Voters could face tricounty arts tax

State Capitol capsules:

The state Senate moved a bill allowing the tricounty area to vote a half-mill property tax for the arts, but the vote showed weak support among affected senators.

the arts, but the vote showed weak support among affected senators.

The Senate approved SB 1136, 27-9 with one Senator not voting. The bill was sponsored by Sen. Mike Bouchard, R. Birmingham, It would allow voters to approve a property tax for major cultural institutions, including the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Detroit Institute of Arts, the Coo and Cranbrook.

Voting yes: Bouchard, Bill Bullard, R. Milford and Gary Peters, D-Bloomfield Township.

Voting no: Mat Dunaskiss, R. Lake Orion,
Significantly for those hoping for a tricounty tax, all three Macomb County senators—Republican Dave Jaye and Democrats Ken DeBaussaert and Art Miller—voted no. Jaye denounced the proposal, supported by the Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce, as "unfair, un-American and culturally elitist." Macomb's most popular musical group, he said, is Big Daddy Lakowski's polishand.

The House has passed its own version of the same proposal. At some point, legislative leaders must decide whether the House or Senate version will be the vehicle bill.

Fitzgerald out

He hasn't called it quits, but Rep. Frank Fitzgerald has "sus-pended" his campaign for the Republican nomination for attor-ney general — "clearly under-



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standing the obstacles and political realities which confront me."
Chief obstacle: "For several months, the governor (John Engler) has made clear his strong and active support for attorney general."
So the race for the GOP nod at the Aug. 29 convention boils down to Rommey, in private practice in Detroit, and John Smittanka, former U.S. attorney for western Michigan and the 1994 nominee.

Anti-cloning law

Anti-cloning law
Gov. John Engler signed into
law four bills prohibiting human
cloning, denouncing the idea as
"morally and ethically wrong."
Among the sponsors are Sen.
Loren Bennett, R-Canton, and
Rep. Kirk Profit, D-Ypailanti.
Michigan's laws would punish
violators with up to 10 years in
prison and up to \$30 million in
fines. The bills won't affect
cloning of animals.

One bill defines "human
cloning" as "the use of human
sommit cell nuclear transfor
technology to produce a human
embryo," and an embryo as
human egg cell capable of
"maturing into a complete
human being."



OU book donations bring African social change

Book donations started by an Oakland University professor are helping to educate future business and governmental leaders in the African nation of Zimbabwe.

Algea Harrison a professor in the OU department of psychology, started sending about 100 psychology textbooks every year Rhodesia, gained independence

in 1980. Since then, the push has been on to educate blacks to replace whites in government and industry. Whites started to leave the nation after it gained independence.

Harrison taught at the University of Zimbabwe, the nation's only university, as a Fulbright scholar.

The university, built to house 3,000 white students, now boasts 10,000 African students. Attending the university is a great honor because these students are the first in their families to seek an education, she said.

said. Each student's family con-tributes to pay for tuition.

What do your neighbors think? Check out local letters on the editorial page.



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