

Exec candidates come out swinging

By TOM LONERGAN

Oakland County Executive Daniel T. Murphy last week said his Democratic opponent, F. Thomas Lewand, "doesn't know a thing about county government."

Lewand, in a debate before 175 members of the North Oakland Chamber of Commerce in Pontiac, called Murphy "a life-long bureaucrat" and repeated his primary campaign theme that a "leadership void" exists in the county's top administrative job.

THE DEBATE, the second in a series of four between the two candidates, was more heated than last month's first meeting, also before a chamber group.

Responding to Lewand's charges that he's been ineffective in getting more state and federal dollars for the county, Murphy said: "We're not broke. I don't have to go to Washington and Lanning to ask for money."

Lewand said Murphy is unknown to the public.

Murphy noted the popularity of Chrysler Corp. Chairman Lee Iacocca and shot back:

"Chrysler had to go to Washington to

get money. Does that say GM's Tom Murphy is not a leader? Hardly."

LEWAND SAID Murphy has promoted "fat" in county government, "from the new executive office palace to the mushrooming number of county cars to the DPW (Department of Public Works) that should be combined with our drain office."

A Democratic county commissioner from Royal Oak, Lewand also said the 66-member public safety division, which patrols county buildings and parks, duplicated the sheriff's department.

Murphy said Lewand "and his (Democratic) cohorts" wanted a new county office building rather than remodeling the former county hospital for offices. The remodeling was completed earlier this year.

"It cost \$34.50 a square foot to build the 'palace' I live in," said Murphy, adding that a new building would have cost \$65 a square foot. He said the county board of commissioners added 30 cars to the county fleet and that the public safety division is "nothing new. It's been here since 1966."

Murphy has been the executive since the office was created in 1974.

MURPHY SAID Lewand, during his first term, hasn't proposed anything regarding toxic waste or lower taxes.

He rapped the Democrat's voting record in the two board committees he sits on. Lewand, according to Murphy, missed more than half the roll-call votes on the public-services committee this year and more than 40 percent of

Duo debating Wednesday

The third debate between the Oakland County executive candidates will be carried live over Channel 2 at 8 p.m. Wednesday.

Questioning Republican incumbent Daniel T. Murphy and Democratic challenger F. Thomas Lewand will be a panel of four: Dick Haefner of WWJ radio; Tom Scott of the Daily Tribune; Tim Richard of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers; and Joe Glover of Channel 2.

The hour-long debate is being sponsored by the metropolitan area League of Women Voters.

the roll calls on the health-and-human-resources committee.

Lewand said he has missed only one board of commissioners meeting since taking office in January 1979 and said his committee roll-call record was as good as the 25 other county commissioners.

When Murphy boasted that his administration will have lowered the county tax rate 31 cents by 1981, Lewand replied that taxes could be cut more.

He said the county's taxes have increased "faster than the inflation rate . . . (due to) our soaring tax base."

County taxes are 8 percent of the total taxes on property.

ON THE TOXIC waste issue — to which Murphy has responded by in-

creasing county surveillance of landfill sites and open fields — the county executive said Lewand has been "yelling 'fire' in a crowded theater."

Murphy said there are no illegal toxic-waste landfills in the county. The two discovered in Rose and Springfield townships last year have been "cleaned up" by his administration and the state Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Murphy said.

Lewand responded, "God help those people in Highland Township," where a state agency is investigating possible toxic contamination from a landfill.

Lewand has cited a DNR report released last year which listed 12 county sites, including five landfills, where groundwater has been polluted by either chemicals or metal dumping.

Cities topic of 2 films at OCC campus

Two films on American urban life will be shown at 7:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday nights at the Orchard Ridge Campus of Oakland Community College in Farmington Hills.

"One City: American Urban Life on Film," will be shown Thursday. James Limbacher, audio-visual librarian at the Henry Ford Centennial Library, Dearborn, and Dan Greenberg of Farmington Hills, an OCC communications instructor, will comment on the film.

"The American Metropolis in Contemporary Fiction" will be shown at 7:30 p.m. Friday. Film commentator will be James Watson Aldridge, an English professor at the University of Michigan.

The films will be shown in Room J-306. The campus is on Orchard Lake Road south of I-696.

To be seen is to be appreciated

Art is moving out of the museum and becoming more a part of everyday life — which is as it should be, said University of Michigan Professor Myra Larson.

More artists today, she said, are interested in exhibiting work in public places. Businesses are building corporate art collections. A larger number of government and private buildings are using good design. And the average citizen is more interested in art than ever before.

Professor Larson said that if art were allowed to permeate more aspects of our lives — including where we work — people would be happier and more productive.

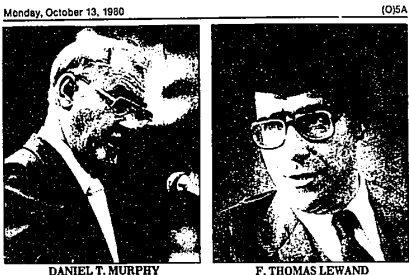
For several years, Deere & Co. of Moline, Ill., has employed concert pianist Barbara Nissman, a U-M graduate, as artist-in-residence to provide concerts for plant employees and the local community.

The Cummings Engine Co. of Columbus, Ind., which began to commission well-known architects and artists after World War II, has raised the aesthetic standard for that entire community. Today, the federal government allocates a portion of construction costs on all new buildings for the purchase of art work. A similar policy is being considered in Michigan.

Larson, who teaches a course on art and community development, recom-

mended that "every truly progressive American corporation should have an artist-in-residence on its staff. This would be a highly competent individual who, in addition to creating and assembling works of art for the particular business enterprise, would play a prominent role in making all corporate decisions that concern the development of more desirable community environments."

With support from the U-M's Center for Research on Learning and Teaching (CRLT), which has provided some of the funding for the new course, Larson invites corporate and artistic leaders to address her students.



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