



The Railroads Vs. Passengers

So now Penn Central is proposing the dropping of all passenger service from Detroit to New York and Boston. The railroad does have a point, what with mammoth losses on the passenger service for many years, and it is my guess that after all the wailing and recrimination and hearings are ended, they will get their right of way, if you'll pardon the pun.

But it will always be a question in my mind how much they might have done to prevent this erosion despite the development of competing forms of transportation.

Lots of people much older than I well remember the railroads' arrogance and indifference when they had the only transportation game in town. You rode with them and liked it whether you really liked it or not.

All during the years the automobile and the bus and finally the airplane were coming of age, the railroads kept to their same old-fashioned pattern of indifferent service, antiquated equipment and the take-it-or-leave-it attitude.

The eastern roads were far and away the guiltiest, and finally convulsed in a token too-little-and-too-late movement toward modern equipment and better scheduling. Remember the late Robert Young's indictment: "A hog can travel from coast to coast without changing trains, but you can't!"

Ah, well, that's coal down the chute and diesel oil down the drain, and it wasn't all bad. No one who experienced them will ever forget the sybaritic joys of the dining car with its snowy table cloths and gleaming silverware and the way the waiters with loaded trays leaned precariously right over your head as the train swayed into a curve. And never spilled a drop.

The coffee was always superb, and you could — mostly — sit back and enjoy it long after the rest of the dishes were cleared away.

It's not a fair comparison, of course, because there really is no similarity between the two, but can you imagine doing that on an airplane? A harassed stewardess would report you to the Federal Aeronautics Administration.

I recall a ride in the cab of the Chicago-bound Mercury, as far as Kalamazoo. Not on a diesel where the engineers wear lemon yellow shirts and loafers, but in a real rock 'n' roll, steam-snooting, coal-devouring locomotive.

It was in March, just as cold as it is now, and I was crunched up next to the fireman, freezing behind and steaming in front every time he opened the fire door to inspect his particular segment of Hell and tend to its needs by shooting coal with jets of compressed air.

If I wanted to talk to him, I had to cup my hands around his ear and yell. He and the engineer communicated by hand signals. When we scooped up water from tanks in the center of the track, the spray made you think you were riding in a speedboat.

I was impressed by how little vision there was for either of them, and I screamed to the fireman: "What would you do if you saw a car you knew the engineer couldn't see?"

He looked at me as if I were crazy, answered: "Nothing." And I understood how foolish the question had been. No way for the crew to stop the juggernaut in time.

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Detroit Free Press

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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Friday, March 6, 1970

Today's Chuckle

What makes it so hard to get by these days is that our necessities are too luxurious and our luxuries are too necessary.

New Model City Chief Fought on Both Sides

BY ANDREW MOLLISON
Free Press Staff Writer

COLUMBUS, O. — Sylvester Angel, slated to be named Friday by Mayor Gribbs as head of the \$25,000-a-year job as head of Detroit's Model Neighborhood Agency, has long been a man of action.

Raised on the picket lines of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), his ire at what he views as injustices led to physical violence this week for the first time.

Angel, who holds the top post in the Columbus Model City program, was watching a meeting of its citizens governing board.

A man who was angry because his group failed to get a \$400,000 grant threw a table at the chairman of the citizens' group.

Angel leaped up and grabbed the attacker around the neck. Another man jumped Angel from behind, scratched his neck and appeared to be trying to bite Angel's ear.

Police arrived and arrested Angel's assistant, who was carrying a tear-gas gun.

Angel called a judge and got his assistant out on bail. Then he and the chairman of the citizens' group went down to police headquarters

and swore out assault warrants against the original assailants.

"I suppose that was the ultimate in co-operation between this agency and the citizens," Angel joked somewhat wanly Thursday. "We can't stand by and watch the violent ones take over."

AFTER 16 months as the top representative for city hall in its encounters with the citizens governing board, Angel has already seen a small-scale version of Detroit's problems.

The Columbus program has angry citizens who feel left out. Endless delays in hiring

staff, in filling out forms and in starting action programs contribute to that feeling.

But, unlike Detroit up until now, the Columbus agency is headed by a man with lots of experience on the other side of the confrontation table.

Angel will replace David Cason, who resigned Tuesday and will vacate the job March 13.

Angel, 38, was a practicing architect for 12 years. He is one of the few blacks in this conservative Ohio town to wear a beard.

As CORE's regional co-ordinator he led many demonstrations in the 1960s against

various city agencies accused of discriminating against Negroes.

In November, 1968, Angel was named as the third Model City director in Columbus in 18 months.

"It wasn't an easy decision," Angel said. "Sometimes you wonder if you can do more by staying outside government."

He took the job, but it didn't cramp his style. In February, 1969, the mayor bawled him out for joining a group of pickets who were circling city

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Sylvester Angel



TWO YOUNG boys discovered parts of Sandra Sue Snell's dismembered body behind the clump of bushes in the center of this photo. Beyond the wall at the right is a sidewalk along E. Jefferson.

Slaying Victim Abandoned Suburbs for Tough City Life

This profile of Sandra Sue Snell was researched by Free Press reporters Tom Ricke, Tom Nugent and Judy Wax.

Sandra Sue Snell, whose neatly severed head and limbs were found in four green plastic bags Wednesday night, was a carefree, 26-year-old woman who gave up a comfortable suburban life five years ago to live on her own in the city.

During the past five years she floated from job to job and from hotel to hotel.

For the past several months she lived in room 914 of the Royal Palm Hotel, 2305 Park. She was last seen leaving her room about two weeks ago with a boyfriend known only to police as "John."

THURSDAY police pressed their search for John and a girlfriend named "Sunny" who both recently lived with Sandra in the same hotel room. The two former roommates, police hope, will help solve the mystery of Sandra's violent murder.

Two boys who were playing in a vacant lot near E. Jefferson between Fiske and



Sandra Snell

Lodge Wednesday night found Sandra's hands, feet, limbs and head in four separate bags.

Mrs. George Roberts, who lives at 601 Lodge next door to the vacant lot, said Thursday that her husband first saw the bags last Sunday afternoon, but did not check them.

Sandra's torso remained missing Thursday.

Five years ago when Sandra lived at home with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Snell of 948 Kings Highway, Lincoln Park, she had a pretty face and flowing black hair.

Two weeks ago, when her friends last saw Sandra, her face was badly scarred and she wore a long blond wig.

Five years ago, recalls her mother, Mrs. Eva Snell, "she (Sandra) never missed a Sunday at church. She was so friendly. Everyone here and in Wyandotte loved her."

But Sandra did not love living in Lincoln Park and the years on her own changed her.

SHE WAS arrested twice in the past five years, once for writing bad checks and once for being in the company of a man carrying a gun.

She spent most of the last year in the Park Street area — in the few blocks surrounding the Royal Palm. It is in area where students and retirees

walk the streets during the day and prostitutes work the bars at night.

Jerry Lobel, a bartender there, said he remembers "Johnny" as a good customer. "He spent a lot of time here," he said.

He said Sandra helped out as a barmaid last Christmas. She also used to work as a part-time barmaid and waitress at the Pow Wow Bar, 160 W. Montcalm.

Mrs. Frances North, 30, a barmaid at the Pow Wow, said she knew Sandra as well as anyone in the neighborhood.

"She came in here every single night," Mrs. North said. "She didn't drink anything but cokes. She would sit here and drink six or seven of them."

"She told me about her boyfriend, John. She called him her 'old man.' Her face looked like a truck hit it with all those

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UAW Blasts Blue Shield; Warns of Soaring Costs

BY RALPH ORR
Free Press Staff Writer

Changes in a Michigan Blue Shield claim form could send "skyrocketing" doctor bills soaring even higher, a United Auto Workers (UAW) official charged Thursday.

Douglas Fraser, UAW executive board member, called the "unannounced revision" an "open invitation to doctors to raise their fees." He said the change could trigger a stampede by participating doctors "who may withdraw formal agreements with Blue Shield for the purpose of increasing their fees."

His charge drew an instant rebuttal from John C. McCabe, Michigan Blue Shield president, who said the revised form is for use in processing less than one percent of the five million claims received annually.

Fraser said the new forms are used to process payments to physicians who do not have formal agreements with Blue Shield — the so-called "non-participating" doctors.

THE CHANGE calls for the patient's signature on a statement which says "I understand the doctor's charge may exceed the Blue Shield payment, and if greater than such payment, I will

be responsible for that amount."

Fraser said leaders of some Chrysler locals have suggested that Chrysler Corp. and the UAW pull out of Blue Shield.

In a letter to McCabe, the UAW official called the revision "totally unacceptable" and urged McCabe to withdraw the forms already in the hands of the doctors involved.

But McCabe said the only form revised was one providing for payment of benefits directly to the subscriber, and that fewer than 50,000 of these forms are processed each year.

HE SAID the form is to be used only when non-participating doctors wish to charge more than what Blue Shield has determined is the prevailing fee for the service performed.

"Our contracts stipulate that we will defend our determination of a reasonable charge where non-participating doctors' charges exceed that determination, unless the patient made a prior agreement to pay more," he said.

Some 31 percent of the state's doctors do not participate in the Blue Shield program.

Fraser fears the new form may boost that percentage.

Let Colleges Alone, Study Urges Senators

BY CLARK HOYT
Free Press Politics Writer

KALAMAZOO — Administrators of Michigan's colleges and universities don't need any new laws or interference from the Legislature to handle campus disorders, a report prepared for a State Senate committee has indicated.

In the two-volume, 215-page report released Thursday, the researchers said they also found a little evidence that a nationwide conspiracy is involved in student unrest at the state's colleges and universities.

THE REPORT was prepared by Higher Education Executive Associates, a private consulting firm, for the Special Senate Committee to Investigate Campus Disorders and Student Unrest.

It was made public during a conference of educators at Nazareth College, a small Catholic girls school well sheltered from the sort of violence the committee was formed to look into.

The fundamental problem on many college campuses, according to the report, is to find constructive outlets for student unrest and dissatisfaction.

"The intervention of the Legislature, however well intentioned, is unlikely to contribute to this process," the report said.

It added that laws dealing with student disturbances are often written with more emotion than reason, and are usually unenforceable or unconstitutional.

Instead, the consultants suggested, the Legislature should consider a vote of confidence in the ability of college and university administrators to manage their own campuses.

The committee chairman, State Senator Robert Huber of Troy, a conservative Republican, said he wanted to study the recommendations before deciding whether he agrees with all of them.

He emphasized that his eight-man committee has not yet written its own final report.

But, at a news conference, Huber implied the carefully documented report had shaken some of his own well-publicized views about student unrest.

"I don't want to use the term 'brainwash,'" Huber said, "but I certainly think that those of us who watched reports (of campus violence) should take another look at this."

But Huber, who has sug-



State Sen. Robert Huber implied that the carefully documented staff report had shaken some of his own well-publicized views about student unrest.

gested in speeches that some student disturbances are directed from off-campus, added that it "should be very reassuring" that "a very, very small percentage of outside agitators" are involved.

IN A SERIES of 32 specific recommendations, the consultant said public scholarship funds should be withheld from a student for only one reason — poor grades.

A bill now pending in the Senate would cut off state assistance for any student convicted of taking part in an illegal demonstration.

"Prior to this report," Huber said, "I was all gung-ho for that (the bill). I must admit this report will make me take another good hard look at it."

When the Huber committee was created in January, 1969, it was directed by the Senate to study three major areas — the need for new legislation, the influence of subversive groups on college and university campuses and the role of Students for Democratic Society (SDS) in creating unrest.

The research staff has now reported there is no need for

new criminal law and there is no major criminal conspiracy.

The research director, Dr. Thomas A. Emmet Jr., president of Higher Education Executive Associates, indicated to reporters that SDS is too divided internally to be an effective force.

"They're so splintered," Emmet said. "One of the things we had to do through the summer and fall was keep track of how they are splitting."

A POLL taken by the consultant at 72 colleges and universities found that the issues that has sparked the most student protest in Michigan is the war in Vietnam.

In addition to the war, students are upset about dormitory regulations, racial discrimination, and campus food service among other issues.

To improve campus security the research staff recommended that campus policemen be given the training and pay of state policemen.

The report said it might be better if state police were the first outside force called when campus police could not quell a campus disturbance by themselves.



A Two-by-Four Really Isn't

A two-by-four isn't. For a long time it's been a 1½-by-3½ but now (and it's official) it's a 1½-by-3½.

The new standard for wood went into effect this week after a seven-year hassle over how big a two-by-four should actually be.

The U.S. Commerce Department finally got producers, distributors and users of softwood lumber to agree to the new standards.

COMMERCE Secretary Maurice Stans last year said the new standard "takes account of the fact that lumber shrinks as it dries" and requires fresh lumber to be finished to a size "sufficiently larger than dry lumber so that both will have the same dimensions after seasoning."

The lumber industry estimates that the smaller new uniform size may save as much as \$150 to \$300 in lumber costs in building a house because of the greater number of two-by-fours in each freight carload.

The new standards should save money and make for uniformity, but somehow "fatty, fatty, 1½-by-3½, can't get through the kitchen door . . ." just doesn't sound right.

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