

Central Illinois

NEWSMAKER

Pulitzer doesn't clear cigar

Ellen Goodman discovered the day in 1981 after she won a Pulitzer Prize — the top journalistic honor — that things were going to stay pretty much the way they'd always been.

The nationally syndicated columnist still faces deadline pressure amid a cloud of cigar smoke courtesy of a colleague at the next desk at the Boston Globe.

"The Pulitzer didn't make it any easier to turn out my next column," she said in an interview with Herald & Review reporter Sue Brown. "Newspaper people don't have the time to sit back and rest on their laurels."

For a similar reason, Goodman says she can't pick a favorite among the three published collections of her columns: "Close to Home," "At Large," and "Keeping in Touch."

"Newspaper writing is so ephemeral," she explained, "that I think more about what I'm going to do next than what I've done."

Goodman's columns, featuring a humanist's perspective on a wide range of issues, regularly appear in this newspaper. And Central Illinoisans will have an opportunity to meet her Sept. 22 when she speaks at the Decatur Holiday Inn. The event is sponsored by the YWCA, which has paid Goodman \$7,000 for the appearance.

Q. What will you speak to Decatur residents about?

A. Social change needed, now that there's been a change in many women's values. Women have, over the past couple of decades, taken on many traditionally masculine roles, particularly that of wage earner, to balance out responsibility between the sexes.

But men haven't taken on as much of the traditionally feminine roles: nurturing children, organizing the home, for example. And communities and employers haven't done as much as they could to allow men and women to

help each other this way.

Q. How can Central Illinoisans help bring about positive social change?

A. By moving away from this intense individualism that our society has promoted and working together to get what's most need — adequate child-care services, for example. People and their families shouldn't have to solve such problems alone. It's only together that they can get the day care and other help they need from their employers and their communities.

And they should get over thinking these are "feminist" issues — they're "family" issues that affect men and children as well as women.

Q. Which of the current batch of political candidates seems to you to be more sympathetic to the needs of families?

A. At this point more Democrats than Republicans address family concerns. And younger candidates who've experienced the stress of two-career marriages are more empathetic, of course.

Q. Many Central Illinoisans say they believe the women's movement is dead, though more and more women are working to help support their families. Do you think that, as some people predict, things will go back to the way they were, when men earned money and women cleaned the house?

A. There are many men and women who don't want to lose the sharing of responsibility and reward between the sexes that the women's movement has helped promote. If these people will join together to persuade their employers and communities to help them keep these things going, none of this should die.

Q. We Midwesterners are aware that popular opinion is that people are more progressive on the more metropolitan East and

smoke

West coasts. In your travels to the center of the country, what have you observed?

A. The people who choose to live in the Midwest seem to me to very often be those who were raised there. And their decision to stay is made for the most positive of reasons: They have strong ties to their families and their communities. That gives the Midwest both a positive character and opportunity to influence general social change.

It can be hard, though, to remember that when you hear from the "leavers" who've moved east or west. You're bucking a tough trend, since we've become a nation of "leavers" who often put their individual interests above those of their communities.

Q. Why do you choose to live in Boston?

A. I was raised here, my family is here, and I've lived nearly all of my life here. I like the liveliness and energy of the city. And its large student population keeps us all young and intellectually stimulated.

Q. As a fellow journalist, how would you advise those of us at the Herald & Review who've been warned we could accelerate community problems, such as teen-age gang activities, by the writing we've done about them?

A. My experience is that you only hear from the people who disagree with you. I'd guess that there are a lot more people out there who want you to explore these issues and possible solutions.

Q. What can we here do to help the world beyond?

A. Listen closely to what candidates for local, state and national offices say. Vote for those you agree with. And be active in com-



BIO

Ellen Goodman

•**Background:** Born April 11, 1941, in Newton, Mass., to Jackson Holtz, a lawyer, and Edith Holtz, a homemaker. Childhood aspiration: to be "a mother." Graduated cum laude in 1963 from Radcliffe College in Cambridge, Mass., with a bachelor's degree. Majored in history.

Career: Started as a researcher at Newsweek magazine in New York, then moved on to write for the Detroit Free Press newspaper. Went home to Massachusetts in 1968 to write for the Boston Globe.

Personal: Married to her second husband, Robert Levey. She has a daughter, Katie, 19, and two stepchildren, Greg, 26, and Jenny, 27.

How is it combining family with career? "Not easy," Goodman admitted. "But then, we've a whole generation of young people who've been reared by two working parents. And

relax and realize they don't have to reinvent the wheel when they're both tending their families and their jobs. Now it's been done before."

Interests: Gardening vegetables and flowers, playing squash and reading "omnivorously."

Biggest disappointment: Goodman tried hard to answer this. "I'm not being resistant," she said. "But I just can't relate to disappointment."

Greatest accomplishment: "It's always, I hope, ahead of me. And I often see just showing up at the Globe in the morning to write my next column as a great accomplishment. It would be nice, too, if one of those columns were better than anything I'd written before."

Most inspiration for her writing comes from current events Goodman stays up on by reading piles of newspapers. "About a third of my ideas

a relative.

Women to be cited

By SUE BROWN

Herald & Review Lifestyle Writer

Decatur will honor eight area "women of excellence" in a fall celebration featuring Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist Ellen Goodman as keynote speaker.

Nominations for women achievers are requested by the event's sponsor, the Decatur YWCA, before Aug. 1. There are eight categories of excellence, each dedicated to an accomplished area woman honored in the past:

- **Arts and culture**, dedicated to Della Crowder Miller (died 1968) and Annette Van Dyke (1898-1986). Miller wrote plays, poetry collections, articles and short stories. Van Dyke was a long-time Millikin University faculty member and an early promoter of dance.

- **Education**, dedicated to Cora Bell Ryman (1877-1963), a teacher and superintendent of Macon County schools for 16 years.

- **Government and politics**, dedicated to Leona Bowman (1874-1971), the first woman elected to a Macon County public office — superintendent of schools — and that was 14 years before women won the right to vote.

- **Science and medicine**, dedicated to Ellen Grimes, M.D. (died 1925), and Sue Hagaman (1841-1919). Grimes served Decatur women for more than 50 years. Hagaman helped establish Decatur Memorial Hospital.

- **Athletics**, dedicated to Harriet Kirby (1927-72), frequent winner of the Decatur city women's golf tournament.

- **Labor**, dedicated to Helen Duncan (1903-1963), business agent for the International Ladies Garment Workers Union.

- **Business and professions**, dedicated to Fannie A. Bivans (1875-1957) and Mary Love (1878-1964). Bivans was Decatur's first woman attorney. Love was vice president of Decatur's former Brown's Business College.

- **Community volunteerism**, dedicated to Marie Gray Baker (1893-1981), organizer for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

All those nominating candidates will be named honorary sponsors of the "Women of Excellence" dinner, scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Sept. 22 at the Decatur Holiday Inn. Tickets are available at the YWCA for \$20, and organizations may purchase a table of eight. Reservation deadline is Sept. 14. For more information, call 423-3415.