

Griffin With \$250,000; Jack With Irene

'Puss In Boots' To Be Staged

By TIM RICHARD
Random notes on the "national birthday salute" to Sen. Robert Griffin at the Raleigh House last weekend:

"Political" wasn't the word for it. Few politicians were in sight in the audience of 1,000. They couldn't afford it.

With prices of \$200 a couple for dinner and \$500 a couple for the VIP cocktail reception, it was largely a business crowd.

It was the only political gathering in the last two years this observer has seen where white shirts outnumbered the colored shirts. The press corps, Griffin and his staff favored the dash of color.

Election day was 367 days

off, but Griffin opens with a \$250,000 bankroll from the Southfield bash alone.

REP. JACK McDonald (R-19th District), recently divorced, escorted Mrs. Irene McCabe, National Action Group spokesman from Pontiac (also in the 19th District).

McDonald, however, gave the impression it was a gesture of friendship and politics rather than anything romantic.

Said Mrs. McCabe: "I've been a Republican for years. I'm very proud of it," though she plays down her party affiliation in her anti-bussing crusade.

Mrs. McCabe, who had tried in vain to meet high Justice Dept. officials in Washington some weeks ago, was introduced by her escort to Atty. Gen. John Mitchell and his outspoken wife Martha at the cocktail reception.

"I was introduced as the lady who's working so hard to stop the bussing of school children," Mrs. McCabe said. "Mitchell said he feels the same way—that's not a direct quote now, but it's what he meant."

"I told Martha I'd like to see her in Washington when I'm there next week and she said 'wonderful.'"

McDonald quoted Mrs. Mitchell, too, as saying em-

phatically she's opposed to bussing.

THE EAGLES marching band of Thurston High School in South Redford School District closed the affair with "When the Saints Go Marching In" and "God Bless America," accompanied by Robert Taylor (alias Fat Bob, the Singing Plumber) in the latter. Fat Bob isn't so fat any more, incidentally.

How did Thurston get picked?

"Darned if I know," said band director Harper Stephens. "They called us and asked us."

The Thurston band does have a reputation. Stephens, in his 18th year there, said the band won two first division and two second division ratings in its last four years of festival competition. In 1961 and '62 it played in Tiger Stadium during the halftimes of Detroit Lions football games.

The Eagles, whose blue-and-white uniforms are identical to Michigan State's band uniforms in styling and material, has a total strength of 79 juniors and seniors but used only 50 players for the Griffin birthday party.

There is also a 55-piece sophomore concert band, said a proud Stephens.

"American sparkling burgundy. Petite dinner rolls. Dinner beverages. Tiered trays of sweets branched with Kahlua liqueur cups. Cheeses. Baked Alaska."

Those liqueur cups were made of edible chocolate.

Table favors for the men were lapel pins in the shape of a mythical creature that was half eagle, half lion, and called the "griffin." The senator has used it as his personal coat of arms for years. The ladies took up tiny baskets of flowers—red, white and blue.

A TELEPHONE message from President Nixon was the highlight of the program, and the chief executive because he didn't know he was on for a moment. He kept calling "operator," but the system was one-way.

After Griffin's own ovation,



REP. JACK McDonald (R-Farmington) escorted Pontiac anti-bussing leader Irene McCabe (seen here in her Clarenceville speech) to the national birthday tribute to Sen. Robert Griffin.



however, the biggest round of applause went to Gov. and Mrs. Milliken, with former Gov. (now HUD Secretary) and Mrs. Romney following closely behind.

Thirteen other dinners were held simultaneously around the state with appropriate senators and governors going to appropriate places—e.g., Robert Taft Jr. of Ohio to Benton Harbor, Charles Percy to Ann Arbor.

TO PERSONS like Griffin born on a Nov. 6, astrologer Jeanne Dixon gave this advice:

"Scattered moments of inspiration bring the grand design of your life into view this year so that you can see more clearly how to apply your available resources. Today's natives possess natural magnetism, definite highly individual traits." Her general advice for Scorpius, a sign that is numerically underrepresented in Congress: "Pushing too hard in personal matters defeats your goals. Adding individual touches may cause momentary confusion."



JAMES MCCARTHY (right), Plymouth Township Republican stalwart, joined 1,000 persons who paid a birthday tribute last weekend to U.S. Sen. Robert Griffin. (Observer photo)

BIRMINGHAM
The Community House, 380 S. Bates, will begin its Children's Show Series with a performance of "Puss in Boots." It will be presented Saturday, Nov. 13, at 1 and 3 p.m. by the AAUW Children's Theatre.

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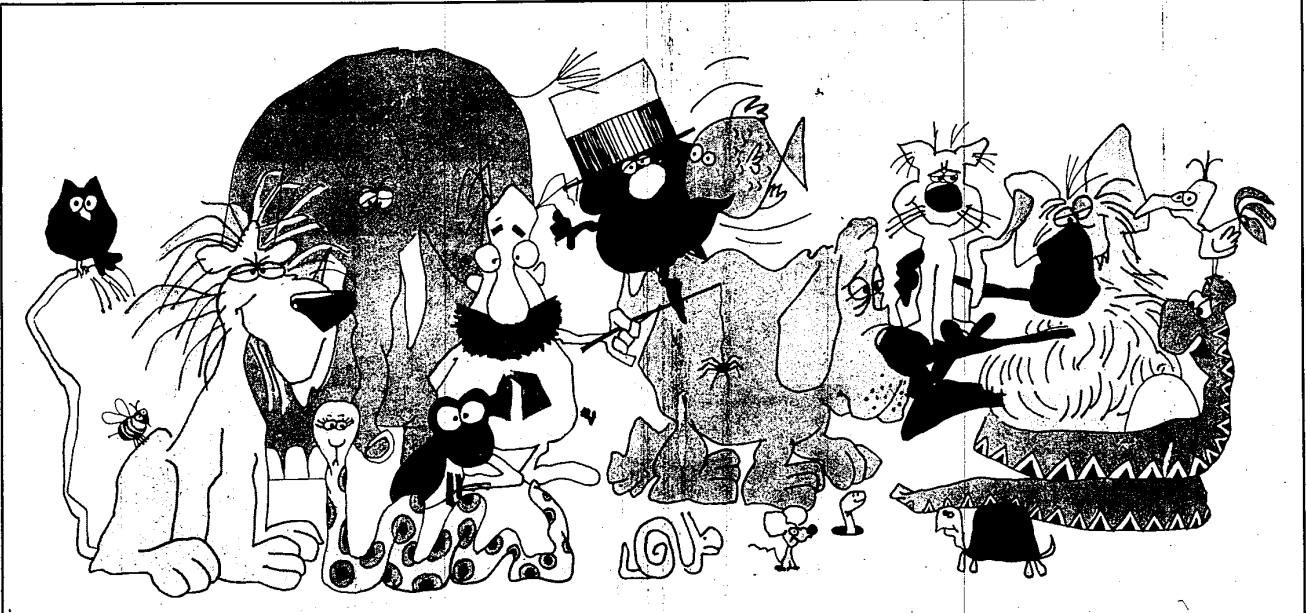
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