Supreme Court decisions: a mixed bag

By Philip A. Sherman staff writer

Faith in the wisdom and decision-making ability of the U.S. Supreme Court, in light of its recent decisions, is mixed among residents of and visitors to Oakland County.

In an unscientific poll, several people appeared unaware the high court had ruled that it is legal to burn the U.S. flag as a means of expression. Others knew the court had ruled on abortion, but didn't seem to think the ramifications of that ruling affected them.

think the ramifications of that ruling affected them.

Interviews were conducted Wednesday at Tel-Twelve Mail in Southfield and Friday in downtown Birmingham. Of those aware of the court's recent close decisions and rulings, three people sald they had continued faith in the court; three said their faith had been diminished; and two were on the fence.

sald their faith had been diminished; and two were on the fence.

"What else could you expect when you have the ex-director of the CIA as president?"said Dennis Fitzparick of Birmingham. He said he's convinced personal freedoms are in jopardy and thought the court's decision on abortion in Webster vs. Reproductive Health Services "is just the tip of the techerg, I think faith in upholding the Bill of Rights has been quite a bit diminished."

Mark Meyer of Waterford sees the issue differently.

"The system works. Whether you or I agree with it is somewhat irrelevant," Meyer said. That noted, Meyer added he disagrees with the court's ruling on flag burning and abortion.

abortion.

Tara Spiro of Rochester said she
"was kind of torm" about whether
she had faith in the court. "If don't
see that it's necessarily going in a
direction," Spiro said. She disagrees
with the court's ruling on flag burning, but agrees with the abortion decision.

Adire Thompson, of Detroit, was

cision.

Adire Thompson, of Detroit, was babysitting for Chelsea Price at Tel-Twelve Mall. She said she no longer has faith in the court.

"They made a wrong decision about abortion. They should let people have abortions," Thompson said. She also had one word to describe the court's decision on fing burning: "pittiol."

Matthew Schwartz, of Southfield, was sitting on the steps of the Baldwin Library in Birmingham. When asked if he still had faith in the court, his first reaction was to say that he was at the library Friday to

"DO I BELIEVE in everything they do? No. Do I think they're intelligent people? Yes," Schwarz sald with a shrug.
Wendy Tucker, a Traverse City resident who was sitting outside the Birminghaih Post Office, sald "I have faith in the process. How's that?

"Whatever you get is a reflection of the people there (on the court), but the process is good and has good po-tential."

tential."

Shirley Adams, of Westland, said she's pro-choice on the abortion issue and has an overall faith in the court.

"I believe in the government," Adams said. "But I dun't agree with the flag-burning decision."

Lenne, Blake, as a titrage, who

Jeanne Blake, an attorney who lives in Birmingham, thinks the court's actions have decreased its credibility.

credibility.

"Where Rengan wasn't able to do
it by legislation, he was able to do it
by packing the court," she said of
former President Ronald Reagan's
opportunity to appoint three justices.

opportunity to appoint three justices.
"I think it's become a political organization now and that wasn't the intent. The Constitution didn't set up the court with that intent."



'I don't see that it's (the court) necessarily going in a direction.' —Tara Spiro



'They made a wrong decision about abortion. They should let people have abortions.'

--- Adire Thompson



'The system works. Whether you or I agree with it is somewhat irrelevant.'

Waterford

Storm damage expensive for county

It cost county residents \$173,500 to clean up damage from the June 21 storm that dropped up to 6 inches of rain on area roads, according to John Grubba, managing direction of the Oakland County Road Commission

In related news, Grubba also an-nounced the county has sold \$4 mil-llon in bonds for subdivision im-provements, including better drain-

Wild Wings Gallery

while A. Sherman in the form of the worst." Grubba ald of the storm damage. Damage included severe flooding, washed-out ditches of the committed the storm that dropped up to 6 inches of the on area roads, according to the Grubba, ananaging direction of the Oakland County Road Commission.

In related news, Grubba also anounced the county has sold 44 million in bonds for subdivision importancements, including better drainge.

"Northwestern between 13 and 14 incompany. Net interest is 5.22 over 10 years."

The money will be used to pave roads and improve drainage in area subdivisions.

"We have 29 projects under construction right now," Grubba said. Since 1970, Grubba said, the county has spent \$41 million and paved 300 miles of roads.

The last bond issue, also for \$4 million, was in July 1987 and the money was used for special assess-



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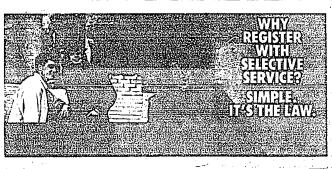
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