

POINTS OF VIEW

Real change must look beyond glib solutions

U h oh. It looks as if George Bush, discounted by journalists and poll watchers, could pull out a victory, à la Joe Knollenberg.

In the primary, Knollenberg was able to reap the benefits of a three-legged race. While one much-heralded front-runner opponent — state Sen. Dave Honigman — raked up an early lead, the entrance of a third candidate, former judge Alice Gilbert, split the votes of those who wanted a change from un-blinking, establishment Republican politics.

And Knollenberg slipped in as the Republican nominee, east in the mold of retiring Congressman Bill Broomfield, who he is running to replace in the predominantly Republican 11th Congressional District.

Now, we're seeing Bush moving into position to do much the same thing.

Ross Perot has engendered fire into this campaign, but it could end up burning down the chance for the change in leadership the country so desperately needs — just as Gilbert's entry did closer to home.

This may happen, even though in one Washington reporter's eyes Bush has lost the strong competitive drive he's displayed most of his life.

Thomas Edsall, who covers national politics for the Washington Post, told an audience in Southfield last week that he sees Bush eying more time on the golf course and with his grandchildren. Bush feels he's been successful in foreign affairs, Edsall said, but now the focus must be on domestic issues "and at one level. . . I think he's elected to opt out."

University of Michigan professor Raymond Tanter put his own spin on Bush's lackadaisical attitude at the



JUDITH DONER BERNE

same symposium, sponsored by the Southfield Downtown Development Authority.

Tanter, who served in the Reagan White House, said that in his campaign, Bush should have stressed victories in the Cold War and the hot (Persian Gulf) war and used these "to dramatize the need for economic solutions. After Desert Storm, he sat on a

lead and it rotted."

I think many of us experienced Bush's lack of energy and focus as we watched the first two debates. By the third, the pressure from all those around him who will be put out of work by his defeat may have roused him to do a little better.

It's clear that if Bush doesn't have the energy for the campaign, he certainly won't have the motivation to redirect this nation as a lame-duck president.

Now, the overwhelming desire for change — away from the Republican failure to tackle the economic issues and away from government as usual — is prompting some to jump off the Clinton and onto the Perot bandwagon.

It's the same thinking that caused the movement four years back to try and draft Lee Iacocca for president. Outspoken millionaires who have proved themselves outside the tradi-

tional political arena are appealing.

The question is: Can they also deliver in a milieu that calls for bridge and coalition building?

If we're so desperately looking for someone to cut through the gridlock, we must make sure we get that person. Each of us who wants change must think long and hard when we go to our neighborhood polls Tuesday.

Perot's glib solutions, which he says he can deliver in a single term, don't measure up to the longer-term programs of economic and social change that Democrat Bill Clinton outlines.

These days, there are no knights in shining armor. Change will take the energy and vision of plain-clothed mortals — old enough to remember Camelot but young enough not to live in the past.

Judith Doner Berne is assistant managing editor for the Oakland County editions of the Observer & Eccentric.

LETTERS

Race is muddy

I'm grateful for the attention paid to me by readers of your newspaper and in your letters to the editor column.

I do want to clear up a few misconceptions, though, as things seem to become muddy in the midst of a hotly contested political campaign.

As magistrate of district court in Farmington and Farmington Hills, I've taken the bench in court hundreds of times, on hundreds of days over the past several years.

Since my appointment by Judge Margaret Schaeffer, I have decided hundreds, perhaps thousands, of cases. I issue search and arrest warrants, conduct arraignments in misdemeanor and felony cases and have even married people.

In our district court, the office of magistrate is a very serious job, always held by an experienced attorney.

I've been an attorney for a dozen years — I began my practice here and have always had my office here — in addition to my experience as magistrate.

I understand the need by campaign opponents to try to make my achievements as magistrate seem smaller.

After all, that experience is unique. I'm the only candidate who has decided cases in court — the perfect training to serve as judge.

Marla Parker, magistrate of district court

Thanks, officer

I would like to say something positive about a very nice police officer.

You always hear all the bad things about policemen, but last night I had a very good experience with Officer Dan Potter of the Farmington Public Safety Department.

My mother had a major heart attack the last of July. Last night about 1:30 a.m., she called me, telling me that she was having severe chest pains. So we started out to Botsford Hospital.

I missed my exit on I-96 and had to get off at Orchard Lake Road. I was driving with my emergency flashers on. I was not sure how to get to Grand River.

There was a police car in front of me. The officer pulled over, so that I could pull up beside him. I told him my mother was having chest pains and that I was on my way to Botsford Hospital.

He asked me if I knew how to get there. I told him I was lost. He said "Follow me."

Needless to say he took me right to the hospital. I didn't get a chance to say "Thank you," or get his name.

This morning I called the police department and asked for the officer's name. My family and I would like to say, thanks so much, Officer Dan Potter.

The hospital admitted my mother, but I just had to take time to say again, thanks a lot to a caring police officer. Sandra Giffith, Canton

He's for 'C'

I'm weary of the misleading propaganda from our school officials in opposition to Proposal C ("Cut and Cap").

Proposal C is good for taxpayers and good for our schools.

Greedy school officials, however, know that if Proposal C fails, taxpayers will be hit with an automatic double digit tax increase and they're willing to twist the facts to help defeat it.

Proposal C provides a needed 30 percent property tax cut over five years, mandates by Constitutional amendment an equal amount of state school increase, and caps assessment increases at 3 percent or inflation, whichever is less.

The schools are held harmless in that their funding is guaranteed by Proposal C. Cut and Cap even allows reasonable growth in school revenue. Michigan's families and economy need Proposal C. Vote yes on Proposal C on Tuesday, Nov. 3.

Richard DeVries, Farmington Hills

A big help

I please me to know that our system of government can still work effectively.

About two years ago, I was involved with a school safety problem on 12 Mile Road in front of Harrison High School in which one of our students

was hit by a car. Many of the parents asked our band booster organization what could be done to improve safety, and I promised to follow up.

I brought the matter to the attention of our county commissioner, Donn Wolf, and through his efforts we now have completed a beautiful road safety project on 12 Mile that I hope will result in drastic reduction in accidents.

This is an especially important project for the many school children and other pedestrians who cross this street in front of the Harrison High School.

The community owes a debt of gratitude to Donn Wolf for caring enough to get involved and to bring together the resources of Oakland County, the road commission, the school system, PTA and other parental groups, and the city, all of which made this traffic improvement project possible.

In the face of so many other broader issues, it is nice to know that we can still call on our representative and that, as in this case, he was able to respond and help to see a project important to us as citizens and parents is pursued and completed.

Robert Kirsten, Farmington Hills

Where can you find a pediatrician at 8 p.m. on a holiday weekend?



Introducing Children's Hospital of Michigan Evening & Weekend Pediatric Center.

Now your children can have the special care they need "after hours." During the evening. On weekends. Even holidays.

Staffed by pediatricians affiliated with Children's Hospital of Michigan, the center handles non-emergency conditions when your child's regular physician is not available. After a visit to the center, we'll provide your child's physician with a follow-up report so he or she can continue treatment, if necessary.

Our center is located on The Detroit Medical Center's Laber Campus at 27307 Laber Road, Suite 201, just north of Eleven Mile Rd. in Southfield. Call 827-7940 for more information.

Weekdays: 6 p.m.-11 p.m. Weekends/Holidays: 1 p.m.-9 p.m. No appointment is necessary.

Call 815-5000 and ask for this free card. Carry it with you and you'll always have phone numbers handy for "after hours" child care.

Wayne State University
DMC Children's Hospital of Michigan
Evening and Weekend Pediatric Center

"STEVEN KAPLAN would do a better job, bringing more civility to the prosecutor's office without sacrificing the toughness that county voters expect and need." Detroit Free Press

OAKLAND COUNTY NEEDS A SMARTER, TOUGHER PROSECUTOR!

"We face a greater danger to our personal safety from convicted criminals, like serial-killer Leslie Allen Williams, than from Dr. Jack Kevorkian."

My opponent, Richard Thompson, could have, but did not, use the courts to block Williams' early parole. Williams' early release by the Parole Board led to horrendous personal losses for his victims' families and a tragedy for us all.

The incumbent prosecutor should not have wasted taxpayers' money prosecuting Dr. Kevorkian when Michigan law does not make assisted suicide a crime.

I'm proud that my record and my experience have earned for me many endorsements, including law enforcement individuals and organizations, such as the Police Officers Association of Michigan and the Michigan Association of Police. They know I will enforce the law, wisely and effectively."

Steven Kaplan



Smarter. Tougher.

Elect Assistant Prosecutor STEVEN

KAPLAN

Oakland County Prosecutor

ASSISTANT PROSECUTOR LEGAL SCHOLAR COMMUNITY LEADER

- Assistant Prosecutor, Macomb County, since 1986, Felony Trial Division; successfully prosecuted 24 capital cases.
- Staff Attorney, Court of Appeals, 1985-86
- Research Attorney, Michigan Court of Appeals, 1982-83.
- Judicial Clerk, Oakland County Circuit Court, 1978-82.
- Adjunct Assistant Professor, Mercy College of Detroit, 1985-90.
- Trustee, Oakland County Law Library Foundation, 1984-90.
- Bd. of Directors, Wayne County Neighborhood Legal Services, 1985-86.
- Hearing Officer, Attorney Discipline Board, 1987-present; Master, 1989-present.
- Board of Directors, HAVEN Domestic Violence Shelter, Pontiac.
- Board of Directors, Common Ground, Birmingham, 1986-87.
- Trustee, Southfield School Board, 1987-present; President of the Board, 1990-92.
- Board of Directors, Students Against Drunk Driving, 1987-1992.
- Board of Directors, Substance Abuse Inf. Center, Fraser, 1990-present.
- Author of twenty-four published articles in legal and educational journals.
- Juris Doctor, Honors Graduate, Detroit College of Law, 1981.

Rated "Well Qualified" by Civic Searchlight. Endorsed by more than 800 attorneys and retired judges in the Tri-County area.