

# Social Conventions Stifle Suburbia

Have you ever engaged in the sport of people watching? If you haven't, you really should sometime.

Of course, the art is best practiced in an area where the people are many and varied. Probably the best place in the entire country is a subway train in New York City.

The art of the sport is somewhat more difficult to practice in suburbia.

Why? Simply because of a prevailing practice called social convention.

You know social convention. That's the philosophy that dictates gas light after gas light lighting the homes of the subdivisions.

It's the practice of sending your child to the right dance school, making certain that the boys participate in the RIGHT type of organized activity, and that the girls have just the right type of dolls at just the right age.

In suburbia social convention seems to dictate a barbecue in every back yard. It dictates a power mower for a postage stamp

size of lawn and it even dictates the right type of politics.

IN FARMINGTON the right political party is the Republicans. The recent copy of the Oakland County Democrats newsletter list (the paid up members of the Farmington club as eight).

During each township election, however, the local Republicans attack the Democrats' current sacrificial lamb as being "union orientated."

Why should this be an effective attack? Because unions don't fit into the local social convention.

THE PURPOSE of this piece is neither to attack nor defend either unions or man-

agement, neither to attack nor defend either Republicans or Democrats.

Such class warfare we will leave to Karl Marx and the proponents of his theories.

The purpose of all this newspapering is rather to practice the art of people watching at the idea of social conventions.

Society exercises certain restraints upon all individuals. This is necessary. It is, at times, even good.

Society's restraints — or social conventions — however, are not good when they close the avenues to anything slightly different. This is done in the fine practice of suburban social convention.

Just two of these local conventions have pigeonholed unions and Democrats as not being acceptable?

Why? How many of you have ever stopped to think about these assumptions before accepting their validity?

That's the danger of social conventions. — Sue Shaugnessy

## editorial

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## Shoplifting Crackdown Is Planned

Security precautions against shoplifters have been tightened in the new Federal Department store in Farmington since apprehension of 21 youthful suspects during the first few days of operation, store officials said this week.

Manager Al Politi said the youngsters, identified by store personnel in the initial outbreak all were turned over to their parents for action, and no formal police complaints were lodged.

Politi warned, however, that henceforth Farmington police will be notified in all suspected shoplifting cases and that warrants will be sought as the evidence justifies.

## men in service

### Back On Duty

Seaman Recruit Brian J. Vlaming, USNR, 19, son of Bernard J. Vlaming, 31815 Nottigham, Farmington, has completed two weeks of annual active duty at the Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, Ill., and has returned to his local Naval Reserve unit.

### Leon Baldwin

#### In Viet Action

Army Capt. Leon Baldwin, 24, son of Mr. and Mrs. Elias J. Baldwin, 26855 Haggerty Rd., Farmington, is participating in "Operation Truong Cong Diem" in Vietnam with the 9th Infantry Division.

### Receives Wings

Marine Reserve First Lt. Jerry V. Seaman, son of Kenneth W. Seaman, 29129 Glenleigh Ct., Farmington, received "Wings of Gold" and was designated a Naval aviator and helicopter pilot during ceremonies at the Naval Auxiliary Air Station, Elyson Field, Pensacola, Fla.

### Upped In Rank

William R. Agar, son of Mr. and Mrs. George J. Agar of 21520 St. Francis, Farmington, was promoted to an Army private upon completion of his combat training at Ft. Knox, Ky. The promotion was awarded two months earlier than customary under an Army policy of providing incentive for outstanding trainees.

### Serves At Fort

Army Pvt. Richard D. MacKinnon, son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald J. MacKinnon, 25689 Ridgewood, Farmington, has been assigned to Company A, 9th Battalion, 3rd Brigade at the United States Army Training Center, Armor, Fort Knox, Ky.

### In Viet Post

Army Pvt. Dennis M. Woodward, 20, son of Mr. and Mrs. Russell Day, 15840 MacArthur, Farmington, has been assigned to the 169th Engineer Battalion in Vietnam. He is a mechanic in the battalion's Company A near Long Binh and entered the Army in September 1967.

### Finishes Basic

Seaman Apprentice Arthur J. Kios, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur J. Kios, 21235 Flanders, Farmington, has been graduated from nine weeks of Navy basic training at the Naval Training Center at Great Lakes, Ill.

### Stripes Make Wall Exciting

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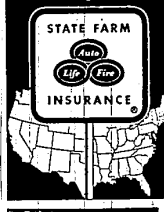
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STATE OF MICHIGAN  
THE PLATONIC COURSE  
THE COUNTY OF OAKLAND

ESTATE OF EDWARD M. SWACKLE, Deceased.

IT IS ORDERED that on May 14, 1968 at 9 a.m. in the Probate Court of the County of Oakland, Michigan a hearing be held on the petition of Susan A. Swackle for appointment as administratrix of said estate and to determine who are or were at the time of death the heirs at law of said deceased.

Publication and service shall be made as provided by Statute and Court Rule. Dated: April 9, 1968

DONALD W. ADAMS, Judge of Probate

Albert P. Herzog, Attorney  
2200 Farmington Road Farmington

Witness: Farmington Enterprise & Observer 4-14, 11, 15

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