

"If It Fitz...."

The thrill of poverty

By Jim Fitzgerald



"To me, one of the most exciting things in the world is being poor. Survival is such an exciting challenge," Tom Monaghan said.

Yes, the same Tom Monaghan who owns Domino's Pizza, the Detroit Tigers and assorted expensive cars and homes. Monaghan said it in a speech before a group of business executives at Madonna College in Livonia in February. Under the headline, "The Thrill of Poverty," after pointing out that "Monaghan's personal wealth is estimated to exceed \$500 million," Harper's Magazine reprinted excerpts from the speech in its August issue.

"There was a study done about 20 years ago, I think at Harvard, which said that the average family of 4 could live on \$68 a year. That's a balanced diet — everything they need for a year," Monaghan said. "Now today that might be \$250 or \$300, but when we see these people in lines in supermarkets with all these food stamps, buying potato chips and snack foods and ice cream, I mean, give me a break! That's poverty?"

LIVING ON MILK, MUSH

"Now you're probably wondering how you can live on \$68 a year. The first thing you do is go to the Farm Bureau and buy a 100-pound bag of powdered milk, like they feed the calves —

there's nothing wrong with it; it tastes just like regular milk when you put a little water in it. That would probably last you the better part of a year. While you're at the Farm Bureau, you buy yourself a bushel of oats or wheat or corn, and you mash that stuff up. What you're eating isn't all that tasty — it kind of tastes like commel mush — but it's healthy. And you grow some vegetables and you get a few vitamin pills to supplement your diet. And I think that's exciting.

"You ought to really explore the cheapest ways to live," Monaghan continued. "Living in a house trailer — my gosh, that was the greatest living I ever did. We bought a used house trailer for \$1,400 and we paid about \$30 a month for the lot. Now you can get a lot for \$175 and you can buy a used house trailer for maybe \$5,000. And you're building some equity in something; you're not paying rent. Oh gosh, I'd love to talk to all the people who say they can't get by."

Oh gosh, I also wish Monaghan could talk to poor people who don't realize how exciting it is to take a 100-pound bag of powdered milk home from the Farm Bureau on the bus. There are probably some unexcited homeless people in Detroit who don't even know where the nearest Farm Bureau office is. Perhaps Monaghan could summon them all to

Tiger Stadium and talk to them just as though they were business executives.

In the meantime, I'm doing my best to spread the word about the thrill of poverty. Yesterday, I told a toothless old female panhandler: "Put some excitement in your life. Go buy a used house trailer; get a bushel of oats. Take some vitamins and lay off the potato chips. Eat like a calf. Gosh, you won't believe what an exciting time you'll have."

One thing puzzles me: If Monaghan got such a charge out of being poor, why did he get rich and lose all those thrills? Why didn't he stay in the trailer? Maybe because Frank Lloyd Wright didn't design it.

Could it be that poverty only looks exciting in the rear view mirror. Could it be that most poor people never get out of the used trailer, and it's pretty hard to get excited about surviving on \$250 a year every year of your life?

MORE TIGER TALES

In a Q & A interview in the Detroit News, Tiger President Bo Schembechler answered the first 25 questions forthrightly and in considerable detail. They pertained to such significant issues as baseball pitchers, free agents and trades.

The 26th question concerned Schembechler's recent letter to Free Press Publisher Neal Shine implying a Freep female reporter went into the Tigers clubhouse to ogle, and the Freep worked a scam on Jack Morris to get a good story.

"That's a nonissue," Schembechler answered. "With all the problems going on in the Middle East, why are we worried about that? That's insignificant." I guess Iraq invaded Kuwait between the 25th and 26th questions.

L.E. Althaver re-elected to Michigan chamber board

Lambert E. Althaver, chairman, president and chief executive officer of Walbro Corporation in Cass City, has been re-elected to the Board of Directors of the Michigan State Chamber of Commerce.



Lambert Althaver

As a State chamber board member, Althaver is involved in establishing policy on major economic, legislative, political and social issues that affect Michigan's business and economic climate.

Althaver joined Walbro in 1954 as an accountant. In 1977 he was named president and chief operating officer. He became chief executive officer in 1982. Althaver has served on the Board of Directors of Walbro Corporation since 1968. He was elected chairman of the board in 1987.

Althaver has served as Cass City Village president from 1965 to 1984 and from 1987 to the present. Althaver is chairman of the Cass City Economic Development Corporation, a commissioner of the Tuscola County Planning Commission, and a director of the Tuscola County Economic

Development Corporation. He is a director and business manager of the Village Bach Festival in Cass City.

Althaver is a Paul Harris Fellow of Rotary International. He is vice-president of the Executive Board of the Lake Huron Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America and received the distinguished Eagle Scout Award in 1989. Althaver is a

director of Artrain, Inc. and serves as vice-chairman and secretary.

The Michigan State Chamber of Commerce was formed in 1959 to represent a broad cross-section of business interests throughout Michigan. State Chamber members include more than 7,000 business firms, local chambers of commerce and trade and professional associations.

Taylor graduates from basic training

Airman Carmen L. Taylor has graduated from Air Force basic training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

During the 6 weeks of training the airman studied the Air Force mission, organization and customs and received special training in human relations.

In addition, airmen who complete basic training earn credits toward an associate degree through the community college of the Air Force.

Taylor is the daughter of Richard and Phoebe Spencer of Cass City. She is a 1980 graduate of Caro High School.



Airman Carmen Taylor

Sobczak to begin training

John S. Sobczak, Owendale, recently shipped out to the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego, Calif., to begin his basic training.

The son of John Sobczak of Owendale, he will spend 12 weeks in recruit training, preparing for his career as a U.S. Marine.

Sobczak is a 1990 graduate of Owen-Gage High School.



John Sobczak

4-H club schedules meeting

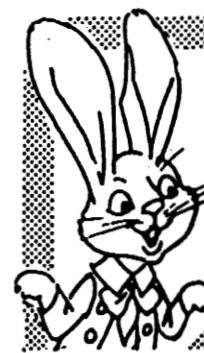
The Cass City Livestock 4-H Club will hold its organizational meeting Thursday starting at 7 p.m. in the intermediate school cafeteria.

Members will receive their fair premiums.

New members are welcome. 4-H is open to anyone 8 to 19 years old. Parents are encouraged to attend.

A variety of project areas are available, including model rocketry, sewing, knitting and crocheting, first aid and CPR, and small and large livestock.

Interested persons can call Carol Stoeckle at 872-2334 for more information.



Rabbit Tracks

by John Haire
(And anyone else he can get to help.)

The principal difference to area motorists with the adoption of the new school bus stopping law is that motorists must stop 20 feet, instead of 10 feet, behind buses that stop to pick up or deliver students when red lights are flashing. It is still alright to pass buses with amber lights flashing when the bus is off the roadway.

All reports indicate that we are in the midst of a banner tourist season again in Michigan. Regardless, let me say that the traffic on I-75 Monday was less than it has been in any of the last 5 years that we have made the trek from Gaylord to Bay City. There just were not that many cars on the road. Either that or they started later than usual because of the extra fine weather enjoyed over the last summer holiday.

Folks in the Thumb will remember the tragic accident that immobilized John Sullivan, Marlette athlete, who was struck by lightning 2 years ago while participating in a golf tournament. Medical expenses have been tremendous as he fights to recover. To help, a benefit golf tourney was held last year. A success, it is being repeated this year at 2 Saginaw area golf courses. The charge is \$60 per person for the scramble and includes golf, cart, prizes and steak dinner. Details are available by calling 635-2649.

Most of the time we have been slightly incredulous reviewing predictions printed in GTE's booklet, "2001 Imagine the Possibilities", but here's one that gets our vote as being right on.

"The number of large, traditional all-in-one hospitals will decline as surgicenters and smaller, more specialized ambulatory care facilities spring up in population centers." We just can't afford big hospitals anymore.

The Weather

	High	Low	Precip.
Tuesday	88	52	0
Wednesday	78	51	0
Thursday	78	50	0
Friday	83	60	0
Saturday	84	57	0
Sunday	78	50	0
Monday	70	50	0

(Recorded at Cass City wastewater treatment plant)

The Haire Net



Doing it the same way we did yesterday is comfortable. Trying something different jars us out of semi-comatose ruts. A body not in motion tends to stay that way about as much as a body in motion tends to stay in motion.

Disposing of trash is a case in point. It's not news that Cass City and the Thumb are following the national trends and experiencing the national headache.

Cass City is in the forefront in coming to grips with the problem in the Thumb. Each step towards the goal of better waste management provided a new headache when it started.

But, you know what?, once it was in place it proved to be not so bad. In fact, no more trouble than the old way. In fact, in some ways it has proved to be BETTER than the way it was.

Go back to the days of the barrel in the back yard. It was easy to dump it in, but burning always was a problem. It was messy, left a hole in the lawn and stunk up the neighborhood.

No one thought much about it, because that was the way it was done. That familiar old rut again. When it was decreed that burning of trash was kaput, there was concern about what to do about the trash while waiting for the pick-up man and the trouble of getting it into the front driveway.

Now, it's easier than it ever was and makes a lot less mess, too. The next step was the banning of burning. I figured that this was going to hit me where I lived...literally and figuratively. For at our house we have nothing if we don't have leaves, leaves, leaves.

But, with the help of the village, taking care of leaves is again about as easy as it was when they were deposited in the driveway and burned. Now they go onto

the street and the village sweeps them away.

Now the next step in the trash containment crusade is upon us. A trailer for recycling will be stationed in the village and residents asked to separate trash and deposit it.

What a chore that promises to be. Or is it? I felt the same way with each step in the march towards a trash disposal solution. Like the others, I grin and bear it because we should do more than provide lip service to help solve the problem.

This figures to be just another step to the time when all trash will be separated and we might as well be prepared.

So far, the only way that the improved waste control has been a downer is that it has been more expensive than the old burning in a barrel.

It won't get any cheaper, but maybe when we separate and recycle some of the cost will be eased because some of the material is reusable.

If not, charge it off to a cleaner environment. It's worth it.

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