## With GOP friends like that, does Posthumus need enemies?

It's the New Year and an election year. Gover-nor, state house and senate, statewide education posts, judgeships and so forth are all up for grabs, so I won't waste any time before weighing in with some political punditry. It's an axiom that any successful candidate for Michigan governor has to run well in the sub-weight of the sub-main and western Wayne coun-ties and around Lamsing. Once firmly Republican, hese woters are now gen-erally moderate, relative-ly independent, non-ideo

ly independent, non-ide logical ticket-splitters.

Dick Posthumus, the presumptive Republican nominee for governor, knows this perfectly well. With both houses of the



Phi Power Phi Power Phi Power Das a right to expect his GOP allies would have Indo a field day last year stacking the deck in his Thoror. But if he looks carefully at what they did and at the attitudes of key suburban vaters, he has got to wonder with friends like that, who needs enemies? Here's a short list:

Incede enemies? Here's a short list: Gun Control: Last year the legislature passed and Gov. Engler signed legislation requiring gun beards to issue concealed weapons permits to innybody who applies and doesn't have a criminal record or a history of mental illness. Most police and virtually all gun board members objected, reasoning that the more people running around packing heat, the more folks will get ahot. Polls have consistently shown a majority of suburban voters endorse some kind of gun control. Will Dick Posthumus be running on a pro-gun platform in southern Oakland County? Don't bet on it.

on it.

on it. Straight Ticket Voting: Just before year end, the logislature passed a bill banning straight ticket voting, a fixture in Michigan election law ever since former governor Scapy Williams used to ahout. "Make it emphatic; vote straight Demo-cratic!" Republicans argued with more or less a straight face the change would encourage voters to pay more attention to individual candidates and ballot issues. Grumpy Democratis pointed out the law is aimed squarely at their voters, many of whom historically vote a straight ticket; for example, 240,000 of 300,000 Detroit (i.e. mostly Democratic) votes cast in the 2000 general elec-tion were straight ticket ballota. Plainly, the lecislation serves no purpose-other

Plainly, the legislation serves no purpose other than helping GOP candidates. Equally plainly, it will aggravate voters, who will have to stand in longer lines to vote Michigan's bedsheet ballot. I can't imagine thoughtful suburban voters, whether Republican or Domocratic, waiting crossly in long lines at the polling places being

particularly enthused at this patently unfair law. Emily's List: A national fund-raising group that helps woman candidates, Emily's List has made Democratic gubernatorial candidate, Attor-ney General Jennifer Granholm, one of its top picks. The organization collects contributions from individuals and "bundles" them into big donations. Well hate last year — wink, wink, nod, nod — the Republican-dominated legislaturo restricted bundled contributions to \$34,000. Although complicated, this is non-trivial. In 2000, Emily's List collected more than \$1 million

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for Debbie Stabenow's winning campaign for the U.S. Senate, an effort now prohibited for Granholm.

Granhoim. But thero's a flip side. Because the law won't take effect until April, Emily's List can solicit unlimited money for Granholm for the next three months. If "hell hath no fury like a woman scorned," there just might be a lot of women writ-ing bigger checks for Granholm than they would have otherwise.

The otherwise. Dove Hunting: This is a puzzle, indeed. A cou-ple of years ngo, Rep. Susan Tabor, a Lansing-area Republican, tried to ram through a lame duck legislature a bill to legalize dove hunting. The dove stuff really hit the fan. The Senate, bombarded by flocks of furious bird lovers, turned the bill down by one vote. You would have hearned its lesson. But, no, late last year Rep. Cameron Brown introduced legislature to the Natural Resources Commission. Critics changed the real puzzless was to legalize dove hunting by another means, and the bird people — many of them suburbanites — are forious all over regala. over again.

I do admire the year-long ingenuity of Dick Posthumus' friends in Lansing in trying to stack the deck in his favor. But will it really work? I wonder.

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) 983-2047, ext. 1880, or by e-mail at ppower® homecomm.net.



Estralee Michaelson

Estraies Michaelson Farmington Hills Community for 31 years, both within the public school sector as well as within numer-ous community organizations, I am a staunch render of the Observer. I am also known to not minee my words, thus let me begin by aying that I am very disturbed by the recent latters and edi-torials printed by your newapaper, I avoid the addi-the integrity of Chief Dwyer and the Farmington Hills Police Department. Mills Police Department. Then here words such as challenging you to report more of the "blood and guts" of com-munity meetings or events. The tone of these dis-cussions often mirrored one of battle. It was almost as if one assumes the stance of these discussions often mitting word such as challenging others toward offense and aggression, reader sup-port and crualities of lessons learned from Sopt. 117 Yet is this not the tone of your latest printed accusatory challenges? It disturbs me, immeneely, that we are now restoring to allowing and supporting community members, in print, to offer rewards for deregatory "information" that can only be reative and subjective, particularity of law enforcement. Whether there is response or not, the acknewledgment of the request is damag-ing enough. We have an tolerance when our children do hareas, intimidate or bully one another. Then how do we allow and support aduits to follow do bul-bying and harassment, with public challenges to indice and rally, soldy with the intent to under-cover, as you stated, "alleged gossip and unsub-stantiatd accusations" Have be forgotten that harassment, initindation and bullying are pre-ludes to violence?

As director of Safe Schools and Student Services for Farmington Public Schools. I have been privi leged to work closely with both Farmington and Farmington Hills Police Departments for many

## **Accusing Hills chief** doesn't foster strong community

As I have worked in the Farmington/ Farmington Hills Community for 31

years. The professionalism and integrity displayed by each of these departments is above reproach and remains unconditionally supported, not mere-ly by myself, but by numerous others with whom I work. We often collaborate on strategies, not only on ways to prevent violence within our schools and community but on solid interventions to assist and to refer support to families in need. Additionally, I know full well, from lessons learned from Columbine and 9-11, that our offi-cers continue to upgrade trainings to protect and

learned from Columbine and 9-11, that our offi-cers continue to upgrade trainings to protect and to support each and every one of us. When rescue missions are necessary, adrenaline surges. These officers know that we expect rapid response; we expect unconditional and immediate deployment; we expect heroism. Do any of us truly realize the stress that many officers endure to maintain this unconditional pro-tection of each and every one of us? Further, each and every one of us should visualize an incident that may require direct support from our law enforcement officers. During those seconds of ter-ror, would we denigrate our Chief or his depart-ment? ment?

Then we must ask ourselves whether this public Then we must ask ourselves whather this public forum of attack is a manner through which we want our local law enforcement departments to continue to feel appreciated or respected by this community? Are there not better ways to resolve differences other than public lynchings? I challenge each of us, as responsible and rea-sonable community members to ask ourselves, "Is this method of anger resolution one that our com-munity truly supports? If not, perhaps it is time for the "silent majority" to speak out!

The tone of your latest editorial and the words of community members directed toward Chief Dwyer and our local enforcement departments are certainly guaranteed to not keep communities and/or America united.

In addition to being director of Safe Schools and Student Services for Farmington Public Schools, Estralee Michaelson is the Execu-tive Director of the Farmington/Farming-ton Hills Call to Action Coalition.

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Holiday Bills Don't Have To SNOWBALL

- Use the equity in yourhome to pay off all those high interest rate credit cards.

PAY INTEREST ONLY (payment option!) REDUCE your monthly payment! INTEREST MAY BE



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