



By Philip H. Power
Publisher

OBSERVATION POINT

It's Moving Day (Alas!)

As you may have noticed elsewhere in this newspaper, we're moving into a brand new central office and production plant this week.

It's quite a thrill because it represents the completion of over three years of work and planning.

But any move -- as anyone who has ever moved their home knows very well -- is an aggravation.

When it comes to moving anything as complicated as a newspaper operation, the aggravation verges disconcertingly close to chaos.

FILES HAVE to be packed, neatly, so we can find what was once nicely put away.

The editorial department has stacks of pictures, clippings, reference books, old newspapers, pencils, glue pots, old cartoons hung on walls, and press releases that never got into the paper. Since no editorial department is ever much more organized than your average rubbish heap, no one is much worried about this.

But billing and accounting! There's another matter.

Our controller is a very organized guy, and he's had to get all arranged stacks of old

ills and new bills, lists of employees, and all the records which the Internal Revenue guy says you have to hang on to for seven years.

In addition to records dealing with over 1200 carriers and over 100,000 subscribers, the circulation department has to worry about just how to keep putting the paper out while everything else is being moved.

THE ADVERTISING staff, always a bunch of individualists, is grumbling about the plans. Instead of having the movers take their boxes of personal effects, the ad guys want to move themselves.

Or they don't like the color of labels we've provided for departmental color coding. Or they want to move an ad that one of our competitors loused up and hang it neatly on the glass enclosure for the computer.

The production department is mainly concerned about the computer, which we use to generate type with our new phototypesetting machines.

We're moving the computer on Thursday (we hope), and that gives us a couple days to

fight with the IBM people and try to get it working again before we put out the next edition.

AS FAR AS I'm concerned, the move represents both a threat and a promise.

The threat is that I won't ever find my desk under that pile of papers which represents the biggest disaster area east of the California earthquake area.

The promise is that, at long last, I might actually get my office organized.

THERE'S AN old law, coined years ago, called Mur-

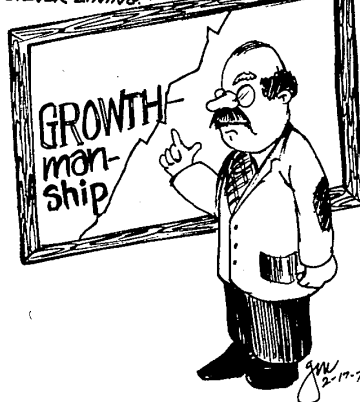
phy's Law: Whatever can possibly go wrong will, and at the worst possible time.

No one here expects Murphy's Law to do anything but apply to our move.

And that explains why, if you see anyone from your friendly hometown newspaper in the next few days, he'll have a furtive and exhausted look on his face.

But we'll have moved into the finest new newspaper building I've ever seen -- and that's a nice feeling, after it's all over.

THE TITLE OF MY LECTURE TODAY IS
"CURRENT ECONOMIC DECLINE AND PROPOSED
BUDGET REDUCTION IN REVENUES
ALLOCATED FOR THE UNIVERSITY"
OR: "EVERY CLOUD HAS
A SILVER LINING."



Tim Richard writes

Lid On Universities Valid

Recessions are something we'd all rather do without, but not every effect of a recession is bad.

Nearly everyone we talked to this year decided he had been blowing too much on Christmas cards and presents for people who already had

everything, and they cut back to sane levels.

Companies found they didn't need all the travel and entertainment expenditures their execs had been indulging in, and a few white-collar racks were halted.

And the state of Michigan put a lid on the big universities.

GOV. MILLIKEN, seeing revenues dwindle because of the recession and the GM strike, made a fundamental decision about the eight biggest universities, and the wonder of it is that the decision wasn't made years ago.

His proposed budget places, a ceiling of 200,000 on the 13 four-year schools and contemplates that the two-year community colleges will absorb the excess undergraduates.

It's about time. The University of Michigan and Michigan State University, to cite the two most horrible examples, have been playing a vulgar numbers game for the better part of two decades. Each is trying to out-do the other in terms of high-class scholars, programs and sheer numbers of students.

They haven't confined their

rivalry to the relative dignity of the gridiron. Each has been hell-bent on being big. The heck with the student, and the heck with quality.

THE ANN ARBOR campus has 35,000 students packed in where there is room for far less. Walk through campus town, and you'll be gassed by the vast number of people driving a vast number of cars.

The campus is so gigantic that U-M officials don't even think of it as a single campus any more. They think of it as five adjoining campuses. Students in one academic discipline no longer casually meet students in another.

One suspects that the sheer size and crowding affects students' minds, too. At least that's one scientific explanation for some of the madness that has occurred at the big universities like Michigan, MSU, Berkeley, Wisconsin, Columbia.

"Growthmanship" has been tough on human beings. So maybe it's a blessing in disguise that Gov. Milliken, through budget necessity, wants to set an upper limit on enrollments at the bigger colleges.

THE RESULT will be more students -- and more good students -- for such institutions as Schoolcraft College, Oakland Community College and the struggling Wayne County Community College.

Elsewhere in today's edition, our Kathy Moran quotes Schoolcraft President Eric Bradner as saying that the general idea "makes sense," although he's worried about space and whether there will be enough state aid to cover the influx of new students. S. James Manilla, the Orchard Ridge campus provost for OCC, has a similar complaint.

Whether their fears are well-founded remains to be seen, because a budget requires a lot of study. Yet Milliken seems to have been forced into a fundamentally sound position on the four-year schools, indicating that not all the effects of a recession and strike are entirely bad.

Sense And Nonsense

"Birmingham," says a fellow who admires it because he lives there, "is a state of mind."

Yeah, and so are psychoses and paranoia.

DISSENT

View points expressed in DISSENT do not necessarily reflect those of Observer Newspapers Inc., but are presented in the belief that publication of all segments of thought on a public issue is a prerequisite to understanding and progress.

By WALTER STUDLEY
Redford Twp.

"Government of the people, by the people and for the people, shall not perish from the earth." Great words by a great statesman and possibly in celebration of Abraham Lincoln's birth, we, the people of Michigan, are all personally involved along with our "concerned" state government in properly marking this event.

The basic concept of celebrating such an event is commendable, to say the least, but the methods used and motives displayed by our current "concerned" state government are, in my opinion, shamefully repugnant at best.

Our governor, without so much as a "by your leave," would, by near larcenous conversion, appropriate \$45 million from the uninsured motorists fund to partially satisfy the results of governmental fiscal irresponsibility and ineptitude.

NOT TO BE OUTDONE, the state legislators, this time by parliamentary conversion, picked the taxpayers' pocket of an additional \$2,000 per annum per member and, as if this were not enough, their insatiable greed dictated further the thievery from the public purse by showering themselves and their families with a most generous and heretofore unheard of annual dental expense subsidy!

What a hollow mockery of those eloquent words made over a century ago by President Lincoln, as a cornerstone of a truly democratic philosophy of government.

During the last decade, we, in Michigan beginning with the adoption of our present state constitution, have witnessed the inexorable incursion into and decimation of the rights of the governed caused mainly by apathy and manipulated diversion of public interest and sense of political involvement.

The really great tragedy of it all is why do "we the people," in whose name and alleged benefit these and countless other perjuries are committed, complacently condone and tolerate by default, disinterest and inaction?

Bob McClellan writes

Time To Heed 'Speed Kills'

"Speed kills."

This warning, in the vocabulary of the kids, applies not to the dangerous auto driver but to the reckless amphetamine user.

And the kids are right. Amphetamines--more popularly known as pep pills, benies, dexies, speed and uppers--are harmful. Medical authorities assure us that they can lead to addiction, that they can cause psychosis or even death.

So why is speed so easy to get?

WELL, the main reason appears to be that the drug companies in this nation over-produce pep pills in enormous quantities and half of them are illegally dispensed.

This, at least, was the recent finding of the U.S. House Crime Committee in its investigation of the drug industry.

The committee also found that large amounts of pep pills are legally exported into Mexico and then smuggled back

into the United States for sale to addicts and others.

Many adults are aware of this and nobody's fooling the kids.

Just a few days ago at a high school basketball game, for example, a 15-year-old Garden City girl asked me this: "Don't you think it's foolish and hypocritical of the government to hassle the kids for using pep pills when the adults make 'em as easy to buy as aspirin?"

Then this comment from a 17-year-old Plymouth boy after a school board meeting: "It's still true in this country: 'You can't put a million bucks in jail.' The politicians know the drug companies are over-producing these damn pills, but they won't make 'em stop."

To give this youth some solace, it should be pointed out that the Crime Committee did ask for production quotas on speed. But the measure, hotly controversial, was bitterly contested by the drug industry

and was killed in a joint House-Senate conference.

THE ISSUE does not have to end there, however. The citizens will be heard if they scream loud enough, and it's generally conceded that the people on Capitol Hill will sit up and take notice any time they get 12 or more pieces of mail on one subject.

So here's a fine chance to strike a telling blow against drug abuse. Just take out pen and paper and write a strong letter to your U.S. senator or representative. If you, like me, are a parent of teenage children, you won't delay.

Jackie Klein Writes

Southfield's Drug Program Catches On

Oakland County's eight-month-old drug abuse control program is showing signs of growing up under the watchful eye of the County Board of Commissioners.

Gerald St. Souver, director of the fledgling Dept. of Drug Abuse Control, and his three-man department, received a 1971 budget hike to \$233,000 from the commission.

The appropriation is expected to cover costs of 10 community satellite centers, a methadone clinic, 12 educational programs, a variety of special programs and a detoxification program.

A REQUEST of \$97,800 for a central treatment facility was not included in the budget pending completion and review of a "hospital needs" study.

The central hospital was to have served as a "drying out" place for addicts and a place for addicts to readjust to society. It may be pursued next

year if federal and state aid can be provided.

In the meantime, the department has provided more than \$500,000 in aid to local programs with the emphasis on education and prevention.

The program, established in April with an appropriation of \$17,500, later expanded to \$40,000, includes organizing seminars for teachers and school counselors and aiding Oakland communities in financing local programs.

A methadone maintenance center is expected to provide a minimum of 50 overnight accommodations for short-term occupancy at Pontiac General Hospital. Heroin addicts will be treated with the drug substitute as part of the program.

A total of \$206,470 has been committed to drug abuse programs in Oakland County since the Board of Commissioners created the Dept. of Drug Abuse Control.

Editorial & Opinion

OBSERVER NEWSPAPERS, INC.

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The Livonia Observer • The Redford Observer
The Westland Observer • The Garden City Observer
The Plymouth Mail & Observer • The Southfield News & Observer
The Farmington Enterprise & Observer



Serving the communities of:

Livonia, Plymouth, Plymouth Township, Canton Township, Farmington
Farmington Township, Redford Township, Garden City, Westland,
Southfield, Lathrup Village, Franklin, Bingham Farms,
Village of Beverly Hills

Published by Observer Newspapers, Inc.
271 S. Main Street, P.O. Box 200, Plymouth, Mich. 48170