

Convention, political news on web

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EMORY DANIELS

Extensive coverage this summer's national political conventions can be found easily on the Internet, especially if you point to the PoliticsNow site at <http://www.politicsnow.com>.

The site is sponsored by ABC News, the Washington Post, National Journal, Newsweek and the Los Angeles Times.

News reports of what people in southeastern Michigan are doing at both conventions will be filed by the Observer & Eccentric's own Tim Richard on the News Stand site operated by O&E Online. After the gavel drops, point to <http://oeonline.com/news.html>.

PoliticsNow will take you to the floor and behind the scenes of both the Republican and Democratic national conventions with in-depth coverage and interactive features that let you, as a "virtual delegate," express yourself on the issues facing both parties. If you are not in San Diego or Chicago, you still can chat with the politicians and the political experts online. You may not be on the GOP Platform Committee but you will be able to read the entire Republican platform online and compare it to the 1992 platform.

PoliticsNow round-the-clock convention coverage will include:

- All the speeches, real-time results from the roll call votes on the floor, all the floor fights, and all the news from the floor as well as real-time audio of major speeches, daily video and audio clips of convention highlights.

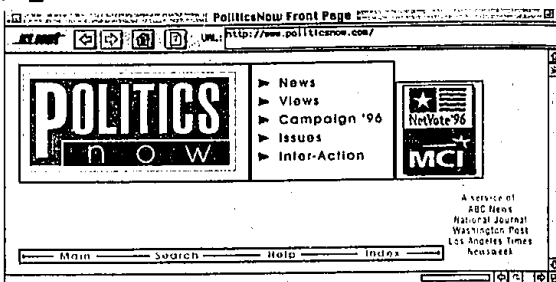
- A variety of interactive features to allow users to cast votes on important convention issues. Users also will be able to vote online for Bob Dole's choice for a running mate.

- Exclusive interviews and live auditorium events with key convention participants, major politicians, and leading journalists such as David Broder, Peter Jennings, David Brinkley, George Will, Sam Donaldson, Hal Brupp or Howard Fineman.

- Online discussions as each day's events unfold.

HOT LIST

Political Convention News
<http://www.politicsnow.com>
Background Briefing
<http://www.backgroundbriefing.com/>
News and Political Review
<http://hcs.harvard.edu/~hpr/>
Atlantic Monthly Election News
<http://www2.theatlantic.com/atlantic/election/connection>
Power the Vote
<http://www.lhj-lv.com/index.html>
JFK Resources Online
<http://www.c.ybercom.net/~jima/chery/jfk.html>



Prior to the conventions, users can go to PoliticsNow for interactive biographies of Bill Clinton and Bob Dole and to enter a contest to win a trip to the Presidential Inauguration.

"The Interactive Biographies of Clinton and Dole" presents the biographies of both using a storytelling format, rich with video, audio and photographs.

What do Bob Dole's army buddies have to say about him? Want to listen to Clinton playing the sax? How did Dole fumble during the 1976 vice-presidential debates? Have you heard Clinton's infamous letter to the ROTC officer?

These moments plus hundreds more from their personal and political lives can be found along with a photo timeline from 1923 to the present to chronicle the lives of both side-by-side.

A feature called "Generation Gap" compares Clinton the Baby Boomer with "GI Generation" Dole at the same stage in their lives and looks at the culture of the time. For example, when Dole was a teenager Glen Miller was hot in Clinton's teen years, Roy Orbison and the Beatles topped the charts.

Another feature called "Time Capsule" looks at where each man was at a turning point in history, such as the Kennedy assassination, as well as where each stood on pivotal issues such as Roe vs. Wade.

"The Inaugural Bowl" is a new political trivia game available on PoliticsNow with the grand prize being a trip for two to Washington, D.C., for the Inauguration valued at \$3,500.

To play the game, players select states, each of which has point values equal to the number of votes each state has in the Electoral College, and then answer questions for each state.

The goal is to get 270 electoral votes (the amount needed to win the presidency). Once in office, each player must correctly answer one final question to be eligible for the grand prize drawing. Entrants must be 18 or older and entries must be received by Nov. 1, 1996.

Political Web Jewels

- Background Briefing at <http://www.backgroundbriefing.com/> allows users to explore the background of news stories for a more thorough understanding. At this site you'll find a complete reference set with full-text features enabling you to understand major news topics from the Balkans to Earthquakes, Ethics in Government to Forecasts.

- Point your Web browser to <http://hes.harvard.edu/~hpr/> to find the Harvard Political Review, a non-partisan journal of both domestic and international issues. Published quarterly, each issue offers fresh, in-depth analysis of the political world while maintaining a clear and accessible style.

- The Atlantic Monthly's Election Connection '96 at <http://www2.theatlantic.com/atlantic/election/connection> delivers pertinent background, perspective, and insight on major issues of the upcoming 1996 presidential election. Campaign issues covered include abortion, budget, Congress, crime, defense, economic education, environment, family, foreign policy, healthcare, immigration, politics, poverty, race and religion.

- Power the Vote at <http://www.lhj-lv.com/index.html> is said to be the first election site of its kind, created exclusively for women thanks to a joint effort between Ladies' Home Journal and the League of Women Voters. You'll find content-rich, non-partisan reports on the issues, candidates, an exclusive interview with Elizabeth Dole and another chance to win two tickets to the Inaugural Ball.

- JFK Resources Online at <http://www.c.ybercom.net/~jima/chery/jfk.html> provides a thorough and provocative compilation of JFK resources online from JFK's Inaugural Address to Warren Report conclusions, photos of JFK, Oswald and the autopsy, and quotes, press comments and audio files.

Emory Daniels may be reached via E-mail at emory@oeonline.com. Past columns are archived at <http://oeonline.com/~emory/dl/archive.html>

BUSINESS MARKETPLACE

Marketplace features a glimpse of Oakland County Business news and notices. **Business Marketplace, Eccentric Newspapers, Birmingham Eccentric, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009. Our fax number is (810) 644-1314.**

CONTRACT SEMINAR

A federal government contract bidding seminar for the public—"Winning Bid Federal Contracts" will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 22 at the Avonnet Building, 29077 Greenfield Rd. 501, in Southfield. Lulu Tyler, chief administrator for a federal agency and Martha Prillerman, former small business deputy director of the Defense Department, will conduct the seminar. The seminar is \$925. Most credit cards are accepted. Call for reservations or additional information at 559-3665.

COUNSEL HIRED

Sarah Wolk Associates has been appointed public relations and marketing counsel to Malan Realty Investors, Inc., which is headquartered in Birmingham.

WOMEN'S GROUP

Dawn Osborn, founder and president of Troy-based Elite Consulting Associates, has developed plans for a professional women's group to begin in September. The Professional Women's Alliance was designed to empower women professionals, entrepreneurs and executives in attaining their goals through developing and strengthening confidence, influence and credibility. Monthly meetings open with a presentation on professional development, followed by group discussion and the building of career advancement strategies. For more information, contact Dawn Osborn M.S., c/o Elite Consulting Associates, 2710 Troy Center Drive, Suite 440, Troy, MI 48064, or call (810) 269-0464.

TRUSTEE NAMED

The Troy-based Michigan chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences elected Troy resident John Hammond, UAW executive produc-

er/electronic media, to a one-year term as national trustee. NATAS is a nonprofit association dedicated to the advancement of television.

TOP RANK

Fred Lavery Infiniti of Birmingham was recognized as a key contributor to the brand's number-one ranking in J.D. Power and Associates' 1996 Customer Satisfaction Index study. Infiniti, the luxury car division of Nissan Motor Corp. U.S.A., outperformed all other nameplates in the CSI study with a score of 168, surpassing this year's industry average of 137. The luxury marque's top-ranked performance was based on customer handling and vehicle repair/reliability.

DEALER AWARDS

Suburban Oldsmobile Cadillac in Troy was recognized as the world's top Aurora dealer in retail sales for the second consecutive year with the "Aurora Award." The retailer also received its fourth consecutive "Elite Award," which places it among the top 7 percent of all Oldsmobile dealerships nationwide in customer satisfaction and sales. Employees acknowledged went to Rick Hahn, Oldsmobile's 11th top sales consultant in the country, and Ed Schultz and Karl Pollack, who received master technician honors.

APARTMENT COMPLEX

The first phase of the Eagle Pond Apartment Complex in downtown Walled Lake is under way with 217 town houses set for completion in August 1997. Phase two will bring the total number of units to 400. Walled Lake Mayor William Roberts declared July ground breaking, "Eagle Pond/Etkin & Co. Day," in honor of the project's Birmingham Farms-based developer, who donated \$275,000 toward the purchase of a new fire vehicle.

PRODUCTION AGREEMENT

SMS Group's Advanced Technologies Unit will serve as the manufacturing, marketing and servicing organization in a three-way partnership agree-

ment with Germany-based Glamatron GmbH and Henkel Electric. The agreement will allow ATI to produce, sell and service "Hi-Pulse" systems throughout North America, Mexico, and Central and South America.

"Hi-Pulse" is a conductive press welding machine that transforms stored capacitor power into high-energy pulses to weld a variety of materials, primarily in mass production environments. The machines will be manufactured at the company's Saginaw plant, and sales and service activities will be based at the technical center in Troy.

GRANT AWARDED

The Michigan Jobs Commission awarded a \$41,000 contract to the Oakland Schools to implement metalworking skill standards in its school-to-work program. Through the National Institute for Metalworking Skills credentialing program, individuals can certify skills against industry standards that serve as a benchmark for metalworkers and their employers. Funding was provided through the \$49 million school-to-work grant awarded to the state in July 1994 by the U.S. Department of Labor and Education.

MUSEUM CONTRACT

Mustang Museum, Inc.'s board of directors, comprised of business professionals throughout the United States, has contracted Farmington Hills-based Associates Creative, Inc. to assist in all museum fund-raising and promotional activities. National site selection, facility design, interactive and Virtual Reality displays and fund-raising for the \$30-million facility will be developed and secured early enough to offer a grand opening in spring 1999, in conjunction with the 35th anniversary of the Mustang.

PRODUCT EXPANSION

Southfield-based Music Technologies International is expanding its Bizarro product beyond mass merchandisers and drug stores and into new retail segments, including specialty cloth-

ing retailers, convenience stores and restaurants. MTI specializes in designing customized, satellite-delivered radio programs, like Bizarro, for retailers to use in-store. Designed to play everyday music that appeals to a variety of audiences, Bizarro doubled MTI's customer base last year and is expected to carry sales forward in 1996.

TOP NOTCH

Troy-based Energy Conversion Devices, Inc. was named by Crain's Detroit Business as number one among Michigan's top 10 hard-charging stocks. The annual list compares the performance of Michigan's top 60 companies. A leader in the synthesis of new materials and the development of advanced production technology and innovative products, ECD posted a healthy profit last year and outranked all other surveyed companies in its percent return on equity. Crain's singled out two technologies in particular as indicative of ECD's rising fortunes: the nickel-metal-hydride battery developed by ECD subsidiary Ovonic Battery Co., Inc. and the ECD solar roof shingles and metal roof materials capable of generating two kilowatts of electricity using 300 square feet of rooftop area.

SOLUTION CENTER

The Mac Group of Southfield opened, "The Solution Center," a new training and demo facility. Fully equipped stations include individual interactive computers, scanners and digital cameras, 3M Rainbow Color Proofing system and color printer, Xerox Majestic color copier with splash RIP and high-speed Internet connectivity. The Mac Group specializes in Macintosh, whether a company has all Macintosh or a cross platform environment. It also provides personalized hardware/software solutions, dependable contract support services, timely emergency diagnosis services, practical consultation services and Internet integration. For information on The Solution Center's training schedule, call (810) 355-3400.