# A delegate's choice will be no bad vice

LET THE delegates do it, George. There will be 2,277 delegates to the Republican National Convention in New Orleans Aug. 15-18. In the old days, they actually picked candi-dates, and the nation did well.

in New Orleans Aug. 15-16. In the old days, they could be picked canny picked canny be a series of the could be a series

For what? To annoint two pre-se-

lected candidates?
THE DELEGATES are our neighbors, people we know and trust.

One who lives near me is Dan Piercecchi, 2nd District-Wayne chairman. I know Dan. I know some of the other delegates and alternates, like Harry Greenleaf, Brooks Patterson, Ed Haroutlan, Donn wolf, Bob Fredericks, Al May, U.S. Rep. Carl Dickerson.

Times folks have worked in the the political trenches and won support Inchest in the political trenches and won support Dickerson.

Who Is Dobert Kummitt, the "Washington attorney" reportedly doing background checks on Bush's short list? Is he a straight guy, or will he turn out to be like Bert Lance or John Mitchell?

PIERCECCHI THINKS mine is "a



had been consulted, the Missouri del-egates would have quietly passed the word that Eagleton had some ner-yous problems and might be an em-

word that Englewin has some an embarrassing choice.

In 1984 the Maryland delegates might have whispered that some of Gov. Spiro Agnew's contract dealings were suspect, and in 1984 the Queens politicians might have known that Geraldne Ferraro's family close that some selection.

The loyal Michigan Democratis in Atlanta praised Lloyd Benisen, as I reported. What I couldn't put in the news columns were their hesitations and their curied noses. Given a chance, they would have nominated somebody better.

It's OK for a president to appoint cabinet officers and ambassadors, but the vice president is a constitutional officer who ought to be picked by a democratic process.

REPUBLIACANS worry their convention will be as dull as the Demorats'. More and more TV watchers are turning off the endiess parade of repetitious orators and hooping. Well, Bush can make it lively by giving the delegates some honest work.

Work. Bush supply everyone his work. Bush supply everyone his work. Bush supply everyone his control of the delegates of the

### Look behind percentages and behind voter turnouts

This column is designed for those whose attention spans have been shortened by incessant "Vote for Me" campaigning.

"Vote for Me" campaigning.

• There seems to be a rule that reporters work with words so they don't have to understand numbers. This week, for instance, it was reported that Missouri voters will decide if the prize money for the state lottery will be increased from 45 percent to 50 percent of the total take. That, the reporter informed us, will be a 5 percent increase. Wrong.

It is tgally an increase of more than 11 percent. To say otherwise is to say that increasing the state sales tax from 4 to 6 cents on the dollar is only a 2 percent increase. That's obviously nonsense. It is an increase of yet more than 11 percent. To say otherwise is only a 2 percent increase. That's obviously nonsense. It is an increase of yet more than 11 percent. The solution of the percent increase is the solution of the percent increase. This solution is not yet increase in the solution of the percent increase is the solution of the percent increase. The increase of you will be a percent.

• If you didn't you tresday.

• If you didn't vote Tuesday, shame on you. What's your excuse? It was too hot? You were too tired after a long commute home? Poor baby.

In Halti people are shot dead if they try to vote. With absence ballots, it's hard to find a good reason to go to the polls. But even though primary elections decide the races in



people bothered to

Periberg In France, officials are appalled at the voter participation in a recent election. Qniv 73 percent of the

a Gov. James Blanchard may be a bit too excited about the Michigan Education Trust, the prepaid college tuition plan. In Redford Townships Monday, Blanchard said sevice that the second of the second

most cases, the turnout Tuesday was dismally low, In France officials are appalled at the voter participation in a recent election. Only 73 percent of the peo-ple bothered to vote.

• You've got to band it to the folks at the state Department of Transportation, they keep their col-lective sense of humor. The highway folks say they are going to well pub-licize the next two years worth of construction on I-696 so that motor-

# NOW keeping fire burning to guarantee equal rights

IT'S TIME to pull out that old, rusty ERA pin.

Mine is attached to an outdated and frayed macrame plant holder, anning on a nail in the basement. I wore that Equal Rights Amendment pin proudly after returning from a terminist conference in Bowling Green in 1974.

Gone is the red T-shirt with a power fist — my lirst sign of awakening to women's rights and humanist movement. But I still have the pin, which reads "ERA Now" despite the rust. The oxidation is certainly a sign of times passed, but perhaps it symbolizes more source burner human.

sign of times passed, but perhaps it symbolites more.

The movement toward human rights for everyone seems to be getting a bit rusty.

It's time we pollabed both the pin and our approach.

For those that don't recall: the ERA was a proposed amendment to the U.S. Constitution. It was approved by only 35 of the needed state of the recall time limit expired in 1982, it was a pollitical bot potato.

the National Organization for Wom-en and other groups trying again for an amendment to constitutionally



guarantee equal rights for all.

"We must keep the fire burning and keep those who perpetuate inequality accommodate to the fire burning and keep those who perpetuate inequality accommodate to group annual convention this summer. Leaders at the convention put the ERA back on the agenda this summer. Leaders at the convention put the ERA back on the agenda this year.

But it's going to take a little work to rebuild that fire. Everyone let it die during the past few years and became content to stoke the burning embers. Apparently, the NOW leadership waited until the end of eight years of conservative, Ronald Reagan rule before making a second attempt to fuel the fire.

NOW polls show as many as 75 percent of American voters support such an amendment. But activists are taking one more glant step this time.

In this major political year,

groups like NOW are realizing it takes more than popular support for passage of an ERA amendment or any other politically sensitive legis-lation.

IT TAKES the power of political office, and realizing the importance of puting the right people in electropists. It means organizing and motivating the non-actives to voice for candidates who truly represent what they want. It requires getting involving and selzing the moment—and this is the year for involvement.

"The time has come to express our anger and to no longer accept the status quo," said an angry Molly Yard, the current NOW president. Feminist or not, we can all take heed of her words.

The first step was already taken this week, when a minority of registered voters chose to east ballots in the primary election. And what of the rest?

Hopefully, they're gearing up for the general election Nov. 8, gaining a sense of pride, and understanding that their opinions count, their feelings matter, and their votes will make a difference — equally.



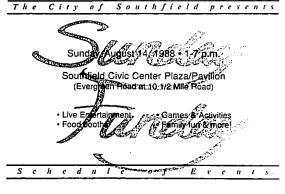
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