

## points of view

## Pandas overshadow other animals' plight

IT WAS a family of bluejays, swooping down to the patio, that interested C.J. the most.

Swoosh... swoosh... his big fluff of a black cat's tail brushed the carpeting as the birds teased him through the window. If he could talk, C.J. would probably tell me there are more than 20 species of birds to watch out back.

A cat's delight, you say. His life wasn't always a bag of catnip.

C.J.'s problems are minimal today, compared to nearly five years ago when we found him as a kitten. He was either lost or abandoned when we discovered him in a south-

ern Lapeer County park.

He actually found us. He was flea-infested, had worms, mites and, as we later discovered, a horrible fear of thunder, water, and small children. He welcomed our autumn offering of cider mill doughnuts, fresh from a visit to Goodison.

We took him home to sit by the window and keep our older cat company.

Watching C.J. enjoy his window perch, while reading about the Chinese Panda Saga, is what led me to ponder the atrocities of animal abuse.



Casey Hans

SURELY YOU'VE read about pandas like Le Le and Nan Nan, whose visit to the Toledo Zoo was approved. And that a similar invitation by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the Michigan United Conservation Club was denied this week.

I have nothing against pandas nor have I taken sides in the "should they or shouldn't they visit" debate. What amazes me is the amount of attention being given to these pandas, while untold abuses of domestic animals are rampant throughout our country.

Granted, the pandas are nearly extinct, but if we continue treating our everyday friends in an abusive way, a similar future could face them.

There are thousands of dogs, cats and other animals just in Michigan who never find homes or have abusive owners. More than 5,000 cases of animal cruelty were investi-

gated just last year, according to Dale Seguin, one of four investigators with the Michigan Humane Society. Although the abuses are throughout the state, most were in Detroit and its surrounding tri-county area.

"There's really no way of deterring things like this, except to educate people," Seguin said.

BUT DON'T the 5,000 complaints show that people are more aware of the abuses, and more concerned?

"It's good in a way, but we wish there weren't so many out there," Seguin said.

The Michigan Humane Society has always investigated complaints, but has become more sophisticated in the past few years, Seguin said.

Complaints range from lack of food to horrible physical abuse and, although most involve dogs and cats, others have reported abuses to chimpanzees and Canadian Elk.

Certainly it's appropriate to discuss the plight of the pandas, but we need to look in our own back yard for abuses closer to home.

Next time you find a cat or dog, like our C.J., see if you can't make a little bit of room in your heart — and home — to take him in.

## Great security scare rages on in the courts

THE WEALTHY had machine guns mounted atop their country homes. Businessmen stockpiled canned goods and candles. A Hollywood director carried a wardrobe of old clothes so that he could disappear into the crowd in an emergency.

America in the 1980s? No, the foregoing is from one paragraph describing the winter of 1922 in William Manchester's "The Glory and the Dream," a social history that begins with the Great Depression.

It makes you wonder what social historians will write 30 or 50 years from now about our relatively peaceful era.

THE LATEST shocker, bound to be quoted by Manchester's heirs, is the copyrighted yarn in the June 13 edition of Michigan Lawyers' Weekly, published in Lansing.

Reporter Steve Harrington went through litigation under the Freedom of Information Act — litigation, mind you — to force out public information: a list of pistol-packing Michigan judges.

While the paper chose not to publish the names, the numbers and the anecdotes are scary.

Permitted to carry weapons are 114 judges, including 25 in Detroit and six in Oakland County, and three of the 18 Appeals Court judges but none of the Supreme Court justices.

"DRUGS." YOU will say, but you will be only partly right.

Divorce cases bring out lots of threats against not only judges but lawyers. Given our 50-percent di-



Tim Richard

vorce rate, that's a lot of threats compared to the Hoover-FDR era.

In Grand Rapids, the district court's small claims division reports landlord-tenant cases bring out threats.

A Detroit district judge is quoted as asking for a bulletproof panel in front of his bench.

I've written recently about the extravagant dreams of the Oakland circuit bench for a whole new courthouse with elaborate security precautions and separate entrances for court personnel, defendants, witnesses and the public.

You could widen a lot of suburban mile roads with that kind of money.

PRIVATE SECURITY is one of the fastest growing industries in the nation.

You know that from your own experience: guards at the gates of apartment complexes, bulletproof glass in front of suburban bank tellers in high-risk locations, picture IDs and electronic buzzers in a host of otherwise tame-looking offices, rent-a-cops everywhere.

This newsman finds security in the U.S. Courthouse in downtown Detroit particularly obnoxious. Go there on

routine business, and you'll be treated like an Iranian terrorist.

According to Michigan Lawyers Weekly, those guards confiscate 50 firearms and 300 knives each month.

Detroit is headquarters of Michigan's eastern district. At the western district in Grand Rapids, they have a different attitude. Judges think courts should be accessible to the people. But out there, only 15 knives are found each month, and guns are rare. It's a different world.

AGAIN, ONE wonders if a future social historian won't find our generation paranoid.

America in the Depression came darn close to a revolution. Many writers openly admired the Soviet Union and communism. Mussolini had his fans, and Hitler came to power the same year as FDR.

Hungry people marched on Washington, stormed courthouses and bullied buyers away from farm auctions. The criminal fallout from Prohibition was still observable.

Today's society is far more stable. Our kids (wrongly) are more afraid of Reagan and the nukes than they are of Soviet tanks. The quakings of World War II are gone and the peaceniks of the '60s are silent.

I have a hunch that 80 percent of today's "security" is a) useless and b) induced by managerial midgets who just want to push people around.

Meanwhile, let's not hear anyone deprecate the McCarthyite "Red Scare" of the 1950s. That was mild compared to the "security" precautions of today. I've seen both.

## Good and bad news about college tuition

THESE DAYS, more than ever, folks are sitting around and scratching their heads, wondering how the heck they are going to pay those heavy-duty tuitions for university.

Somehow, no matter how hard you try, saving enough money seems almost impossible.

Today we have both some bad news and some great news for those contemplating sending children to college.

And the federal government, in all its unrestrained insensitivity, isn't making it any easier for a kid to get an education.

In short, the sages who haunt the halls of Congress have found another way to cheat us out of a fairly earned buck.

As we know from reading recent reports, Congress is great for giving specially sculpted tax breaks to friends of legislators, whether they be individuals or corporations. A few years back, individual legislative initiatives gave tax breaks amounting to \$10.5 billion.

We here in middle America, far from the inner-circle of the beltway, made up the difference.

Now, in another stroke of legislative inequity, our national leaders are picking on high school seniors who



Steve Barnaby

want to do, of all things, earn some money to go to college. Not surprisingly, the work ethic in Congress, is not the most admired of attributes.

In the past, the amount students were expected to contribute toward tuition and fees was based on their parents' assets and income during the previous year.

Also included, was the students' estimate of how much money they would earn during the coming school year.

Forget that rather fair formula. Now students' contributions will be figured on the students' earnings the year before.

One educator notes the new rule will "penalize you for trying to at least partially make it on your own."

Because of the new formula, students are likely to receive less finan-

cial aid this fall than they did last year.

FORTUNATELY, relief is on the horizon. So please pay attention. This news could save you a bundle.

The state of Michigan is about to launch its Education Trust program. Under its rules you will have to pay a specified amount and the state will pick up the rest of the tab for tuition at a state university or community college.

For instance, if you have a child who is 13-years old entering the eighth grade, you'll have to pay \$2,204 for each year your child will be attending university. You could pay as little as \$1,100 if you are sending a child off to community college.

Better yet if your child was born this year, you'll only have to pay \$1,689 for each year. Even if your child is a high school senior, you can get into the program by paying out \$3,145 for the next couple of years.

If you want more information on this program, call 1-800-638-4543.

Applications are due between August 1-4.

It's enough to make you say Yes to Michigan.

News that's closer to home News that's closer to home News that's c

**STEARNS & FOSTER**

One week Only at 50% Off

Today through Wednesday we're cutting the price in half on the Quality Bedding that has made Stearns & Foster famous. Choose Twin, Full, Queen or King size, carefully handcrafted to insure superior quality and durability. Don't miss this incredible offer.

Free Set Up and Delivery\*

**50% OFF**

YOU'VE EARNED A STEARNS & FOSTER

TELEGRAPH AT 12 MILE 356-2222

MON., THURS., FRI. 'TIL 9:30  
TUES., WED., SAT. 'TIL 5:30

**bedland**

Distinctive furnishings for the bedroom

**1000 Fabrics. 400 Styles. In 35 days.**



Create the look you want.

Buy the sofa, loveseat, sleeper, sectional, modular, chair or recliner you want. At sensible prices; and delivered in just 35 days. With frame and fabric warranties that impress even the most disillusioned of shoppers.

Sofa pictured starting at \$586  
Chair pictured starting at \$300

Prices Good thru 6-30-88

1914 Telegraph Road, Bloomfield Hills, just north of Square Lake 338-7716

120 E. 14 Mile Road, just east of Livernois 583-1475

Showroom & Clearance Center

Open every day but Wednesday

**Brent FURNITURE**

Designs for Living

**GIVE BLOOD, PLEASE.**

American Red Cross +

**ORVIS**

Patagonia & ORVIS Women's Summer Wear 25% to 35% OFF

THE RIVERBEND SPORT SHOE, INC.

350-8455  
29229 Northwestern Hwy. 2 Blocks N. of 13 Mile Southfield

**NORTHWOOD JEWELERS**

OUR 41st YEAR

LOWEST PRICES FASTEST DELIVERY ON ALL CURRENT PATTERNS

**STERLING SILVER SALE**

WALLACE INTERNATIONAL TOWLE

4 PC PLACE SETTING WALLACE Last Price \$200 SALE \$140	4 PC PLACE SETTING WALLACE Last Price \$200 SALE \$140	4 PC PLACE SETTING WALLACE Last Price \$200 SALE \$140
4 PC PLACE SETTING WALLACE Last Price \$200 SALE \$140	4 PC PLACE SETTING WALLACE Last Price \$200 SALE \$140	4 PC PLACE SETTING WALLACE Last Price \$200 SALE \$140
4 PC PLACE SETTING WALLACE Last Price \$200 SALE \$140	4 PC PLACE SETTING WALLACE Last Price \$200 SALE \$140	4 PC PLACE SETTING WALLACE Last Price \$200 SALE \$140

• Mail & Phone Orders Accepted  
• Deposit Required  
• Similar Discounts on  
• Lunt • Gordon • Reed & Barton  
• Kirk-Sieff • Heirloom  
• Also All Stainless And Silver Plate Patterns On Sale  
• Please Call For Prices

• Prices Subject To Change Without Notice  
• PRIOR ORDERS EXCLUDED  
2602 N. Woodward (at 12 1/2 Mi)  
Royal Oak • 549-1885

**Northwood Jewelers**

HOURS: Mon.-Thurs. 10-6  
Fri. 10-5 Sat. 10-5