

POINTS OF VIEW

# Clinton's tax hike makes Hines geese look good

The verdict is in and more people would rather see the Canada geese that roam and slimo Hines Park cooked than saved.

That's the result of calls received after a column last week suggesting that if people were hungry enough, there wouldn't be a problem with too many ducks and geese roaming the parks and golf courses.

But the other side made its point, too. The geese and ducks were here first; it's we who are tromping through their turf, not them through ours. However, when it comes to cooking our collective geese, we should invite Bill Clinton over for a session in the kitchen as we do a slow burn over his tax increases.

Those tax hikes could have some positive effects. People may start looking at the geese as dinner. That would solve the problem for Livonia and other communities looking for ways to



JEFF COUNTS

cut down on their numbers.

On the subject of birds, Clinton and fellow southerner Al Gore are feathering their own nest south of the Mason-Dixon line with the energy tax that has the wildlife loving Sierra Club members throwing their trail mix in the air in delight.

A tax on BTUs will hit the north harder. There is more industry in the

north, and our climate demands we keep the furnace going full blast, while in many areas of the south folks don't even own one.

Then again northern liberals tend to believe in global warming. Maybe they're not complaining; they just figure we'll eventually have Arkansas' climate in Michigan.

Liberals who believe in global warming and non-violent means of dealing with the geese and duck problem don't realize that if Michigan ends up as warm as Arkansas, the wildfowl that migrate south for the winter will stick around during the winter.

And we may need them, if the liberal birds in the White House have their way. Perhaps having the geese stick around is the Democratic version of the Republicans' chicken in every pot.

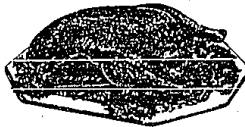
If it is, folks are ready. Kathleen Knott, of Livonia, came up with a fine recipe for roast wild goose.

The key she said is to roast the bird uncovered for about 20 to 25 minutes per pound. That's after letting an onion sit inside the goose overnight. Salt and pepper are a must, as is rolling it in flour and placing it in a pan. The global warming factor should be 325 degrees. The bird can be stuffed or not.

Edward Denko of Livonia has a recipe for a spicy goose that includes sage, parsley and garlic. The global warming factor is higher (a liberal perhaps), 350 degrees, cooking it for 18 to 20 minutes per pound. The onion inside the carcass overnight seems to be a bipartisan idea.

However, Tom Totus of Livonia would rather the geese be fed. He contends government looks silly when it tries to pass a law prohibiting people from feeding geese.

Applying the same logic, it seems pretty silly for Clinton to be imposing a



tax that will keep people from feeding themselves while at the same time the federal government at gorges itself. Chances are all our geese will be cooked.

Jeff Counts is the editor of the Plymouth and Canton Observer Newspapers and will be hunting for more than geese, if Clinton's tax hikes take effect. He can be reached at 459-2700 or faxed at 459-4224.

# Democracies transcend culture and war interests

What do some people in Birmingham, Bloomington and Detroit have in common? One of my more vociferous voice-mail critics — a Birmingham woman — deplores my support of multiculturalism. She claims I'm a "cultural relativist," but she's wrong. She doesn't grasp the concept of "cultures."

Cultures are traditional lifestyles whose heirs wage war with one another when they can find no common ground. Opposite cultures are forced into war because many values can't be imposed without war, and they often can't be described through reason, either.

Human beings — especially fiercely democratic, rebel American human beings — can't always just blindly accept what their "culture" gives them, if they hope to be truly democratized. A cultural relativist is, therefore, an undemocratic, un-American non-rebel. This lady is accusing me falsely of being what she herself is, because cul-

tural relativists care for their cultures more than they do for democracy, and if pressed, they'll support their cultures even while knowing that aspects of it are undemocratic.

Democratic American rebels' egalitarian values always take uncompromising precedence over their cultures (and anyone else's, too, a stand which can potentially pit them against just about everyone on one issue or another). This is why I've been the target of raucous ethnocentrists throughout my educational career.

The function of educational leadership in any American community isn't to support the status quo unthinkingly or to accede to the "tyranny of the majority." Neither should this be the function of governmental leadership, as our gutty, new President has beautifully begun to demonstrate.

Democracy is the only system which can truly transcend any singular culture. Thus, as Bill Clinton noted



JOHN TELFORD

(though I said it first), the reason genuine democracies don't fight each other is because they recognize that the same inalienable rights are applicable everywhere and to everyone, regardless of culture.

The conflict that occurs over democratic issues between or within democracies is engendered by those who, like my voice-mail critic, don't understand

that cherishing the contributions and contributors from all cultures is essential to the survival of democracy itself.

Detroit school board member Kwana Kenyatta and his four colleagues who don't want the stars and stripes snuffed at board meetings don't grasp this democratically-inclusive concept of multiculturalism which our flag represents. The self-styled "patriotic Americans" who practice racial and religious prejudice don't grasp it, either.

Neither does the Bloomington Board of Education, which is appealing a judicial ruling that a portrait of Jesus in a school hallway is unconstitutional. Neither do the male chauvinists who try to keep women in professional, social and physical subjugation. The bosses who don't want older workers don't grasp it. The Birmingham homophobes who oppose educating about gay and lesbian lifestyles, and Bill Clinton's homophobic antagonists who

want to bar gays from the military don't grasp it.

But Bill Clinton does. And this democratic son of the South has caught the often-kicked multicultural football and is righteously running it full speed to the assorted bigots' dismay.

Let's all get downfield and block for him. He's going to need good blockers as long as there are narrow-minded non-rebels out there like Kenyatta and the Bloomington board and the Birmingham homophobes and my voice-mail critic, who can't even see themselves when they look in the mirror.

John Telford, a Rochester Hills resident, most recently was assistant superintendent in the Rochester School District. He previously was executive director for secondary education in the Plymouth-Canton District. To leave a message for him from a Touch-Tone phone, dial 963-2047, mailbox 1879.

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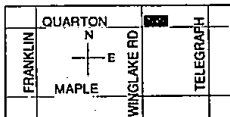
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