

OBSERVATION POINT

Women's Libbers Putting Girls In Proper Status

By Philip H. Power
Publisher

An interesting set of things happened in the last couple of elections around these parts, and they revolve around women.

In September's Schoolcraft College election, the leading candidate for a six-year term was Rosina Raymond, and the leader for a two-year term was Mary Dumas.

In Westland's Nov. 2 city council race, Justine Barns led the pack for the second time in three elections. That same day, Beverly McAninch, in her first bid for public office, topped the field against a number of veterans in the Plymouth city commission race.

Just last week, Jeaneane Havstad of Livonia beat an incumbent male for the leadership of the Human Rights Party of Michigan.

NOW, IT'S NOT new to see women elected to office. Southfield has Jean McDonnell on the city council and Luise Runkel on the school board; Farmington, Margaret Schaefer on the township board, Kay Stirling and Betty Brennan on the school board; Redford Township, Ruth Sullivan as clerk; Livonia, Geraldine Joyner and Connie Hierta on the school board; Plymouth, Esther Hulsing on the school board, Helen Richardson and Elizabeth Holmes in township offices; and Wayne-Westland school board, Anne Harbison.

Nor is it spectacular to see a woman leading the pack.

What's interesting, when you stand back and look at all the races, is to see the changing tone of the ladies' election campaigns. Less and less do you hear them saying, "We need a woman on the board."

Increasingly, they are running on their own abilities, their own merits, their own past performances in civic projects, their own intellectual abilities.

Less and less does a woman think she needs a trademark, like the gigantic hats that Detroit Councilman Mary Beck used to wear. Take one simple example: When she ran for Livonia city council in 1970, Mrs. Dumas used a big flower as her political symbol; she dispensed with that in winning her college board seat.

I think it's one way our politics are getting healthier. The Women's Liberation Movement probably had a lot to do with it.

MOST WOMEN and nearly all men chuckle at women's lib, and it's probably true that many libbers are shrill and are making outlandish demands that will never be written into the statute books.

But it's undeniable that women's lib has made us all a lot more conscious, in business and

politics and everywhere, of the way we used to put women "in their place."

Margaret Miller, our women's editor, points out something that I hadn't been conscious of. When she would take down names in a group

picture five years ago, a woman would give her name as "Mrs. John Jones." It was considered bad form to say or write "Mrs. Ann Jones."

That's all past. Increasingly, the lady will say "Mrs. Ann Jones." In fact, many club secre-

taries will list officers in items they send us and just drop the "Mrs." If a woman's marital status has nothing to do with the story, we may even leave it that way.

Women's libbers point out that a woman's marital status is irrelevant in the business/political world, adding that both "Miss" and "Mrs." derive from the same root word — "mistress."

So they want all women to be addressed as "Ms." — pronounced "Miz."

IT SOUNDS funny to me and

probably sounds funny to most of you, but think again: We don't call married men "Mr." for "mistress" and bachelors "Ma." for "master." Why hang a label on a woman's marital status?

Actually, there's a perfect reason for describing a woman in print as "Mrs. John Jones" instead of "Mrs. Ann Jones." If she's a club president, how do you look up her number in the telephone book?

One of the more carefully-worded news releases I've seen came from the above-mentioned Human Rights Party. It went three pages, listed all the officers

(including four women) and never once used the term "Miss" or "Mrs." — which takes a lot of careful wording if you've ever tried it.

Moreover, as a concession to women's lib, the HRP gave its top officer the rather strained title of "chairperson."

But on the last page, the biographical sheet on the chairperson, I noted that the very first thing they said is that she is "married and the mother of four children."

It must have been written by a woman.

Tim Richard writes

Overpopulation Hits Canoeing On Streams

A lot of boy scouts and girls scouts in Observerland are getting a hard lesson in ecology this month.

They are getting letters from Grayling canoe liveries on the Au Sable River telling them with alarm about the new restrictions the state Dept. of Natural Resources plans to put on that stream as well as on the Manistee, Pine and Pere Marquette.

Briefly, the DNR is planning a system of permits to reduce drastically the number of canoes per hour that can pass a given point.

The DNR has set a public hearing for Dec. 1 at 1:30 p.m. in the auditorium of the Seven Story Office Bldg. in Lansing to hear more opinions, but anyone who thinks the state will abandon the tentative plans entirely — or even modify them drastically — is going to be sadly mistaken.

THE LESSON is that there are just too many people trying to make use of a limited number of natural resources. Our rivers have an over-population problem. It's here, fellas and girls — not out among the teeming masses of India and China. The over-population problem is right here.

We have an election year coming up. We'll have politicians running for the U.S. Senate and House, the State House of Representatives and our county commissions. Ask every last one of 'em if he or she thinks there is an over-population problem and what should be done about it. You're going to see some tin horns fidget and hem and haw when you ask that one. I know. Observer reporters have been asking it already.

The Au Sable is a spectacularly beautiful river. There are an incredible number of bird songs you'll never hear anywhere else. The air is indescribable.

But there are too many riverfront cottage owners, too many boy and girl scout troops, too many trout fishermen — too many people. Even if we reached "zero population growth" right now, we'd still have too many people. What can we do about it? Several things.

FOR OUR TROOP, the Au Sable trip on the first weekend in June has been a traditional thing. The troop committee is going to be forced to consider two alternatives:

- Does the trip have to be in June or even May? That's when the trout are biting the best, but most boy and girl scouts aren't trout fishermen. How about sometime after Labor Day or when the trout season closes? We've had some great weekends this fall for canoe trips.

- Does the trip have to be to the Au Sable? There are many long stretches of the Huron River that are 95 per cent as beautiful as the Au Sable. The Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority, better known as the folks who run Kensington Park, publish superb canoeists maps of the Huron and Clinton rivers, complete with mileages, times, campsites, picnic sites, portage points, whitewater spots, landing sites and everything.

Or how about Hell Creek? the Red Cedar? the upper reaches of the Kalamazoo? the Thornapple? They're a whole lot closer than the Au Sable, and there are fewer fishermen on them.

A bunch of lively operators around Grayling are talking like the world's coming to an end, but a lot of good can come out of the new canoeing restrictions on the popular rivers if it makes us all more concerned about over-population and about the condition of some of the other rivers in our state.

Jackie Klein writes

Woes Of Mom With Family Pets

While many of my friends are showing off pictures of their cherubic, pudgy-cheeked grandchildren, I have gradually become grandmother to a menagerie and keeper of the animal kingdom.

Our son wasn't around when the saying "Get a horse" was all the rage back in the days of the first automobile.

HERE IT IS 1971 and he's got a 1969 Mustang but he paid \$200 for a horse at an auction sale, outbidding more conservative equestrians.

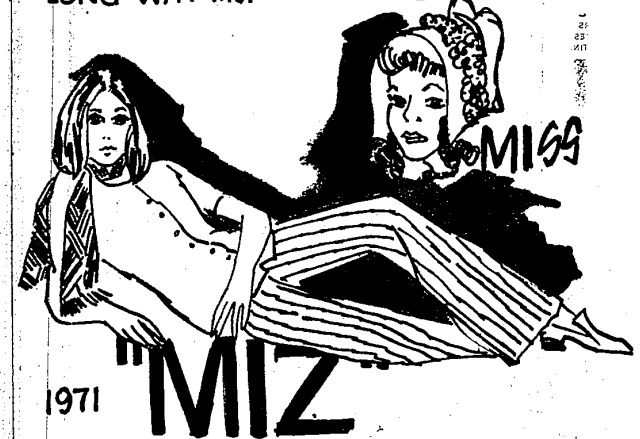
To a penny-pinching kid who always figured if he couldn't take it with him, he'd come back and get it, two bills is a lot of cats, not to mention \$7.50 a week for room and board.

Besides the horse and our 13-year old poodle, we acquired a female kitten called "Omar" and a female puppy called "Lucas." Talk about home on the range.

Lucas was picked up by our son from a weeping girl holding a sign announcing, "Free puppy to anyone who will give her a good home." The free puppy turned out to cost \$50 worth of distemper shots and worming and I was the one who was weeping.

We sent Omar to the veterinarian for de-clawing and she came home with three kittens we

YOU'VE COME A LONG WAY MS.



Leonard Poger writes

Hearings Are Wasted Time

People are funny.

They read our editorials and object to the conclusions reached.

We have no negative feelings about that. An occasional difference of opinion is good for the soul.

BUT WHAT makes us feel good at times is that the course of human events after the editorials are published clearly demonstrates that the printed words on these pages are still running true to form.

For example, this writer in the past few months called for the abolition of public hearings by governmental agencies and criticized the method of having school administrators handle contract negotiations with 'employees' unions because of the inherent conflict of interest involved.

WITHIN A month or two of the public hearing editorial, the Westland City Council held a hearing on the necessity of widening Warren Rd. near Westland Center.

All of the Warren property owners making comments at the hearing opposed the widening.

But their feelings, no matter how well intentioned, will have absolutely no bearing on the issue.

You see, the city council signed an agreement with the County Road Commission seven months ago to widen the road and pay 40 per cent of its cost.

To rub insult to the residents' financial wounds, the city council approved a voucher for \$335,000 four days after the hearing to pay for the widening.

So why hold public hearings?

ON THE contract negotiations, the Wayne-Westland Community Schools and the Garden City school boards recently ratified union contracts with various employees' groups.

About the same time, the boards approved pay raises for its administrators which were in line with what the union members received.

But who is responsible for the first line of defense in the salary negotiations?

The same administrators who got the same raises they helped negotiate at the table.

Editorial & Opinion

OBSERVER NEWSPAPERS, INC.

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The Livonia Observer • The Redford Observer
The Westland Observer • The Garden City Observer
The Plymouth Mail & Observer • The Southfield News & Observer
The Farmington Enterprise & Observer



Member
SUBURBAN
NEWSPAPERS
OF AMERICA



Published by Observer Newspapers, Inc.
36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, Mich. 48150

Serving the communities of:
Livonia, Plymouth, Plymouth Township, Canton Township, Farmington
Farmington Township, Redford Township, Garden City, Westland,
Southfield, Lathrup Village, Franklin, Bingham Farms,
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