

POINTS OF VIEW

Rouge project finds its place for business owners

If you have not fallen into the Rouge River while skating on it in the winter or walking or biking along its banks in the summer during the 1950s, you haven't really experienced the worst the river has ever offered. Water, polluted or not, always has been a strong attraction for kids. Having grown up in Dearborn, we've had the pleasure or should we say the displeasure of having done all of the above.

Since the 1950s with the efforts and contributions of many civic groups, Friends of the Rouge in particular, we have observed a dramatic improvement in the condition of the river. We have also become more educated and aware of what a delicate and important resource this is to conserve.

Recently, there has been conversation to develop boat tours along the Rouge River. The tours would be an approximate 4-mile trip down the river connecting such landmarks as the Henry Ford Estate, Ford Motor Company's historic Rouge Industrial Complex and Greenfield Village. Planners in both Dearborn and Melvindale are pursuing this development. Others involved in the project include the University of Michigan-Dearborn, Ford Motor Land Development Corporation and several municipalities. "The Rouge hasn't been in a positive light for some time, but the boat tours would reintroduce people to the river and all of its history," Edsel B. Ford II was recently quoted saying. Who would have imagined this to be possible 40 years ago?

QUEST COLUMNISTS



TONY AND JUDY SCARPACE

We are also doing our part. We are pleased to offer Friends of the Rouge place mats in Quizzo's Classic Subs, our restaurant in Farmington Hills, to help share knowledge and information pertaining to the various activities and events associated with the

Rouge River. The place mats have been a topic of conversation and have been well-received by our patrons. Not only do they serve a practical purpose, but the map alone has been helpful to our out-of-town visitors in giving them a visual depiction of the surrounding communities. Quizzo's is a fast-food restaurant, so place mats are available for the use of customers when they pick up their food at the counter.

Recently, our supply of Friends of the Rouge place mats was depleted and you would have thought that we removed a popular item from our menu. We did not realize what an expected feature the place mats had become. With our new and redesigned supply of place mats came even more positive comments demonstrating to

us the awareness level of people in our community. The added customer satisfaction the Friends of the Rouge place mats have brought to us is one that we hope is with us for a long time to come.

We must all do our part to contribute to the well-being of this precious natural resource.

Tony and Judy Scarpace both grew up and continue to live in Dearborn. They own and operate Quizzo's Classic Sub restaurant at Orchard Lake Road and 12 Mile in Farmington Hills. To date, 100,000 Rouge River place mats have been distributed in Wayne and Oakland counties. To get more information about the availability of the place mats, call the Rouge Information Line, (313) 961-0730.

Cloning plays second fiddle to old-style reproduction

Legislatures are reactive bodies. As quickly as they perceive public interest in a topic—such as cloning an animal, or even a human—they rush to write news releases and laws.

So it is in Michigan in the wake of Chicago physicist Richard Seed's statement that he intends to clone humans.

Cloning: the duplication of the genetic material of one creature. Princeton's Harold Shapiro, the former University of Michigan president who chaired the president's National Bioethics Advisory Commission, said the Scottish cloned sheep Dolly is merely a genetic twin, delayed, of a single adult sheep.

Rep. Kirk Profit, D-Ypsilanti, is horrified at the prospect of cloning a human. "A clone is a result of genetic manipulation in a lab that doesn't reflect the Creation you and I and all of us are," he said during the Jan. 25 Channel 7 "Spotlight on News" show. "Life comes from one Source with a

capital S." He refers to a clone as "an entity they might call a human." Profit it seems to suggest a human clone wouldn't have a soul.

"Immoral," added Sen. Loren Bennett, R-Canton. "God is the entity that creates life. Just because we have the technology to do it, that doesn't mean we should do it."

What bothers me is not whether a clone would have a soul (I think it would) but the fact that it took 277 embryos, a bunch of spontaneous abortions and stillbirths to produce Dolly. The chance of wasting as many innocent human souls is too costly.

Profit, a 45-year-old ex-undersheriff and five-term lawmaker, chaired the committee that produced three bills awaiting full House action:

■ HB 4846 saying one "shall not clone or attempt to clone a human being," revoking the medical license forever of anyone who tries it, and fining the miscreant \$10 million in civil damages.



TIM RICHARD

■ 4962 amending the penal code to make cloning a crime punishable by 10 years in prison and a fine of \$5,000.

■ 5475 prohibiting state funds for cloning research.

Bennett has parallel bills, except that his "sunset" after several years and would need to be reconsidered. "With term limits (taking effect after 1998 in the House and 2002 in the Senate), we must build in more sunsets. We might make a mistake."

They agree that even research on

human cloning ought to be stopped. "The public is demanding it. It's the right thing to do," said Bennett, a 46-year-old former township official and first-term senator.

Not so fast, said professor Toby Citrin, a lawyer and public health expert at U-M. "Cloning also has the potential of alleviating a lot of pain and suffering... I don't think there's anything essentially immoral about cloning..."

"We're not ready to clone a human yet... Scientists I've talked to say we're years away. We're going at it (legislatively) the reverse of the way it ought to be."

"A temporary hold (advocated by Shapiro's commission) makes good sense. We should leave our options open beyond that," Citrin said. While he personally likes Profit, Citrin is clearly unhappy with the Legislature's rush to legislation.

I see a glut of confusing rules coming down the pike.

The federal Food and Drug Admin-

istration last week declared it has the power to block scientists from cloning through denying "investigational new drug applications."

Meanwhile, U.S. Rep. Vern Ehlers, R-Grand Rapids, the former college physicist, has a congressional bill to ban federal financing of human cloning experiments.

And then we have the half-dozen legislative bills in Michigan.

So who is in charge? Who needs this triplication? We should be able to agree that the way nature and nature's God designed reproduction would result in less "inbreeding," and a better genetic mix and more fun.

There's just something innately more healthful about a mom and dad producing and raising a baby.

Tim Richard reports on the local implications of state and regional events. His Touch-Tone voice mail number is (734) 953-2047, Ext. 1881.

Journalist earns his stripes

In my experience, most newspaper folks feel slightly uncomfortable when they are the ones being written about. Perhaps it's because they prefer to be judged on the basis of their own work.

But there's a good reason to violate this practice in the case of Tim Richard, who for many years has been the head of this newspaper's statewide news service, reporting on Lansing and on state stories that have local significance to our readers. You see, Tim has just been elected to the Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame, a very big honor, especially for a reporter still in the prime of his career.

Because Tim would never do it himself, I'm writing this column to mark his achievements and to say how fortunate I've been to have worked with him for more than 30 years.

I first met Tim Richard back in the early '60s when I was administrative assistant for U.S. Rep. Paul H. Todd Jr. Tim was the political reporter for the Kalamazoo Gazette.

He asked tough questions, time after time. He quoted me and the congressman accurately, time after time. He saw through the spinning, time after time, but he was never unfair, never played "gotcha" in the news columns. He was one terrific reporter.

After I started my own company in 1966, I asked Tim if he'd come back home to southeastern Michigan and help me create a new kind of community journalism, focused on what the news really meant for real people, living in their own hometowns. I was so pleased when he agreed to come, and over all the years we've worked together I've never felt any different.

When I told Tim I was going to write this column about him, he got a little grumpy. But he lightened up when I asked him to tell me about his favorite moments in journalism. Here they are, in his own words:

"The 1966 expose on how the Western Michigan University board held secret meetings (from which I was specifically excluded) and made policy decisions. The story was spiked (killed) by the editor of the Kalamazoo Gazette, who devoutly believed that the 'community leaders' serving on the board were incapable of doing bad."

"This led directly to advocacy of the 1976 Open Meetings Act and my activity in the Society of Professional Journalists and Michigan FOI Committee Inc. to defend the 'sunshine' laws, teaching people how to use them through seminars and newsletters. Our biggest thrill is when civic troublemakers and journalists use the 'sunshine' laws to learn about government and have their own chances for input."

Tim adds another highlight: "In the 1980s, I edited columns of freelancers Penny Wright-



PHILIP POWER

Steele and Tim Nowicki. Both won Michigan Audubon Society awards as journalist of the year.

"We turned Steele's casual observations of crowded ladies' rooms into a series that resulted in Michigan's 'potty parity' law sponsored by Rep. Jan Dolan, R-Farmington Hills. It will require adequate ladies' restrooms in the new Tigers' and Lions' stadiums."

In the early '90s, Tim began to notice the busy doings of the Religious Right at the local level. He wrote me a compelling memo on the subject that led to "stories and columns exposing the Religious Right's 'stealth' political tactics and hidden agenda toward public education."

Tim also covered national politics, but from a local angle. In 1988, he caught "Gov. Jim Blanchard's remark that Jesse Jackson's Democratic national convention speech was 'left-wing baloney; warmed-over McGovernism, but not as good.' This brought me the most fame, but in terms of its impact on people it was not as good as my open meetings, age of majority, environmental editing and Religious Right work."

Did you catch the key phrase, "impact on people"? That's the core of Tim's work ethic and why at the end of the day he's in the Journalism Hall of Fame. The guiding objective of his reporting is the eventual impact of people in their daily lives.

Tim is probably as good a reporter as exists today in Michigan; he's accurate, thorough and knowledgeable and he's got a memory like an elephant. He insists on being detached from the news events he's covering, but he is passionate about the concrete results his work produces.

I've gained immeasurably as a journalist and a manager by working alongside Tim. But the people of Michigan have gained far more from his career than I.

Phil Power is chairman of HomeTown Communications Network Inc., the company that owns this newspaper. He welcomes your comments, either by voice mail at (734) 953-2047, Ext. 1880, or by e-mail at ppower@eonline.com.

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