

# Students 'unseat' county officials

By MICHAEL MATUSZEWSKI

County Executive Daniel T. Murphy and Prosecutor L. Brooks Patterson didn't know their jobs were up for grabs.

Their names weren't on the ballot last week. In fact, a whole new slate of county officers was elected—for the day, that is.

More than 130 Oakland County high school students got a first-hand look at the way the county operates last week at Oakland's third annual Government Day.

In the morning, students staged their own conventions and campaigned for election. In the afternoon, after the winner's were "sworn in" by County Clerk Lynn Allen, the students went through a rough-and-tumble session of the "acting" board of commissioners.

All students participated in the debate and voting. The regular board has only 27 members.

Winners in the student-oriented general election were: Mike Cavin of Waterford Kettering, county executive; Carol Verbeist of Bloomfield Marian, county clerk; Janisse Nagel

Patrick Nowak, Oakland County's specialist on inter-governmental relations, offers Janisse Nagel some tips in chairing the county board of commissioners at the county's third annual Government Day.



of Bloomfield Marian, chairman of the board of commissioners; Tim Hudson of Waterford Kettering, county prosecutor; and Mike Wiley of Pontiac Central, county sheriff.

IT WAS NOT AN antiseptic experience. The students discussed two of

the most controversial issues that the regular board of commissioners had considered this year—the county's pullout from the Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority and the establishment of a county-wide Emergency Medical Services system.

The debates were just as heated when the students had the floor as when the commissioners met.

One student even accused the board chairman, Mill Nagel, of railroading a measure to a vote.

Miss Nagel abruptly closed debate on an issue in spite of protests from Randy Buzan, a Lahser High junior.

Buzan called the move a "crock" and left the meeting.

"It was unfair and typical," he said. "It shows that some people are not really interested in what's right and wrong."

Miss Nagel, who said she had some experience in parliamentary procedure, countered, "You have to find the fine line in the procedure and expand upon it."

SR. ELIZABETH GIRARDOT of Marian High School, one of Miss Nagel's teachers, even though she did not support the power-play tactic, said students would learn something from it. "They'll know that the system's not exactly a wide-open democracy. They'll learn that the system's only a tool," she said. "They'll also learn that using that tool is a real talent."

COUNTY GOVERNMENT is ignored by most textbooks, Sr. Girardot said. "There really is no other forum for the interested student to find out how the county functions."

## Bridge amazes

### tourists

In addition to the natural phenomenon of the Kitchikipi Springs and the restored townsite of Fayette in the area of Manistique, visitors also marvel at the man-made phenomenon of the Siphon Bridge, whose roadbed is actually below the level of the Manistique River.

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## War and peace at WSU

Pauline Frederick, international affairs analyst for National Public Radio, and Elie Abel, dean of the School of Journalism at Columbia University, will be among the speakers in a three-day conference, "Humanist Values in Foreign Policy," Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, May 22-24 at the Rackham Memorial Building, Detroit.

The conference, sponsored by Wayne State University, will feature panel discussions on several critical

international issues including, the arms race and energy.

Ms. Frederick, former United Nations correspondent for NBC television, will be the opening speaker in the conference at 7:30 p.m. Monday.

Abel, long-time foreign correspondent for NBC before joining Columbia University, will discuss "The Media as Interpreters of American Foreign Policy" at the 12:30 p.m. luncheon Tuesday.

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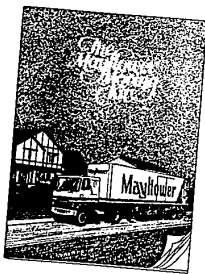
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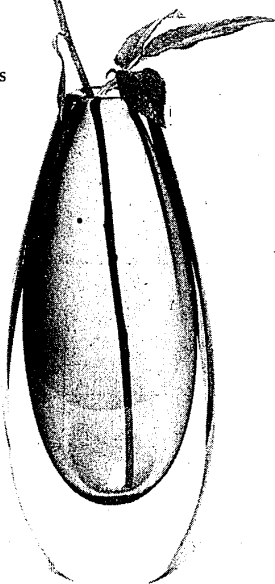


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