

points of view

# Old Glory

## Flag burners spit on graves

To the editor:

The Supreme Court ruling regarding the right to burn the American Flag as a protected right of free speech and free expression probably touches the heart of what is happening in our courts today as the courts interpret accountability and responsibility in a free society.

This touches us all when we find that through the courts the drunk can blame someone else and get away with it; those in the state and national legislative branches whom we call "The Honorable" can steal us blind and get away with it; the cruds in our society can spit and burn and desecrate all that we hold dear and get away with it.

All in the name of freedom, free speech and free expression with the condescending mixture of no accounta-

bility and no responsibility.

The highest court in the land is not above being somewhat confused. It has not come to grips yet with the fact that the First Amendment does not exist in a vacuum.

That no amendment to our Constitution is an entity unto itself. That all the amendments were laced and intertwined into the strong fabric which embodied all the moral, ethical and social values which we have cherished and which fashioned the foundation of the greatest and strongest democracy ever known was the beginning of recorded human history.

To carry the ruling of the Supreme Court to its ultimate idiosyncrasy is to say that to keep a person from running a flag in the name of imposing upon his freedom of action. To keep a person from driving on the other side of the

road is to stilt his freedom of self expression. To quiet the loud one in a movie theater is an imposition to his basic First Amendment rights. To yell fire at a crowded gathering is the essence of a fun-filled life.

Thus, when you peer in depth to the contents of all the amendments to our Constitution you will note that alone they are meaningless but together they form the fabric that comprises the high standards of a nation to which people from every section of the globe seek entrance.

To burn without retribution this proud symbol, the American Flag, is to spit upon the graves of all those in our history who gave their lives that it may forever be the guiding light to the hopeless and the helpless throughout the world.

George M. Haddad, Franklin

# Hard sell presses on for soft yogurt craze

TRENDS.

I usually call my friend who lives in California to track trends. For whatever reason, they seem to start there and eventually wind their way to Detroit and its suburbs.

So generally, I was lying in wait for the cookie nooks, the video stores, the muffin shops, the oatbran in muffins in muffin shops, the oatbran in everything including cookies, the soft yogurt parlors. Somewhere in there, car telephones and facsimile machines came along.

In case you hadn't noticed, we're in the heat of the soft yogurt rage right now.

It may not be spreading at the rate video stores once did — that's of course before the biggest came in and knocked the smaller ones off the block.

But, almost. Case in point, on Walnut Lake Road near Inkster on the West Bloomfield/Bloomfield Township border, a soft yogurt parlor has just replaced the defunct video store.

AND LAST SUMMER, it was a lineup on every torrid night (and there were a lot of them, remember?) at the TCBY on Orchard Lake north of Maple in ever-trendy West Bloomfield.

Now, there's seldom even a wait because of the invasion.

Soft yogurt is in — everywhere. Besides the shop in every mall, soft yogurt machines recently were added to your regular ice cream store, to the concession stand at your swim or country club, even to your neighborhood supermarket.



Judith Doner Berne

*In case you hadn't noticed, we're in the heat of the soft yogurt rage right now.*

Now, you can move down the aisle spooning or licking the soft creamy stuff while you shop — by paying for it ahead at the deli counter when you're buying your luncheon meats and cheeses.

And for many of those trends you put in your mouth you can now "fast" out for — and have them waiting — unless, of course, you'd rather phone ahead from your car!

What you put in your mouth is not the only obvious out-on-the-street trend. Sure, there are still joggers. But they have been joined, perhaps outnumbered, by the race walkers, the bikers (helmeted on — a healthy trend toward safety), and most recently, the roller bladers.

In fact, the height of trendiness was one of my neighbors spooning it up in a soft yogurt shop outfitted in the newest aerobic trend — roller

blades — on which he had skated over.

For those who choose the inside in which to exercise, aerobics are a trend in themselves. First it was aerobics, then low-impact aerobics, now it's high-low aerobics. Costume-wise, you used to see the legwarmers that dancers wear. Well, no more. It's shorts-length or knee-length tights topped by a muscle shirt — and let those calves just hang right out. I guess they don't need to be kept warm after all.

SO WHAT'S NEXT?

Well, some months ago, I called my California friend for what was hot.

Fast food sushi bars, she said. So I sat back and waited.

Each day I didn't invest 'cause I'm still waiting.

Bloomfield Hills-based trendologist Alan Teitel's predictions for fall — for what is "new and now" — include: squatty heels, tea dancing, costume watches ("Say goodbye to your Rolex and Piaget") and winter whites.

My predictions for fall would be in a different mode: recycling — including those soft yogurt containers, running — for mayor of Detroit, rah-rahing — for a third consecutive Big 10 championship and Rose Bowl victory for a team from the state of Michigan.

And a raw fish bar at that Walnut Lake/Inkster storefront.

Judith Doner Berne is assistant managing editor for the Oakland County editions of the *Oscorper* & *Eccentric* newspapers.

## 'Sacred flag' repulsive term

To the editor:

Let's keep the flag flying over the Capitol, but please, let's not let the politicians wrap themselves in it for too long, lest we lose sight of their hands and our wallets.

I have heard a lot in the last weeks about the "sacred flag." What's this? What happened to separation of church and state? To be against the "sacred flag" is to be against God? Talk about totalitarianism!

Is our flag worthy of honor and respect? I say yes! But sacred? No. If you insist, then to whose God? Desecrate in an emotionally loaded, inappropriate term.

the embodiment of freedom and honor and make it a symbol of "divine-right" is as repugnant to its meaning as burning it. It's simply the other extreme.

I am reminded of the late president Theodore Roosevelt's comment that the difference between a boss and a leader is that you follow a leader freely, but you follow a boss out of fear.

These days, there are too many who want to boss with laws, or clubs, or fountain pens. But when was the last time a leader has inspired you?

Let's not spend a lot of national time or effort on this.

Could we all pledge our alle-

giance; even pick a time, say July 4, 1990, or Flag Day at noon, from "sea-to-shining sea" and do it in unison with the President? Now that would be a worthy answer to a million flag-burners.

It would renew our allegiance and cost nothing.

Then, let's continue to demonstrate leadership in freedom and tolerance, yes, even for dissent that's stupid, naive, and boorishly tasteless.

We can shake our heads, walk on, and leave the flag-burners alone with their pathetic cries.

Patrick Mc Elroy, Dearborn

## Flags fly over court's ruling

To the editor:

Since June 5, I have participated in an internship in Washington.

While working at Citizens for America, a conservative grass-roots lobbying organization, I have done extensive research on a vast array of issues. One particular issue that has greatly affected me, as well as millions of other Americans, is the

issue of desecration of the flag.

Last week the administrative assistant to the architect of the Capitol, William Raines, was quoted in regards to the number of requests from constituents for flags that have flown over the U.S. Capitol.

Mr. Raines says, "the usual 250-300 flags flown each day at the request of congressional offices has

now jumped to 800."

So far this year, 60,000 flags have been hoisted. Capitol officials expect to fly some 125,000 flags this year. If not more! Mr. Raines saw a distinct surge and credited it to concern about the Supreme Court ruling on flag burning. Long live the Stars and Stripes.

Jennifer E. Marcelli, Birmingham

## Court stories are just not fair

The writers — Marilyn Smith, Marilyn Dewar, Loralee Coomes and Jill Jenks — are 47th District Court Civil Division employees in Farmington.

WE FEEL that we must respond to the many articles that have been reported regarding 47th District Court.

We are employees of the Civil Division and feel that you keep continually "rehashing" the past and not the present.

We wonder if your action is not politically motivated. Judge Harris is

### guest column

an appointee of Gov. Blanchard and may run for re-election in 1994.

Yes, perhaps things could have been handled more sensitively — hindsight is always better and subject to criticism.

The reality today is that Judge Harris and Judge Schaeffer are working together to build a more efficient flow of the court dockets.

I agree that we need more security. However, Patrick Harris has been a pleasure to work with and he will miss him when he is replaced by a permanent employee.

You probably wonder what our motivation is. We don't feel you are being fair. We enjoy the challenge of our job, respect the people we work with, and feel as long as we are doing a "good job," we do not fear being fired.

**This August, save a fortune on fine jewelry at Tapper's Good Fortune Sale!**

**26 to 40% off our entire selection\*...and you could win a \$1000 shopping spree!**

Throughout the entire month save 26 to 40% off retail on everything in our store\*. Brilliant gold, sparkling diamonds and gems, cool silver and elegant pearls...all you have to do is choose. Once you make your selection we'll give you a fortune cookie. Break it open and discover the meaning of "good fortune". The discount inside is taken off the retail price of your purchase—26 to 40% off the jewelry you've been wanting! And don't forget to register to win \$1000 worth of Tapper's merchandise.

**This August, discover the pleasure of shopping at Tapper's. Where every detail matters and every customer is important.**

\*Discounts are off regular retail and do not include layaways, repairs, special orders, or loose diamonds.

**26400 W. 12 Mile Road • Franklin Savings Centre • Southfield, MI 48034 • 357-5578**

**Everything Under the Sun Sale!**

**Dining Room, complete \$2649**  
Includes table, 4 side chairs

Buffet and china top ..... \$2319  
Matching arm chairs ..... each \$239

Save on the unmistakable quality and style of Pennsylvania House. Every dining room is on sale now...from elegant, formal Queen Anne to casual, country oak. A hand rubbed finish and careful attention to detail provide lasting value.

**PENNSYLVANIA HOUSE**  
...it's what you've wanted all along!

**Stewart-Glass**

**2500 N. WOODWARD**  
JUST SOUTH OF SQUARE LAKE RD.  
FIND FURNITURE SINCE 1917

**01 Bloomfield Hills**  
**332-3343**

OPEN MON, THURS, FRI, WED, SAT  
TUES, WED, SAT, SUN, MON, TUE