

Why We Enter Contests

As part of a continuing effort to produce for the Birmingham community the best possible newspaper, The Eccentric each year enters state and national contests.

In the last two years, this newspaper has received 24 top honors from the National Editorial Association and the Michigan Press Association. Since 1949, date of our first entry, The Eccentric has won some 40 awards in these competitions.

Now, it is with a great deal of pride and satisfaction that we report our honors in this year's NEA National Better Newspaper Contest: First place in general excellence, first place in the "Best Editorial Page" category, third place in newspaper promotion and honorable mention in classified advertising.

These awards are added to the seven received earlier this year from the state association.

WE TAKE PRIDE in these awards not just for ourselves but also for the community, because we believe we serve a kind of citizenry which deserves the finest in home-town journalism.

After all, our main purpose is to produce the type of newspaper that our readers want. It is to this end that we plan the contents of our paper and enjoy professional recognition.

To be awarded first place in general excellence in our circulation classification nationally is the highest professional award we can achieve. But, to be read consistently and thoroughly by the people in our

community is of even greater importance to us.

HOLDING TO the belief that a responsible community newspaper must offer leadership and guidance, The Eccentric has in the last few years strengthened its editorial page. We are pleased to note that our efforts have been fruitful, as evidenced in our first place award in this category.

Because we do take stands on controversial matters, we realize, there will be times when some of our readers disagree with us. Yet, we are convinced that in the long run our efforts will win their respect.

AS WE gratefully accept these latest honors, we pledge anew to serve the best interests of our total community, to adhere to the tenets of publishing integrity and journalistic morality.

In the desire to learn and to constantly improve our product, we will continue to enter the state and national competitions. We stand ready always to accept the professional advice that will help us give our readers the kind of newspaper they wish their home town to have.

And, for that matter, we always welcome suggestions from our readers for improvement of our paper. In the final analysis, this is really the best kind of reader interest we can have.

So, please feel free at all times to express yourself. We most assuredly invite your comments!

Can We Wave Flag Too Much?

Can we wave the flag too much?

Is it possible to be too patriotic?

Of course, anything done to extremes loses impact, even reading the Bible too much. But with our nation's birthday coming up Saturday, the question that we should all consider is, "Are we waving the flag enough?"

It's old hat to talk about freedom. We take it for granted, because no one is presently trying visibly to take it away from us.

WE'RE ALL AMERICANS and because we are not being challenged, we don't have to stand up and act proud about it.

But if we act this way, how long will we be able to keep Democracy? Freedom and rights erode away when we are not defend-

ing them, and if no one is poking a gun at you, why defend anything?

Can we wave the flag too much?

Is thinking about our heritage too patriotic?

Is displaying a flag outside your home once a year too common?

IF IT IS, it is about time everyone got that common.

The business community on Saturday will have their flags displayed.

But how many residents will be proud enough to say, "I'm an American and proud of it?"

How many homes will display the red, white and blue?

It seems funny that we have to ask.

Can we wave the flag too much?

Maybe, but it will have to be waved a lot longer and a lot harder than it presently is waved in this community.

Twice Is Enough

The Birmingham Eccentric believes that it would be an injustice to try Robert Thorson a third time.

We agree with his attorneys that his case has reached the point where "prosecution becomes persecution." He has been tried twice, both trials ending in a deadlocked jury.

The jurors last week were the only two votes away from acquittal. If the vote had been as it was the first time—nearer to a guilty verdict than acquittal—we could see the reasoning in a third trial.

But this was not the case, and we believe Mr. Thorson and his family should not suffer any more from this ordeal. Besides the anxieties and the anguish they have experienced since his arrest, they must bear the resultant stigma from this traumatic incident the rest of their lives.

WE ARE aware that this is an election year and we would urge the Wayne County prosecutor's office to not use this case to gain publicity or for the sake of a record to be touted in an election campaign. The interests of fair play and justice should not be sacrificed for political advantage.

It is our firm conviction that the charge against Mr. Thorson should be dismissed, that it would not serve the interests of justice to try him a third time.

He has been prosecuted. Let him not be persecuted.

From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

Governments need not be the only agency through which help may be given to underdeveloped countries. It can come from a "private peace corps," as a story in the Wall Street Journal points out. According to that report there is a group known as Acion which is lending a helpful hand in South America. An example of the work done by this organization is a pipeline now in service in Venezuela. The pipeline is not for oil; it brings fresh, safe water to communities used to buying it by the barrel—at high prices. Other projects of Acion are aimed at lifting the burden of deprivation and also at raising the morale of a severely depressed people. A point of particular interest is that U.S. citizens or corporations have contributed all of the funds for this agency. No federal money has been used. The encouraging thing is the private nature of the sponsorship. This has several advantages. Private money can be brought more directly to the people in need, without the intervention of greedy politicians. Furthermore, philanthropic effort on the part of U.S. companies will help improve the corporate image which is so badly tarnished in Latin America. It should prove that private capital can help—not only when sent to earn a profit, but also when given to an organization like Acion.

Seranton calls Goldwater a "fast-draw thinker with one foot in the 19th century." Whatever the weather between now and July 13, the days won't be dull.

Governor Rockefeller says he doesn't know what his campaigning cost him. It must be nice to be able to afford such ignorance.

Getting Ready for the Big Party



By HANK HOGAN



Since the United States Supreme Court decision a couple of weeks ago, which said that both houses of a state legislature must be drawn on population lines, I have refrained from commenting because I have been so close to apportionment and I still had idealistic hopes that it would turn out fair and square.

I totally disagree with the Supreme Court's decision. I have done a tremendous amount of research on the matter and find no reason or legal precedence that require both houses of the state legislative body being based on "one-man, one vote."

If you follow the reasoning of the court, it has a duty to find that the United States Constitution is unconstitutional because it provides for a Senate drawn on other than population lines.

IT HAS A LEGAL duty to declare the election of the President of the United States null and void, because it was not done on a basis of one-man, one vote. We keep forgetting about the Electoral College.

There is little the citizen can do now. The court has ruled that even if a majority of the voters select a plan to elect their state legislature, the court in its wisdom will throw it out. The majority rule has been replaced by a five-man rule.

Why if there is no legal precedent should a court act like this?

It all relates back to the Brown vs. The Topeka Board of Education case where the Supreme Court threw out segregated schooling. From that point on, little else has been on its mind.

WHEN FACED with MALAPPORTIONMENT in the South, designed to keep the colored folk from electing the entire state slate, the court rose up. But instead of saying to the South, "Stop denying people the right to vote," it tried a back door approach that will give the colored more say in Southern legislatures.

The effect nationwide will be disastrous. Since there is little we can do now, the people at least had the hope that once a "great" principle had been adopted we could expect it to be used honestly in apportioning the state.

I suppose that is expecting too much from partisan politicians, but our "nonpartisan" state supreme court outdid itself by throwing away its integrity and dignity and selecting a plan that was painfully gerrymandered.

UNDER "ONE-MAN, ONE VOTE" it is no secret that both houses of the Michigan Legislature will be dominated by the Democratic Party.

This would happen honestly once the one-man principle was adopted, and they were correct in their claim to be the majority party.

But doing it honestly wasn't good enough, they had to devise districts like those in the southwest part of our state where one looks like a bow and arrow, long thin shaft, arrowhead and all.

Or one in the Upper Peninsula that takes two "S" turns while going from the middle of the bottom of the peninsula to Sault Ste. Marie at the top.

Michigan and the nation will probably survive all of this, but I'm not so sure Democracy can take much more.

PEOPLE'S COLUMN

Look into the Faces Of the Little Ones

To the Editor:

According to the letter on "Would Park Become A Community Eyecore?" (on Page 8-B in June 18 Eccentric), children don't mean much in Birmingham, and being a teen-ager I believe it.

Teen-agers have taken a lot from adults and now they are starting on the little children.

Is there anyone in the world who can name anything more beautiful than a child's face, one who is having good, clean fun? I really doubt it.

IN PHILIPPIANS 4:8 it is quoted: "Whatever things are

lovely; whatever things are of good report . . . think about these things" and children are beautiful.

Obviously, the complainant doesn't have children or else he doesn't think about them having clean fun and having them out of the street.

These are the kind of people who

are the first to jump up and complain about teen-agers because they never stop to realize that it all began when we were little and didn't have anything to do but get in trouble.

I THINK that the person who wrote the letter could get a lot out of life if he would go to that park and watch those little children's happy faces and listen to their joyful laughter. Then, and only then could he think of taking happiness away from them.

16 YEARS OLD AND NEVER HAD A PARK LIKE THAT.

(See PEOPLE'S COLUMN LETTER ON 7-B)

Lauds Eccentric For Coverage

To the Editor:

Those who have worked with the Community College Citizens Committee wish to thank you for the whole-hearted support of The Eccentric in the efforts to establish a community college in this county.

The large favorable margin the college and the tax issue got from Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills testifies to the confidence your readers feel in their paper as well as to their own desire for quality education.

A look at the district-by-district returns on the June 8 election says it very clearly: Without the support of The Birmingham Eccentric there would be no community college in Oakland County's foreseeable future.

WENDELL BROWN
Chairman
Community College Citizens Committee

Yesteryear Happenings

50 YEARS AGO
July 3, 1914

Birmingham has pavement. No, not down the main streets where it is most needed yet. The alley between C. J. Shain's drug store and the telephone building is being studded by concrete under the supervision of John Keyser. The alley was the recent scene of a dangerous fire caused by the carelessness of premature fireworks. The blaze destroyed the stock room in Shain's and demolished the interior of the Standard & White real estate office.

The Oakland County telephone directory of the Michigan State Telephone company has been issued, bearing the date of July. This issue contains eight additional pages from the previous one, showing the rapid growth of the telephone system. Birmingham has nine Smiths, two Jones and two Browns. At present, there are 856 phones in the Birmingham exchange.

We almost thought the village dads had developed a case of acute progressiveness when a new five ton truck came rolling into town on Monday last; white as a snow drift and all fired up and ready for business; price \$5,000. Good night! It was only making a tour of the country as a sample machine, however, and we felt better when they went on to Pontiac. Never mind, just you wait. We'll have one some day, see if we don't.

30 YEARS AGO
July 5, 1934

Because the work is progressing so slowly by hand labor under the work wage program, the City of Birmingham has advertised for

(See HAPPENINGS, 7-B)

Have Women Lost Modesty?

To the Editor:

What is modesty? Mr. Webster says that modesty is "behaving to a standard, proper and decorous, especially in displaying of one's body."

If what Mr. Webster says is true, I cannot help but wonder what is happening to the females of the species.

DEBORAH W. GAFILL
651 Frank
Birmingham

PEOPLES COLUMN

Reasons Why 14 Mile Should Not Be Extended

To the Editor:

Recently we have observed several persons circulating petitions requesting that the City of Birmingham and Oakland County be allowed to assume the total cost of condemnation of property and paving of 14 Mile in a straight line across the northern boundary of Beverly Hills.

The main contention of this petition is that 14 Mile will be paved anyway and it will reduce traffic on Riverside.

ALSO, THE City of Birmingham has been outstandingly narrowminded in its attitude towards this matter. Up to now the City has been quiet on how to help the north-south traffic problem. In our opinion if 14 Mile is paved in a straight line the following will be the result:

1. North-south traffic will turn east-west on all available Beverly streets, increasing traffic volume on Beverly streets and causing traffic deaths and accidents to increase.
2. Riverside traffic will jump five to six times the present volume.
3. Beverly will turn to ban right and left turns off Greenfield, Southfield and Evergreen and LaSaber, South of 14 Mile Road.

4. Crims will increase in Beverly Hills.
5. City of Birmingham will close 15 Mile Road at Woodward and force traffic to 14 Mile.
6. The county will pave Southfield, Greenfield and the City will make throughways of Beverly and Pierce.

IT IS TIME for all concerned persons to rise and again show the city council that the seven-to-one vote against 14 Mile paving is still valid and a petition started and circulated, possibly by some unfortunate uninformed persons, should not be taken too seriously.

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Village of Beverly Hills

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