

# Judge found no winner in Carter-Reagan debate

By TERI BANAS

While President Jimmy Carter and Gov. Ronald Reagan faced the nation at their first public one-on-one debate Tuesday in Cleveland, Jim Copeland was on the sidelines, sizing up their performances.

Copeland was selected by the Associated Press wire service to judge the debate along with six other national forensic experts. It was their assignment to listen, watch and report to the nation on the question — "Who won?"

Copeland is a Michigan native who now teaches at Marquette University High School in Milwaukee. His parents, Virginia and Bill Morrison, live in Plymouth.

THERE WAS NO clear cut victory for either candidate, according to the seven judges, who based their judgments on the guidelines from the American Association Forensic Hall of Fame. Six were split between Carter and Reagan and one judge was undecided.

Copeland, himself, gave a narrow victory to Carter.

"I felt they were equally disorganized and did not stick to the questions," he said. "Both provided a shallow analysis."

"Though there weren't many facts given, Carter was strong in his evidence."

From a political standpoint, he said Reagan "came across as confident, competent and convinced the American public that he is not a mad bomber."

"If Carter wanted to come across as presidential, it didn't work. Politically, his performance was not

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— Jim Copeland, debate judge

disastrous, it just didn't do any good. He didn't use his lucubrancy."

Copeland said one Carter flaw was his constant attempt to challenge and "jab" at Reagan's statements. "He came off as really brusk and debatable. And I don't think the American public wants that."

He said, the debate's outcome would rejuvenate momentum in the Reagan camp.

THE SEVEN panelists rated the candidates on a scale of one to five in several categories. They rated candidates' performances in analysis, evidence, reasoning, refutation and delivery.

While some judges traveled to Cleveland, others were hooked into the debate at their homes. Copeland was based at a Wisconsin television station, where he later provided a political commentary.

Copeland believed the debate would have great impact on the large number of undecided voters, some 20 percent, who were still seeking a candidate to support in the final week of the campaign.

Prior to the debate, Copeland said Reagan needed to avoid his much publicized "off-handed" comments.

He also believed then that Carter would concentrate on Reagan's performance as California governor and would attempt to contrast recent opinion changes with statements the former governor made in the mid-60s and early '70s.

Copeland said Carter's "best chances" were in his access to detailed government reports which he later proved in providing the "evidence" most judges detected.

Despite the public importance placed on such presidential debates, Copeland suggested that voters base their final decision on information in newspaper stories and editorials. "You should contrast the two positions and seek out independent sources such as books and editorials."

"However, deciding how you will vote based on a presidential televised debate is probably better than deciding from the bumper stickers you read, or what your boss or union chief has to say."

"What really frazzles me is some people who watch the debate may get the wrong conclusion, but at least they tried. Those who don't watch the debate — I don't know what they're basing their vote on. Certainly, the format is not as good as it might be but at least it's better than watching the 'Dukes of Hazzard' or other such nonsense."

SINCE THE '70s Copeland has co-authored several textbooks on debate tactics for college and high school students. He has coached several national high school debate team winners. In addition to teaching in Milwaukee, he provides weekly political commentaries for television and radio stations in his area.

Now 41-years-old, he grew up in Ann Arbor and was a 1957 national debate champion.

As a judge in previous presidential debates, he followed the 1976 Carter-Ford debates and the Reagan-Anderson debate this year.

In the Ford-Carter debate, security was extremely heavy as there had been two assassination attempts on Ford by that time, he said. "Security officers spent three hours combing that auditorium with dogs sniffing for explosives."

"During hour and a half technical rehearsal, Ford was quite relaxed and spent his time joking with his wife, Betty. The difference in the Carter camp was pronounced. His press secretary, Jody Powell, and other kept firing questions away and proved to be quite accurate in their research."

## Restaurants' specialties for Crittenton gala

Boned stuffed duckling, roast pork au Morel, black-bean soup, seafood provencale and scallops newberg on patty shell are just a few of the specialties to be served at the fourth annual Crittenton Hospital Gourmet Gala. The event will be held from 5-9 p.m. Nov. 9 in Michigan State University Management Education Center, Troy.

Twenty-seven establishments are donating their food specialties for the evening. Proceeds will be used to purchase a fully equipped crash cart for the hospital's Outpatient Clinic and hallway handrails for one complete patient floor.

Tickets at \$30 per person, \$10 for patrons or \$75 for benefactors may be purchased through the hospital's Community Resources Department, 652-5345. Attendance will be limited to 500.

Sponsoring the event is the hospital's Annual Events Committee, co-chaired by Mary Jo Byrd and Vicki Vukov.

Participating are Double Eagle, Troy; Clarkson Cafe, Clarkston; Wicker Works, Troy; Charley's Crab, Troy; Kingsley Inn, Bloomfield Hills; Rip's, Pontiac; Magic Pan Creperie, Troy; Tenuita's Villa Rio, Pontiac; The Bank Vault, Lake Orion; Buscemi's, Rochester; Cooper's Arms, Rochester; Neale's Pub on the Hill, Rochester; Oceania Inn, Avon Township; Rainey's, Avon Township; Win Schulz's of Rochester, and Victoria Station, Troy.

Also contributing to the event are Bongiorno's Bakery, Avon Township; Curley's, Avon Township; Le Gourmet, Inc., MSU Management Education Center, Village Wine and Spirits, Rochester; Birmingham Chocolatier, Noah's Down Under, Birmingham; Murdoch's, Auburn Heights; Main Event, Silverdale; Pontiac's Pasty Shop; Avon Township, Culinary Greenhouse, West Bloomfield; and Henley Street, Utica.

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