

## OBSERVER NEWSPAPERS

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# Lily-White Suburbs Seen A Disadvantage

It appeared in our Sunday Plymouth-only section, so readers in other suburbs didn't see it. The right of their children to grow up free from prejudice is limited simply because there are no Negroes here for them to meet and know and understand.

So said the Rev. David M. Strang, of Epiphany Lutheran Church, echoing a theme that a number of suburban persons—most notably in Plymouth but elsewhere, too—have talked about.

The theory is that parents moved to the suburbs to escape city traffic, small lots, old and bad schools, certain racial minorities, undesirable elements of any race, and so on.

They want their kids to grow up in the cleanest, finest, nicest possible environment.

The trouble, says the Rev. Strang, is that the kids thus get a narrow view of life. The world is made up of a lot more than upper middle-class white kids bound for college. The raising of these children, they continue, would be enriched if they saw some other people.

Someone—perhaps it was Rev. Strang again—said recently that suburban kids are raised in what amounts to a bigger ghetto than inner city black kids. The inner city black kid can learn about middle class suburban white kids

by watching the television set and reading his Dick and Jane books. But the suburban kid never gets the chance to learn about the inner city kid.

So they argue. How many white middle-class parents who fled to the suburbs are buying this theory, I don't know. They're probably reacting against it.

How the kids are reacting is another matter.

They feel guilty.

Take a look at those Peace Corps ads. Their theme is that, boy, you've got life soft, and you're not accomplishing much unless you chuck it all for a couple of years and mix with the natives in Timbuctoo, helping them get into the mainstream of world progress.

Those ads are getting recruits—probably far more than needed.

The kids are also joining VISTA and the Teachers Corps.

And marrying people of other nationalities and races.

Maybe they're trying to "compensate," as the head-shrinkers say, for what they didn't experience in the middle class white suburbs.

A lot of their parents probably don't like it, and are probably cursing the Dave Strangs. But that's life.

—Tim Richard

# Cleaner Air Week Gets Serious Attention In 1967

Are you worked up about the air pollution problem and the need to overcome it before it overcomes all of us? Fine!

Are you tempted to give in to a feeling of frustration about it? Don't!

Just think, instead, of the people who've been working on it for 18 years—count 'em, 18—and aren't discouraged yet.

The week of October 22 will mark the 18th observance of Cleaner Air Week, which the Air Pollution Control Association sponsors. If it occurs to you that 18 years is a long time to grapple with a problem, it may also occur to you that the problem is getting infinitely wider attention today than in 1949, when Cleaner Air Week was first launched. And, despite all smoke, smudge, smell and smog, some genuine progress has been made.

AS A TOKEN of that progress, Cleaner Air Week is certain to be greeted with more seriousness this year than at any time in the past. In addition to the efforts of its traditional sponsor, its objectives will be furthered by the National Air Conservation Commission of the National Tuberculosis Association as well as by the Wayne County TB and Health Society.

How is Cleaner Air Week best acted upon? It's the ordinary citizen's special time to get up on his hind legs and howl about the national blight that attacks his

well-being, his property, and the general landscape.

Said howling will take a variety of forms, including pressure on legislators to provide relief, and on public officials to enforce existing clean air regulations.

Citizen clamor has brought about public improvements more than once in the past, though it may have taken more than 18 years to do it. Getting behind National Cleaner Air Week is one way to get in your licks right now.

## SENSE 'N' NONSENSE

Gov. Romney says President Johnson is a "political animal."

There has been a recent increase in complaints from readers who say that "there isn't anything to read and why don't you print the real truth about what's going on in this town." On the other hand, a woman phoned the Garden City Observer office last week to complain about her name being used in a Municipal Court story concerning her being charged with committing an abortion.

The noise level concerning "dirty magazines and books being sold" is nearly as high as the sales of these magazines and books.

## From the Publisher's Desk

# OBSERVATION POINT

By Philip H. Power

We're offset now. (Or at least I hope so, since as this is being written it isn't sure that our big change in printing will in fact come off as planned. As of Monday noon, everything was going smoothly; but there's many a slip . . .)

It has taken much more time than we expected, a lot of long hours on the part of our staff, and a good deal of strong language.

Elsewhere in this edition, you will find an article discussing exactly what offset is, how it differs from letterpress, and why we think it's much better.

What I want to do in this column is give you, the reader for whom the change is intended, an idea of just what happens inside the impersonal facade of a newspaper during such a massive change as this. Maybe you'll come away with an understanding of our feeling every time the paper comes out: It's a weekly miracle.

We started thinking about offset printing way back in January. We were convinced that it was a printing method superior in almost all respects to that we have been using, but we realized that making such a change was going to take a lot of planning and even more time. What we didn't realize was just how long.

The starting point was, of course, meetings, meetings, and yet more meetings. Meetings at 8 a.m.; meetings at 6 p.m.; meetings at 10 p.m. The ones at 8 a.m. caused a good deal of grumbling, which rose to a crescendo about a week ago when I overslept and showed up at 8:45 a.m. It looks as though we won't be having many more 8 a.m. meetings.

Main purpose of the meetings was to get some coordinated plan for the change.

This isn't easy, partly because every newspaper has numerous departments (editorial, display advertising, classified advertising, production, bookkeeping, etc.) which all have to be negotiated into agreement, and partly because every newspaperman I

have ever met has a strong sense that his way of seeing things is the only way and that any other point of view is hopelessly wrong. The meetings were pretty noisy, I guess.

Then we started working on the mechanical details.

We had to get new machines to set type with. Deliveries were late.

We had to get new machines to set headlines with. They were late in arriving, too.

We had to get our new type. It was late, too.

Then there were a few calls to our suppliers. Delivery schedules improved a little after that.

Our production manager, Bill Parish, had to hire and train a new staff to help out. He grew a beard, doubtless owing to lack of time for shaving.

Then we had a whole series of

negotiations with the printers, Keystone Printing Co. They had to order some new presses and other equipment to print the paper the way we wanted it.

Deliveries to them were late, too.

Then deadlines had to be worked out. Advertising staffers thought editorial deadlines were too early; editorial staffers thought that advertising deadlines were too late. The entire production department felt that everyone else's deadlines were far too late.

Then we discovered that great 20th century business invention, the memorandum. Paper multiplied. It proliferated. It swarmed. It flowed through our offices like the Detroit Lions offense: Stumbling, erratic, but eventually effective. My secretary, normally a

pretty calm type, threatened resignation.

We're still in the middle of that, even this Monday morning as I write.

"Do we set edit matter 10 on 10, or 10 on 12?" This to Tommy Thompson, our Managing Editor. "What do we do to get type spec'd on our ad dummies?" This to Rudy Mazurosky, our Advertising Director.

"Why in Sam Hill haven't we got that type we ordered for the cutlines?" Bill Parish makes a frantic call downtown to a supplier.

"You're sure we'll have the press run over by noon on Wednesday?" Our Circulation Manager, Fred Wright, is getting nervous.

And in the unspoken minds of everyone: "I wonder if we'll really make it." Here's hoping.

## HAVE YOU GOT ANYTHING FOR AN

## "OFFSET" STOMACH?



## This Is The Week That

By Don Hoenshell

"George, if you embarrass me by disclaiming the work of this commission, I assure you it will be the last time you will have an opportunity to do so."

It was Dr. James K. Pollock, the University of Michigan professor who directed the sixth-month study of legislative pay. Gov. Romney didn't like the recommendation for a \$5,000 pay raise.

Pollock, a world-known political scientist who gave Michigan its state civil service system and West Germany its new constitution, was calm as Romney's finger shook under his nose.

In those few dramatic minutes Pollock gave the world a view of Romney never before seen. And it was this:

THE VERY EXECUTIVE excellence that made Romney an industrial giant is his political Achilles heel.

In a corporation a strong executive—as Romney was and is now in government—requires everyone to follow. In politics, he must convince 'em.

In politics, he can't fire Lou Gordon for asking the "brainwashing" question and he can't order George Kuhn to vote for an income tax. It's an amazing transformation in that great cat and mouse game—from the cat to the mouse.

There's no question that for his time he is a great governor of Michigan.

## CHUCK MATSON



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17000 West 8 Mile Road,  
Southfield, 356-9480

Dear Editor,

I've a suggestion to make or two. When putting grading on dirt roads wouldn't it pay in the longer run if they put in ready mix cement, then ran a water-truck over it and decreased traffic a day?

It would leave a dirt-free road a while and save laying oil for quite a while and costs.

If we need more public funds, they should gainfully canvassing the neighborhoods for three things in each yard.

Unchained dogs or unfenced ones, either, and old drums with charred remnants as proof of burning, then fine \$100 for any of these and demand removal of the drums.

The used supply lands, cut air pollution, and clean rail control, plus beauty.

Hope I helped the road department and those responsible to see these opportunities taken advantage of and enforced. Especially the burning that smuffs out breath, some fires surround a home in dense smoke.

There's a no burning law but not even a letter to our Mayor failed to make them remove the smelly drums and stop burning.

Every day around Ontario and along Norfolk, etc., the burning gets worse and we've had a heart attack victim in the area, one, an officer of the law.

Can't be, who is responsible, see to it no burning is strictly enforced and the culprit fined?

There should be rental inspection on housing rented every three years at least to see it's painted in that time and maintained—like roofing, flooring, foundations, etc.

Furnaces cleaned and chimneys cleaned out.

Doors or windows replaced where needed and tenants wouldn't need to fight an owner in court and then be ordered to move.

If a tenant paints it himself, there should be a law he can keep a month's rent for his labor.

There should be another rule if a tenant asks a furnace cleaning or door or window replacement and a landlord fails to do this within a week, the tenant may order it done by any company and charge it to the landlord to be billed by the company and held by the courts responsible to pay for it.

Sincerely concerned,

Dear Westland Editor:

I feel constrained as Chairman of the Republican Party in Westland to reply to your Editorial in the August 23 issue. I also wish to thank you for writing as you did since you were fulfilling your public obligation in the finest tradition of the news profession.

You fault the Republican Party for not offering the voters a complete slate in both the Primary and General Elections. I'll accept the blame for this sad state of affairs but I assure you it was not because the Republicans didn't make a genuine effort to fill the slate. You further state that the Republican "only wanted to run candidates where there is a reasonable chance of victory."

Nothing could be further from the truth. The only criterion for a Republican candidate is that he be qualified, possess good credentials, and be willing to serve. Qualified people we have in abundance; people willing to be candidates we have not. We feel that the Democrats have been doing a splendid job in fielding unqualified candidates with little, if any, background qualifying them for public office.

There are, of course, some exceptions to this broad statement. If we can't offer the voters qualified candidates, we'd prefer not to insult their intelligence by running simply names to fill out the ticket. Our approach is as simple as that.

The Editor of this paper and I are in complete agreement that responsible two party government is necessary and desirable. I think everyone would agree with this basic premise after a moment's reflection. We all are interested in having someone "to watch the store."

As I see it, there is no indication that many Westland residents care one iota about responsible two party government.

It is too much trouble to become informed on the issues and the candidates and then to vote intelligently. Until the century wakes up to the fact that their individual futures and well being are intertwined with the future of this city, I predict that the City Government will continue to be unresponsive.

Milton B. Mack, Chairman  
Westland Republican Club

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