

I'm a
PIP-SQUEAK
Commissioner

Republican Oakland County commissioners are sporting these buttons in a good-natured jibe at the mayor of Detroit.

'Pipsqueaks' want respect from Young

By Kathy Parrish
staff writer

Yes, Oakland County commissioners are part-time lawmakers.

But that doesn't make them "pipsqueaks." Bugged by a newspaper comment by Detroit Mayor Coleman Young, members of the board of commissioners Thursday donned red and white buttons saying "I'm a pipsqueak commissioner."

"It's a gentle response," said Republican Commissioner Ralph Nelson, the Rochester area representative who had the buttons made up.

"I'm proud that I'm a part-time legislator and take pride in what I do here."

A SOFT-SPOKEN lawmaker who carefully weighs his words, Nelson isn't quick to anger.

But he didn't care for a quote attributed to Young in a newspaper article on the proposed merger of the Detroit and suburban bus systems.

The Nov. 18 Detroit News article says the Detroit mayor "vowed not to give in to the 'extortion' demands of suburban legislators and 'every little pipsqueak' on the county commission that he turn over the city's transit agency to SEMTA."

To make his point that commissioners "don't get no respect," Nelson kiddingly took a stand. The small buttons were a humorous way to get at a matter the Rochester attorney takes very seriously.

"I'm sure we seem like pipsqueaks to some county executives and mayors, but we're just trying to do our job," said Nelson, who contends he and his fellow lawmakers are "the voices of the people who elected us."

"Mayors and county executives can't be allowed to do as they please. There's a check and balance system because we're here."

NELSON, WHO footed the \$50 cost of the 50 buttons, said he hopes they will be taken in the right spirit. While he handed them out to both Republicans and Democrats, not all commissioners planned them on.

Commissioner James Doyon, a Democrat like Young, refused to sport one. "The mayor's comment was a cheap shot, but so were the buttons," said Doyon, who represents Madison Heights and part of Troy.

"This will intensify the rift instead of resolving problems. We've got to work together."

But Nelson, he hoped to personally present a button to Young at a Senate hearing today on SEMTA.

"Hopefully the mayor or someone else will enjoy the humor in it," said Nelson, joking that a producer approached him about making a film called "The Revenge of the Pipsqueak Commissioners."

Holidays tough on shoppers' feet

Whether you're making a last-minute dash to the toy store or fighting supermarket crowds, the holiday season usually takes its toll on your bank account, your patience and especially your feet.

Dr. Jerry D. Brant, president of the American Podiatric Medical Association, points out that holiday shopping sprees keep people standing, walking and even running for longer than usual periods. Foot fatigue is the common result.

Brant called foot fatigue shopping's most common and annoying problem. "It's brought on by diminished circulation to the feet and legs, and muscle strain," he explained.

"WAITING IN line is a major cause for the discomfort. It can be relieved by just moving slightly every moment or so, and by shifting your weight from foot to foot."

The Illinois podiatrist stressed keeping feet warm and dry, especially in harsh climates. "The smart shopper should wear comfortable, well-fitting shoes with low heels."

"In snowy areas, shoe boots are more comfortable than boots with shoes, and footlets should be worn to absorb normal perspiration and prevent chafing and blisters."

People who perspire freely must take extra precautions with foot hygiene, he added. "This includes bathing the feet regularly, and applying a good foot powder. The rewards are increased comfort and less chance of a fungus infection, such as athlete's foot."

SOCKS SHOULD be discarded as they wear out. Holes can cause excess friction or pressure, which can lead to blisters or corns.

When the shopping day is over, Brant recommends removing the shoes and elevating the feet on a chair or ottoman "to bring them back to life."

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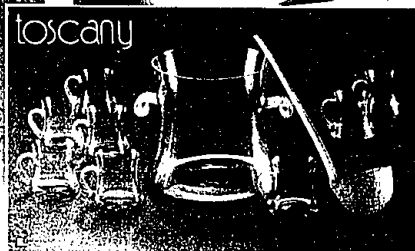
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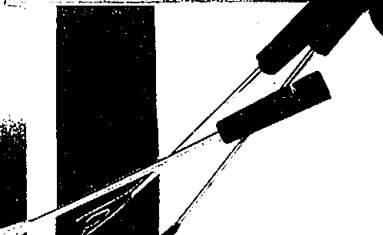
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