

March 30, 1971

Dear Young People of Troy (Michigan, that is):

Troy fell well over 2,000 years ago. It did not fall because the wily Greeks used a hollow wooden horse to get into the city. Troy fell because the people were over-confident. They were sure they had the answer; they knew they were on top.

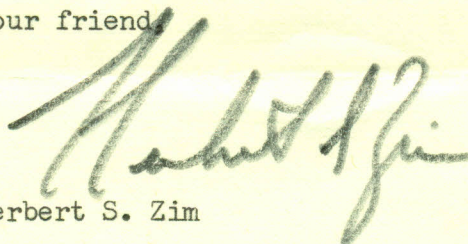
Now Troy, Michigan has a library. Be proud of it. But don't take it as the answer. The answer won't come from teachers, either, or even from parents or your best friends. You must always ask, what was left out? What more do I need to know? Only in this way -- by constant questioning -- will Troy, Michigan avoid the fate of ancient Troy.

Once again, no invader will come to your shores but there will be danger within -- danger from too many people, danger from a run-down environment, danger from smog, pollution, garbage -- and just not caring. There is the danger of thinking that going to school means getting educated. There is also the danger of thinking that getting more means getting better.

And while the library is not the answer -- it can certainly help. It is a tool to use and there is one way that you can help too. Bring a friend to the library. Get him to bring a friend, also. A good library is one that is over-worked and over-used.

All good wishes to you and to Troy.

Your friend,



Herbert S. Zim

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