

Observer Newspapers

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Russian Roulette on Road Is a Dangerous Game

With the amount of traveling, roads are jammed in every direction. A disturbingly large number of those motorists and their passengers will never reach their destination, and of those who do, a proportion will not get back home. They will finish up in a hospital bed—or worse.

The laws of probability are inexorable in this massive variant or not too great an increase, on the previous year's figures. Predictably, the motorists will lay the blame on the authorities for failing to improve a road here, straighten out a dangerous curve there, install traffic lights at a bad junction or do something about an insidious black spot.

No doubt, this is true up to a point. Road improvements do reduce accidents but this fact should not be allowed to obscure the overwhelming reason for the ghastly toll.

It cannot be repeated too often that the motorist himself is the prime cause of accidents—far more important, even, than mechanical defects in the vehicles. Police and road safety officials are perplexed by the problem of getting this simple message across to drivers. Certainly, far too many motorists fail, consciously or unconsciously, to adapt their speed and conduct to the prevailing conditions. Even the most careful driver suffers the occasional lapse in concentration—and there, possibly, lies the kernel of the matter. Human beings are not

machines. We are very fallible, and prone to silly mistakes. Nevertheless each man owes it to his fellows to discipline himself as far as is humanly possible.

Increasingly restrictive measures in the form of speed limits, police patrols and vehicle checks are inevitable. It is essential, though, that such a campaign be accompanied by redoubled efforts to bring home to the motorist that the question of life and death is very largely in his own hands.

When a motorist complains at the high cost of motor vehicle insurance, he usually thinks in terms of the cost of repairing dent or dented work or a crumpled wheel. He would do well to think in terms of repairing battered human beings, because that is immeasurably more important than any car wreck.

Any man who has mown down a fellow human and seen the consequences in terms of pain and injury or death is likely to be a more careful, more considerate driver henceforward, but society cannot afford to allow each motorist to learn the lesson the hard way.

A sportsman who wielded his rifle with the same casual ease as so many drivers would quickly find himself in trouble. The dangerous driver deserves the same social ostracism as the dangerous gunman.

World Road News
Geneva, Switzerland

Decalog of Advice Is Offered to Guide Parents

(It is the opinion of the editor, the pearls of wisdom written below should be missed by no parent. To give further circulation to it, permission was requested and granted from The Detroit Free Press to reprint the Sidney Harris column of Wednesday, Sept. 7.)

A COLLEGE CONFERENCE on "Parents and Children" has asked me to contribute a few lines to its symposium, since I am unable to attend in person.

Knowing full well that almost all advice on child rearing is futile, I am nevertheless tempted to suggest the following Decalog for Parents:

Thou shalt honor no other gods but God, steadfastly refusing to make thy child a minor deity in thy household.

Thou shalt make no promises that are broken, whether these be promises of pleasure or promises of punishment; for unless thy child learns to respect thy word, he will not respect any person.

Thou shalt teach thy child by example, and not by precept; for a parent who teaches a child religion and morality, and yet lives by greed, passion and hypocrisy must expect his conduct to be followed and his counsel ignored.

THOU SHALT WORSHIP the Sabbath communally, with the family, and not seek solitary pleasures, which plunge each member of the family into social and spiritual

isolation when they should be most together. Thou shalt instill no fears into thy child but rather impress upon him that love casts out fear; and that he who commits no wrongs because of fear is merely weak, whereas he who pursueth righteousness because of love is truly strong.

Thou shalt help thy child accept the variety of mankind with joy and wonder in God's creative originality, and not breed in him that terrible false pride of superiority, which stunts and twists the personality of man.

Thou shalt be not too much a parent allowing thy child freely to make his own mistakes, and not protecting him unduly from the painful consequences of his errors.

Thou shalt not expect nor demand love from thy child simply because thou art his parents; but thou shalt try to win his respect as a person by justice, humor, and understanding.

Thou shalt not force thy child to develop in thine own image, but assist him in becoming the best kind of person his own nature requires.

Thou shalt look daily into thine own heart and examine there thy motives; for when thy motives are unpure, love curdles into possessiveness, and thy child is no longer a creature of God but an instrument of Man's misguided passion.

—Reprinted by Request

Education and 3 Districts

Westland voters in the Nankin Mills and Wayne Community Schools will go to the polls the week before Christmas to vote on a plan which would merge the smaller Nankin Mills district with the larger Wayne district.

However, the Livonia School District citizens and officials are keeping an eye on the campaign (quiet up to now) and the results of the Dec. 19 election.

The question on the ballot will probably be one of the most important one Nankin Mills voters will ever have to decide since public education is one of the most important factors in our society but also because the school tax represents the largest portion of the annual tax bill.

Although the Dec. 19 election directly concerns only the Wayne and Nankin Mills voters, it seems that the history book on the issue, which dates back to 1956, also includes the Livonia district.

Over the past years, most of the citizens in the Nankin Mills seem to favor the splitting of the district along the Hines Parkway with the north half becoming part of the Livonia system and the south half merging with the Wayne district.

Livonia School District officials have made no bones about their opposition to this while the Wayne officials have remained a bit more neutral.

But it seems at this time that the future and fate of the education of several thousand Nankin Mills students deserves more consideration than that.

The Observer hopes that the Nankin Mills and Wayne school boards can come to some kind of joint decision for their voters before the Dec. 19 election. But the Livonia school figures should also be part of the picture—and the sooner the better.

—LEONARD POGER

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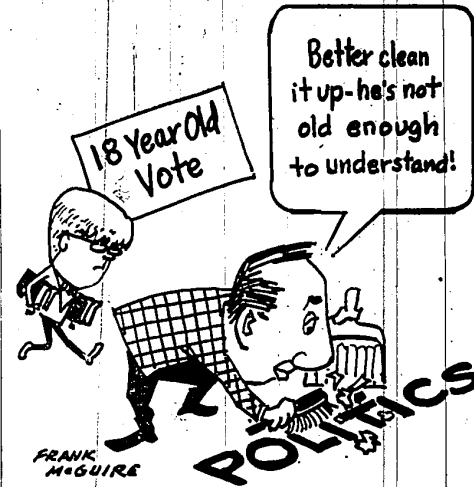
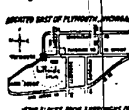
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Letters to Editor: Objectors To Be At Meeting

Editor:

I would like to remind the residents of North Westland that a meeting is being held on Oct. 24 at 7:30 p.m. at the City Hall. At that time the Planning Commission will decide whether to reject or approve a petition to rezone 10 acres of property owned by Stan Kostan from R-1 residential to R-2 for the purpose of erecting 160 units of two story apartments.

I am sure that those of you who attended the public hearing know how important it is for all of you to attend this Planning Commission meeting. Only by a show of force can we convince this Commission that we are all against it.

Two hundred residents of this Community signed a petition against this. Now let those same 200 residents show how sincere they are by taking the time to attend this meeting and any others that involve this area.

I am sure that everyone feels quite strongly against having apartments invading our choice residential properties. But it is not enough to just sign a petition and sit back and wait for others to fight against it.

It is a community problem and it needs the support of the whole community by attending all meetings now and in the future.

If this proposal goes through, it will be because the Planning Commission doesn't care about the home owners of Westland, the residents of Westland don't care enough about the community they live in to fight for their own owners' rights.

Let us show them we care by attending this meeting on Oct. 24 at 7:30 p.m. at the City Hall.

See you all at City Hall.

MRS. SHIRLEY MCCULLLEN
Westland

Admires JBS

I am a great admirer of those courageous people who dare to be members of the John Birch Society.

The Communists and their many leftist followers, know that this fearless society is one of their most potent enemies. That is why, the enemies of freedom, are leveling some of their most intense propaganda at The John Birch Society, to render them helpless. Judging from the many fine Americans who have succumbed to the communist line of confusion, deceit and lies, their propaganda has been a major success and most effective.

By letting down the guards that protect American freedom, people serve the Communist cause, often unknowingly. When it is obvious that Mr. Eisenhower had done just that, Robert Welch, in his great concern and love for our country's welfare, made a very human and understandable statement, that Eisenhower, was either very naive or a communist.

This was all the enemy needed to twist and blow up, all out of proportion, to their use and needs. To make their opponents appear ridiculous and irresponsible in their purpose and aim. Sadly, there seem to be many people ready and willing to echo their subtle lies. To "Divide and Conquer" is one of the Communists' most potent weapons.

May God speed the day, and it is coming, when "Lukewarm" Americans finally awaken to what is happening to their hard earned freedoms and lend a hand, and not a hammer, to these dedicated, humble, God-loving Americans.

Fellow Americans, let us not be deceived for "the devil is a liar and the father of lies." St. John 8: 44. The forces of slavery have not

lost sight of their goal to "bury us."

Is it any wonder that, in their hour, many of the society, have become over zealous and critical? Who of you, their critics, could have enough love for your God and country to guard its freedom, by standing firm and unyielding, while all these insults and abuses were being hurled at you?

"I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth." Rev. 3: 15 and 16

MRS. HELEN OESTREICH
Farmington

For Mr. Lowe

Editor:

My congratulations to Mr. Hammer who is promising to show up for work on time and applying the "golden rule" in his courtroom. (I assume he means to apply it outside the courtroom also.) But, I hardly think these statements can be used as a campaign platform—I have always felt this was an everyday rule which applied to any responsible citizen.

For my tax money, I'm interested in prevention of crime instead of prosecution and punishment. Mr. Lowe's platform shows an understanding of today's problem, and a straightforward attempt to do something about them. If it takes a cup of coffee to get his ideas out to the public then I'll help pass the cup.

GARDEN CITY

Assigned to Vietnam

Army PFC Lawrence C. Clair, 21, son of Mr. and Mrs. William N. Clair, 18580 Meridian, Livonia, has been assigned to the 51st Field Hospital in Saigon, Vietnam, as a medical supply specialist.

He is a 1963 graduate of Bentley High School and received an associate degree in 1965 from Ferris State College.

OBSERVING the Scene...

By MYRA CHANDLER

There is more honesty, forthrightness, and less duplicity among the youth of our nation than any other segment.

The most poignant bit of philosophy out of the South Pacific came from a song. "You have to teach them to hate—before they're six, seven or eight."

We are born honest, loving without reservation. It is adults that work steadily on children, teaching them to lie and cheat. Not in words but by actions.

Seasoned speakers have told me they might go before a group of adults and make a speech—most of the audience do not seriously listen anyway—but not before a group of high school seniors or young college students. This group not only listens, but they want answers to questions.

No wonder some politicians quake at the thought, Proposal No. 1 on the Nov. 8 ballot might pass. If it does they can refrain from the usual handshake, "how're ya?" routine. If it does pass, there will be 400,000 18-to-20 year olds in Michigan eligible to vote.

The Observer not only endorses this proposal for all of the usual reasons, but also because we firmly believe it will put our double-talking, charming, rouge politicians on their guard and will bring fresh enthusiasm for the politicians to "level" to face their responsibility and behave like statesmen. Anything less a youth will see through. This group has enough courage, doesn't get over enough to be a "fat cat," but will speak up with a vote for the one who will "mess-up."

Can you imagine a Jack McDonald, for instance, who is running for Congress in the 19th district, facing a group of 18-year-olds and telling them how he supports education, when he personally, as Township Supervisor, torpedoed one bond issue in South Redford Township and did not lift a finger to support Community College for Redford Township, but instead cooperated with those opposing it for the township. MacDonal didn't get away with passing out cards in one precinct in the morning for one candidate for State Representative, and in the afternoon for his opponent. Adults might say "that's politics" but young adults would resent it and repudiate it at the polls.

Or, in reverse, what young person would not support the vigor and vision of a man like Jack Kennedy, or appreciate the strong and fresh Bob Griffin image, or could it take for a shoo-in candidate for Congress from the 5th District in George Charles Wetner to resign because he did not choose to run on the same ticket as Lester G. Maddox, the negro-hater and Governor candidate. Whether the 18-year-old gets the vote or not this articulate young Wetner might, well be, our President for the day. Young People will reward his kind of courage.

Other more obvious reasons leaders are supporting the vote for 18, 19, 20-year-olds are because they are dying for the Country. Why shouldn't they have a voice in who sends them to war? Their Congressmen, their Senator and their commander-in-chief, the President of the United States.

It is the American way, participation must have representation.

This age group pays income and property tax. They can be tried in adult courts.

They are excused from compulsory education and any form of aid to dependent children, social security—they are no longer children. But they are not considered adult until 21. To be three years in limbo is unnecessary.

They are, at the peak of their prowess in education and therefore are better informed. Their literacy rate is higher than in any older age group. Forty per cent of them are in college.

Leaders of Michigan, beginning with Governor Romney support the proposition. Others are Congressman Alvin Bentley of Owosso; Walter Reuther, president of UAW; Dr. John Hannah, president of Michigan State U; John Feikens and Damon Keither, co-chairman of Michigan Civil Rights Commission; Dr. William Keast, president of Wayne State U; Edward Neicher, commander of DAV; Boniface Maile, state commander of VFW; Rev. Malcolm Carron, president of U. of J.; U.S. Senator Philip A. Hart; Congressman Billie Farnum of 19th District; Congressman William Ford of the 15th Congressional District.

Both GOP and Democrats have endorsed Proposition No. 1.

If there are questions on the vote, or you would like to have a discussion, either yourself or in a group, you may call Rolf Dietrich, chairman of the Michigan Region. He is a Plymouth resident and can be reached at GL 34784.

Explaining the Governor

Editor: (that's our Governor!) Referring to Bruce E. A liberal is one who is Duke's bewilderment at Romney stating he was both conservative and liberal; it is free, one who emphasizes really not hard to explain; like being gentle AND firm. Anyway, a conservative is in mind, independent in opinion... that's our Governor... yours AND mine... may his tribe increase! safe and lawful bounds.

LILLIAN AITKEN DOTY

OMBUDSMAN

(A new feature in The Observer Newspapers—we will do our best to be a go-between, a red-tape cutter as the name indicates. When you have exhausted all other measures on a problem write to us (keep it short, please) and we'll see if we can help. Yes, John Q, you can fight city hall—with your own Ombudsman!)

Dear Ombudsman:

The mayor, during the last campaign, bragged about how he made Federal money available for sewers. With money available from three separate Federal agencies for sewers, why is the administration refusing to extend the sewers to the Northwest area?

They claim it would not be financially feasible and the population does not want the sewers, but how can it be developed without them? They say that our taxes would have to be raised if they extended them to our area. Then why have we been paying taxes all these years at the same rate as the rest of the citizens who enjoy all the facilities? Shouldn't we be taxed as farmland?

A "BOONDOCK" CITIZEN

Dear Boondock:

Sorry about that, sir; but since you are not using your land for farming, but for speculative purposes, you must suffer the inconvenience of no sewers. Now if you would develop your own property a sewer will be extended—but as long as you are sitting on it waiting for a land developer, the sewer will not be extended until the land is developed.

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