Mixed message

Pollster offers contradictory predictions

BY HAPPI R. ECHTINAW
STAFF WAITE
Combining dire warnings of the
"destruction of civilization" with
a prediction that "the best years
of our nation are yet to come,"
polister George Gallup Jr. delivcired a somewhat confusing assessment on the U.S. ecomomy at
Oakland University last week.
Rochester Schools Superintendent John Schultz was among
the 500 area residents who attended OU's seventh annual
Business Forum last Thursday.
Schultz said he was disappointdin Gallup's speech, in part, be-

ed in Gallup's speech, in part, be-cause the polister didn't offer any evidence to back up his asser-

cause the pollster didn't offer any evidence to back up his assertion. The body of his speech didn't support or reject any of that statement," Schultz said. "I guess he was interesting, (but) I think he missed the mark." Gallup bega. Bis speech by saying that "If swift forceful steps arent taken to defuse the pollitical and social time bombs facing us, we could possibly well find ourselves on a track that could lead to the destruction of civilization as we know kt." Yet Gallup finished by saying. "I can't help but come to the coulcion that, despite our many problems, the best years of not the country of the said of o



Like counting sheep?: George Gallup Jr.'s presentation put some in the audience to sleep, according to Diane Iras, spokeswoman for Rochester schools.

our current economic situation." He noted that "the public is not averse to cutting programs that affect the more affluent members of the society" and "more than 85 percent say they would favor raising taxes on those with incomes above \$200,000 as a means to fight the deficit," but "support is lacking for cutting federal programs that affect the middle class."

On the presidential candidacy of Henry Ross Perot, Gallup said the Texan will likely not make a tremendous difference, but could throw the election to Bush. "Perot hurts (Arkansas Gov. Bill) Clinton slightly more than he hurts Bush," Gallup said. "But I don't know what's going to happen. None of us does." current economic situation."

s, spokeswoman for Rochester.

However, Gallup said he's sure
about one thing: There will be another low voter turnout in the
Nov. 3 election, "perhaps the lowest in the nation's history." He
said that voters will eschew the
polls in great numbers because
they're ticked off with the whole
political process.

Most of Gallup's apeech concerned unemployment. To reduce
it, he said the country needs "new
and creative programs," but the
only one he offered was that of rautional service, a football that has
been tossed around for years.

"The time has come to give
deep and careful consideration to
the pessibility of initiating a national program of mandatory service, requiring every young man
or woman to give one year of ser-

schools.

vice to the nation, either in military or non-military work." he said. Gallup likewise believes that Americans would vote for his national service idea in great numbers if given the chance.

In the same vein, Gallup decried the lack of "new ideas" in political campaigns and said "there's a strong basis for future third-party efforts in this country." However, Gallup's polling policy when soliciting presidently preferences is skewed in favor of the two or three main candidates. He said that, when asked for their preferences this year, voters are given a choice between Bush, Clinton or Perot. None of the other candidates (Hotetrian Andre Marrou, for example) are mentioned.

QU students commit to a diverse campus

More than 1,200 entering atu-tions at Oakland University have made a public commitment to non-discrimination.

They and new OU President Sandra Packard have signed the commitment in the student news-paper, "The Oakland Post." The names take up a full page and en-half.

The students were all partici-pants in orientation programs at the university that included a segment on diversity. Now the students and Packard have gone on record pledging to "make the campus environment a place where individuals from di-verse backgrounds feel welcome and valued."

Each signer vows to "strive to show my appreciation and respect for people who are different from me. I will discourage discriminatory conduct in others, and I will strive to educate such individuals about the value of diversity in the campus community."

Both Talbert, director of orien-

tation, says the diversity segment of orientation includes film, a fact sheet and case studies to famil-iorize students with the issues of intize students with the issues of diversity and present an honest preview of what campus life is like. Talbert says the goal is to help students understand and ap-preciate diversity, including racial and gender differences.

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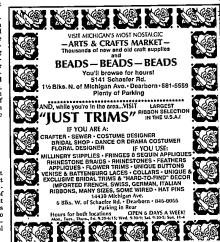
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