your police to enforce traffic laws, or feel the laws should be changed, give your representative that input. Radar is simply a tool the police use to carry out their assigned enforcement task. If that isn't important eliminate the task, don't make obstacles preventing its completion.

Michael J. Bouchard, Beverly Hills

keeping up with government

LOOKING FOR information about state government? The League of Women Voters has a toll-free telephone service (1-800-292-5823) that may be helpful.

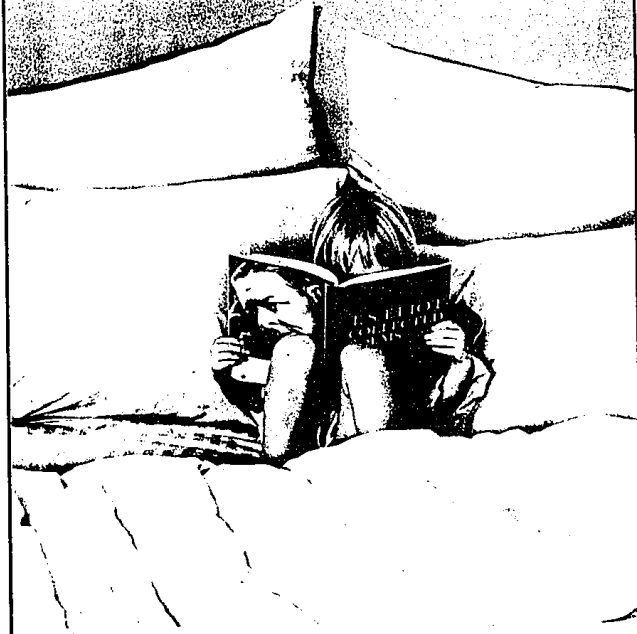
The league's Citizen Information Center in Lansing offers to help people find out about such things as pending legislation, the state constitution, election laws, voting regulations or tax in-

formation.

The telephone is answered from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. weekdays.

The telephone service is paid for by the league's education fund. The League of Women Voters is a non-profit organization that works to keep voters interested and informed about governmental issues.

Let us tell you a story about Scandia Down



ANNUAL SPRING SALE...Our white goose down Aerie® comforter - 30% Off. All sleep and decorative pillows - 30% Off. Our entire collection of European linens 25-30% Off.

SALE ENDS JUNE 6!

Birmingham Park Plaza • 255 S. Woodward (entrance on Brown St.) • Birmingham 258-6670

Mon.-Fri. 10-6, Thurs. 10-9, Sat. 10-5:30 Call for a Complimentary Catalog • Phone & UPS orders welcome



"A Concord Mariner for \$890!"

"I nearly threw my credit card at the jeweler, thinking he had made a huge mistake."



This is a very special timepiece. A masterpiece of design, the Concord Mariner SG is one of the most celebrated watches of contemporary times. Watertight to five atmospheres, and extraordinarily thin, every Mariner SG is engineered in Switzerland from .585 plumb gold and brushed stainless steel.



JULES R. SCHUBOT jewellers — gemologists

3001 West Big Beaver Road • Suite 112 • Troy, Michigan 48064 • (313) 649-1122 Registered Jeweler American Gem Society

