

Both testify

# Sheriff, lieutenant differ on suspension

By SUSAN L. SILK

OAKLAND COUNTY — If "bickering, mumbled and complaining" indicate low morale, that is the situation in the Oakland County Sheriff's Department, according to a 28-year veteran.

"It's just breaking my heart to see what is going on," Lt. Donald Kratt of the sheriff's department said Thursday.

Kratt, under subpoena, made his remarks before a five-member Oakland County Personnel Appeal Board investigating the two-day suspension of two sheriff's deputies after the men were interviewed by a newspaper reporter in February.

DEPUTIES Jeffrey Brown of Ferndale and William D. Evans of Clarkston requested a Personnel Appeal Board hearing of their March 10-11 suspensions without pay, claiming that the departmental rules under which they were cited are in violation of their constitutional rights.

During Thursday's hearing, Sheriff Johannes F. Spreen cited that the deputies' printed remarks that he "hasn't paid any attention to his road patrol," "is preoccupied with his special anti-burglary force", "at the expense of regular patrolmen," has "taken all the enthusiasm out of the job" and "is

on an ego trip," had violated departmental rules.

Spreen said the men's comments were "prejudicial to good order and discipline" of the department, "defamatory to the administration" and "tended to bring the administration into ridicule."

Under questioning by John Lyons, counsel for the deputies, Spreen denied the men's charges and said that "various sources" had told him the interview brought the department under ridicule.

Kratt was asked questions by citizens, police chiefs and men within the department. When asked to name the citizens or the chiefs, he refused.

LYONS CITED another newspaper article in which the sheriff charged that Kratt and county executive Daniel T. Murphy were "making it doubly difficult for me to do my job."

The sheriff, according to the article, charged that Kratt lacks the "qualities of the team-work approach." Kratt was third in command in the department under former Sheriff Frank Irons. He ran in the primary election for the sheriff's post but was defeated; Spreen was elected in 1972. Shortly after the interview, it was announced that Kratt was being relieved of his command of the protective services division and placed on "special projects duty."

According to Kratt, his current "special project" is assisting another lieutenant in the routing of transportation used in the transferring of prisoners.

Kratt is a candidate for the post of director of county building security, which would transfer him from the sheriff's department to a post under the Board of Auditors, where Murphy is chairman.

SPREEN SAID the two-day suspension of the two deputies came after a hearing by the department's lieutenants.

The committee of lieutenants "recommended that they get written reprimands (placed in their personnel files permanently) and that if I wanted to assess further reprimands, they would wholeheartedly support it."

But Kratt said that was not the idea given the lieutenants.

The men on that committee "were informed that whatever the staff and undersheriff decided would be it," Kratt said.

The sheriff's concern about staffing the anti-burglary unit meant "there were times that we did not have enough road patrol men for coverage to complete our contracts with the townships," Kratt said.

The lieutenant denied that the department had been disrupted as a result of the Evans-Brown interview.

KRATT ALSO DENIED that Spreen had established, as the sheriff had told the panel, an "open door" policy between himself and the men.

There is an "open door" policy if "you make an appointment," Kratt said.

In "no way" could the men see the sheriff at will when they want to see him," Kratt said.

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part of the Evans-Brown interview.

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## At Carnegie Hall

# Rochester man to play Chopin

Performing at Carnegie Hall is something most musicians look upon as a pinnacle in their careers.

For pianist Flavio Varani of Rochester the opportunity to play there has come sooner than to most. Asked by the Carnegie Hall Corp. and the classical recordings division of CBS, Varani will perform June 12 in a series of concerts called "3 x 3."

Varani, assistant professor of music at Oakland University, said he is very excited about the event.

"The concerts have already begun in New York. There are nine in all, on three different evenings, with three concerts each of those evenings. Mine is the last."

"It is sort of a marathon," Varani said.

His program will be all Chopin, a composer he said he feels "very comfortable" with. It will follow a string quartet concert and a singer's performance.

"THESE CONCERTS will all be recorded by CBS for broadcast on FM radio stations throughout the country. I do not think they'll use the tapes to make disc recordings, but I do consider this sort of an audition toward that possibility," Varani said.

He said he didn't know yet if the 24 airings of his concert would be heard on a Detroit FM station.

Varani said the contract for the Carnegie Hall concert was precipitated by his concert at Lincoln Center earlier this year that was attended by CBS recording officer Thomas Frost.

"This is fabulous advertising and a good way to become better known to the public, which is just of us could never afford any other way," Varani said.

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## Candidates face voters

Troy School Board candidates will answer questions from voters at two candidates nights Tuesday and Wednesday.

The Hill School PTO will host a candidates night at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at the school, 4600 Forsyth. The Niles School PTA will host a similar session at 8 p.m. Wednesday at Niles, 201 W. Square Lake.

Both sessions will allow each candidate a three-minute introductory speech, then open for questions from voters.

Voters will elect two board members to serve three-year terms in the June 10 school election.

League of Women Voters guides to the election will be distributed at the candidates nights.

## Y seeking tutors to teach reading

The Pontiac YWCA is recruiting volunteer tutors for a summer reading workshop. The program will be aiding children on the first through third grade reading levels for two hours per day July 8 through Aug. 2.

Volunteers must be 16 or older and willing to come for an interview and orientation. Two hours per day will be required.

For further information, call the Pontiac YWCA at 334-0973.

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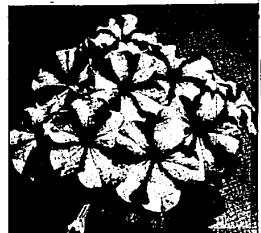
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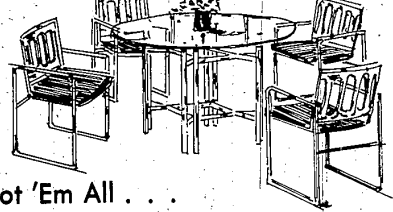
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