

County board rejects ethics code

By ROBERT KIPPER

OAKLAND COUNTY—A proposal calling for a county code of ethics failed to pass the Oakland County Board of Commissioners Tuesday. Although 12 of the 23 commissioners present voted for the proposal, 14 votes were necessary for passage. The code of ethics would have regulated the behavior of elected and appointed county officials. It also called for the creation of a five-man ethics board to investigate charges of misconduct.

It was fear that the ethics board could become something of a witch-hunting exercise and disagreement

over the need to spell out basic ethical behavior for county officials that led to the proposal's defeat.

"Ethics and morals can't be legislated," said Commissioner Wallace F. Gabler, Jr. (R-12), of Royal Oak. "It's something each individual has to decide for himself."

Imposing a prescribed code, Gabler said, would be "an affront to the ethics and morals of the commissioners in this room."

Commissioner Niles Olson (D-3), of Pontiac, said, "I think Oakland County has traditionally been an honest, responsible government."

"All of us here are grown-up, ethical. I don't think we need a board to bring charges against us."

Commissioner Alexander Perinoff (D-21), of Southfield, said the ethics board would lack the safeguards to protect the reputations of those who might be unjustly charged with wrongdoing.

Commissioner Anne Hobart (R-4), of Pontiac, said she too had misgivings about the possible abuse of the ethics board. However, she added:

'A code would be an affront to the ethics and morals of the commissioners' Wallace Gabler, Jr.

"The public has been asking for a reaffirmation by public officials that they intend to do the very best they can."

Mrs. Hobart said an added provision to the code—that would censure anyone wrongly accusing someone before the ethics board—enabled her to support the ethics code.

COMMISSIONER LAWRENCE PERNICK (D-20), of Southfield, who asked for an ethics code last June, cited national scandals as ample justification for a code on the county level as well.

"After seeing and hearing all that Watergate means to this country," Pernick said, "I feel we have the obligation to make sure that kind of thing couldn't happen in Oakland County."

Pernick submitted the first draft of

the proposed code and supported the revised version that came before commissioners Tuesday.

After the failure of the proposal, Pernick said that it was now a matter for Oakland County voters, rather than commissioners, to consider further. Voters should note, he said, which commissioners failed to affirm a basic code of ethics.

Commissioners voting against the code of ethics were: Lew Coy (R-24), of Wilcox; James Dunleavy (R-2) of Highland; Gabler; Fred Houghton (R-6), of Rochester; Paul Kasper (R-23), of Bloomfield Hills.

Also, Joseph Montante (R-26), of Orchard Lake; Olson, Perinoff; Donald C. Quinn (R-13), of Troy; B. Frank Richardson (R-5), of Drayton Plains; and Board Chairman Richard R. Wilcox (R-1), of Ortonville.

DCDS offers college math

Special arrangements between Detroit Institute of Technology (DIT) and Detroit Country Day School (DCDS) has brought about the offering of a college mathematics course at DCDS.

A one-semester course of linear algebra with four hours of credit from DIT, will be taught by William Jackson of the DIT faculty. The course is open to all interested high school students. Class time is from 2:50 to 3:40 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Arrangements for the course to be taught on the Country Day campus were completed late last summer by Dewey F. Barich, president of DIT, and Richard A. Schlegel, president-headmaster of DCDS.

Schlegel said, "We are not in favor of early graduation for high school students based upon exceptional academic ability. Teenagers need these years to reach maturation in social and personalized areas. On the other hand, exceptionally gifted students need the challenge of advanced college work."

Enrolled in the present course are: Anthony Spilka, Robert McNamara and Ronald Pollach of Country; Jon Victor of Cranbrook; Lynn Wilson, Paul Rabaut and Sue Bolton of Groves High School, and Heather Madden of Lahser High School.

High school students interested in next semester's offering should contact Jerry Hansen, DCDS director of studies.

O.U. offers legal series

Offered as a service to the legal profession and as an educational opportunity for men and women interested in a quasi-legal career, the new legal assistant diploma program introduced last month by Oakland University's Division of Continuing Education has exceeded enrollment expectations.

Men and women interested in entering the 10-course program in January should take the required personal assessment inventory on Tuesday, Oct. 29, from 7:30-9:30 p.m. Call 377-3120 to make a reservation and for information.

Enrollees will be offered a broad understanding of the law within a contemporary legal context. By means of a sequence of legal writing courses, enrollees should become qualified to pursue a quasi-legal career with proficiency and responsibility in a wide variety of situations relating to the practice of the law. Graduates will be equipped to render direct assistance to attorneys in law firms and corporate legal offices.

The program, offered only in the evening and not carrying university credit hours, can be completed in one and one-half years. By taking two or three courses in each of three terms per year, enrollees would complete the program in one and one-half years. Taking only one course per term, enrollees would receive their diploma in two to two and one-half years.

O'Hara speaks at Dem dinner

Two area Democratic Congressional candidates will speak at a 8 p.m. dinner Friday in Rochester at the American Legion Hall, 234 Walnut Street.

Incumbent Rep. James G. O'Hara (D-12), who represents Rochester and the eastern half of Avon Township, will speak for the campaign of 19th district Democratic challenger George F. Montgomery.

The 19th district, which has been represented for nine terms by Republican William S. Broomfield, includes the western half of Avon Township, Birmingham-Bloomfield, West Bloomfield, and Southfield Townships.

Former 19th district Congressman Billie S. Farnum will be master of ceremonies. Tickets may be obtained by calling Montgomery for Congress Headquarters at 334-5561 and also will be available at the door.

A reception at 7 p.m. will precede the dinner.

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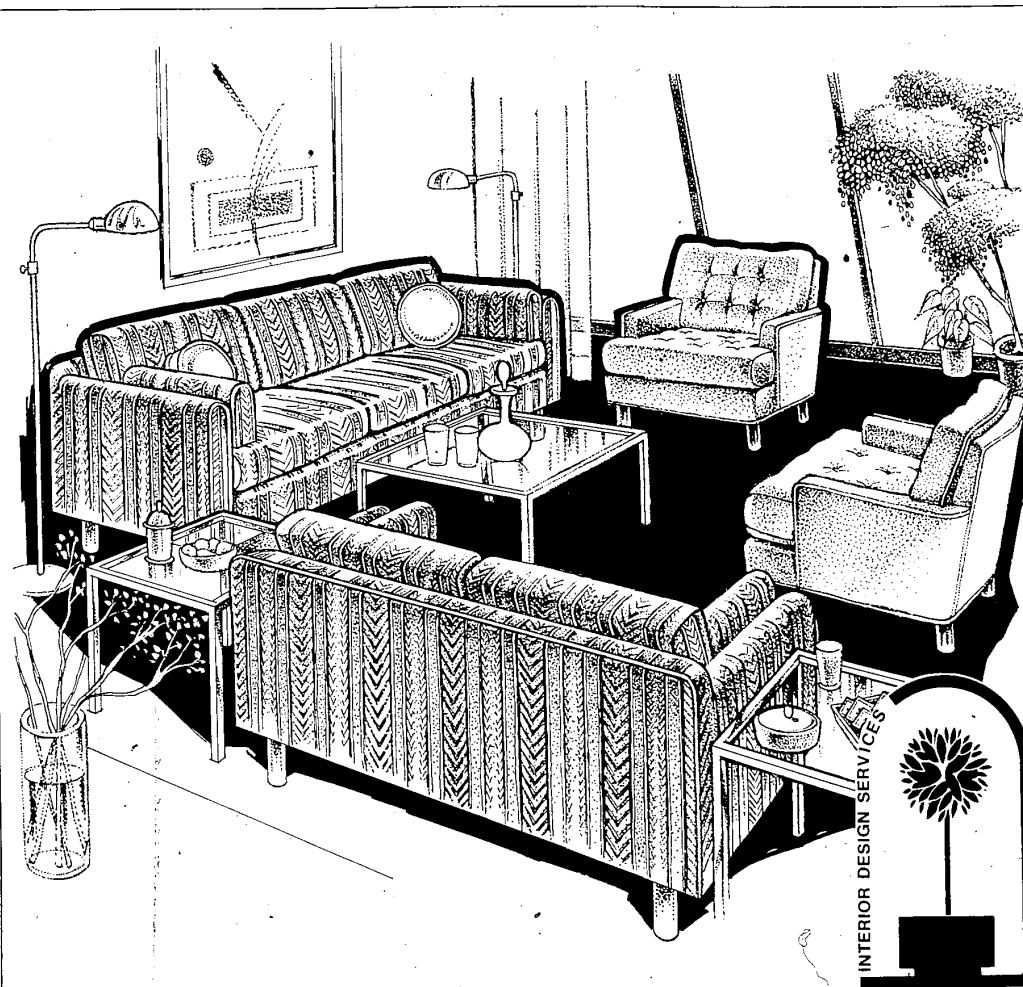


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