

State better off now that Schwarz is in race for gov

Everybody's better off now that state Sen. John (Joe) Schwarz has jumped into the race for the Republican nomination for governor.

The Republican Party is better off because Schwarz looks like the kind of candidate who can actually attract votes from moderates and suburbanites. A former mayor of Battle Creek, the 53-year-old physician has served four terms in the Senate and has a solid reputation among the

most far-seeing and sensible politicians in the state.

A self-described "radical middle of the road," Schwarz opposes abortion but believes the U.S. Supreme Court settled the matter with *Roe v. Wade*. He also voted against the new law requiring local gun boards to issue con-

cealed weapons permits to practically anybody who isn't a felon and has doubts about charter schools.

Of course, Republican nominee presumptive, Lt. Gov. Dick Posthumus, has the backing of the right-wing GOP establishment. But Posthumus has had trouble getting traction; early polls show him getting whopped by both main Democratic contenders, Attorney General Jennifer Granholm (47 percent to 26 percent) and former Gov. Jim Blanchard (44 percent to 31 percent).

Posthumus will be better off with Schwarz's entry into the race because he'll actually have a fight on his hands in the primary, which should toughen him up for the general. Schwarz isn't afraid to take on anybody, including the GOP leadership and Gov. John Engler; he managed U.S. Sen. John McCain's upset victory in the Michigan presidential primary last year. Schwarz says McCain encouraged him and promised to come to Michigan to campaign for him.

Certainly, the people of Michigan will be better off with Schwarz in the race. He represents a distinguished tradition of moderate and thoughtful Republicanism that flourished when William G. Milliken was governor and has been savagely suppressed by the folks who now run the Michigan Republican party.

I've known Joe Schwarz for a long time. We

haven't always agreed, but over the years I've come to respect him deeply both for the kind of man he is and the principles he stands for.

He isn't your standard-issue political careerist, mostly because he's got far more important and interesting things to do. He's a physician who maintains an active practice when the Senate isn't in session. He served with honor in naval intelligence in Vietnam and Indonesia. He is literate and — get this, for a politician — cultured. I see him periodically at concerts (he's a great advocate of the Battle Creek Brass Band) and even at the recent Royal Shakespeare Company performances at the University of Michigan.

He's independent, sometimes quick-tempered and refreshingly candid. When we talked about the possibility of a race for governor, he said: "What the heck. I'm term limited out of the Senate in 2002. I'm not interested in running for some dumb office just to get elected. I believe I have something to say that needs saying, especially in the Republican Party. I think I'd be a pretty good governor. Besides, I'll have the time of my life running in a statewide campaign."

For years, Schwarz has been the major advocate for Michigan's colleges and universities and, as chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Appropriations that finances higher education, a powerful one. "We've got the best university system in the country," he says, "one that provides a great education for our kids, contributes to our economic prosperity and helps make Michigan a wonderful place to live and raise a family. It would be crazy to starve this system of higher education now when the economy isn't so hot, because our colleges and universities are ultimately the things that will bring our economy back."

Insiders wonder whether Schwarz will be able to overcome the advantages that Posthumus has as the designated heir of Gov. Engler. But the longer Posthumus keeps trailing in the polls, the more persuasive will Schwarz be in arguing that the Republican Party needs a nominee who has a chance of winning next November.

As to ordinary voters not particularly interested in insider baseball — a recent poll indicated more are independent than either Republican or Democratic — a Schwarz candidacy will offer a real choice and a quality one, as well.

Phil Power is chairman of HomeTown Communications Network Inc., the company that owns this newspaper. He welcomes your comments, either by voice mail at (734) 953-2047, Ext. 1880, or by e-mail at ppower@homecomm.net.

Real Christians do not fear in-depth study of our faith

I am writing in response to Mike Malott's commentary of April 6 (Lawmakers need not align religion and science) regarding Intelligent Design being taught in public schools along with the theory of evolution.

While I am not a fan of Gov. John Engler, his endorsement of the Intelligent Design bill is one I strongly appreciate. I was raised and educated in Farmington Public Schools and was taught evolution throughout as a foregone fact.

I assumed there was evidence to support this theory. Because I was also a Christian, I struggled with the opposing viewpoints of creation presented in Genesis and the evolutionary theory.

I grew up feeling embarrassed by my faith, thinking that science had proven evolution correct and thereby the Bible wrong. The book of Genesis was nothing more than a fairy tale. Twenty years later, after much study and investigation, I find it was my science teachers who had presented the fairy tale. In fact, the evidence found in the fossil record is far more aligned with the biblical account of creation and the subsequent world-wide flood.

Just one example of many, where there should be thousands of intermediate fossils showing the progression of evolution there appear to be few if any at all. Darwin, himself, expressed concern over the lack of evidentiary fossils but presumed they would eventually be discovered. We are still waiting.

In answer to this lack of intermediate forms, scientist theorized evolution through punctuated equilibrium; change occurs fast and in spurts. In essence, this theory proposes mutations accumulate in a species over time; one day you have a chicken lay an egg and a turkey is hatched. That takes a great deal of blind faith to believe in since this has never been observed.

Persons subscribing to this belief take an enormous leap of faith; it is naive to believe that evolutionary theory is not a religious concept. So much for separation of church and state.

The Intelligent Design bill would be presented to students along with the evolutionary theory.

This would allow students the opportunity to weigh the facts and decide for themselves which has more merit. Mr. Malott states that Intelligent Design is "not provable or disprovable by scientific method" and therefore should not be taught to students. Scientific method would require hypothesis with observation of repeatable experiments proving or disproving the hypothesis. Both the evolutionary theory and Intelligent Design stop at the hypothesis phase of this method since neither can be observed or repeated. Both views require faith and investigation of evidence, both are religious concepts, one of which requires a great deal more faith than I am capable of.

My son will be attending Harrison High School next fall. I have expressed to the school my disapproval of his continuing to be taught evolution. In the biology class he needs to take, evolution is the only theory taught to students throughout the class. The other science classes offered also employ evolution. As Christians, we see this as an ongoing short of religious persecution. This has so angered me that I have been considering legal action against the board of education, though I wonder if there are any attorneys brave enough to take on this controversial issue.

So, Mr. Malott, though you presume to speak for "most Christians," you do not speak for this one. Not all Christians have compromised their faith unnecessarily to the altar of bad science. This Christian has examined the facts, spoken with scientists, investigated the claims and found God to be the most rational explanation for our existence. I would encourage others to investigate for themselves, after all, the Bible instructs us to "love your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your MINDS."

They will no doubt find that science and Christianity do not present "two very different aspects of reality." I challenge the reader to check it out and decide rationally and without prejudice to which conclusion the evidence leads. A great place to start is on the Internet, go to a search engine type in Creation (www.equip.org is a good one).

Christians knowledgeable about their faith do not fear in-depth investigation into the claims of our faith. We welcome it. Every fossil unearthed and every theological discovery has proven the word of God true. There is never a need for Christians to compromise with evolutionists. The facts and evidence are on our side.

Carol Lucas lives in Farmington and works at William Beaumont Hospital.



Carol Lucas



Phil Power

GRAND FINALE

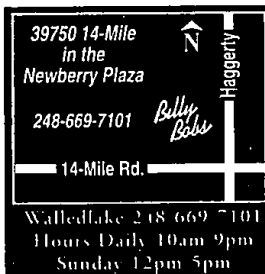
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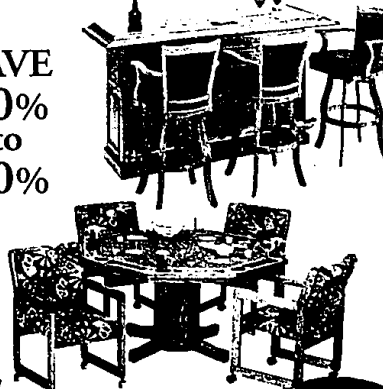
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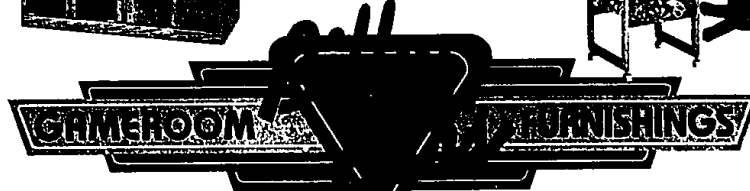
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