

Blair Moody: Gives Dems nod in high court bid

Blair Moody Jr. stood before the recent Democratic state convention, the television lights shining on his blond hair, his jaw jutting forward. Behind him stood his family of five children, the television lights shining off their blond hair, their jaws jutting forward.

Moody had just been nominated for a six-year term on the Michigan Supreme Court, and he said what had to be said.

Mr. Chairman, fellow Democrats: On behalf of my wife and family, I accept your nomination and welcome the opportunity to join with you to campaign with vigor throughout Michigan.

The Democratic delegates had just denied renomination for an eight-year term to Chief Justice Thomas G. Kavanagh, who had refused to pledge he would campaign with the rest of the ticket. So Moody had to pay his respects to the party.



JUDGE BLAIR MOODY

BUT THEN he got down to the business he likes—not just practicing crooks but improving the total fabric of justice in society.

A Wayne County circuit judge for 11 years, Moody is seeking a seat on the high court for the second time because:

"There are many matters that must be tackled by our highest court. There is the ever-present need to achieve prompt justice. We are mired in a litigation explosion. Our courts must modernize techniques to resolve disputes sooner. As a fighter for justice, a key goal of judicial leadership must be prompt justice.

A second issue is the urgent necessity to demand progressive innovations in the

handling of teenage crime. Our communities must be safe. The peak arrest age in this state is 16. Our courts receive the end result of weak parental guidance, the frustration of poverty, underfunded recreation outlets, absence of job opportunity and lack of individual motivation. A shift of funds priorities must occur in Washington.

But locally our juvenile courts must be given the power to deal directly with offenders. As a fighter for justice, not only sufficient detention facilities but also guidance counselors and training programs for the young must take priority and be sought in our administration of criminal justice.

THAT "FIGHTER for justice" theme occurred often.

Organized crime tops prosecutor's race list

If you want to find yourself in the middle of an argument, just say something about organized crime in Oakland County and the need for a prosecutor's task force to combat it.

How to fight organized crime—gambling, prostitution and the rest—is emerging as the chief issue between Republicans, headed by Prosecutor L. Brooks Patterson, and Democrats, headed by prosecutor candidate Tim Dnan.

The name of the game is to tag the other side with the blame for not getting such a task force going. Here are some recent charges.

PATTERSON told the county board of commissioners he was pleased with the reception the public services committee had given his local task force proposal but "disappointed we couldn't finish it today."

He referred to Dyan's motion on which no action was taken by the board Sept. 2 to fund a strike force. It would consist of two vacant positions in the economic crimes division which would be converted to prosecutor investigator positions, five additional investigator positions, two senior trial lawyers and a commitment from the state police for at least four investigators.

So political has the issue become that Commissioner Henry Hoot (R-Troy) ran into flak when he sought passage of just part of the enabling resolution endorsing the concept of a strike force.

"It's urgent," said Hoot.

The urgency is not there," answered Commissioner Lawrence Penick (D-Southfield), chairman of the finance committee.

DANAN, WHO is challenging Patterson in the Nov. 2 election, blamed the incumbent prosecutor for lack of a task force.

Dnan issued a statement saying two earlier requests for federal and state crime-fighting funds were rejected because officials of the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration found Patterson's plans too fuzzy.

Patterson's version is different. He said the 1973 application "was withdrawn when it became a political football." The 1974 ap-

Moody grew up in Washington, where his father was bureau chief of the Detroit News until he was appointed in 1960 by then-Gov. Williams to fill the U.S. Senate seat vacated by the death of Republican Arthur Vandenberg. (The senior Moody was defeated for a full term in the Eisenhower landslide of 1952. He died on the campaign trail early in 1954.)

Young Blair worked as a reporter, got a BA in economics and a law degree from the University of Michigan, and then practiced law in the fields of negligence and workmen's compensation. A Democratic precinct delegate, he headed a Citizens for Kennedy drive in 1960 and won a circuit court seat in 1965.

MAJOR CASES came his way.

"The Wayne County stadium case, in which he blocked use of public funds for a riverfront football stadium in a suit begun by some Redford Township Republicans."

"The Public Bank case, one of the largest bank failures since the depression, in which he took credit for protecting customers' deposits."

"The Implied Consent Act case, in which he was head of a three-judge panel that upheld the constitutionality of a law aimed at lifting the licenses of accused drunk drivers who refused clinical tests."

Supporters see him as a liberal. They're upset that former Democrats in the Human Rights Party nominated Zoltan Ferency, another liberal, for the same post.

The post is held by Lawrence Landerer, appointed by Republican Gov. William Milliken in 1973 after the death of Chief Justice Thomas M. Kavanagh and nominated by the recent Republican state convention.

They're concerned Moody and Ferency will split the liberal vote on the non-partisan ballot, letting Landerer win with possibly a minority of the vote.

Moody has thrived defeat before. He got a high court nomination in 1974 but lost to Justice John Fitzgerald, another Milliken appointee, by less than one per cent.

This year Moody's jaw juts out further than ever.

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Signup continues

Registration for Michigan State University's 67 courses offered at southeastern Michigan locations this fall continues through Sept. 18.

Most classes begin the week of Sept. 20. Two Offi. Schuler courses promoting music education will be offered during the fall term. One, New Trends in Music Education for Classroom Teachers, will focus on music activities as a productive part of the elementary curriculum. The other, Offi. Music for Children, will focus on teacher growth through sharing.

Special blocks of courses have been scheduled for students of school counseling, the urban counseling mental health program, and occupational and applied arts education.

Students may register for these and all other graduate and undergraduate work and noncredit progress at the NSU regional center in Kingswood School Cranbrook from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays, with the hours extended to 8 p.m. Sept. 13-16. The other registration location is the Birmingham Center for Continuing Education from 3-4 p.m. on Sept. 13-16.

Admission to a degree program will be available from counselors at the Kingswood center from Sept. 13-15. For an appointment, call 645-3442.

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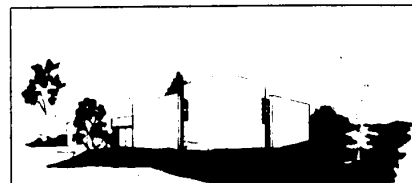
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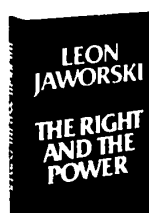
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