

Keep the Magic of the Season

And a little child shall lead them. No matter what a person's religious beliefs may be — there is magic in the air at the Christmas season. Perhaps it is because people do exude "good will toward men." People want "peace on earth."

Enemy on Outside

(Reprint from Michigan Democrat) "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the right of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."

The First Amendment to the United States Constitution is unequivocally clear. Every American, even if he stands alone, has the right to protest his government's policies, both foreign and domestic.

During the history of our nation, there have been short periods of time when the right of dissent has been seriously challenged. The most flagrant challenge in recent years came in the 1950's when the late Senator Joseph McCarthy carried on his personal vendetta against any and all persons who disagreed with him. This threat to free speech was not and conquered.

It now appears that another serious threat to freedom of expression and dissent is imminent. With notable exceptions, pronouncements from the press, radio and television commentators, elected officials, government spokesmen and writers to editors reflect growing concern with, and in many cases denigrating objections to, the opinions of a minority of Americans who disagree with our nation's policy in Vietnam.

The Vietnam dissenters are in the minority. Of this, there can be no doubt. Many of them are using tactics which may be ill-advised. Certainly, burning draft cards and lying on railroad tracks in front of troop trains add nothing to the debate over U. S. policy in Vietnam.

While many persons consider such actions irresponsible and detrimental to rational debate, it must be recognized that it is equally irrational to condemn as un-American and traitorous these persons who have offered reasonable, constructive and intelligent criticism of U. S. foreign policy.

The case of Vietnam is not an open and shut one. Those who claim an easy solution to this complex problem have not seriously considered the many alternatives of dealing with aggression and oppression in a nuclear age.

Men posing as experts bombard the public with their bargain-basement solutions. One case in point, A political scientist at Michigan State University recently signed a letter along with numerous other professors and other men from around the nation in which they defended U. S. policy in Vietnam. This letter was sent to editors throughout the nation. They called themselves "Scholars and Specialists" who have "devoted much of their adult lives to study and work in South and East Asian affairs."

The headlines over their letter in one Michigan newspaper read "20 Experts Reply to Attacks

the Christmas season, busy adults pause a moment to notice and do their best to create that special happiness that comes from pleasing a child.

Don't let anyone spoil Christmas for you — find the littlest Angel you can to be with and the true spirit of the season will live in your heart too.

Common Foe

Gov. George Romney was wrong in comparing the John Birch Society with the Communist Party at this time.

It is probably no longer accurate to say that the Society is a lightly knit, secret organization. When Robert Welch brought the first disciples of Birch together in Belmont, Mass., it was set up as an organization patterned closely after the communists—the better to fight them with. It would be small, secret, and ruthless.

At times have changed for the Birchers. There have been some respectable. Particularly in southern California, they are no longer small or secret. And they have come into the political market place to look for more support.

But not all of the similarities between birchism and communism have disappeared.

For instance both share the same real enemy—democracy. The Birchers call it mob rule; at the same time the communists are calling for a dictatorship of the proletariat.

Birchers love to tell of the many ex-communists in their ranks. Here, inadvertently, they are conceding the psychological similarities between themselves and the communists. Both subscribe to the "conspiratorial theory" of history. To the Communists, every event can be explained by the actions of a few key individuals of businessmen. And the Birchers see all bad things as having been caused by secret Communist agents.

The most dangerous communist of all? Of course: Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Wm. O. Remaley Livonia

Editor's Note: At no time has this newspaper impugned the honesty of this board.

Staff Fringe Benefit Editor: Please print these heartfelt expressions of gratitude to each and every member of your editorial staff. During my three



THE READER SPEAKS UP: Wants General Town Meeting To Discuss Board of Education

Editor: Attention Mr. and Mrs. Property Owner and Tax Payer, City of Livonia. How much longer are you going to stand by and let your Board of Education make monkeys out of you? Or to baffle you by their tricky, deception, and lies?

Their recent action with the Salary Raise for the Poor Mr. Superintendent of your schools, really takes the cake. It is almost unbelievable that your Board of Education members are working for this superintendent, to see just how much higher they can place his salary. And you and you, Mr. Tax Payer and Property Owner, must pay the bill. What are you going to do about it?

There is something that can be done about this dishonesty, cheating, deception and lies, to you, the property owners and tax payers.

Mr. and Mrs. Property Owners and Tax Payers, let's have a general town meeting on the complete matter of your school system and your elected board of education members. It's all up to you, and in your hands, what to do about this dishonesty. Let's hear from you, through this newspaper. Thank you.

Wm. O. Remaley Livonia

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Staff Fringe Benefit Editor: Please print these heartfelt expressions of gratitude to each and every member of your editorial staff. During my three

years' residence in Livonia, I Church were smeared with red paint, and earlier this week the Detroit Free Press reported 17 cars in the Joy-Plymouth area were damaged by rowdies.

The conditions and incidents discussed above did not occur in the slums of Detroit nor did they occur in Selma, Alabama, or the hills of Kentucky. No ethnic group can be blamed. Nor can poverty be considered a factor.

We can only blame ourselves for not: (1) Showing our children by example that we must respect the property of others.

(2) Teaching our children to have reverence for places of worship, schools, and homes.

(3) Knowing where our children are at night and what they are doing; and

(4) Insisting that our children be safe at home at reasonable hours, instead of roaming the streets.

All too frequently, we have substituted material gifts for eternal love and guidance.

R. F. JARES

Teen Panel Comment Editor: As I mentioned in my letter of application, I was very happy to see the establishment of the Observer's Teen Panel. Now, after participating in it, I am more enthusiastic. It is often that an organization exerts the extra bit of effort to put a positive accent on teen life.

The first discussion session proved to be very interesting and it brought to light a few points which could make the entire operation more profitable. I hope you will consider these suggestions:

For the first few sessions, have a rotating membership of all applicants. After several meetings, choose a supervisory committee of several teenagers that would be permanent members, and could help in the organization of each session. (The remainder of the teens applying, and not on the supervisory committee could then continue to be in the rotating membership.)

If teens were supervising the panel, there might be more participation on the part of the teens, and the panel would be more interesting.

The supervisory board might also arrange to have meetings with various groups which are actively interested in such discussion — for instance, the high school debate societies, and fornicity clubs.

With a panel organized in this manner, I feel that the discussions would give birth to more clearly defined opinions, and more critical analysis of those opinions.

MARGE McCULLOUGH Editor's Note: The Teen Panel will appear next week.

Praise For Dr. Burke Editor: I've been reading your columns and am glad to hear you speak so well of Dr. Albert Burke of "Probe." I'd hoped to be on hand to hear and see him but some how he came when I wasn't looking. I do hope you can manage to get him back again. He was so wonderful on TV. I've missed the program so I followed your suggestion and wrote to WWJ which is something I never do. Good luck in your campaign for good.

Elmie M. Daniels Redford Township

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86,250

The foregoing press-run figure is certified by the Post-Office Corporation, Detroit, Michigan.

Observing the Scene...

By MYRA CHANDLER

They said it couldn't be done — but it was and darn well, too. Skeptics are everywhere — spreading negative thinking wherever it will sell.

The areas of endeavor this week tipped over the negativism, however, and they were pleasures to behold.

One was the ambitious undertaking of the Livonia-Redford Theatre Guild's "Stop The World — I Want To Get Off." It played at Bentley High School last week-end and will be playing again Dec. 3, 4 and 5.

As an Anthony Newly fan (author who was in the original cast), it seemed to me community theatre doing the symbolic "Stop The World" would be ludicrous. I listened and agreed with all of the armchair directors and critics who mouthed my private thoughts of doubt.

We were all proven wrong. It was an excellent production. Great directing, choreography, supporting cast. Fine and convincing work by veteran community theatre actress Livonian Moya Thormina as Eve.

But the real kudos go to the main role, "Littiechap," as played by a Redford High School student Larry Parks. He plans on attending Northwestern University for dramatic training. As long as he has the desire there is no way for him to miss. He played this difficult and most meaningful role with timing and taste.

But there is more to make this convincing and good theatre — and the more is all important. There was a meshing — a teamwork — lights, scenery... believe me, I know, teamwork with energy and enthusiasm pays off... it can be done.

Then there is the Adlai Stevenson High School in Livonia. It will open in November, said Business Administrator Ron Upton — "No, no, no," said they, — well the students came marching in on Tuesday, Nov. 30, 700 strong. Of course the school isn't all finished, but the instructional unit is and classes, teachers, books, chairs, lockers, drinking fountains and lavatories are all present and accounted for.

There are a few blackboards, window drapes and connections missing — but there is heat — and there are workmen — and somehow it all came off very fine on opening day.

Maybe this, too, can be explained as an enthusiastic crew of non-professionals, good teacher morale; and students kind of proud to "be the first" in the school.

A sense of humor helps as noted on one of the few blackboards in the school — "Silver Lining (or) Don't worry about a thing — nothing is going to be all right!"

Again — behind the scenes men put it over. Thomas Abbott, who got up at 4 a.m. Tuesday to get the chairs moving in order for them to be at the school when the first students arrive — he is in charge of stock control — and that means everything from a pencil to the new Harold McVicar, head of the district's custodians — and Tom Reinhardt, chief custodian for the new Stevenson High School. There are others.

Some parts of the building won't be ready until July. The school library is presently in shambles, unpainted, tile not laid, shelves not completed, wiring exposed, electricity not connected — but Assistant Superintendent Upton said it will be ready in two weeks — frankly, I don't think it can be done.

For Safety of 600 Livonia Police Dept. Traffic Commissioner Livonia

We need your help in protecting the safety of the 600 students of Garfield Elementary school.

As you know, the Garfield school is located in the Country Homes subdivision, a large number of children are crossing streets between 3:30 and 4:00 p.m.

Recently Ford Motor Co. opened a parking lot gate facing the intersection of Plymouth Road and Yale Ave. This, coupled with the paving of Levan Road and the remainder of Yale Ave., has resulted in a drastic increase of high speed through traffic in the Country Homes area. There has also been a disproportionate increase in the running of stop signs in the area. These problems occur between 3:30 and 4:00 p.m. at the height of child pedestrian traffic.

The result is an extremely dangerous situation. Please help us alleviate this problem before a tragedy occurs.

Susan Morgan, Corresponding Secretary, Garfield PTA

Mail To Viet Nam Editor: Recently I wrote a letter to the Adjutant General in Washington. I asked for the address for sending Christmas mail and cards to the soldiers in Viet Nam. Today I received a very nice letter with the address.

Sending that your paper reaches many communities, many people will see it. They address it to: Information Officer U.S. Military Assistance Command, Viet Nam, APO San Francisco 96243

All they have to do is sign their names on the card, put the address on it and a regular five cent stamp. Then they will be sent on to Vietnam. I think many will be interested in this.

MRS. SHEILA OBERDORF FARMINGTON

Approves NW Clinic Editor: I think your Editorial regarding our responsibility to the Northwest Child Guidance Clinic is a sample of the fine job you are doing to point up our civic responsibilities, even

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