

# Opinion

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BB(F)

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## Lousma lacks job credentials

THE LIST includes names like Griffin, Bentley, O'Neil, Augenstein, Otterbacher, Hart, Ellsman, Rosenbaum.

At the bottom of the list is Jack Lousma. The list is of U.S. Senate hopefuls I have covered since 1980. Some won, some lost but ran well, others were just out of it.



Tim Richard

But in a list of how well the Senate hopefuls are prepared for duty in the most exclusive club in the world, Lousma trails, even if he does have an excellent shot at the Republican nomination Aug. 7.

He has no academic preparation. He has no relevant experience. He knows so little about issues that it's uncomfortable to even to interview him.

The 48-year-old former astronaut was born in Grand Rapids and earned a degree from the University of Michigan engineering school. Having consumed many mall beverages with U-M engineering students, I can say that public policy wasn't their field of expertise, although they certainly were nice guys and qualified to vote.

Herbert C. Hoover, president of these United States in 1929-33, was "the great engineer," but with a difference. In Australia and China, he successfully ran mines out in the middle of nowhere.

HE LEARNED how a society is built from scratch and operates. Hoover was well read in history, philosophy, economics. He was one of the most erudite public figures I ever have known, unmatched until I met Eugene McCarthy. (These judgments are nonpartisan, of course.)

### discover Michigan

by Bill Stockwell

DID YOU KNOW that among all the products made in Michigan is one handmade product you probably never heard about? Some years ago a young Ann Arbor man started making medieval musical instruments including the oud. Young Herb Davis sold these 12-stringed, pear-shaped instruments mainly to musicians who played for belly dancers.

A man who asks to be elected bishop of the same day he joins the church deserves a harder glare than those who have spent all their adult lifetimes (Levin) or a large part (Dunn) in prayer and preparation for the job.



Jack Lousma

After enlisting in the Marines, Lousma became a jet pilot and later an astronaut, piloting Skylab III and commanding the Space Shuttle Columbia. An impressive life's work, but deficient in matters of taxes, welfare, judicial nominees and the other things a senator ought to know about.

In a voice that still hasn't shed a Texas twang, he tells us that, viewing Michigan from space, he could also see Hudson's Bay, Washington, Colorado and the rest; he could see Detroit and the upper peninsula both linked to the rest of the state. Nice sentiments, but hardly a Senate platform.

YET HERE is a man winning impressive support not only from the well-heeled conservative types like Peter Secchia, Jay VanAntel and Rich DeVos (the latter two of Ann Arbor), but from moderates like Oakland County Executive Daniel T. Murphy and U.S. Rep. Carl Pursell, R-Plymouth.

They are bypassing former U.S. Rep. Jim Dunn, 40, former Southfield and Birmingham resident and now an East Lansing builder. Dunn has a business administration degree from Michigan State University, which isn't a bad school. He's conversant on issues of economics, taxation, regulatory policy and the deficit. He might still be 6th District congressman but was gerrymandered out in the 1982 reapportionment.

Dunn's critics say he's a maverick, a loner, in a game that can use team play and leader-

ship. So be it. Yet a senator's most important function is to cast an intelligent, informed vote on matters on the agenda. Despite those, Dunn is at least qualified to debate incumbent Democrat Carl Levin.

"Give Jack a chance," a Lousma supporter asked me. Why? A man who asks to be elected bishop the same day he joins the church deserves a harder glare than those who have spent all their adult lifetimes (Levin) or a large part (Dunn) in prayer and preparation for the job.

WHY, THEN, are so many Republicans applauding and supporting Lousma?

I happened to be standing among a group of suburban matrons at the Grand Old Party's state convention in Grand Rapids when Lousma got his chance to speak. Lousma is "a hunk," I guess. Charisma. Family man. Looks like a senator ought to look. Conservatives and moderates were in awestruck agreement.

No one talks about it aloud, but I think these are important considerations in the Lousma phenomenon:

- Lousma has a handsome, erect posture. Levin slumps like his head is growing out of his chest.
- Lousma's clothes are immaculately pressed. Levin is rumpled.

• Black and white photos don't show it, but Lousma has a Bas Brinker-like, glowing complexion. Levin looks like he spent the last two years in a library.

• Lousma is a conservative Christian and talks about it. Levin is Jewish and doesn't talk much about it.

I have heard Lousma three times. By the time you hear him, he may be able to address a few issues. But you will need to ask yourself: Who planted those answers there?

For a chance to compare Lousma and Dunn, stop by at a joint appearance of the two Republican candidates at 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 23, in the Quality Inn, 36555 Plymouth Road, near Ann Arbor Road, Livonia. The event is sponsored by the Livonia Republican Club.

## oral quarrel

### Why not test teachers?

Today's Oral Quarrel asked Farmington Hills residents if the state of Michigan should follow Arkansas in requiring all teachers to take and pass a basic-skills examination?

Following are responses to the question:

Instead of adding a state exam, school officials and school board members should police their own teachers.

Yes, I think the teachers should be required to pass a basic skills examination. The teachers would like to think of themselves as professionals and in any other professional field — nursing, doctors, lawyers — are required to pass a test and to keep up on their registration and certainly this should be true of teachers as well.

Certainly they should. Experience is not necessarily a substitute.

Yes, I definitely think they should. I feel then we will put the blame on the teachers not the students when they come home with poor grades.

Yes, I do. There are many new younger teachers who are better qualified than the old timers and they can't get positions because they are filled with old timers "from the old school" training. It would keep the veteran teachers on their toes and their teaching techniques up to date.

Requiring basic skill examinations for all teachers is fine provided all other professionals such as judges, lawyers, medical doctors, dentists, legislators are

required to take basic competency tests as well.

Yes, test them all. We put our children into private schools because we were so dissatisfied with the public teachers. The public schools in this country have slipped so far down. What else could we do? Now we pay double taxes because of this.

Absolutely. Students cannot go elsewhere because teachers are not doing a good job so it would serve as the necessary feedback in two ways: it would help teachers to know where they have slipped and need extra help to maintain skills and it also help schools to know what classes teachers are qualified to be assigned to.

Yes, all teachers, especially veterans, especially over 50, should be tested. They are too methodical, not innovative and they do not motivate the students. I know because I had six going through the Farmington school system. They have boring classes. They are just putting their time in before retirement. Some of the best teachers have been pink-slipped which disappointed me because they didn't have a tenure.

This is not about the teachers, it is about the counselors. When my children were in high school, they had the same counselor who did nothing. Finally I found another counselor who took time from his busy schedule to help my son about his future. He said he wished he had him in the tenth grade. I wish all counselors were as concerned and interested in their appointed students as this counselor at Farmington Harrison.

**Arthritis Today**  
Joseph J. Weiss, M.D.  
Rheumatology  
20317 Farmington Road  
Livonia, Michigan 48152  
Phone: 478-7860

**DR. WEISS**

**WHEN HAND PAIN IS NOT ARTHRITIS**

It is reasonable to assume that when your hand hurts, you probably have arthritis.

However, there is an instance when the source of your pain is not in the bones, muscles or joints of your hand; the origin could be the median nerve that supplies the palm of your hand. When this nerve is compressed or irritated, your hand feels numb, particularly in the thumb, second and third fingers; at times the pain may move to the elbow and shoulder. Characteristically, the discomfort is most troublesome at night. You may be awakened by a numbness and you have to shake your hand vigorously in order to get rid of the feeling that your hand is asleep.

Treatment for median nerve compression usually is successful and is easily achieved. Therefore if you have a hand problem, it is in your best interest to obtain a physician's evaluation before concluding "arthritis" is something you have to live with.

**No Man Wants to go Bald**

Of course not, yet up to 80% of all males will experience some degree of hair loss or baldness. Thinning hair can occur at any age and add false years to your appearance.

Hair loss may result from a variety of systemic and local scalp disorders, anxiety, vitamin, mineral and protein deficiencies, even improper styling can be a contributing factor.

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