

Locals pols view veep candidate

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when she offered to let her name be used in case Mondale selected a man and feminists tried to nominate a woman from the floor.

Both times Ferraro changed her mind within hours, he said. Mondale would have looked better if he had been able to change his mind so quickly on the choice of Bert Lance as Democratic national chairman, Horte said.

CONCEDING FERRARO lacks Republican Vice President George Bush's diplomatic credentials, several Michiganians said she makes up for it in other ways.

"One dealt with the United Nations (Bush). The other juggled family, career and politics," said Mondale delegate Mary Ryan Taras, a social studies teacher from Birmingham.

"Philosophically, she believes in the

kind of things I believe in," Taras said.

"I SERVED with her in Congress," Gov. James J. Blanchard said with undignified pride.

"I personally solicited her vote on the Chrysler loan package, and she gave it, unhesitatingly," said Blanchard, former 18th District congressman from eastern Oakland County.

FERRARO'S VOTING record is rated in the mid-70s by Americans for Democratic Action and the high 80s by the AFL-CIO.

Two educator-politicians, Gail Nollin of Pontiac and Keith Geiger, formerly of Livonia, said, "I didn't know that" when told Ferraro had voted against creating the U.S. Department of Education.

But Geiger, former Stevenson High School teacher who is now a vice president of the National Education Association,

thought he had an answer.

"Where does she come from? New York. The American Federation of Teachers (which organizes New York

City schools) was opposed to the establishment of the Department of Education. I don't think her vote reflects on her commitment to education."

District report

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in the high schools do a real good job of explaining this importance of foreign languages to the students," said Nutter.

The foreign languages department also receives much support from the parents, he adds.

COMPUTER INSTRUCTION continues to be a popular subject with the students, with 986 secondary school students enrolled in such classes, says the report.

The district's summer school program continues to offer computer opportunities for pre-kindergarten

through high school students.

"I do not have the specific numbers on enrollment of the summer computer classes, but I imagine the program is doing quite well as it has in the past," said Nutter.

The Community Education Department is again hosting a summer computer workshop for staff, with an anticipated enrollment of well over 100 teachers and administrators, according to the report.

"Overall, about 80 percent of the district's graduates go on to advanced training programs such as community colleges, skill centers and colleges and universities not only in Michigan but all over the nation," said Nutter.

Kids celebrated

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"The idea originated at a library in North Dakota. We adopted it for Farmington and involved a lot of community groups and businesses."

An advertising flier listed 36 area business and groups as "sponsors" and "supporters" of Kid's Day.

"There would not be a Kid's Day without these sponsors," the handbill said. "Thank them. Patronize them."

Added Locke, proudly, "A lot of businesses support us. Everybody's important. For example, we couldn't have it if the city didn't let us use this park."

Locke, who grew up in Farmington and spent plenty of time playing in City Park, takes pride in the annual Kid's Day.

"It's basically recreational, but it's educational, too," she said. "The kids get to see the Coast Guard helicopter. They get to see the policemen and know that they're people too."

THE WEATHER last Tuesday seemed to favor the kids — or at least it did until about 3 p.m. — when a brief but heavy thunderstorm drenched the dongs.

"Our biggest question is the weather," Locke said while the skies were still sunny. "Last year, it was real hot and that was kind of hard on the frogs."

The frog-jumping attraction was run by a man who identified himself only as "the croakmaster" and said his duty was to "make kids happy."

"Here feel this," he said, offering a large white frog to a squeamish-looking woman. "He has a mouse in him."

The woman placed a tentative finger on the frog's underside.

Kid's Day concluded with an evening showing of a musical, "Free To Be You and Me," at the Community Center.

The Community Center's Betty Paine served as treasurer for this year's Kid's Day, and the library's Denise Albrecht served as secretary.

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