

editorial opinion

Quizzing the candidates insures cities' future

A reality most Americans have come to accept in this last politically stormy decade is the importance of knowing political candidates.

In the coming months, residents in the cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills will have to decide whom they wish to sit on their city councils.

In the City of Farmington, three seats will be contested in the Nov. 6 election. In the Farmington Hills contest, six candidates have filed for the four council seats which will be on the ballot. Tuesday, Nov. 4.

HILL'S RESIDENTS will have a chance to meet these political hopefuls tonight at 8 in the Farmington Community Center, Farmington and Ten Mile. Every resident who possibly can should attend.

Running this year are incumbents Jan Dolan, Earl Oppertbauer, William Orman and Keith Deacon. The other candidates are Joanne Smith and Bernard Christy.

Unfortunately, many residents feel that local elections are too insignificant to warrant their attention. Traditionally, voter turnout in local races is low. The ironic thing is that local politics is the one area where area residents can become the most active.

Local politics also has the most impact on a community. The "big" decisions may be made in Washington, but the kind of roads you have, taxes you pay and

quality of schools depends on local political action.

It matters little what kind of president the country has if your city has inept leadership, unable to legislate and administer properly.

Candidates nights are an excellent way for residents to see, first hand, what are the choices. Most likely the person running for council is one of your neighbors. This is your opportunity to get out and ask why these candidates think they are qualified to run the city.

PREPARE YOURSELF and ask some hard questions. Don't let the candidates get by with an easy night. Ask them about the city's future, its industrial tax base and those dirt roads which often are too muddy to navigate.

If a concern for local government is too little of an inspiration to go out and look over the candidates, residents should remember that guys like Spiro Agnew and red-baiter Joe McCarthy got their starts on the local level.

As a matter of fact, Agnew's problems started when he was a county administrator.

This isn't to say that every person running for local political office will be a senator or vice president. But a few hours away from the TV tube may save you and your neighbors a lot of trouble in the future.

See you at the Farmington Community Center tonight.

Patterson is formidable as future GOP candidate

By TIM RICHARD

Bill Milliken, Max Fisher and that crowd will call the shots on whom the Republican Party nominates for the U.S. Senate next year, but after that they had better deal with L. Brooks Patterson.

The Oakland County prosecutor is far from being the darling of the GOP hierarchy. At the level of the unpaid Republican Party workers, however, Brooks Patterson is the hottest thing the party has had since the gubernatorial days of George W. Romney.

Patterson has given no solid evidence he might be interested in a 1976 Senate nomination, but clearly he could give the Establishment candidate (probably U.S. Rep. Marvin Eskin) a healthy scare.

The election after that—1978, when Patterson will be just under 40—will be the time for him to move. Governor? Lieutenant governor? Attorney general? Whatever his choice, he'll be a major force to contend with.

LAST WEEK, Patterson was up in God's country, the upper peninsula cities of Escanaba and Marquette. He got superb radio and newspaper coverage.

From the public prints, you find out quickly that the UP knows what crime and drug problems are, so Patterson wasn't viewed as just an urban specialist.

Like most persons with an Establishment mentality, this observer feels uncomfortable around L. Brooks Patterson. His background is with NAG, the well-nicknamed National Action Group that attracted many zanyes. Patterson was its attorney, and not a very successful one at that because the Tri-County Citizens group was the one that had the courtroom impact in the school busing case.

Then as prosecutor, Patterson came up with some ideas on welfare reform that smacked of something less than Christian charity. You didn't have to be a bleeding heart liberal to be a little scared of that plan.

BUT PATTERSON deserves his due, and the plain truth is that he has a load of good qualities that his fellow Republicans would do well to emulate.

He senses the public's gut worries and tries to respond to them with specific programs.

He communicates clearly. He's easy to cover. His points are expressed briefly and lucidly, and few newsmen fail to grasp them. He's so good at it that he practically writes your "lead" for you. For example, nearly every newsmen uses that remark about the parole system—"We're being robbed, raped and mugged by the same persons over and over"—near the top of the story or early in the broadcast tape.

He does his research well. He's intellectually far more interesting to cover than is a George Wallace, who uses the same vague, loaded generalizations constantly.

Working newsmen say he returns phone calls, unlike his predecessor.

WORKING REPUBLICAN delegates at last winter's state convention gave Patterson a more enthusiastic response than Gov. Milliken got. Patterson was the only person with platform amendments who was invited to the podium to deliver them.

He stampeded the convention that time, not with the mere "cross of gold" oratory of a Bryan but with a pinpointed plan to solve a problem.

The delegates were far from unanimous in cheering Patterson, yet there was no doubting the width and breadth of his appeal. These weren't just the Durant and Huber Republicans from the fringe cheering. This was a majority.

Since then, Patterson has been making the rounds of the party dinners and the luncheon clubs. He's building—no question.

Myself, I skipped Brooks's Marquette visitation, although I was in that neck of the woods, and checked up on an old favorite, Archie's tavern in the hamlet of Christmas. The lady there keeps a pet skunk, and one of the patrons carries his pet snakes with him.

Eccentricities



No empty cure

by HANK HOGAN

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure is the old adage.

The real purpose of good law enforcement is to deter people from committing crimes.

There should be little joy on the part of anyone about the arrest and conviction of a criminal if, in fact, his crime against society could have been prevented.

These are all heady, theoretical statements, but they are quite applicable.

Years ago, many of our police departments drove unmarked police cars. The theory was that somehow they could sneak up and capture the criminals before the criminals knew what was happening to them.

IN FACT, at the time, most crimes in the area were break-ins and enterings, which are very difficult to detect from a moving vehicle.

At that time I staged a mini-campaign among many police departments in the area to mark their vehicles as conspicuously as possible, because this makes people think there are more police cars in a given area than there really are, and it deters them from involving themselves in a crime act.

Today, this is no longer a problem because most police departments in our area now drive black and white or clearly marked police cars with a multiple of lights across the top.

Observation Point



by PHILIP H. POWER

No national news story in my memory has had such a heavy local suburban angle as the Jimmy Hoffa disappearance.

Machus Red Fox Restaurant where he was last seen is at Maple and Telegraph. Labor consultant Leonard Schultz, whose name has run high in the story, lives in Franklin. The famous salmon which spilled blood in the car driven by Chuckie O'Brien was on its way to Teamster leader Robert Holmes' house in Farmington Hills.

Because we are a twice weekly local newspaper, we could not compete with the TV networks or daily newspapers in live breaking coverage. But our reporters were out on the story, picking up the local angles and bits of suburban color of interest to our readers.

READING ALL this coverage increasingly convinces me that the story's real significance goes far beyond the questions of whether Mr. Hoffa is dead or alive or who did it to him. It strikes to the network of shadogy and sinuous relationships between the Teamsters Union and the Mafia, which is now so prevalent as to constitute an accepted fact of life in this country.

Money from pension funds finds its way into murky business deals, without documentation or security. Cars are bombed, without evidence, live. Problems are solved by threats or coercion.

Few such things are ever proven in court; many are alleged in a climate of secrecy and fear that allows them to grow; all are living monuments to the worrisome fact that evil-doing is an accepted way of life in some segments of our country.

In this context, the Hoffa story may well turn

BUT IF MARKED police cars are a deterrent to crime, then the Birmingham police department has gone one step further.

In every police department, obviously, not every police car is manned 24 hours a day. In most cases the unused police cars are parked at the police headquarters.

The Birmingham police have started what they call a decoy system where any police car that is not being used is parked by the side of a well-traveled road with a radar speed detector hanging out the window and left unmanned.

The result is that drivers see the police car and are reminded of the law and become more careful drivers.


THE BIRMINGHAM police are also parking their unused non-manned cars in shopping center parking lots which, obviously, becomes a deterrent to anyone who might be thinking of committing a crime in that area.

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

The ideal is that there be no crime, and this occurs only if there are sufficient deterrents to convince human beings that it is not worth the risk of violating the law.

The marked cars are a plus, and perhaps the other police departments in the area ought to think about the Birmingham decoy plan.

Shadowy coverup



out to be the functional equivalent of the Watergate story, which with a sudden yank jerked away the mask of secrecy from stupid and criminal and evil activities in government.

THIS WILL only happen, however, if two groups perform their duties to the nation.

First, the politicians and lawyers and judges must have the guts to speak out, the will to investigate and the force to prosecute. So far, one noticeable thing about the Hoffa story is the reluctance of any of these groups to approach it at the end of anything less than a 10-foot pole.

Second, the media must begin to give the subtle but explosive story of the Mafia's influence in America and its relationship with the Teamsters, the kind of intensive coverage it deserves.

It is amazing to me that the national media day after day devote strong coverage to allegations that the CIA may have eavesdropped on the phone calls of some citizens who have been possibly up to something, and do not do the same thing to allegations of corrupt dealings between the Mafia and the Teamsters.

In large part, this is so because the national media are headquartered in New York and Washington, where perspective on what is significant is quite different than it is anywhere else in the country.

But what may be a local story in Michigan with a heavy suburban angle in these newspapers is in fact a national news story of enormous importance. If the professionals in my field cannot cover it with the time and effort it deserves, they will have forever made silly and absurd the great service they did the nation in Watergate.

Letters To The Editor

(Mr. Keene was not referred to in the June 5 or July 21 story and was not consulted by the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers in its investigation. The Meadow Brook Hall staff refused comment for the later story.—Editor)

Hall defended

Editor:

I have been following, with consternation—and some dismay—the Observer & Eccentric feature articles and your editorial comment of June 3 concerning the operation of Meadow Brook Hall, which is the last vestige of an era when "segregation" was the social distinction between the "old," as represented by the Cabots, the Lodges, etc., and the new rich who were products of the age of invention and the machine.

Your feature writer mistakenly places the hall in the category of a great museum, loaded with priceless treasures which are being destroyed by neglect, then in the next breath criticizes the use of the mansion for "private and semi-private" functions. Shelley Eichenhorn seems to be saying, in effect, that Meadow Brook Hall should be restored, then

preserved by admitting an uncontrolled influx of curiosity seekers, souvenir hunters and graffiti artists.

In her zeal to eulogize the virtues and wisdom of Mr. Brownell, she ignores some facts, and exaggerates others, and all of these misstatements could have been checked with the Meadow Brook staff before publication.

As for abuse, misuse and neglect of Meadow Brook "treasures," I am one of the so-called "experts" solicited for counsel and advice on the rugs and carpets, and I believe that with a few unavoidable exceptions, this problem simply does not exist: most of the rugs, the old, and some of exceptional quality, are exposed to a minimum of traffic, or are hanging on the walls. The rugs that are taking hard use were made for hard use and will survive for many years with reasonable care. Mrs. Wilson did not use protective coverings on rugs and actually objected to the practice.

Instead of nit-picking criticism, a vote of confidence should be extended to Mr. Edlund, Mrs. Teyman, and Mrs. Brooks, and dozens of loyal employees and volunteers who believe in the rightness of what goes on at Meadow Brook Hall and respect the memory and dignity of Mrs. Matilda Wilson.

As for the preservation of the hall for posterity, time and use will take its toll. In the meantime, we are witnessing some sort of modern miracle: an institution devoted to cultural and social graces that has been resurrected by a dedicated and imaginative staff from a veritable mausoleum. Just imagine a luxurious, vibrant and educational center—without cost to the taxpayers!

Bravo!

Editor:

Several of us were having luncheon out the other day and the recent articles which have been published in your paper were the essence of our conversations.

Please know that we all feel grateful to know of the fine spirit of community pride which your journalism exhibits. The true facts—and genuine concern for our community.

Meadow Brook Hall must be preserved intact, protected by experts, and their advice followed.

The position of the Observer & Eccentric is most commendable, and we extend our compliments to the paper and your alert staff. Bravo!

MARY ANN GRIER
BEATRICE COOK
MARILYN BLACK
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Farmington Observer & Eccentric

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Your ecology calendar

Ecology-minded persons who wish to save cans, bottles or newspapers for recycling may use these facilities.

To prepare glass, thoroughly wash the containers, remove all metal caps and rings from the glass and separate the glass by color.

To prepare cans, clean only. Paper need not be removed.

Newspapers should be tied in bundles with heavy string or rope or secured in heavy paper bags.

•FARMINGTON—A glass recycling center operates on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon at the west end of the Farmington Hills city hall parking lot. The city hall is at 11 Mile and Orchard Lake. Glass must be separated by color, cleaned and all metals removed.

•PONTIAC—Oakland County Recycling Center, 550 S. Telegraph, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. every Saturday. Groups bringing in more than 500 lbs. of glass will receive \$10 per ton for glass.

•ROCHESTER—Bottles are collected at Jaycees Recycling Center Mill Street, under the bridge, the first and third Saturdays, between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Separate colors into brown, green and white—no plate glass or light bulbs.

•BIRMINGHAM—Daily newspaper pickup with regular trash. Newspapers must be banded separately.