



A portable wall separates the men and women's sleeping quarters at Michigan National Corporation in Farmington Hills. About 300 bank employees have volunteered to help

house the homeless in corporate headquarters Sept. 22-29. Bank facilities, including showers, cafeteria, locker rooms and areas for beds, are a natural for the program.



Dorothy Robinson, director of corporate security who volunteers with providing meals for the homeless and doing their laundry. "When I saw so much cooperation from our CEO (Bob Mylod, MNB president), I thought that enthusiasm was excellent. I'll be here every year if we can do it."

Irene Wojciechowski, accountant and volunteer coordinator of the morning and sign-in shifts. "There are people out there who don't have what we have — hot baths, hot food."

Max Morgan, computer analyst and volunteer driver for the homeless. "At one time in my life I was homeless. I know how they feel."

## Bankers hearts swing open

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to like that just fine. Carol Swan, a financial analyst in the controller's division, who is on the social-entertainment-committee, agrees with that. "We just mainly talk with them," Swan said. "People get down on their luck. They're trying to straighten out their lives."

DOROTHY ROBINSON, director of corporate security at MNB, also enjoys talking with the guests. "We can offer them advice. And they really cling to that."

As with many of the volunteers, this is Robinson's second year as a volunteer. And she's grateful for the opportunity. Also like many of the other volunteers, having the program in their backyard has helped break some of the stereotypes of homeless people that many form with the help of the media.

"When you read about the problem in a newspaper or on TV, it seems remote. When you talk to the people and hear their stories, it becomes clearer that this can happen to anyone," said Carol Curtis, a vice president in human resources, and a coordinator for the transportation end of the bank's program.

Accountant Matthew Vervaeke realized the same thing.

"To me it's a social problem," he said. "As part of society, I feel I'm obligated to participate in this. It still kind of shocks you. They are really more like you and me. Most of these people are in a temporary situation."

## U.S. Rep. votes against spending

Here's how Observer & Eccentric-area members of Congress were recorded on major roll call votes in the week ending Sept. 20.

### HOUSE

**TO EXTEND JOBLESS BENEFITS** — By a vote of 283 for and 125 against, the House approved up to 20 weeks of additional unemployment benefits for those who have used up their initial allotment of at least 26 weeks. The bill (HR 3040), which was sent to the Senate, has a price tag of \$6.3 billion.

Similar legislation died in August when President George Bush withheld the emergency declaration needed to exempt it from the "pay-as-you-go" discipline of federal budget law. The new bill makes the emergency automatic when the measure is signed into law. The House (below) rejected an amendment raising taxes to pay for the extended benefits.

Supporter Barbara Kennelly, D-Conn., said the bill is needed because "no one can deny that many of our citizens are facing a catastrophe." Opponent Bill Gradison, R-Ohio, said the bill "must be paid for either by increasing taxes on businesses or breaking the budget agreement and borrowing more money."

A yes vote was to pass the bill. Area representatives voting yes were Carl Pursell, R-Plymouth, Dennis Hertel, D-Harper Woods, William Ford, D-Taylor, and Sander Levin, D-Southfield.

Voting no was William Broomfield, R-Birmingham.

**TO PAY FOR JOBLESS BENEFITS** — By a vote of 65 for and 341 against, the House rejected an amendment to pay for the \$6.3 billion jobless benefits measure (above) by a tax increase if President Bush fails to declare the expenditure exempt from the 1990 budget act.

Taxes were to have been raised by enlarging the wage base of the U.S. unemployment tax on employers, from \$7,000 per worker to about \$8,000.

Sponsor Dan Rostenkowski, D-Ill., said "we should stick to the pay-as-you-go principle (of budget law) and give the president the option to do the same."

Opponent Robert Walker, R-Pa.,

said the House should consider "ways of creating jobs, not ways of creating more spending and more taxes."

A yes vote was to pay for the added jobless benefits with higher taxes on employers.

Area representatives voting no were Pursell, Hertel, Levin and Broomfield.

Not voting was William Ford.

### SENATE

**TO PRESERVE SPENDING FOR THE ARTS** — By a vote of 27 for and 67 against, the Senate refused to cut about 10 percent from the National Endowment for the Arts \$174 million budget for this fiscal year. At issue was the content of some art produced with federal money. The amendment was offered to a fiscal 1992 appropriations bill (HR 2686) that was headed for a House-Senate conference committee.

Sponsor Nancy Kassebaum, R-Kan., said "federal arts funding is not an entitlement."

Opponent Dave Durenberger, R-Minn., said the National Endowment for the Arts should not be penalized when it is cooperating with Congress.

A yes vote was to cut the amount of federal money given to the arts. — Michigan senators Carl Levin, D, and Donald Riegle, D, voted no.

**SEXUALLY EXPLICIT ART** — The Senate voted 68 for and 28 against to keep the National Endowment for the Arts from paying for projects that feature "sexual or excretory activities or organs" in a "patently offensive way." The amendment was attached to HR 2686 (above).

Sponsor Jesse Helms, R-N.C., said his amendment targets work "that is so rotten, so crude, so disgusting, so filthy, that it turns the stomach of any normal person."

Opponent Howard Metzenbaum, D-Ohio, said "it is time to stop using the endowment as a political punching bag."

A yes vote supported the Helms amendment.

Senators Levin and Riegle voted no.

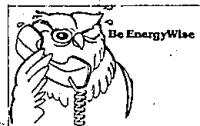
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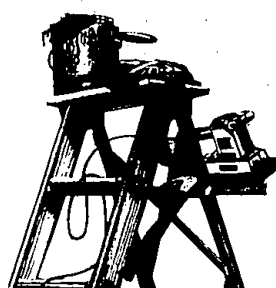
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