

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Longtime Civics Teacher Advised:
Choose Best Individual Candidate

To the Editor:

For many years I have realized Mackinac County is basically a Republican county. If I am in doubt, I still vote Republican. Back in 1937, I was fortunate to be in a civics class where Clinton Fair was the teacher. So very often I have found myself thinking about his lecture, when he emphasized the importance of choosing the best representative when voting. He followed this by saying that it was impossible for one group to have 100% best representation.

At that time, there was a young man who wanted to share the beauty of the Upper Peninsula with all who would come to see it. It was nothing for a hunter coming to our area to wait as long as seven or more hours to get across the Straits via the ferries. Our winters were not too cold. The snow provided an ideal way to promote one, if not the first, snowmobile to be built in America, by Chester Wing, another St. Ignace man. Our summer weather was ideal, too. The young man realized to attract people to our area, better transportation was a must. He was a man of vision. He also brought attention to the beautiful Cut River area. He sponsored having a bridge to cross the Straits of Mackinac, and a bridge across the Cut River. The Detroit newspapers referred to this bridge as, "The million dollar bridge across the 10-cent river." This man of vision was Senator Prentiss M. Brown, a Democrat (no relation to the writer).

With the upcoming election, I sincerely hope the people of Mackinac County will tune in on CNN politics, where you actually hear what the candidates say, as there has been a great deal of misrepresentation in the ads on the regular stations.

Helen D. Brown
St. Ignace

Give the Bailout Money to
Taxpayers, To Pay Off Credit Cards

To the Editor:

It appears that our current financial mess was created in large part by the government. We had no business telling banks who to lend to, and the result was a bunch of low-interest loans to folks with questionable credit, that were sure to go bad at the first bad economic downturn. Now all taxpayers are being asked to foot a \$700 billion bill, even though the mistakes were made by Congress and irresponsibly run banks.

My suggestion: Give that \$700 billion to the taxpayers, so we can pay down our mortgages and credit cards. The banks get their money and everyone benefits – not just the people that are unemployed, or those that bought too much house for their budget, or the fat-cat bankers, but also the average, struggling middle-class or lower-class families.

Give everyone with incomes under, say, \$100,000 per year, another tax rebate. I'm guessing that would be about 10 grand each. Then we could all pay down debt, and the banks get their money, anyway. And with debts paid off, guess what? We have more money in our own budget to put back into the economy. Everybody wins.

Andy Evans
Cheboygan

Proposal of Weekly St. Ignace
Fireworks Is Distressing

To the Editor:

A proposal from the "Fireworks Committee," which showed up in my e-mail from the Chamber of Commerce, is very distressing. The proposal, to have been sent to the City Council for funding consideration, is for summer weekend fireworks.

Fireworks for the entire summer on weekends? This is a very bad idea. Residents would find this something beyond irritating, and I doubt that visitors and tourists would find much, if any, enjoyment in such sustained, summer-long noise and display. Among other concerns, it's likely that sustained weekend fireworks would encourage, even facilitate, the illegal sale and use of fireworks in the area. But the noise every weekend during the summer is my major concern. The charm and attractiveness of this town on the "north end of the bridge" would be seriously compromised. What is appropriate for July 4, and perhaps other special occasions, is not appropriate as a summer weekend feature for this town.

A variety of street entertainment and added musical events in the business district, planned and adequately publicized, would be a much more enjoyable and appropriate means of attracting visitors and tourists. Such events might be scheduled during times when shops and stores downtown are still open.

Fireworks every weekend after dark? I would have to leave town to escape the pointless noise.

Bob Heywood
St. Ignace

Citizen Pleased with City
Manager's Response to Concern

To the Editor:

I was reading your recent issue of *The St. Ignace News* and I feel compelled to comment on the evaluation of Eric Dodson and some of the comments on his performance with citizen relations or concerns.

I recently went to Mr. Dodson with a concern. The city crew was putting the tar and chip on the road going up past the United Methodist Church in August. I voiced my concern to Mr. Dodson about the loose gravel on the road. My concern was that it was dangerous for motorcyclists; we had a large group coming through St. Ignace on their way to a rally in Wisconsin. Being a motorcyclist myself, [I know] it is very dangerous to ride on loose gravel. I met with Mr. Dodson at 4:45 p.m. and he was very open to listening to the problem. The very next morning at 8:30 a.m., I was told by Larry Brown, another motorcyclist, that the city crew was at the spot cleaning up all the loose gravel.

I, for one, think Mr. Dodson did his job and did it very well. He addressed the problem and took care of it very promptly. I appreciate Mr. Dodson for listening to my concern and for keeping all of the motorcycle riders safe.

Veronica Rickley
St. Ignace

Speidel, a Man of Achievement,
Was Also a Man of Humility

To the Editor:

The obituary for Richard Speidel in the September 18 edition of *The St. Ignace News* celebrated the life of an extraordinary man whose achievements can be duplicated by few. What was amazing about this remarkable person is that those of us who grew up with him on Urie Bay just knew him as "Dick." He was a kind, gentle man, who was committed to family and friends, and who never talked about his achievements. Dick showed an exhilarating zest for life. Every summer, we could hear him laughing and whistling as he trotted down his dock early in the morning with either a fishing pole or golf clubs in hand. He was an intrepid fisherman all of his life, and we all remember the day when he was young, screaming across the bay for his dad to come help him, for he had just landed a monster pike.

In later years, he fished even when there were no fish, and reported his findings each summer to the Les Cheneaux Islands Association, an organization he was dedicated to, and where he recently served as president. He always warned us that he was writing a book about Les Cheneaux, and each of us wondered if we would be one of his island characters. Dick died at his beloved cottage, and those of us who knew him will now see his spirit and love of the islands in every wave and sunset.

The fact that he was just "Dick" shows his great humility, and that may be the greatest gift he gave to all of us.

Jill and Dick Bigler
Judi Minges
Mary Jane and John Richter
Les Cheneaux

St. Ignace News Policies

Letters:

All responsible letters will be considered for publication and may be edited. They must be signed and a telephone number must be included for verification. Personal thank-you notes, personal attacks against other people, form letters, and letters promoting political candidates are not accepted, although letters for or against ballot proposals are welcome.

Obituaries:

The St. Ignace News maintains a policy of not charging for obituaries and we do often add information or rewrite them for clarity and reader interest. Obituaries that the family wants published exactly as submitted can be placed in the newspaper for \$75. Photographs are welcome at no charge.

Weddings:

Weddings with photographs are published without charge within 45 days of the ceremony. After 45 days, a photograph can be included for \$35.00.

Internet:

The complete edition of The St. Ignace News is available online at stignacenews.com.

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Michigan
PoliticsBy
George WeeksMcCain's Fade Could
Help State Democrats

Republican John McCain's abrupt, ill-advised Michigan fade could be good news for Democrats down the ticket, maybe even for Supreme Court candidate Diane Marie Hathaway, partisan-nominated contender on the ill-named "bipartisan" ballot.

This theory, disputed by state GOP leaders, is that headlines such as "McCain campaign pulls out of Michigan" (a rare, same-day duplication in both Detroit dailies) will suppress grassroots enthusiasm and get-out-the-vote efforts by Republicans.

Wayne County Circuit Judge Hathaway, who campaigned here Friday and plans an October 10 to October 11 visit to Escanaba and Houghton, said McCain's decision to concentrate efforts elsewhere could help state Democratic candidates, possibly including more use of resources and volunteer time that have been devoted to the Barack Obama campaign.

Two area Democratic candidates for open state House districts embrace that thought: Dan Scripps of Leland for the 101st, and Roman Grucz of Traverse City for the 104th.

Scripps said the McCain pullout "probably helps on the margin," noting that while some Democratic resources might be diverted to state candidates, so, too, could Republican resources be re-targeted to legislative and other candidates.

Scripps and Grucz were among the Hathaway supporters, including leaders of environmental groups, who far outnumbered the two reporters at a press conference called here by Hathaway at the outset of northern campaigning in her uphill challenge of Chief Justice Cliff Taylor.

Hathaway, a former assistant prosecutor in Macomb County, branded Taylor an advocate of "blatant activism – a walking conflict of interest."

She had a slight 16 to 14 percentage lead over Taylor in a September 15 to September 20 *Inside Michigan Politics* (IMP) poll of 600 likely voters, but still faces an uphill battle among the vast majority of voters because Taylor will have the advantage of the "incumbent" ballot designation and a likely substantial spending edge.

Taylor "may be in a little trouble," IMP publisher Bill Ballenger said Friday. "He'd better start spending 'like a drunken sailor,'" as he earlier told Michigan Information and Research Service.

I will examine the Taylor-Hathaway race in a later column, but the more immediate matter is McCain's Michigan fade, which created quite a national media buzz.

"I'm disappointed," former Republican National Committeeman Chuck Yob, longtime Michigan point man for McCain and co-chair of this year's state campaign, said of the decision, which makes inoperative my earlier column quoting Yob about McCain planning a northern Michigan swing.

"I fought, and fought, and fought against it. But I do under-

stand they have to pool resources in states where they think they can win."

While IMP's Ballenger expressed doubt that the decision would have a serious adverse ripple effect on the Michigan ticket, especially on nonpartisan ballot, he said: "I think it was a terrible thing for McCain to do."

He criticized the way the McCain campaign revealed its decision, saying it at least should have "put on a happy face."

He's right. Surrender is demoralizing for the troops.

"When the general leaves the battlefield when the fight's still going on, it creates a lot of chaos," said Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson.

Yob and GOP State Chairman Saul Anuzis say McCain could yet return to Michigan. In his Saturday blog, Anuzis said that in a conference call with McCain Campaign Manager Rick Davis, "he just flat out said that polling numbers provide better opportunities elsewhere at this time and they are pulling out of Michigan. He did say they would continue to monitor our progress and if the situation changed, they would consider reengaging."

Anuzis told his troops: "Our initial Victory Centers are all remaining open at this time and we are looking for volunteer efforts to continue each and every day. Many of you have been asking for more specifics, but hang in there, we are getting new information daily...even by the hour. We are specifically working with our congressional, state house, and court candidates to limit the negative effects this move will have on our ticket."

"In spite of the adversity thrown at us yesterday, I want to say thanks to all of you for your continued support and never ending commitment to help turn Michigan around. Together, we can make a difference!"

Good for GOP Veep nominee Sarah Palin, who, according to Fox News, opposed conceding Michigan to Obama and said, "I wanna go back to Michigan." TV talking heads elsewhere made much of Palin being a maverick within the campaign on Michigan.

McCain Michigan co-chair Yob, according to *The Detroit News*, said in a Friday e-mail to Palin: "I hereby invite you to come to Michigan immediately. The good people of Macomb County, Northern Michigan, the Upper Peninsula, and Grand Rapids await your response."

Obama stiffed Michigan in the primary, boycotting in response to national party rules that Michigan violated by voting earlier than allowed.

Last week, after a spirited effort on the ground and the airwaves, McCain quit Michigan a little more than four weeks before the general election.

But "Victory Centers" remain open.

George Weeks retired in 2006 after 22 years as political columnist for The Detroit News. His weekly Michigan Politics column is syndicated by Superior Features.

Sault Area Arts Council's Annual
Art Auction Set for November 1

The Sault Area Arts Council will host its annual arts auction Saturday, November 1, at the Lake Superior State University Cisler Center in Sault Ste. Marie. The 7 p.m. auction will be preceded by a dinner at 6 p.m. The auction is free of charge, however, the dinner tickets are \$22. Dinner reservations may be made

by calling Pat Claxton at (906) 635-0424.

Proceeds benefit the Sault Area Arts Council, a nonprofit, all volunteer organization that owns and operates Alberta House Arts Center. More than 100 works of art have been donated for the auction by artists associated with Alberta House.

Downtown Trick or Treat Fest Is October 31

The annual Downtown Trick or Treat Fest will be Friday, October 31, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. in Sault Ste. Marie. Costume judging will take place at Avery Square at 7 p.m.

Mackinac Straits Health System
Will Offer Flu Shot Clinics

Mackinac Straits Health System is offering Flu Shot Clinics Monday, October 20, in Primary Care, and Tuesday, November 18, in the Medical Building. Medicare, Blue Cross, and

Medicaid will be billed. For all others, a fee of \$25 will be payable on the day of the vaccination.

For appointments, call 643-0400 for Primary Care and 643-0466 for Medical Building.

The St. Ignace News
and Les Cheneaux Islands Weekly Wave

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The quotation under the flag of *The St. Ignace News* on Page 1 is from the 10 triads written by Dr. Fred Newton Scott, creator and teacher of the first continuous course in journalism in the United States at the University of Michigan in 1890. The 10 triads are chiseled on the parapet of the Detroit News Building at 615 Lafayette Boulevard, Detroit. They were headed "Ideals of the Press" or "The Newspaper in a Free Society," and serve as a reminder of what a free press means to us.