

# Campaign tactics

## Fellow Republicans question race

By PAT MURPHY  
STAFF WRITER

Republicans should monitor their own candidates, if necessary, to avoid distortions, mudslinging and negative campaigning, according to the very symbol of fairness in Oakland politics, retiring County Executive Daniel T. Murphy.

"We (Republicans) owe it to good candidates," Murphy said Thursday, prior to a GOP caucus preceding the regular Board of Commissioners meeting. "We owe it to the voters."

Supporting that view was commissioner John G. Pappageorge of Troy, GOP caucus chairman. "Otherwise, we can't speak from any position of moral authority."

Murphy and Pappageorge made their comments in response to questions about the tactics of Kevin Miltner, who won the GOP nomination

### ETHICS

in the 5th County Commission District which includes two precincts in West Bloomfield and 17 in Waterford.

Miltner defeated the second place candidate, Fran Amos, with alleged false and misleading statements, including she supports releasing convicted felons — specifically serial killer Leslie Williams — back into the community.

Murphy, who is retiring after more than four decades of public life, said he understands how campaign claims sometimes get out of hand.

But Miltner went too far, Murphy agreed, by claiming his opponent supports returning Williams — who raped and killed four teenagers — back into the community.

"I think Republicans should do something," said Murphy. "We can't be the party of high ideals without looking at his (Miltner's) claims."

Miltner said his claim is warranted in light of Amos' support of the community corrections program advocated by the State of Michigan and currently being considered by county commissioners.

That program — supported by former Circuit Judge Alice Gilbert among others — would enable judges to sentence non-violent felons to community service. Oakland has generally favored alternative punishment — such as a county-operated boot camp — for nonviolent felons.

But the community corrections program advocated by the Department of Corrections wants more — to the outrage of Prosecutor Rich-

ard Thompson who opposes it on the grounds some violent offenders may avoid prison.

Miltner claims his position is similar to Thompson's. "I oppose the community corrections plan, she supports it. That's a legitimate difference."

But Miltner went too far, some Republicans say, by claiming his opponent favored the release of Leslie Williams.

Pappageorge said the matter will likely be referred to the Oakland County Republican Party.

"I have a grave concern about this," said Pappageorge who is running against U.S. Rep. Sander Levin.

Pappageorge is one of dozens of GOP candidates to pledge they will avoid mudslinging and campaign on the issues and their own qualifications.

## ... Defeated opponent talking recount

The candidate who lost her Republican primary to an opponent who falsely claimed she favors putting serial killer Leslie Williams back into the community said she will file for a recount of two West Bloomfield precincts.

"I have until 5 p.m. today (Mon-

day) to file," said Fran Amos, who lost to fellow Republican Kevin Miltner by 22 votes.

Amos, who lives in Waterford, said she wants only votes in those precincts recounted because of what she considers to be Miltner's

disproportionate victory. He got 384 votes in West Bloomfield's 6th and 14th precincts, compared to 151 for Amos.

Miltner contends he garnered those votes by going door-to-door and by talking about meaningful is-

sues.

Amos claims Miltner was successful because he falsified her positions. She wants county Republicans to disavow Miltner and, if nothing else, support her write-in campaign.

## Alexander winds up as cheerleader

HOUSTON — Jim Alexander's voice was hoarse by Wednesday afternoon.

"Today I'm going to do something I haven't done all week — sleep," said the Oakland County Republican chairman as the pool-side party he was co-hosting wound down.

Somewhere Alexander had wound up, being a "convention team leader." How did he get that job? "Ask Dave Doyle (state chair) or Colleen Pero (of the governor's staff). They put me up to it," he said.

The job is to "organize spontaneity."

"It involves moving delegates and

alternates back and forth (so alternates can sit up close for a while). We organized the demonstration for (Gov. John) Engler last night, distributed signs."

"We went over and merkel up copies of his speech (points to cheer). Fortunately, there was an applause point at the end of every paragraph."

Alexander was a co-host because Oakland and Kent counties had teamed up. "The competition (in recent years) was vicious," he recalled.

There had been bad blood between national committeemen Chuck Yob of Ada and committe-

woman Ronna Romney of Bloomfield Hills. There's tension in the Legislature. Grand Rapids folks see a spigot of money flowing out of Lansing southeast along I-96 to Woodward Avenue, Detroit. They want the kind of preferential cultural funding the Detroit Institute of Arts and Detroit symphony get.

The Oakland-Kent party sent Michigan delegates a subliminal message: Rivalry is counter-productive to the GOP cause.

"The east-west rivalry is gone," Alexander said.

A Birmingham lawyer, Alexander was in uncharacteristic shorts, shirt and sneakers. But he was over the

party man.

"My dad was a city councilman in Huntington Woods. My mom was a precinct delegate. I like to say I learned to walk doing literature drops."

"I came in as a volunteer for (George) Bush in 1980. I enjoy party working, I enjoy campaigns, and I enjoy the organization work," he said.

Would the smooth behind-the-scenes worker ever run for public office? Alexander shrugged.

Delegates drifted out of the warm Texas sun at poolside to freshen up for the evening's speeches. Jim Alexander went to get some sleep.

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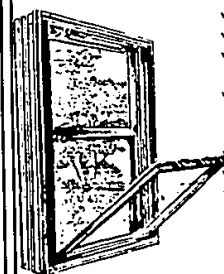
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