

editorial opinion

Is there a better way to select candidates?

Voters in tomorrow's presidential preferential primary might find confusing the matter of what their votes for presidential candidates are buying. It need not be that complex.

In actuality, both Democrats and Republicans will choose delegates to their national conventions. For that reason, the preferential primary is serious enough business that it would be unwise to cross party lines just to screw up the other guy.

If a spate of crossovers do skew the results, the cigar-chomping party politicians have no one to blame but themselves.

DEMOCRATS HAVE the more confusing method of delegate selection of the two parties.

Three-fourths of Michigan's 133 votes at the Democratic National Convention will be apportioned to the 19 congressional districts on the basis of the number of Democratic votes in the 1972 presidential election and how many paid-up Democratic Party memberships there are in the district 60 days prior to tomorrow's voting.

District caucuses will apportion seats on the basis of popular votes for each candidate in Tuesday's contest.

Democratic State Central Committee will fill the other quarter of the delegation when it meets June 12.

THE REPUBLICAN system is less confusing, but it too has drawbacks.

Republican voters tomorrow will be able to choose between delegates committed to Ford, Reagan or uncommitted.

Every congressional district in Michigan has three Republican National Convention delegates, regardless of party strength in the district.

A presidential candidate who gets 25 per cent of the vote in a district gets one delegate; 50 per cent, two delegates; 75 per cent, all three delegates. This accounts for 57 Republican delegates.

Left over are 18 at-large delegates who, to put it simply, will be picked in Grand Rapids in June by the entire state Republican convention.

DELEGATE SELECTION procedures of the two parties will probably reflect the will of the respective voters, however the possibility exists that either or both procedures could arrive at a delegate majority that does not reflect the people's will.

It seems that neither party is trying to pull a fast one. Instead, they have evolved elaborate procedures trying to simulate the one-person, one-vote ideal.

A third-grade mathematics student could come up with a simpler, more easily understood procedure using ratios to dictate the effect of popular vote on delegate count.

Democrats would do well to not allow paid-up party memberships to determine delegates. It harkens to not-so-long-ago days of poll taxes when people had to pay to vote.

Republicans could do better than three delegates per district regardless of party strength. It evidences an elitist approach.

In any case, as long as political parties operate as private clubs and machines rather than open forums, they can do pretty much as they please and the general public won't give much of a damn.

W. MICHAEL MILLER

from our readers

Oakway performance defended

EDITOR:

Eric Peters was extremely cruel in his review of the Oakway Symphony's Gerwyn Spectacular, with Rush Burczyk and Dance Detroit.

The reviewer obviously has never really

worked hard as a musician, singer or director of a musical group. The reviewer obviously has a limited view of the purpose of the arts in a society and he lacks wisdom.

There are a few good suburban sym-

phony orchestras, including Oakway. When averaging any suburban orchestra's performance, none of them are at the average quality level of the Detroit Symphony. Just like the average Detroit Symphony concert isn't quite at the average level of the Philadelphia Symphony.

Yet on any given day the suburban orchestra can sound like the Philadelphia or Boston

... and this reader agrees

Editor:

The article by Eric Peters on the Gerwyn concert, performed by the Oakway Symphony, is an extremely unfair judgment.

I don't believe Mr. Peters knows many of the facts concerning the operation of this fine group, or he would never have written such a derogatory criticism.

It is true the symphony is composed of a varied age group and all of them are dedicated musicians. They are unpaid and have rehearsals once a week, with the exception of an extra dress rehearsal before each concert.

They cannot, and should not, be compared with the Detroit Symphony, which is a well-paid orchestra, rehearsing several times a week with professional musicians.

Performing in the Redford Theatre in addition is not like performing in Ford Auditorium. The orchestra overfilled the pit and had to sit in the aisles lighting faulty.

Some orchestra members were unable to see their music or to watch the director

from the proper angle.

The orchestra was formed to uplift the community, to give many music lovers, both musicians and audience, an opportunity to participate in an artistic venture.

This orchestra serves the Livonia, Farmington, Southfield, Birmingham and Bloomfield area at a six-concert rate of only \$15. Senior citizens and students pay only \$10 for each performance. (What can you get for entertainment for this price today?)

The audiences have been increasing, instead of decreasing—an indication of their worth. The media can discourage those who have not come from hearing and seeing for themselves what the Oakway Symphony does.

Francesco Di Biasi should be commended for his training the orchestra and dedicating so much time to it. He has had the support of a great many residents and we sincerely hope they will continue in spite of one bad review.

CYNTHIA JOHNSON
Farmington

Why another park?

Editor:

Why another park in Oakland County when we cannot pay for education, etc., etc.? The official Oakland County map (copyright 1975) states that Oakland County has 28,820 acres in 18 state parks, 8,115 acres in Huron Clinton County. Another thirty parks, five all areas, 27 public golf courses, 27 public fishing sites and 300 lakes. This serves a population of 900,000. Oakland County is termed affluent among the top 10 in America. Many own a vacation home outside the county and are not patrons of county parks. Nevertheless, an Oakland County Park Commission was established to withdraw an additional 1,200 acres from taxable real estate to provide county-financed swimming pools, golf

courses, etc. Does this make any sense? **PIED PICTURES**

Thanks to all

Editor:

We wish to thank our family, our many good friends and all the people who have helped us through the aftermath of the tornado.

Through your kindness and sincere compassion, we have been able to reassemble our lives and go on with the future. Thank you so much, each and every one of you, for helping ease the adjustment for us and our children.

KENNY & ELAINE FELDMAN
West Bloomfield

Your ecology calendar

Ecology-minded persons who wish to save cans, bottles or newspapers for recycling may use these facilities.

To prepare glass, thoroughly wash the containers, remove all metal caps and rings from the glass and separate the glass by color.

To prepare cans, clean only. Paper need not be removed.

Newspapers should be tied in bundles with heavy string or rope or secured in heavy paper bags.

• **FARMINGTON**—A glass recycling center operates on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon at the west end of the Farmington Hills city hall parking lot. The city hall is at 11 Mile and Orchard Lake.

• **SOUTHFIELD**—In the old city offices, 3600 Berg Road at Ten and One-half Mile, one block east of Telegraph.

• **LATHRUP VILLAGE**—At the Public Services Building, 19101

Twelve Mile Road, adjacent to the high school. Newspapers are collected 10 a.m.-2 p.m. by volunteers the first Saturday of each month.

• **GROVES ECOLOGY CLUB**—Bundled or bagged newspapers and cardboard will be collected from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Friday and 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday the second week of each month at the high school's front parking lot.

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