

'He is not a Republican' — county GOP head

By Pat Murphy
staff writer

Having David Duke on Michigan's presidential primary ballot would be contrary to the principles of the Republican Party, according to James M. Alexander, GOP chairman in Oakland County.

"He (Duke) is not a Republican," said Alexander, a lawyer in Birmingham. "Nor does he embrace the principles of the Republican Party."

A Troy resident, however, disagrees and insists Duke should be allowed to run in Michigan's March primary. "He's for America first," said the Troy man who asked that his name not be used.

"My name was used in another news article (in The Detroit News), and I received a lot of annoying phone calls," he said. "I don't want that to happen again."

Alexander and the Duke supporter made their remarks last week as Michigan election officials prepared

to release on Friday the list of potential candidates on the ballot for the state's presidential primary March 17.

State Republicans, in the meantime, were to meet in Kalamazoo to discuss, among other things, ways to keep Duke off the ballot, at least as a Republican.

national media as a presidential candidate, explained Bradley S. Whitman, director of instruction and voter registration for the Bureau of Elections of the Michigan Secretary of State's Office.

Because he has been mentioned extensively by the national media, Duke is likely to qualify for Michigan's primary, said Whitman. "It's too strong to say he is a likely candidate. But Mr. Duke is certainly being considered seriously."

Alexander said a Duke candidacy would likely be disruptive for Oakland Republicans because public attention would be focused on Duke rather than the issues GOP candidates want to discuss.

A Duke campaign in Michigan would also be personally painful, said Alexander, who is Jewish. Alexander is concerned about Duke's association with the Ku Klux Klan and the Nazis, two groups known for their hatred of Jews and other minorities.

"I was nowhere near the Holocaust," said Alexander, 42. "But I can remember as a kid asking my

father about some of his friends having numbers tattooed on their hands. I remember asking what 'kike' meant."

"I strongly agree with President Bush when he says there's no place for bigotry in American politics."

THE TROY RESIDENT, however, said he accepts Duke's explanation that his involvement with the Klan and the Nazis were "youthful indiscretions."

"Louisiana voters and the media

were willing to believe Edwards," he said. "Why can't they believe Duke?"

The Troy resident was referring to the November gubernatorial race in Louisiana when Duke lost to former governor Edwin Edwards, whose years in office were marked by scandal.

Edwards, who was also known as a womanizer, convinced voters he had changed and defeated Duke, winning slightly more than 60 percent of the votes cast.

State to reap more of fuel tax dollars

By Tim Richard
staff writer

Michigan will get back 95 cents of every fuel tax it sends to Washington instead of only 85 cents under a new federal transportation law, says U.S. Rep. Carl Pursell.

Pursell, a veteran of transportation budget battles, said a new road to Detroit Metro Airport and \$10 million for public transportation in Michigan are part of the new \$151 billion, six-year law passed by Congress.

He praised President Bush's reassignment of Transportation Secretary Samuel Skinner as White House chief of staff.

"On a scale of 10, between nine and 10 — in Jim Baker's class" is how Pursell rates Skinner. Secretary of State Baker has been a top presidential aide in two administrations.

"I WAS FIRST to take a heavy shot at (John) Sununu," said Pursell, an eight-term Republican, in his Plymouth Township home.

A former governor of New Hampshire, Sununu was an early Bush supporter, as was Pursell. But he called Sununu an "abrasive" man who didn't grow well in Washington politics.

Pursell was one of 80 signers of a letter urging Bush to replace Sununu, who quit effective Dec. 15.

Although Pursell no longer is on the transportation appropriations subcommittee, he is impressed by Skinner, a former Chicago lawyer.

"He's a good communicator with

all members of Congress," Pursell said.

Skinner called the six-year transportation bill's visionary "the most significant piece of surface transportation legislation since the Interstate program in 1956."

HERE'S HOW the law impacts Michigan:

- \$33.8 million for construction of an access road to Metro Airport from its southern end to I-275. "That will open it up to the downriver area's development," said Pursell. It should relieve traffic for those who enter by I-94.
- \$10.5 million for the state for public transportation, mostly for buses and bus equipment. So far, it isn't known how much will go to SMART, the suburban bus system.
- A 95 percent return to Michigan of the fuel tax money its drivers send to Washington. Previously Michigan had received only 85 percent.
- \$3.2 billion for road projects. Michigan DOT Director Patrick Nowak's staff estimated the state will have to put up matching money of \$725 million. The amount is uncertain because some projects will require a 10 percent state match, others 20 percent.

The House passed it 372-47; the Senate, 79-8.

"WE HAVE finished the Interstate Highway System," said Sen. Daniel P. Moynihan, D-NY, vice-chair of the congressional conference committee. Pursell marked that quote in his copy of the report.

He could automatically be included on the list of potential presidential candidates in Michigan when it is released Friday.

Candidates qualify for that list by being "generally advocated" by the

clarification

The alliance between Oakland Community College and the University of Michigan-Dearborn is called

the "2+2" plan. The plan was detailed in the Dec. 5 issue.

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Check out the announced winners:

- **1991 Male:** Mr. Robert J. Smith, 10000 E. Grand Ave., Detroit, MI 48202.
- **1991 Female:** Mrs. Mary Ann Smith, 10000 E. Grand Ave., Detroit, MI 48202.

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