Sheriff, opponents grapple over record

BY PAT MURPHY STAFF WRITER

BY YAT MOMPAY

STATE WOLFAY

If looks could kill, Gerard Carlin of Rochester Hills would be divad tofny, rather than a candidate for the Republican nomination for Oakland County sheriff.

Incumbent John F. Nichols glared at him with obvious diadain Monday as Carlin repeated, y attacked the incumbent's handling of the sheriff's department during a candidate's night sponsored by the Bloomfield Republican Women's Club.

Carlin—who said Nichols had once groomed him as a possible successor _ accused his former bioss of mismangement and of glossing over accusations of wrongdoing within the department.

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right.
(Nichols responded by citing syme of the innovations he'd made during his three terms, such as the Sheriff's Boot Camp which he said saves the county as much as \$65 per day on each innovation.

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He had also initiated a system that enabled prisancers to be arraigned by video camera while in jail, thus saving the time and secources needed for officers to physically escort them to court.

As for the highly publicized investigation into the sheriff department – that resulted in 71 indictments against Carlin, then Rochester Hills Mayor Bille Irelând – Nichols was philosophical.

iand – Nichols was philosophi-cal.
Most of those charges have been dismissed, and Nichols said what was characterized as the "serpent of corruption" within his department "turned out to be a little garden snake."

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But the probe showed one
thing, he said, 'If that's the
worst (investigators) could come
up with, we're in pretty good
shape."
Nichols and Carlin were the
main attractions in the sheriff's
race, although candidate Paul A.
Molin, who ran against the
lacumbent in 1992, also shared

Reporter is award finalist

, The local Society of Profes-sional Journalists chapter will select metro-Detroit's 1996 Jour-nalist of the Year today, June 6, at the group's annual awards banquet.

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Among the three finalists is Tim Smith, reporter for The West Bloomfield-Lakes Excentric. He was nominated for his insightful reporting in a deries on activities in the West Bloomfield and Walted Lake schools, and especially for his reise on "Micropreemies". Smith, 39 and a Livonia resident, had first-hand knowledge of the anguish micropremip parents go through when his find his wife's own daughter was hoon prematurely.

ind his wife's own daughter was bone prematurely.
Smith, a Wayne State University graduate, joined the Eccentric staff in February 1986.
Also under consideration are:
Jeff Green, a reporter for The Oakland Press; and Rod-Hansen, an investigative reporter at WJR radio.

the podium.
"Some people call me a sup-porter of Sheriff Nichols," said Molin, a Farmington Hills resi-dent. That might be accurate when he's not running against Nichols, Molin said, 'because I respect him and the job he's done."

Nichols, Molin said, "because I respect him and the job he's done."

Molin insisted Oakland County needs a forward-looking sheriff who would lead the department in the 21st Century . . . a sheriff who can deal with trends such as the general population gets older. Molin explained, so too will inmates, creating new challenges in the process.

Molin also served as a buffer between Nichols and Carlin.

Here's an example: Nichols has endorsed incumbent prosecutor Richard Thompson over his Republican challenger David Gorçca. Carlin, who has Goryca fund raisers, said if Republicans don't nominate Gorçca in the primary, "our next prosecutor might be a Democrat (a reference to Steve Kaplan)."

weence to Steve Kaplan).*

Molin acemed irritated, almost incensed, at the suggestion and the implication incumbent Thompson might be weak. If he had any influence, said Molin, "Id endorse Mr. Thompson."

There are six Republican candidates in the Aug. 6 primary, Not present at Monday's candidate's night were William A. Goodfellow of Pontiac, Raymond B. L'Esperance of Davisburg and Michael L. Odette of Clarkston. The winner of the GOP race will face the winner of the GOP race will face the winner of the Poemocratic primary where Waterford Township police officer Scott C. Good of Auburn Hills is running against State Police Capt. Matt Hogan of White Lake.

Nichols is considered the oddson favorite in the Republican race, particularly with five pri-

mary opponents. At Monday's forum, the crusty Nichols seemed to be irritated by challenges, especially from Carlin.

The 77-year-old incumbent seemed particularly irritated when Carlin used a quote he said was from former undersheriff Billy Nolan. Insisting the quote was from district court records, Carlin cited Nolan as saying, "If Nichols and others ever would have been filed against Carlin, Ireland and Keylon (Doris Keylon, Ireland's aide who was also indicted – and subsequently cleared)."

Nichols didn't dispute the accuracy of the quote. But he said Nolan had been an ineffective under sheriff "who didn't know what was going on." Carlin retorted, "then why did you keep him as under sheriff — at a salary in around \$70,000 — for 10 years?"

Jill Wagner, president of the GOP women's club, summarized her view of the evening with an understatement. "We wanted a neutral forum for Republican candidates," she said. "I think we did it, and I think we stirred some interest."



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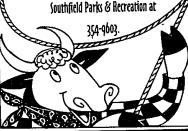
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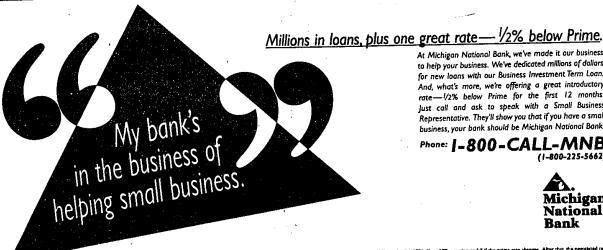


Hey Kids!

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