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Headlee's dream dies as Dems take control

Night of emotion for the faithful

By M.B. Dillon Ward and Steve Barnaby staff writers

From the very beginning, the mood was somber at Richard Headlee's headquarters in Southfield's Michigan Inn. The Farmington area's hope for a second favorite son sitting in the governor's chair was coming to an end after a long and stormy uphill political contest. In 1994, Farmington's Fred Warner was elected to Michigan's top job. He was to serve for three terms. The decorations in the ballroom, festooned with banners, balloons, buttons and posters, were unable to mask the pessimism of Headlee's faithful. Already, at 8:45 p.m., one television station predicted defeat for the Headlee "Action Team."

The reaction teetered between bitterness and dismay. Some tried to laugh it off. But the jokes were falling flat.

One woman, after listening to a second television station predict a James Blanchard win, turned to her friends and made a thumbs down gesture, in parody of the Headlee ad campaign theme of "thumbs up."

POLITICAL PROS stood aside from the others, hands in pockets, waiting for the evening to end. For them, another campaign awaited. Reporters nervously walked about waiting for a concession speech.

Teen-agers wandered aimlessly from ballroom to hallway, looking for some bit of excitement. A group of North Farmington students stood around the band stand listening to music provided by North Farmington teachers David Flincey and Jerry Maxwell.

"I'd do it again," said North Farmington senior Laurel Walker, who worked as a volunteer during the campaign.

"I learned a lot more about politics than I thought I would. I liked talking to the people," she said.

BUT WALKER didn't always like what she learned or heard.

"Too many people have false ideas about the candidates. People neglect their duty to vote or get involved," she said.

Sara Cline, Lori Arabian and Sheryl Adie, North Farmington seniors attending the campaign party for a government class assignment, supported Headlee for "thinking for himself" and "his stand on high-quality education for youth."

Throughout the evening, the crowd

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Though Republican gubernatorial candidate Richard Headlee and his wife, Mary, were stopping short of conceding defeat two hours after the

polls closed Tuesday night, the demeanor of defeat already showed.

RANDY BORST/staff photographer

One GOP veteran survives

By Craig Plechura staff writer

Neither the winner, Wilbur V. "Sandy" Brotherton, nor his Democratic opponent, Aldo Vagnozzi, were very happy the morning after the election.

Brotherton, who was elected to his fourth term in the state House by a margin of 23,147 to 9,100, said "it scares me" that the Michigan legislature will have a Democratic-controlled house and senate with a Democratic governor at the helm.

Reapportionment of state legislative districts, Brotherton believes, will be drawn to favor Democrats in the next two years.

Both candidates expressed disappointment over the lack of public forums in the Farmington area to discuss and debate issues.

"IN THE primary, the VFW in Farmington tried to sponsor a candidates night," Brotherton said. "Jerry Rodebaugh scheduled the thing, sent out invitations and had coffee and cookies set out for the public.

"There were only 20, mostly from the post, who showed up. The turnout was so disappointing half the people there prepared the cookies and the coffee."

"There was some discussion of the issues with the people who were there, but the point is it was hard for the candidates to get excited about the thing."

Vagnozzi registered a similar complaint and praised the VFW post for its political involvement in the face of widespread apathy.

"In the final days (of the campaign), the only forum in Farmington were the high school government classes," Vagnozzi said. "I spoke to about eight of them, and I think Sandy did too."

VAGNOZZI SAID requests to the chamber of commerce for a debate were unsuccessful. He also criticized the Farmington Observer for what he believes was inadequate coverage of the race and one-sided editorials.

Brotherton said his opponent ran "by far the most aggressive, well-run campaign I've seen from any Democratic opponent I've faced in 12 years." But he criticized Vagnozzi for continually bringing up the national economy and nuclear disarmament instead of state issues.

Vagnozzi calls both issues vital concern to Michigan citizens.

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Farmington area opts for Anderson

Faxon vows he'll listen to constituents

By Craig Plechura staff writer

State Sen. Jack Faxon will be returning to Lansing representing a new district for him, the 15th District, after beating his Republican challenger John Anderson by more than 10,000 votes in Tuesday's election.

An election results trickled in and radio and television stations predicted victories at the top of the ticket for Democrats James Blanchard, running for governor, and Donald Hagle, running for U.S. Senate. Anderson began to realize he was in trouble by 9:30 p.m.

"It looks like a Democratic sweep at the top," Anderson said, "and I hope that won't carry over to our race, but it probably will to some extent."

Rain was pouring outside Anderson's presidential suite at the Botsford Inn in Farmington Hills as he spoke. He knew

he'd get his feet wet in the campaign but didn't realize it would happen so literally.

"My pants from the knee down are wet as can be," Anderson said. "Hopefully, if voters see you're willing to stand out in the rain you turn a few votes your way."

ANDERSON WON big in Farmington and Farmington Hills, but the 15th District includes Southfield and that worried Anderson.

While the conventional wisdom is that rain helps Republicans, Anderson said "Frankly, the Jewish vote in Southfield is a big factor. They'll go to the polls in rain, sleet or snow."

In the end, Southfield voters preferred Faxon of Southfield by a 66 percent to 32 percent margin, which put him well over the top with a total of 50,888 votes to Farmington Hills resident Anderson's 29,920. Libertarian

Gordon Beerbower garnered a total of 906 votes in the district.

In Farmington Anderson beat Faxon by a 3,150-to-1,454 margin, and Anderson bested his opponent in Farmington Hills by a margin of 13,641 to 8,140.

Reached at a phone placed next to his shower the morning after the election, Faxon said it was about 9:30 p.m. when he realized he had won the district.

"First we heard we lost Novi by only a thousand votes," Faxon said. "We didn't expect to win in Novi, but we did well. I knew I'd lose Northville and Wixom with a couple hundred votes there. But as soon as the votes came in from Ferndale and Huntington Woods, I knew we had it."

FAXON SAID his campaign staff labored incomplete totals which only included Southfield absentee ballots

and two precincts in Oak Park, and the tally showed he was 5,000 votes ahead of Anderson.

Knowing Southfield and Oak Park were Democratic strongholds that hadn't been counted, Faxon said he was confident of victory and predicted his eventual 57-percent winning margin right on the button.

To his constituents in communities like Farmington, Farmington Hills and farther west who voted Republican, Faxon said he'll represent them too in the state Senate.

"Once you're elected you represent all the people," Faxon says. "You don't ask how they voted or what their political affiliations are."

He said he'll listen to both sides of issues and seek out concerns of the business community "but I'm not claiming to become a Republican to satisfy Farmington Hills."



Sen. Jack Faxon, winner in the 15th District senate race, lost to Republican candidate John Anderson in Farmington Hills, 13,641 votes to 8,140.

Broomfield, Moffitt, McDonald win easily

Results in the 18th District Congressional race raised few eyebrows as Republican incumbent William S. Broomfield received 118,084 votes to Democratic challenger Allen Sipher's 38,479.

Libertarian candidate Joseph Cote received 1,555 votes.

Broomfield was the resounding favorite in Farmington Hills as well. He tallied 15,172 votes to Sipher's 5,885 and Cote's 281.

In Farmington, Royal Oak's Broomfield also won big, taking 3,463 votes. Sipher received 1,078 and Cote 29.

Lillian Moffitt, Republican incumbent from Birmingham, ran away with

the 18th District County Commissioners' victory. Her 9,893 total outdistanced Democrat Gerald Freedman's 4,932 votes and Libertarian Diane Szabla's 223 votes.

CITY TOTALS from Farmington Hills also showed Moffitt the overwhelming winner with 5,090 votes. Freedman received 2,936 votes in Farmington Hills, while Szabla took 2 percent of the vote.

In the 27th District County Commissioners' race, Republican Jack McDonald had little trouble defeating Democrat Anthony Tedesco, receiving 9,925 votes to Tedesco's 4,391. The vic-

tor captured 67 percent of the votes, (6,487), in Farmington Hills to Tedesco's 33 percent, (3,170 votes).

The margin of victory for McDonald in Farmington also was wide. Tedesco tallied 1,221 votes to McDonald's 3,037.

Farmington Hills voters disagreed with the utilities' slogan that Proposal D is dumb, voting yes by a 12,851 to 9,903 margin. The proposal would require hearings on all utility rate increases, abolish rate adjustment clauses and establish procedures in rate hearings.

ANOTHER UTILITY-RELATED issue, Proposal H, was approved, 14,313

votes to 7,695. The proposition would prohibit certain adjustment clauses, prohibit rate increases without prior notice and hearing, and prohibit state legislators from accepting employment with a utility for two years after leaving the legislature.

A majority of Farmington Hills' electorate voted not to establish an elected Public Service Commission, defeating Proposal G by a 13,508 to 8,441 margin.

Farmington Hills voters approved Proposal A, which would allow the legislature to pass laws to reform its exemption from civil arrest during legislative session, 15,632 to 6,644.

PROPOSAL B, which would add to the state constitution a Michigan Department of State Police, provide for its personnel, prescribe its duties and require minimum staffing, was defeated 16,342 to 5,768.

Only 100 votes defeated Proposal C in Farmington Hills, which lost 10,925 to 10,826. The proposition would prevent a lender from using due-on-sale clause to foreclose a mortgage or land contract when the property is sold, unless security is impaired.

Overwhelmingly, Farmington Hills voters approved Proposal E, which would "express the people's desire for a mutual nuclear weapons freeze."



Republican Sandy Brotherton, re-elected in the 69th State House District, coasted to victory claiming 23,147 votes to Democratic challenger Aldo Vagnozzi's 9,100.

Heater's sales hot despite critics

By Craig Plechura staff writer

An ad for the most popular brand of kerosene-fueled space heaters shows three youngsters sitting on a shag rug in their family room, gathered around the kerosene heater, singing along with a guitar.

The illustration troubles Farmington Fire Marshal Norm Maddison for a couple of reasons.

"The kerosene heaters might not pose the same problems on a tile floor as on carpeting," Maddison says. "On shag carpeting once kerosene spills, the carpeting acts as a wick to support the flame."

THE SAFETY factors of modern

kerosene heaters came under heavy scrutiny in a report in the October edition of Consumers Reports which labels all 18 models tested by investigators "inherently hazardous."

Consumer's Union, which publishes the magazine is being sued by Kero-Sun for \$41 million calling the report misleading and causing the company financial damage. Testifying before the Energy and Public Utilities Committee of Connecticut, Dr. Donald S. Lavery, a specialist in product safety, says in response to charges that the units may pose a fire hazard.

"I do not mean to suggest by any of these arguments that the fire hazard associated with kerosene should be treated cavalierly or that warnings regarding fire hazards are unnecessary.

However, it seems quite clear that, given appropriate warnings, consumers should have no difficulty storing and handling kerosene safely."

KERO-SUN: PRODUCT design shows concern for safety, Lavery says, with features like placing fuel below the burner and an automatic shut-off which works when the flame goes out accidentally. A low center of gravity makes it hard to tip over the units. According to Lavery, the burner "provides such complete combustion that there are no unburned fume emissions, no odor, and no carbon monoxide hazard."

Consumer Reports, however, states that in tests of the heaters in a 10-foot-by-12-foot room with an 8-foot high

ceiling, with normal ventilation, high levels of carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and sulphur dioxide were measured.

"EVEN THE most careful owner can't readily escape the noxious gases given off by the heater's flame," the magazine states.

The Kero-Sun spokesman says many persons who object to kerosene heaters remember the old style of units known as barometric feed kerosene heaters which are without wicks which had a tendency to flood the burner and catch fire if the tank developed even a pin hole.

Many communities have enacted

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