

POINTS OF VIEW

Give It a chance

Re: Letter from Janice Sutcliffe on June 24:
Beauty is in the eyes of the beholder. Obviously Janice Sutcliffe cannot see the future of the Kirby-White House now at Farmington and 10 Mile.
It looks pretty sad now, but when properly restored in a year or so it will be a beauty, worthy of all the blood, sweat and tears (and money) put into it.
To set the record straight, it was not the Historical Society which granted permission to move the house. It was the Farmington Hills Historic District Commission.
If you think that your property value has been decreased, check with the owner of the Kirby-White House and see what his tax bill will be when he has completed this "ridiculous mistake."
The owner has run into a streak of bad luck with the weather, which has prevented his moving the house. You can't move the heavy machinery in mud and muck.

Farmington Hills and Farmington have moved many "horrendous eyesores" to many locations.
The majority have remained as residences, and some are now housing commercial enterprises. All are well maintained.
Farmington has six or seven houses that were moved when they were in the way of road widening or new buildings. You say your rights as a property owner have been violated. How so? Does the owner of vacant property have to submit a site plan to his next door neighbors for the approval?
Many people move into a new residence, with a vacant lot or lots across the street or beside them, have a lovely view across the field. But what they fail to take into consideration is that someone may have plans for that vacant lot.
Please give the owner of the Kirby-White House a chance to have the butterfly emerge from the cocoon. Try and develop a little sense of history.
For the record, I am not acquainted with the owner of the house in question.
Nancy Leonard, Farmington

More on house

In response to Mrs. Sutcliffe's June 24 letter about the Kirby White House: This building is special, a unique building in our 169-year-old community.
Historic preservation has made Farmington a pleasant place to live. We have many buildings relating to our 169 years of tradition. There are five by a noted architect who lived here starting in the 1920s. He was Marcus Burrows.
Marcus Burrows designed a home for Kirby White and his family. Burrows designed more than 1,000 buildings in southeast Michigan during his career.
Burrows was president of the Michigan Chapter of American Institute of Architects and Michigan Society of Architects. He was also an artist as many of our outstanding architects still are.
Luman Goodenough who owned Longacres persuaded his friend to come to Farmington where a series of country estates eventually were located along Farmington Road.
Marcus Burrows built his own

house in Farmington Township. He constructed additions to the Goodenough House, which is now the Community Center.
Burrows designed other homes here including one for Edward Moseman and one for David Gray, the Spicer House in Heritage Park.
The architecture of Marcus Burrows was noted by Hawkins W. Ferry when he wrote about the architecture of Detroit.
Kirby White was general manager of the Ferry Seed Company when he built his house.
A unique house of Federalist Revival architecture designed by an outstanding Michigan architect for one of the pillars of the community is worthy of preservation.
The house was owned for the past 20 or so years by the First Presbyterian Church.
This could have caused the historically significant Kirby White House to be lost.
Their extensive religious and public service aspect make the church a unique community organization.
Along came a young craftsman and

builder who has adopted the Kirby White House. He has had it moved to his property.
He and his lovely bride appreciate the artistry of Marcus Burrows and are going to restore the house. They are a charming couple and an asset to our community.
Members of the Historic District Commission have seen Wayne Elliott's work and have noted its exceptional quality.
Although the lot at 10 Mile and Farmington Road is not as spacious as could be desired for this lovely house, it meets city codes.
This spring has been terribly rainy and wet. Even with prayers from the church the weather has not been favorable.
Please be patient, Farmington Hills. This house will make us all proud.
Of course, personally, I'm more impatient than Mrs. Sutcliffe. I have seen the plans and know the Kirby White House placed at the top of Botford Hill will add to the ambience of Farmington Hills.
Ruth Mochlman, chairman, Historic District Commission

Opportunities unmet were root of Young's problems

He was an old-time Republican state representative back in the late 1960s and early '70s — bald, didn't smile much, rarely got his name in the wire service stories. I can see his face even if I can't recall his name.
John Bennett, Democratic state representative from Redford Township, was pushing his pet bill — a regional water board to replace the Detroit Water Board.
But the old-time Republican was from Sturgis or some small city that had its own water and sewer department. Like Detroit, his town sold services to surrounding suburbs. He didn't want to see his town's suburbs someday trying to take over his water and sewer department.
So the old guy cast a deciding "no" vote in committee against Bennett's bill. He voted with Detroit. This outcome, white, small-town Republican actually voted with Detroit!
It was an advantage that Coleman Young, as mayor of Detroit for nearly 20 years, failed to exploit. Items from a suburban newsmen's scrapbook:
■ Young for 19½ years has been Detroit's delegate to the Southeast Michi-



TIM RICHARD

gan Council of Governments. He has never shown his face at the SEMCOG General Assembly or Executive Committee — 234 meetings. SEMCOG is extremely important. Even when it doesn't do much, it's a place where local elected officials come to respect each other and get their rough edges sanded off. They don't talk ignorant rot like "Hit Eight Mile Road" to each other.
■ Young was inactive in the Michigan Municipal League, an association of cities and villages. Municipalities — particularly Pontiac, Flint, Port Huron, Saginaw, Benton Harbor, Sturgis — have a lot in common with Detroit, particularly preserving older

neighborhoods and downtowns and blocking urban sprawl. Appointed once to a committee, Young never showed up in two years.
■ Young was rarely visible with the Michigan delegation at the four Democratic national conventions I covered. Gov. Jim Blanchard, Sen. Carl Levin and the party chairs were accessible. Young was in a VIP box somewhere.
■ Young, the Wayne and Oakland County executives and the chair of Macomb County started a series of "Big Four" confabs. It lapsed into uselessness. Guess why.
■ Every so often, usually at the beginning of a term, Young would talk about cooperation with neighboring communities. But he never lifted a finger or rode one mile in his armored limousine to follow through.
Young's tactic, in his own words, was never deal with the "house nigger," only with the main man — the president or governor.
Worse, his policy was to look out only for one city — not the towns of 200,000 or 50,000 or 5,000 that had the same problems. He helped shape the popular — but wrong-headed — notion that associates "urban" with black-dominated cities of more than 1 million.

And so he squandered two decades, almost a generation, of opportunity to help all cities and villages, including Detroit. He ignored potential allies, like the old, bald Republican state representative.
A number of times, Young's people invited me and other outside news people to his a.g.s. I suggested we get together at a SEMCOG meeting. Fat chance.
Young is retiring. Dennis Archer will be the next mayor of Detroit. I wrote a column two years ago saying Archer had the same bad attitude toward "the (white) media" as Young. Archer replied by sending me one of his questionnaires on what I thought Detroit's problems were and how to resolve them.
I had only one basic suggestion. If Mayor Archer is serious, he'll show up at SEMCOG meetings. Not everybody may love Detroit and Detroiters, but the old city has a lot more potential allies than Young imagined.
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ART EMANUEL/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Coleman Young: Detroit mayor

Controlling violence on TV can help control behavior

My 11-year-old son Nathan was talking with my wife, Kathy, after dinner. I was reading a magazine and not following their conversation. Suddenly, a line: "There are only two or three fights a week at school now."
I sat bolt upright. "What's that about fights again, Nathan?"
"Just what I said, Dad, only two or three fights a week."
Now, Nathan goes to a good public school. It's not perfect, but the principal is tough and fair, and the kids look like the face of America: hopeful, varied, mostly decent.
I remembered my own school in Ann Arbor, back in the '50s. I could recall only one fight in my entire school career.
I asked Kathy, who grew up in a little farming town in Wisconsin and then lived in Oklahoma. One or two in her entire schooling.
Of course, society has changed since Kathy and I were growing up. It's coarser, more varied, less restrictive, more open. And without doubt, much more violent. Nathan's two or three fights a week are a reflection of the times he is growing up in.
What's the major contributor? Television, of course.
Hearings earlier this month in Washington featured the usual parade of self-serving industry mouthpieces arguing: 1) Violence is what people want to watch. 2) Violence on TV doesn't necessarily cause violent behavior. 3) Anyway, restricting violence on TV violates the First Amendment.
Rubbish.
For years, a growing band of researchers has been pointing to the link between kids exposed to violence on TV and their subsequent aggressive and violent behavior.
A recent summary article in "The Public Interest" by Brandon S. Centerwall, an epidemiologist at the University of Washington, concluded that no less than seven U.S. and Canadian studies show a correlation between prolonged childhood exposure to TV and a tendency to physical aggression that extends from before adolescence into adulthood.

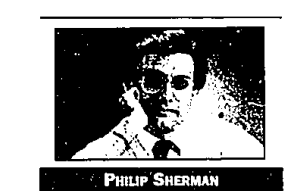


PHILIP POWER

■ We certainly can't depend on the television industry to regulate itself. Maybe we are at the point where decent people operating through the government have got to say there must be certain standards for TV.
What can be done?
Centerwall suggests requiring all television sets be manufactured with locking devices through which parents can control children's access to certain channels.
That's a good idea, although it presupposes the kinds of parents who are worried about their children's exposure to violence in the first place. It also assumes that acts of violence are confined to certain channels at certain times.
Wrong. Most parents know perfectly well that even regular network prime time programs — including Saturday morning cartoons — are absolutely shot through with violence.
Following the example of the tobacco companies, we certainly can't depend on the television industry to regulate itself. Maybe we are at the point where decent people operating through the government have got to say there must be certain standards for TV and that's it.
Philip Power is chairman of the company that owns this newspaper. His Touch-Tone voice mail number is (313) 953-2047, Ext. 1880.

Quality ought to rule on fate of our teachers, politicians

Why? We send politicians to Lansing and as soon as they get there, they decide less government is the way to go, so under the guise of letting citizens directly control their own fate, the politicians shrug off the tough decisions by passing them to us in the form of elections.
That's contrary to my understanding of the system.
I thought we elected politicians to make, not dodge, decisions. If we don't care for the decisions, then we cancel the politician's ticket.
Right?
So, putting these two thoughts together: If we have to make the decisions anyway, because politicians won't, and if politicians are for less government, as they say they are, then let's oblige the indecisive by not sending them back to Lansing the next time around.
■ It seems that every year someone comes up with a new test students must pass to prove their proficiency, yet we have no way of measuring the skills of their teachers.
That doesn't seem fair, particularly when we spend so much time and so much money trying to figure out how to fund our public school systems.
Teachers who inspire, motivate and make a student want to learn cannot be paid enough. It would be nice to reward them, if we knew, with some certainty, who they were.
I started thinking about this when Bob Block, Southfield's city manager, said one of the reasons Proposal A should be defeated is that throwing more money at our public schools, without a system of evaluation, is no guarantee students will get a better education.
Block is correct.
Before Gov. John Engler launches another incomplete plan to fund schools, we must decide exactly what we want our school systems to accomplish, and then devise a method to monetarily support our plan.
■ There's an understanding in the media that, more or less, it's OK to print the name of a person formally charged with a crime,



PHILIP SHERMAN

but not the name of the accuser if the crime involves criminal sexual conduct, minors, or both.
Students and parents called to complain about a story we ran. The story said a 17-year-old male high school senior had been charged with varying degrees of criminal sexual conduct regarding two 15-year-old girls.
We named the 17-year-old in the story. His name became a matter of public record when his case was referred to circuit court from district court.
We didn't name the 15-year-olds.
The 17-year-old was named because the community has a right, and a need, to know when its law enforcement network approves charges against one of its own.
We also named him because it's in his best interests.
Not a week goes by without reading about someone, in some distant court, being charged with a crime and then dropping out of sight.
An arraignment in this country is designed to do several things.
One of its most important functions is to show the public that the accused has not been "disappeared" into the system and forgotten.
That's why the proceedings are public.
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