Geoffrey Fleger

Fieger shakes up county Dems, GOP?

Gooffrey N. Fieger has put some excitement into what otherwise would likely hav a been routine gatherings, according to precinct delegates getting ready for county conventions.

But the flamboyant attorney's campaign for governor seems to be causing a stir among Republicans as much as Democrats.

"I would say his (Fleger's) nomination has onergized the troops," and Jana Jonsen, secretary of the Oakland Countrops, of the Calking Secretary of the Cakland Countrops, and Jana Jonsen, secretary of the Oakland Countrops, secretary of the Oakland Countrops, secretary of the Calking Secretary Owen and Doug Ross.

Fleger — best known as the attorney for assisted suicide advocate Dr. Jack Keverkian — will face incumbent Republican John M. Engler in the Nov. 3 election, a prospect that seems to generated excitement in both

parties.

Democrats have also been fired up because he's an intelligent and outspoken candidate who makes sense on the issues, and Cathorine A. King, a precinct delegate from Berkley. Even so, some Democrats have questions about Fieger's process of selecting a running mato, she said.

of selecting a running mate, she said.

"Right now, I'll probably vote for him," said King, a teacher at Bloomfield Hills Andover high school. But if he puts a Republican on the ticket, no way," She was referring to news accounts that Fieger at one time was considering Republicans like Ronna Romney and Helen Milliken as possible running mates.

Another Democratic precinct delegate, however, said such talk was stimulating and provocative. I really have a lot of respect for Mrs. Milliken," said Arthur Lanski, a retired teacher living in

Farmington Hills. "But ahe and Mrs. Romney are both intelligent women, and they both would have attracted Republican votes."
Precinct delegate Mae Lanski, Arthurs wife, said she and other Democrate will likely have more fun this fall because of Fieger. "He will certainly add to the debate," she said.

Convention dates

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The Republican county convention is 7:30 p.m. today in the commissioners' auditorium at the Oakland County complex, 1200 N. Telegraph in Pentiac. Congressional caucuess will be part of the fare.

Democrats will also hold their county convention in the commissioners' auditorium, at 9:30 a.m. Saturday. Conventions for the 8th, 9th, 11th and 12th congressional districts will held after, generally at different locations.

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The primary function at each gathering is to elect convention delegates who will represent the congressional districts at each party's state convention the last weekend this month — Republicans in Grand Rapids and Democrate in Lansing.

That is an important duty, according to Troy attorney Gary L. Kohut, chair of the Oalkand County Democratic Party, because convention delegates

vote to nominate the party's choice for important positions such as attorney general, secretary of state, the supreme court and the state board of education, "And we try to involve as many people as possible," he said.

As important as those nominations are, however, having Fieger as a candidate gives the process more significance and makes it more fun, said Demorat King, a delegate in Beritley's second precinct.

"I don't know if there'll be any floor fights," she said, but Fieger will not merely impose his choice on the party.

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"I like Gubow and Freeman because I know both of them," King said, referring to Dayid Gubow and John Freeman, zuitgoing state representatives from Huntington Woods and Madison Heights, respectively. But I met (Wayne County corporate counsel Jennifer) Granholm at a fund raiser and I was impressed."

Fieger has not publicly voiced a preference for attorney general. In a prefouse interview with The Eccentric Newspapers, however, the outspoken attorney said, without mentioning names, he wanted a "kick-ass lawyer who would help him clean up corruption in state government.

Fieger may not be all good news for Democrats, King said. "Several of my Democratic friends have told me they can

not vote this fall because of him, she said. "As far as I'm concerned, that's a vote for Engler."
The Republican county convention was already expected to be heated because of competition between Birmingham attorney Scott Romney and Ada lawyer John Smietanka for the GOP nomination for attorney general.

Adding a spark

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But Fieger will add some
spark, said attorney Neil Wallace, former GOP chair in the
9th Congressional District and
currently a co-chair of the Engler
for Governor Committee. 'I
think Fieger's candidacy is a
wake up call for Republicans, he
said.

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It certainly woke up members of the Oakland County Young Republicans Club when they met this week in Birmingham, said Jana Jensen. "I'm organizing the party's phone bank," she said, and an Monday's meeting, young Republicans were enthusiastically yolunteering to make calls. "Republicans are not going to said the said and the said was to their hands," she said. "I want Kliing, executive director for Oakland Republicans said one of the many calls the office in Birmingham has received came from a woman who said she was calling on behalf of her prover group.

prayer group.

"She said her group is determined to defeat Fieger," he said.

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