"If It Fitz..." Life is a sitcom

By Jim Fitzgerald

It was just recently, on a city bus, that I realized life is a situation comedy. The woman sitting in front of me, whom I had never met, took a little spritzer thing out of her purse and sprayed perfume on her neck. Her aim was careless and some of the perfume landed on me.

It is because of sitcoms like this that Jimmy Carter instituted the White House Conference on Families.

In two minutes I was due to walk into my home and kiss my wife hello. Would she smell the scent of a strange woman upon my person? I put my nose against my left shoulder where most of the stray perfume had hit. Yes, she would. The odor was unlike anything usually smelled on my shoulder. It was cool, but somehow warm; musky, but somehow unmusky. I dug my nose further into my shoulder, which was sloped, but somehow level.

A man sitting across the aisle gave me a strange look. He was wondering why I

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didn't use one of my hands instead of my shoulder to scratch my nose. I told him I had bad hands. Otherwise I wouldn't have been riding the bus with my nose on my shoulder; I'd have been playing split end for the Detroit Lions.

I realized that once I reached home there would be no avoiding the kiss which would be my undoing. I knew would be undone because dozens of times I had seen Dick Van Dyke and Bob Newhart and other heroes of TV situation comedies

undone by the same circumstances. Mary Tyler Moore smelled the strange scent on Van Dyke and immediately began crying because she knew he loved another woman. It did no good for Van Dyke to explain that coming home on the subway he had sat next to a musk deer. He was innocent, but he was undone. The undoing kiss was

inevitable because, for 25 years, I've almost always kissed my wife hello and goodby. This isn't as roman-tic as it is athletic. My wife wants the kiss, but she doesn't stand at the front door waiting for it. She tests my affection for her by forcing me to seek her out and deliver the kiss wherever I might find her. To plant a kiss, I have followed her up ladders and through entire housecleanings. I have stuck my head inside an oven and under a hair dryer. And the few times I've failed to meet the challenge, she has accused me of not loving her anymore, which undoes me.

So the kiss-after-perfuming was delivered, even though I had to straddle a sewing machine to reach her mouth which had pins in it. I figured a skipped kiss would make her just as unhappy as the fragrance of a mysterious woman, and besides, maybe she wouldn't notice. She sniffed. She noticed.

"Don't undo me," I pleaded, and I quickly explained about the woman on the bus. "If you don't believe me, we can take our problem to the White House Conference on Families for arbitration.

10'clock

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Several regional meetings of the conference have already been held, amid much publicity. As I understand it, the primary purpose is to "identify" family members and then decide whether these members should be given abortions even though they might be having homosexual relationships with supporters of the Equal Rights

Amendment. I used to be so dumb I thought everybody born since Adam belonged to a family and everything done in Washington or in City Hall either benefited or hurt every living thing, including Little Orphan Annie and Sandy. I could see no need for a conference on families because we already had millions of bureaucrats and politicians and preachers doing everything for every member of every family.

I was wrong, of course. Otherwise, why would our wise government be spending \$3 million of our money to finance this Conference on Families? It must be needed. And in a few years we will need the Conference on Conferences on Families. It will cost \$6 million.

The purpose of the Conference on Conferences on Families will be to determine whether the Conference on Familes convinced wives that innocent men can be sprayed by musk deer on buses. It convinced me that life is a situation comedy.

Hagen gets degree from CMU

Karl R. Hagen, son of Fred Hagen, 1282 Atwater Road, Ubly, was among 3,010 students to graduate May 10 from Central Mich-

of science degree in business administration. While at CMU, he majored in

at home, he is seeking employment in the corporate accounting area.

ESTATE

Poppe wasn't found until later, so firemen had to break the left rear window to igan University. get into the car, then tear Hagen received a bachelor through the back seat to get into the trunk, the source of the fire. It was first thought the fire was inside the accounting. Although presently living passenger compartment as it was full of smoke. Cause of the fire, accord-

ing to department Lieutenant Dave McNaughton, was traced to the taillight bulb being pulled out of the taillight assembly, but with the wire intact, when some items were thrown in the

Car fires can be started by

the strangest reasons, as

Brian Poppe discovered to

his misfortune Friday night.

had his car parked at the

Charmont, when it started

smoking, and was pre-

sumably discovered by a

passerby. The Elkland

Township Fire Department received the call at 10:30

The Essexville resident

The items, apparently all camping equipment, were nylon, canvas and plastic, and the taillight bulb nestled among them started them

smoldering. The fire never got hot

The

rear seat, smoke, water,

BUDDING ARTISTS had an opportunity to create their

own masterpieces at the "paint-in" sponsored by the

American Association of University Women. Many

children took advantage of the paint throughout the day.

Loose taillight

starts auto fire

enough for the gas tank to

explode, McNaughton said.

damage was scorching of

The only direct fire

The car, a 1975 Mercury part of the trunk lid on the Comet, was still driveable. inside. Damage because of Firemen were there about the broken window, ripped

Ubly festival this weekend

The Ubly Homecoming will be in full swing this weekend with a wide range of entertainment to break up a long hot summer.

CASS CITY CHRONICLE-THURSDAY, JULY 10, 1980

The festival begins Thursday and continues through Sunday where it will be culminated by a parade and several other events. Midway rides open at 1

p.m. Thursday and Friday. Opening night also features a tractor pull at the

Ubly Tractor Sales for various classes of tractors. Weigh-in time is from 4-6 p.m. at the Thumb Farm Service Limited.

Haire

The second July 4 Festival is history and was at least as successful as the first. Everyone was happy. Despite the pleasant results the celebration may

be in jeopardy. That's maybe hard to fathom when you consider that the festival this year was as well received as last year and in addition pro-

bably paid its own way. Compared to 1979 when the event cost the Chamber of Commerce some \$4,000 that's good news indeed.

With all this going for it why the gloom and doom? The Fourth is a good time. There's something doing just about every minute of the day. That doesn't just happen; it takes a barrel of

Spread over enough volunteers the load is light

That's the ideal. In practice it doesn't work that way. Several persons have shouldered much of the burden. Tom Herron, Mike Weaver, Gloria Ouvry and several others have been the driving force that carried the festival to success.

At least two that have made the wheels turn want to bow out or reduce their work load in the future.

One of them is Herron. He's discouraged over the lack of help Thinking about bowing out.

Perhaps that will change by next summer. I'd guess that if he moved down from the top, he'd still do more than his share to help

someone who replaced him. There's doubt here if another person is available that will devote the time that's necessary to keep the festival growing and going.

A successor would probably be named from among the cadre of workers and planners that have been working long hours on the previous celebrations.

If one moves up there's going to be a worker gone that's hard to replace.

This year there were

fewer workers than during the first festival. It placed a load on those remaining. It wasn't true that there was less work this year than during the first celebration,

Herron says. There was more. More than I would be able to take away from my business in another year. The handwriting appears

clear, If Cass City wants the festival, more of us who didn't do much will have to do more.

13,000 and 15,500 pound categories. The tractor pull continues Friday night for garden tractors in the 4-10 horsepower and 11-16 horsepower

The first night features

tractors in the modified 6000

pound class and in the farm

class for 5,200, 7,200, 9,000,

pried open trunk lid and

damaged camping equip-

ment was estimated by

firemen at a total of \$350-400.

range. Other events are an open garden 1,000 pound class, mini 1750 class and a category for farm tractors 6,000 to 10,500 class. Stock pick-ups of 5,500

pounds will also compete. The pull begins at 7 p.m. both nights.

An art display will also be held from 2-9 p.m. at the village hall on Friday. The display. continues Saturday

from 2-5 p.m. A street dance with music provided by "The Lighthouse" begins at 9 p.m.

Saturday will see a lot of activities for kids beginning with a kiddie parade at 12:30 p.m. A series of kids games and a frog jumping contest will get underway at 4 p.m.

The Future Farmers of America will be judging a livestock show at the grandstands at 2:30 p.m. A pony-pulling contest for light and heavy ponies will

be at 7:30 p.m. at the Homecoming grounds. A dance with music provided by Johnny Prill's

"Pacemakers", begins at 9 The festival winds up Sunday with a parade at 1

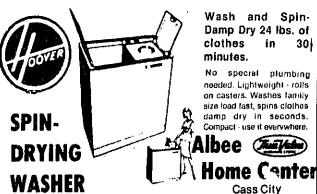
p.m. and free ox roast at 3 The Thumb Rose Society will be sponsoring a Rose Show at the Community

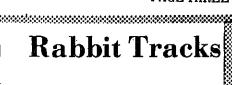
Bank at 2 p.m. following the parade. A tug of war at 4 p.m. will pit eight-man teams of no

more than 2,000 lbs. against each other. A street dance and polka

contest featuring Bob Tenbusch and the Golden Stars will polish off the entertainment at Homecoming festival.

See The New Way To Wash!





By John Haire

(And anyone else he can get to help)

The regular meeting of the Cass City School Board Monday, July 14, should be of more than ordinary interest to backers of the one-mill tax proposal for extra operating

That's the time that a committee will be formed to promote the proposal.

The board is issuing a special invitation to interested residents to attend.

The board meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. and the committee proposal will be discussed about an hour later.

Incidentally, one fertile field for the workers will be the registration of 18-year-olds. Very few are on the voting rolls now and most would be in favor of the levy, I'm sure. Another bloc of voters who should help is the teachers.

You'd think they would all vote automatically, all be registered. But they do not all vote nor are they all registered.

Just when all of us were becoming accustomed to the fivedigit zip code system the postal department is changing it. Added to the current zip will be four numbers. The first two numbers will indicate a sector and the other two will be unique within the sector.

The target date for implementation of the 9-digit system is

One man's opinion - the department has two chances for meeting that goal, slim and none.

Browsing through the files, a story revealed that the Home-coming here was staged for seven years and enjoyed no-rain the day the event was staged.

Add to that the two wonderful, weather-wise, days that the July 4 Festival has enjoyed and one of two conclusions is inevitable. The first is that Cass City lives a charmed life and the other is that it is due to rain on Festival day for about three years in a row.

Is it just because some guys are born lucky and others aren't that tales like this can be told?

Whatever, Gene Wilson is one of the lucky ones. A few years ago he was talked into buying a single ticket for a chance to win a snowmobile raffled by the Senior class. That ticket won the prize.

On the last day, Friday, he purchased three tickets on the spaceship raffled by the Cass City First Presbyterian

He was again the winner.

Taylor graduates

Barbara Taylor, daughter development. Miss Taylor is f Theresa Taylor, 4644 pursuing employment in the of Theresa Taylor, 4644 Washington Street, Ubly, graduated with honors and a bachelor of arts degree from Central Michigan University

child development field. She said she would like to work with a nursery school or head-start program.

At present she is living at While at CMU she majored in pre-school child home in Ubly.

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