

Causing a stir

Hogan reacts to campaigner's taped comments

BY PAT MURPHY
STAFF WRITER

■ **'He made a mistake.'**
Matt Hogan
Oakland County sheriff's
candidate

The Michigan State Police commander who was recorded making sexist remarks about Ronna Romney will remain "an active part" of Matt Hogan's campaign for Oakland County sheriff.

"Those comments were inappropriate," Hogan said Friday, "and they certainly do not reflect my philosophy."

"But he made a mistake," Hogan said, "a mistake that embarrassed him and my campaign. I will not turn my back on him."

Hogan, a Democrat, is running against incumbent Republican John F. Nichols in Tuesday's election.

As a decided underdog, Hogan said he felt as though he was gaining ground on the incumbent...until this week when Nichols supporters released comments from Lt. Ronald Lapp made on Oct. 23.

On that day Lapp, commander of the state police post in Pontiac, called the sheriff's South Lyon substation to inquire about a crime, namely somebody being arrested for damaging political signs.

The lieutenant, who is a campaign coordinator for Hogan, finished that conversation, but apparently did not properly hang up the telephone. The subsequent conversation was recorded.

In that conversation, Lapp was recorded making comments about Romney to an unidentified man. Lapp also talked about the ease with which letters are ghost-written and submitted to newspapers that run them as letters to the editor.

Nichols supporters were happy to make the content of the conversation — or transcripts of the

tape — available to the press. Nichols himself, however, suggested contacting the press was payback for something the Hogan camp did earlier in the campaign — namely complain about Capt. Michael McCabe distributing Nichols literature while in uniform when the sheriff was appearing in Rochester Hills.

If it had not been for that incident, Nichols told newspapers, "I might have thrown the (Lapp) tapes in the waste basket."

As it is, Hogan is embarrassed and Lapp faces possible disciplinary action.

A spokesperson for Romney insists Lapp should be fired from his state police post, "for making vile, obscene remarks of a sexual nature about Mrs. Romney while on state time."

"Lt. Lapp must be held accountable for his actions," spokesman Paul Welday said in a press release issued Thursday. "That's why I am calling for a full investigation by the internal affairs division of the state police and for the termination of this

officer if so warranted.

"Our state troopers are among the finest in the nation and Lt. Lapp has sullied their reputation and given them a big black eye," said Welday.

He also called for Romney's opponent, U.S. Sen. Carl Levin, and the Democratic Party to repudiate comments from Leo LaLonde, a paid campaign advisor who seemed to rationalize Lapp's comments.

LaLonde, who is also chair of Macomb County Democrats, defended Lapp by insisting he was engaged in a private conver-

■ **'I am calling for a full investigation by the internal affairs division of the state police and for the termination of this officer if so warranted.'**

Paul Welday
Ronna Romney's spokesperson

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KAPLAN vs. GORCYCA

	Steven Kaplan (D)	Dave Gorcyca (R)
• Current Assistant Prosecutor	Yes	No
• Age	43	34
• Number of Years as an Assistant Prosecutor	10 (1986 - present)	2 (1988 - 1990)
• Number of felony cases tried before a jury as prosecutor	Over 150	6
• Conviction rate as Prosecutor in felony jury trials	Over 80%	33%
• Honors Law School Graduate	Yes	No
• Articles published in Legal Journals	40	0
• Years as a School Board Member or City Council Councilman	8	2
• President of School Board or City Council	Yes - 2 terms	No
• Homicide cases tried as a Prosecutor	13	0
• Convictions in homicide cases as a Prosecutor	13	0
• Adjunct Assistant Professor	Yes - 6 years	No
• Law Clerk to an Oakland Circuit Court Judge	Yes - 3 years	No
• Staff Attorney to a Court of Appeals Judge	Yes - 21 months	No
• Staff Attorney to a U.S. District Court Judge	Yes - 19 months	No

THOUSANDS OF MICHIGAN POLICE OFFICERS ENDORSE STEVEN KAPLAN, including:

- Oakland County Deputy Sheriff's Association
- Michigan Association of Police
- Royal Oak Police Officers Association
- Police Officers Association of Michigan
- Farmington Hills Police Officers Association
- Michigan Police Legislative Coalition
- Sylvan Lake Police Officers Association

Also endorsed by the Michigan Handicappers League

Observer & Eccentric

"Without reservation, we endorse Steve Kaplan for Oakland County's chief prosecuting attorney in the Nov. 5th general election."

THE OAKLAND PRESS EDITORIAL

"Experience as prosecutor makes Kaplan best choice"

"We judged Gorcyca to be much too inexperienced at prosecuting criminal cases - and in general to take over what amounts to a large law firm."

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