

POINTS OF VIEW

Misgivings cloak actions of his 'daddyhood'

He watched her swim the length of the pool with porpoise-like grace and quickness. As she butterflyed through the chlorine blue of the pool's shimmer, her brown hair alic and plastered around her oval olive-colored face, he thought again of the special way he loved this young lady; unconditionally, unequivocally with every fiber of the fatherhood that encompassed his being.

Much had been written about the special joys of motherhood, he knew. Though he had skimmed more articles than read, he was aware of the unique bond that is mother and daughter. The assurance, the intuition, the silent communication and open joy felt by both mother and daughter alike. This knowledge, though, was scant balm to the deep cut inflicted on his psyche, and while he watched his beautiful



JEFFREY MILLER

young offspring, propelling herself with effortless ease through the cold deep of the complex pool, he was struck anew by the sense of completeness she brought to his life and filled with the foreboding of immense loss as her words of earlier that morning reverberated over and over in his brain, "I want to go home. I hate it here."

Divorce — that unholy alliance of quit and move on that has thrown the lives of untold millions into disarray and despair.

Divorce — the seemingly easy solution to life's problems shared by a man and a woman who no longer care to share the problems; who believe the dissolution of their vows is the natural course to follow.

Divorce, the man thought, as he fought the blink that would force the moisture from his tear-filled eyes,

home, south on I-75 after a rained-out weekend. For most, however, the cataclysmic forces set into motion after His Honor decrees the judgment final have far reaching consequences. Some are felt right away with searing agony, other consequences are felt years later, resulting in deep, throbbing feelings of loss, thoughts of what if, actions cloaked in misgivings.

Perhaps the most debilitating consequence of divorce, this father's misgivings continued, is the unalterable shift in affection, concern and comfort a child feels for a Dad after divorce.

The man's mind cleared as he watched his long-legged daughter climb from the pool and begin toweling off. He marveled at the quickness of time passing, and remembered that he had been performing the ritual of summertime parenthood since his

daughter was two years old. Now she stood there coltish, a young girl on the verge of the teen years.

She was changing like quicksilver and suddenly he was afraid. Afraid that six to 10 weeks per year together could not possibly be enough to cement the bond of family. Afraid that they would never really know each other. Afraid that she would never know how much his time spent with her meant.

As they turned to leave for his condo, he reached for her hand. "What's the matter Dad?" she asked, taking his hand for a second. "You look sad."

"Nothing honey." He smiled down at her small upturned face. "I love you."

"I love you too Daddy," she replied. "Can we have Tacos for lunch?"

Jeffrey Miller, a Southfield resident, is producer/host of "Transition."

LETTERS

A proud American

I am an American and proud to be one. I live in a country that has the greatest potential in the world. This is my country, born out of independence and free enterprise. My country has the constitutional capacity to ensure a standard of living beyond all other nations on the face of this earth.

Yet, I must stop and listen to the sounds of a tormented eagle. "Strong

and Brave Bird — where did you go?" Did the polluted air and streams contaminate your existence? Has the hungry industrialist ignored your warning? For the past 40 years has the politician compromised your fate with empty promises? "Strong and Brave Bird, are you exhausted and over-taxed?"

Unfortunately, strong and brave eagles are a dying breed. They are choking to death on institutional and political bureaucracy.

Can the few last brave eagles stand up and fly high against the tide and turbulence of our troubled state of the union? Do the brave and honorable eagles of our nation, an American civilization, have to further tolerate a fiscal system of state and federal economic collapse?

"Strong and brave bird — where did you go? Oh, got lost in the drug trafficking of our neighborhood streets? Lost your mind in our inadequate educa-

tional system of borderline mediocrity and illiteracy?

Beyond the symbolism and sarcasm, our great nation is grinding to a halt. Instead of leadership, we, Brave Eagles, are burdened by hypocritical politicians and greedy lobbyists. What great deeds have they affected? They, my Brave Eagles, promoted such programs that closed our factories, unemployed our workers, bankrupted our future generations, manipulated our constitution under the guise of national

security and human rights, squandered our tax dollar, catered to special interest groups, and corrupted the moral fabric of our American society.

Oh, Brave Eagle! "Fly to the sound of a new world order on a wing and a prayer, if it be still constitutional, on second thought, wait, listen, walk, please, don't run for you may lose your ability to fly."

George Duffour, Redford

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**Calling All Reading Challengers!**

**Find a familiar face.**

Look through today's newspaper for stories about people you know. How many could you find? Ask your parents to list the people they know.

Now look for people you don't know, but would like to meet. Choose the person who sounds the most interesting, and write two reasons why you would like to meet him or her.

(Note to adults: This is the seventh in a series of activities in the Family Reading Challenge 1992 Contest. Use this page to share some educational summer fun with your child.)

**COMMUNIST VETERANS**

A commanding view: John Richards fights point in the air.

The Wayne ArmVets Post 171 unit was named best color guard in the annual Memorial Day parade.

State of people of all ages lined the path of nearly two miles to enjoy the color guard, and the parade from John Glenn and Wayne High Schools and Franklin Junior High.

Parade lovers: A morning of parade watching Monday morning were Elmhurst.

**FAMILY READING CHALLENGE 1992 ENTRY FORM**

**Yes! I have read at least:**

3 newspaper articles and 3 books and discussed them with my parent(s) or guardian or another adult.

SIGNATURE OF YOUNG READER \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE OF ADULT \_\_\_\_\_

**1992 FAMILY READING CHALLENGE RULES:**

1. You must be in grades 1 through 8 to enter.
2. Print clearly or type the information on the entry form.
3. Entries must be signed by you and an adult and postmarked by August 28th. The drawing will be held September 2, 1992. Winners will be notified by mail.
4. Void where prohibited by law or where restricted. All federal, state and local rules and regulations apply. No purchase necessary.

Questions? Call (313)953-2155

**Please send me a "Readers Are Leaders" bumper sticker and register me in the September 2nd drawing for one \$50 gift certificate or one of the twenty-five \$10 gift certificates from Borders Book Shops in Birmingham and Novi.**

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