

I was living with Bonnie Norwood at the time these letters were printed. She was a great inspiration to me, and a great source of ideas and advice.

PUBLIC FORUM

9/7/89

Credit shouldn't apply to non-working women

Bush's new drug war

President Bush's new drug control strategy will focus heavily on increased law enforcement against both drug sellers and users. Critics charge his plan sets a low priority on education and prevention efforts as well as treatment of drug addicts. For the Public Forum of Saturday, Sept. 16, the Daily News invites readers to comment on whether Bush went far enough in tackling the drug problem and whether he is right in targeting even casual users. Letters should reach the Daily News by Wednesday, Sept. 13.

Writing to Public Forum: We welcome letters to the editor on all issues of public concern. Letters must be signed and must include the writer's home address and daytime telephone number. All are subject to editing and condensation. They can be published only with the writer's true name. Mail letters to Public Forum, P.O. Box 4200, Woodland Hills, Calif. 91365.

Guest columnist Dorothy Bearss, in her column on the child-care tax credit, overlooks the underlying rationale for the credit itself. It was not designed to reduce everyone's taxes; it was designed to partially offset child-care expenses for low-income single parents and families.

Does Bearss believe that food stamps should be distributed to all Americans as well as to those unable to purchase adequate meals on their income?

Does she believe that SSI disability benefits should be paid to able-bodied citizens? I doubt it.

By analogy, should tax credits be given to people who have no need to employ outside child-care providers?

I am a single mother who must work outside the home. My salary as a legal secretary places me slightly over the ceiling for qualification for the tax credit, so I, like mothers at home, am excluded from these benefits. I sometimes think the ceiling is too low, but considering the federal deficit, I am willing to live with it.

There are economic inequities in our society, and I support legislation that attempts to equalize them. I am even willing to pay higher taxes to that end.

To my knowledge, however, the motto of the United States has never been "From each according to their ability — to all, regardless of their need."



— **Bonnie Norwood**
West Hills



Criticized columnists

I am in the seemingly paradoxical position of generally agreeing with recent letter writers' (low) opinions of Joseph Sobran, Patrick Buchanan and Debra J. Saunders, but at the same time not being in favor of canceling their contributions simply because I don't like them. (Public Forum, Sept. 1.)

After several years of reading five daily papers, along with two weeklies, I have concluded that the Daily News is a good newspaper, just because it offers a nicely balanced op-ed page, and prints news from a variety of wire services. I consider the editorials to be exceptionally well-written, even though I don't necessarily agree with them.

I suggest that we are better served by newspapers that juxtapose extreme *and* centrist points-of-view, than by those that present only models of sweet reason.

This is not to say that there is not room for improvement here. Like most mainstream papers, the Daily News does not present even the progressive left, let alone the extreme left.

While I agree that Sobran, Buchanan and Saunders offer us mostly venom and spleen, I see them more as comic relief than as serious proponents of viable points of view. The rapidly changing world is leaving them behind, so they pose no real danger as long as we keep them in perspective.

9-7-89

— Bill Becker
Woodland Hills

DAILY NEWS