

editorial opinion

Come to the festival

This year's Farmington Founders Festival will be the best ever.

For 10 years, the locally-organized, locally-promoted festival has been attracting larger crowds every year.

This year's effort is expected to bring 200,000 people to see what Farmington is all about.

Tied into the sesquicentennial year, the 11 days of festivities, parades, plays and fun promises to outdo even the successful festivals of the past.

There are really two festivals. One is the one the public sees. The parades, the events downtown and in the area shopping centers. Mainly it's a good family time and every year more residents in the area find this out and come again and again.

A consequence of ignorance

Opinion poll taking, in one form or another, has become an integral part of this nation's way of life. Perhaps this phenomenon derives justification inherently from our heritage of democracy.

As any other institution, poll taking has drawn its share of criticism. Around election times, the attempts to find out just what people think increase at a geometric rate.

One poll, recently instigated by the Oakland County Democratic party, reveals a disheartening statistic. The Democrats, among other things, wished to find out what percentage of voters were aware of the issues involved in the county executive proposal, which will be decided in the Aug. 6 primary election.

ONLY 13.8 percent of those participating in the poll said they were aware of the question concerning the unified form of county government which would allow an elected or appointed county executive.

We can find no fault with the manner in which this portion of the poll was conducted. It appears to be an accurate reflection of the situation.

Unfortunately, the Democrats probably could have saved themselves some money because no one really expected many more persons would have been informed on the county executive issue.

And the response from some corners to the low awareness of the issue will be: So what?

That's a fair question. Let's take a look at it.

LET'S SAY that the optional unified form of county government question receives enough votes to become law. And further, let's assume that alternate B is passed and the position of county executive becomes an elective office.

Two candidates are vying for the Democratic nomination: Daniel W. Barry, former Oakland County drain commissioner, and Eugene W. Kuthy, a management

BUT BEHIND THE scenes is the real story.

The festival committee is almost a service organization in itself. Year after year capable people donate their time and effort voluntarily to organize the festival so others may enjoy it.

The job gets bigger and bigger, but if anything, every year is smoother than the year before.

Each festival builds on the efforts of the previous year and many people have been working for years on the committee.

This tenth year of the festival is one where the community should give its thanks to all those who have worked to put Farmington in the public eye with this highly successful community project.

consultant. Daniel T. Murphy, present chairman of the county board of auditors, is running unopposed on the Republican ticket.

Let us further assume that Barry wins the Democratic nomination and defeats Murphy in the general election.

Barry, the former drain commissioner, was removed from office after a 1971 conviction on conflict of interest charges. The conviction followed citizen grand jury indictments naming him in a series of conspiracy, bribery, misuse of public funds charges, in addition to the conflict of interest count.

THE CONFLICT of interest charge was overturned by the Michigan Court of Appeals recently. He still faces felony charges of misuse of public funds, conspiracy and bribery.

Another remarkable result of the recent poll released by the Democrats is that Barry's name is recognized by a substantially greater number than his opponent. Also, of those recognizing Barry's name, two of three persons have a favorable impression of him.

We wonder what made this favorable impression on these persons. Was it Barry's effectiveness as a drain commissioner? His personality? His character?

More likely the recognition was gained because of the publicity Barry has received from his questionable actions. The favorable impression appears to be a consequence of ignorance.

WE PLEAD with voters to become informed about the candidates and issues in the Aug. 6 primary election. Let us not decide a single issue on the basis of some vague recognition of feeling.

The various Leagues of Women Voters form an effective source of information on election issues. This newspaper carries continuing reports on all local questions and candidates. Be informed.

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Your ecology calendar

Ecology-minded persons who wish to save cans, bottles or newspapers for recycling may use these facilities.

To prepare glass, thoroughly wash the containers, remove all metal caps and rings from the glass and separate the glass by color.

To prepare cans, clean only. Paper need not be removed. Newspapers should be tied in bundles with heavy string or rope or secured in heavy paper.

• **BIRMINGHAM**—Daily newspaper pickup with regular trash. Newspapers must be bundled separately.

• **BIRMINGHAM TOWNSHIP**—Behind the township offices, 4200 Telegraph Road just south of Long Lake Road. Between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m., Saturdays. Glass and clean cans are collected each week. All aluminum items accepted. Newspapers collected on the last Saturday of each month.

• **GROVES ECOLOGY CLUB**—Bundles or bagged newspapers and cardboard will be collected from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Friday and 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday the second week of each month at the high school's front parking lot.

• **LATHRUP VILLAGE**—At

the Public Services Building, 19101 Twelve Mile Road, adjacent to the high school. Newspapers are collected 10 a.m.-2 p.m. by volunteers the first Saturday of each month.

• **SOUTHFIELD**—In the old city offices, 26000 Berg Road at Ten and One-half Mile, one block east of Telegraph. Glass, tin cans and newspapers may be dropped off at any time.

• **TROY**—At the DPW Yard, 4695 Rochester Road, from 9 a.m. to noon on the first and third Saturday of each month.

Eccentricities

by HANK HOGAN



10-speed, fiberglass bathrooms

There's an old cliché about being sick and tired of people who know the price of everything, but the value of nothing.

Maybe this appeals to me now, because supposedly when you approach middle-age you discover that you are not immortal, and have deep thoughts about how you want to spend the rest of your life and whether the first half of your life was well lived.

In our competitive materialistic society our kids are taught that they are "out" unless they have a 10-speed bike, fiberglass skis, and live in a house that has a surplus of bathrooms.

MANY OF OUR residents are self-made people who developed themselves into successful individuals in spite of the economic condition in which they were brought into the world.

Some of these same people when they reach the financial level where they can afford most luxuries, continually say that their kids are going to have all those things they never had as a child.

Though the philosophy is commendable, where would they be if their parents could have afforded those luxuries?

The ambition and incentive that makes them people worth knowing, derived out of their coping with deprivation, will be lost to their off-spring.

IT CREATES another problem for their kids if they plan to live in our community after they leave

the family nest to set up housekeeping on their own.

A person starting off in the business world usually starts off at the bottom, where compensation is commensurate with the position.

If the kids' values are based on how much things cost, they are going to be very unhappy in early life when they discover they can't afford the best there is which is what they are used to.

If somehow, and it is always easier to see what is wrong than be specific in prescribing how to cure the malady, our kids were imbued with values of a moral nature when they were young and impressionable, they would be happy in improving themselves regardless of how much money they had.

IS A PERSON happier in a new car which he treats with gay abandon, or an older model which is shiny and in good running condition that he somehow had to help purchase?

Is a person a better skier because he has the best boots and bindings, or a credit to his community because his parents could afford to buy him a pony?

I know the people I like to be around are those who have overcome the need to tell you how much money they've earned and are truly interested in the needs of others.

If this were instilled in children when they are young, the road of life would be easier for them.

Observation Point

by PHILIP H. POWER



Defense against inflation

The state legislature adjourned last week for its bi-annual spasm of summer campaigning.

The generally positive results of the past session by the lawmakers were marred by the last-minute failure to come to agreement on any kind of campaign reform legislation. This is very regrettable, since by the time the new legislature gets around to doing anything concrete on the idea, public pressure derived from the Watergate scandals will most likely have evaporated.

One very useful piece of legislation was passed but essentially neglected by the press. It is a bill to help Michigan industry remodel and purchase new equipment through a system of property tax breaks.

SINCE 1967, Michigan has shown a relative decline in investment in new manufacturing plants and industrial equipment. This decline in business investment is a major factor bringing the state's unemployment rate—currently 10.3 percent—to its highest point in 13 years.

Both businessmen and economists have argued that business investment in Michigan has lagged because firms lack incentives to modernize or restore their obsolete plants instead of relocating in other states which have lower property taxes or other incentives to promote business investment.

This is no small matter, and the concern extends to the suburbs as well as core cities. For example, some years ago when Plymouth's biggest employer, Daisy Air Rifle, picked up stakes and moved to the South, the city had a very tough time getting through the period before other industrial growth took up the slack.

ACCORDING TO State Rep. John Markes, who serves Westland and Livonia, the law would permit local government units to establish plant rehabilitation districts "in areas containing obsolete industrial plants and equipment. The owner of such a facility would apply to the local government unit to freeze its current tax assessments in exchange for

a solid commitment to modernize or replace the facility.

If granted, the taxes on real and personal property would be frozen for approximately 12 years. An exemption certificate would be issued by the State Tax Commission and a special tax called the "industrial facility tax" would be levied on the facility; the amount of the special tax for replaced or restored industrial property would be determined by multiplying a given year's total tax rate in the community by the state equalized value of the plant in the year prior to replacement or restoration.

What all this means, according to Markes, is that local businesses with old plant or equipment would be given an incentive—a tax freeze for 12 years, at a time when taxes are going up steadily—to modernize.

SUCH MODERNIZATION does two important things:

- It provides, generally, more jobs, and it keeps those jobs in the local community.
- It increases productivity, since new plants and equipment are generally more efficient than old ones. Productivity increases, incidentally, are probably the only long run defense against inflation.

The new law is very important to suburban development and maturation, as Markes points out. If our suburbs are ever to become more than bedroom communities, they will need to develop and sustain business enterprises right at home. Many suburbs in this area—Livonia, Birmingham, Plymouth, Farmington, and Rochester among them—have substantial numbers of older industrial plants. The continued growth of these suburbs depends in large part on the continued existence of these businesses.

The new law is a far-sighted, flexible and sensible approach to the problem of how to keep jobs in Michigan and keep our suburbs growing.

No more school taxes

To the Editor:

The school boards' repeated elections for more millage is unfair to the taxpayer.

Dr. Ross, Farmington school board president, stated that the July election would cost \$3,000. They had one election April 2 and another June 10.

I agree with Bruce Duke who said, "We have voted NO and it is like a dictatorship." How true.

Dr. Ross said it needed for repairs. In the June 3 issue of the Observer & Eccentric the extras asked for by the board were: improvements to sites, \$121,000; repairs and furniture, \$278,000.

Five buses, 15 special education teachers, a psychologist, a social worker, seven teachers aides, a research and development specialist and two counselors, \$25,500.

Also, athletics for girls, \$3,000, and supplies, \$25,000.

The above is a big expense. William Corless, board member, said there has been no millage increase in eight years. Each year our taxes have increased. The board might do well to budget like homeowners and taxpayers have to.

Many of our elderly are having financial difficulties, but still they must pay taxes and millage for the schools.

I say our NO vote should stand. Our many elections are endless—like Watergate.

Dorothy Nicholson
Farmington Hills

June 29, 1974

Bishop's interests

To the Editor:

It appears that an Observer & Eccentric article headlined "Credit Bill Gets Support" (Page 8-C, Thursday, June 20), was no more than a press release issued from State Senator Donald E. Bishop's office.

It might be compared with the June 17 story from The Detroit Free Press where Trudy Lieberman stated, "Senator Donald Bishop, a Rochester representative, who has helped turn the bill into a piece of toothless legislation, got \$1,115,000 of the \$4,483,000 he received in primary contributions from bank officials."

She further states that Senator Bishop has justified his efforts to remove all criminal penalties by exclaiming, "I gave an argument expressed to me by financial institutions people."

In "Senator Bishop Reports" of June 20, mailed at government expense to his constituents, the results of Senator Bishop's 1974 Legislative Questionnaire were reported. The senator claims that over 10,000 individuals responded and that he employs this poll in his work in the Michigan Senate.

THE RESULTS reveal that an overwhelming 78 percent answered "yes" to the question, "Should Michigan have a law prohibiting financial institutions from discriminating against women in the granting of credit." Of the remaining 22 percent, 14

percent said "no" with 8 percent undecided.

Ms. Lieberman also quotes a lobbyist for the National Bank of Detroit and a \$50 contributor to Senator Bishop's primary campaign as saying that campaign contributions "make it a little easier to communicate with them (legislators)."

It is apparent where Senator Bishop's interests lie and that when given a choice he chooses to represent the 14 percent of his constituents who say "no" and the even smaller interest group who "make it a little easier" for him.

Elizabeth P. Howe
Oakland County Chairman
Democratic Party

June 21, 1974

'C' missing

To the Editor:

As an avid reader of "All That Jazz" and a devoted fan of George Shearing's, I'm sure some gremelin with a pookish humor left out a "c" causing Ben Shaw to describe Shearing's humor as pookish in last Thursday's column.

I do hope you will clear up that error so Observer & Eccentric readers will be assured that Shearing's wit and Shaw's taste remain as impeccable as always.

Mrs. Cecil Trost
Birmingham

July 12, 1974