Wish for '92: new holiday mindset

So goes the prevailing chant this me of year, what with the Decem-

So goes the prevailing chart this time of year, what with the December Botton gluttony gone. It was the property of the proper

pages downed before the cash of 1932. Instead it's time for the post mortem, the January malaise. Every-body feels hang over from overdoing whatever it is they do: Eating, drinking, galityanting about. Those are somewhat forgiveable sins. What isn't is another kind or exest — the growing attitude among Americans that Christmas is, first and forement, a pic-out on presents. SOME ARE caught in a blatan web of materialism instead of the spirit of peace and goodwill. The ciri-

phasis seems to be more on getting than giving.
The question of the day (Dec. 26, that is) increasingly is "Did you get what yow wanted?"
Unfortunately, many times the answer is shocking, "No, I didn't get Super Nintendo."
For too many youngsters, Christman means little more than a context to see who gets the highest pile. After, all, have you lately put as suppracts to the time it actually takes for linem to open their gifts. But if your wondering whose the ballot for this term of the context of



IIEY, TilEILE are plenty of clearance sales to peruse and 50-per-cent-off deals to take advantage of. Christmas 1992 is on its way.

Of course, I'm as gullty of this anyone, But to be truthful, I have tried to scale down the gift gorge in may home and emphasise other "non-material" aspects.

Those, to clie just a few, namely are friends, family and togetherness. Many others probably did the same, maybe due to the sluggled connony and uncertain futures. A possibility exists that some realized

sand of greed and put a lld on their spending.
Who knows how much that last point entered the picture?
But let me emphasite there's ab-solutely nothing wrong with buying gifts to give during the holidays. Where I have a problem is when peo-ple shower presents on others mere-ty to thump their chests or when re-ciplents seem to have a tally sheet going.

ly to thump their cricas or cipients seem to have a taily sheet going.

Get rid of the scorecard, please.

If that can be done, changing our mindsets for the next boliday season isn't too insurmountable a task as raa s New Year's resolutions go.

We sorely need an attitude adjustment, to relish homespun values more than a pair of Nikes.

Tim Smith is a staff reporter for the West Bloomfield Eccen-

Jackson dishes out his balonev

JIM BLANCHARD pegged the flew Jesse Jackson perfectly at the 1988 Democratic National Conven-tion: "lett-wing baloney warmed over McCovernism." Jackson is still dishing out balon-ey, this time plaguing Blanchard's successor, Gov. John Engler, over the General Assistance welfare is-sue.

Jackson contends that the cure

Jackson contends man the con-for welfare is jobs.

On his recent visit to Engler's
Detroit office, a reporter asked
Jackson about "welfare dependen-cy." His floundering reply indicat-ed he didn't know what the guy was

GENERAL ASSISTANCE, the program Engler and the Legislature ended Oct. 1, 1991, had been funded by the counties — some of them, anyway — until 1976 when state funding and rules were observed.

state funding and rules werephased in.

GA pald adults with no children,
some disabled people ineligible for
formal disability programs, those
whose unemployment benefits ran
out, and parents who no longer
were eligible for AFDC because
their kids reached 18 and the parents still hadri learned a job skill.

But go back to Jackson's and the
political leti's proposition. That job
creation reduces the need for welfare.

fare.

Here is the average General Assistance caseload for adults without kids and those on the Job Start

out kids and those on the Job Si program: Fiscal Year 1980 — 74,937, Fiscal Year 1981 — 10,437, Fiscal Year 1982 — 103,920, Fiscal Year 1983 — 127,119, Fiscal Year 1983 — 127,119, Fiscal Year 1984 — 141,956, Fiscal Year 1986 — 109,704, Fiscal Year 1986 — 109,704, Fiscal Year 1988 — 93,310, Fiscal Year 1988 — 93,310, Fiscal Year 1989 — 92,714, Fiscal Year 1989 — 92,714, Fiscal Year 1989 — 100,722, Fiscal Year 1989 — 100,722,

Fiscal Year 1991 — 99.959.
Blanchard became governor in
Fiscal Year 78 and four years later was campaigning for re-election
on the basis that 600,000 new jobs
had been created.
About half those jobs were filled
by people in the unemployment
line. A few were filled by previous
AFDC recipients. And a very few
were filled by those who had been
on General Assistance.
In short, Blanchard's "Michigan
Miracle" only dented the welfare
caseload — which wasn't Blanc-



Tim Richard

hard's fault.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE had a life of its own.

Unemployment today is in the 9 percent ballpark versus 16 to 19 percent ballpark versus 16 percent ballpark versus 16 percent ballpark versus 16 percent ballpark versus 16 percent ballpark versus 17 percent ballpark versus 17 percent ballpark versus 17 percent ballpark versus 18 percent ballpark

THIS LEAVES us in a dilemma:

• God-fearing folks don't like to see others go hungry, so they give Even agnostics and atheists are known to share this view.

• But the more and longer we give, the more who wind up as perpetual clients. To pay for the everincreasing burden, we short-change cur schools, colleges, natural resources and the arts.

Far from being a selssorhands.

our schools, colleges, natural resources and the arts.
Far from being a scissorhands, Engler has replaced GA with a new disability program, EDGE (Educational Design for Gainful Employment), a \$60 million emergency shelter program, and so on.
Essentially he juggled the programs to maximize federal matching grants. The result of his allegedy conservative action was a \$5.9 billion social services bill—the highest in Michigan history. The cure for welfare dependency? I don't know, But at least some on exists. Jesse Jackson doesn't.
Tim Richard reports replariy on the local implications of state and regional events.

from our readers

Family says thanks to the officers

To the editor.

When Norman Ringe of Wilmarth.

Avenue collapsed at bome on Christmas Eve morning, Officer Dan Dellar and Richard Hennessy from Farmington Fublis Salety answered the 9-11 call bits assistance and emergency procedures initially sustained his life until the ambiance arrived and the emergency team was able to transport him to the hospital.

Officer Dellar then cambo to the house Christmas Day, He expressed the team's concern about the outcome and said he was hesitant to inquire, not wanting to add to any grief.

We were most pleased to be able

grief.

We were most pleased to be able to tell him that Ringe was stabilized and, because of their last response. Here was no brain damage due to the stable of their course of their brain damage due to the stable of their last response to the stable of their last response to the stable of their compassion of caring. We are cheeply moved by this demonstration of their compassion and concern for others.

O .

\$20 or Lessi

THE ACCESSORIES

The Ringe family,

Increase is disguised as tax renewal

To the editor:

Do you think it's honest to disguise
a tax increase as millage renewal?
That's exactly what the Farmington School Board will be doing if, in-

ton School Board will be doing if, in-stead of renewing a school millage at its "currently authorized" level, the board asks voters for a full 5 mills — a significant tax increase. Further, in each of the next six-years, voted school millages will ex-pire and in each of, these years the district is likely to propose to the community renewal of these mil-lages.

lages.

If this tactle of a tax increase disguised as a renewal is used each
year, property taxes could increase
16 percent in addition to assessment
increases.

I share community concerns regarding state aid recapture and agree with the school board that tax base sharing is wrong.

I believe it's good that they're planning ahead as millages expire and as state school funding continues

to change. As the board looks ahead, however, it should ask voters to renew only the currently authorized portion of voted millages.

TO RENEW THE full "voted mil-age" will significantly increase our

lage" will significantly increase our taxes.

I believe that many of the people that opposed February's tax increases would not oppose a renewal of the currently authorized millage vis-avis a tax increase. If school officials

vis a tax increase. It school officials seek a tax increase, then they should show good faith by not disguising it as a "renewal".

An increase should pass on its own merits and be separate from any renewal of current millages.

The board could further save the district the money associated with holding a millage election by adding any millage renewal as a ballot issue during the annual school board election.

tion.

The board has offered no valid excuse to holding costly special elections when they can be combined with the regular annual elections.

with the regular annual elections.

The Farmington community supports good schools and continues to fund our schools at one of the highest per pupil levels in the state. The students, parents, and taxpayers deserve honest treatment from school officials.

Tax increases should not be dis-guised as "renewals" and tax issues should be put on the ballot at the same time board members seek re-

Richard DeVries, Farmington Hills

Opinions are to be shared

That's white Farmington Observer encourages its readers to share, their views with others in the From Our Readers column.

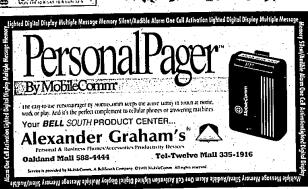
Submitting a letter to the editor for publication is easy, Letters should be typowritten or printed legibly and kept to 300 words. Letters must be signed and include the address of the sender.

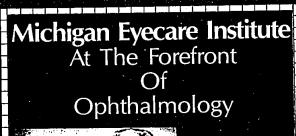
Names will be withheld only for the best of reasons, and the decision to do so will be made by the editor.

Letters should be mailed to: the editor, The Farmington Observer, 21898 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336.

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