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Trustee challengers seek 'basic' education

By STEVE BARNABY
Farmington editor

Back to basics education versus experienced leadership was the theme of last week's Farmington School Trustee candidate's night.

Two incumbents and two challengers are squaring off for the June 9 election. Two seats are to be filled.

Incumbents are James McGlinchey and Helen Prutow. Challengers are Raymond Koteras and Lynn Morgan.

Koteras, a teacher at Detroit's Northwestern High School, came out verbally swinging at today's educational system.

"I'm downright mad at the deteriorating quality of education and value system," said Koteras before the sparse audience gathered at East Junior High School last Tuesday evening.

"We're pouring millions into the system and much of it is for gloss," he continued.

In contrast, Mrs. Prutow, who is running for a second four-year term, lauded the accomplishments made in the Farmington School District.

"We are now in the process of introducing the middle schools. This is exciting to me," she said.

Under the middle school system, junior high schools will be abolished and

ninth-graders will be put in with high school students.

SHE ALSO POINTED to the development of a program for the intellectually gifted, computer studies, reduction in class size and new reading programs as major accomplishments during her first four years on the board.

But Koteras was less enthused over middle schools.

He noted the recent debate over interscholastic versus intramural sports in the middle school system.

"It's a kid has enough time for football after school, then the teacher isn't giving him enough work," said Koteras.

Although all the candidates agreed that most of the tax cutting proposals proposed for Michigan would have a negative impact on education, they disagreed on how education should be financed.

"We must be careful when talking about shifting the cost of education to the state," said Mrs. Prutow.

"The more they (the state) take over the cost of running schools, the more control they have," she said.

She stressed that state financing wasn't "that terrible" but that taxpayers anxious to get away from the property tax system should be aware of its consequences.

Morgan, a real estate dealer, said he was in favor of a switch to a tuition payment plan.

"I'm much more appreciative of paying for my own children," he said, and stressed that most parents would also feel the same way.

ALTHOUGH FAVORING a tuition system, Morgan said he hadn't any specific proposal in mind.

McGlinchey said he leaned toward education financed through funds from the federal government, but admitted that it would "present some risks."

"Each child has the right to an equal education, but we should be able to re-

tain local control," he said.

Koteras was less specific on the finance issue. He simply wondered what had happened to the lottery funds, which many persons thought were intended for education.

Both challengers agreed that in future years if cuts were needed they should be across the board.

McGlinchey disagreed.

"We must be programmatic. There are some programs that this district just can't do without," he said.

Recently, the district announced it was reducing the millage levy by three mills and finds itself in healthy financial shape.

Tisch pitches his tax cut plan to homeowners

By MIKE SCANLON

"I'm angular, I'm gangly, I'm profane. I can't help that," Robert Tisch remarked the other evening.

Robert Tisch is all of that and more. He's the drain commissioner in Shiawassee County, too, but mainly he's the man who wants to cut Michigan property taxes to 50 percent of their 1978 levels.

Whether that makes him a saint or sinner depends on who you ask.

But he's always a crowd pleaser. Wednesday night in Adams Elementary School gymnasium was no different.

What he had to say was just what an apparently enraptured crowd of about 70 Compton Village Homeowner's Association members wanted to hear.

Hunched over a too-short podium, looking angular indeed, the 6-6 Tisch made his message plain.

His main message, of course, is that taxes should be cut. Only slightly less important is the news that politicians can't, and maybe shouldn't be trusted.

His proposed constitutional amendment will insure the tax on "every piece of land is cut in half . . . whether it's an atomic energy plant or an ice cream factory."

"We want our cars to run on less, we should have our government run on less. It's a necessity," Tisch said later.

The 60-year-old Tisch first came to statewide prominence in 1978 with a proposal that would have drastically cut property taxes in Michigan. Voters that year preferred a milder tax proposal championed by a milder man, insurance executive Richard Headlee.

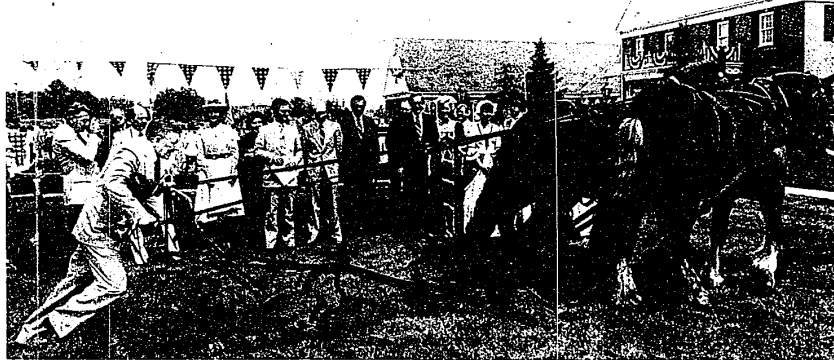
And whatever Tisch may be, mild he isn't. He calls the Headlee Amendment "the guarantee tax increase ever."

THIS YEAR, with a slightly re-tuned plan, Tisch is back for a second try. There are small changes in the 1980 Tisch plan compared to the 1978 version, but not many.

"We have written this language so that you can understand it," Tisch told the homeowners. "And we hope — it's hope against hope — that the legislators can understand it. I think that's why they're so damnably disgusted with it this time. They know what it says."

Tisch has little respect for elected office-holders, no matter what level. He chose school board members to make his point.

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Plowing new ground

Richard Headlee, president of Alexander Hamilton Insurance, found himself behind the plow recently as the Farmington Hills-based corporation broke ground for an addition to its facility. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

Hamilton expands Hills facility

Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Co., which has its national headquarters in Farmington Hills, achieved the greatest percentage increase of insurance in force of any life insurance company in the U.S.

To mark the event, the company broke ground Thursday for an addition that will double the size of its present

headquarters. Since its founding in 1964, Alexander Hamilton Life has grown to rank 58th among the nation's 1,900 life insurance companies in insurance in force.

"Our rapid growth and the merger of the HFC (Household Finance Corp., which owns Alexander Hamilton Life) insurance operations necessitate this

major expansion," said Richard Headlee, company president.

"Recent released statistics which indicate Hamilton as the fastest-growing life insurance company in the U.S. clearly reflect the success of our blending the tradition of service associated with our namesake with the most modern computerized systems to service our customers and agents."

The \$4 million expansion of the Hamilton home office will continue the colonial Williamsburg architecture visible from the I-696 freeway. The building is located between the highway and 12 Mile and Farmington and Orchard Lake Roads.

THE ADDITION will include two separate 2 1/2 story wings at the east and west extremities of the current

building. It will provide additional executive offices and open-landscaped office areas.

Other new features on the Hamilton 12-acre grounds will be a tight cupola, placed atop the center of the current headquarters building, and a project to increase parking facilities from 303 cars to 530.

Hamilton's first headquarters were in Plymouth. The first building on the current site was constructed in 1987 and encompassed 50,000 square feet. A 24,000 square foot addition was built in 1971.

On hand for the ground-breaking ceremonies was Headlee, James Milby, one of the company's 1984 founders, and several state and local officials. The occasion also marked the company's 16th birthday.

Job hunting is her expertise

By SUZIE ROLLINS

Suzan Ozker knows first-hand the trials, tribulations and traumas of job hunting.

At 32, Ms. Ozker has had nine jobs in the past 13 years. Her track record may seem kaleidoscopic, but for the tall, slender redhead, it landed her the directorship of Troy's VIP (Vocational Instruction Placement) youth programs in 1976.

"They hired me because of my philosophies, my exposure to school and my varied background," she said. "It wasn't because of my education."

As supervisor of seven government-subsidized programs for youth, Ms. Ozker is responsible for placing young people on jobs. Youths are placed in the program and job best suited for their individual needs. Many of the jobs are subsidized under CETA (Comprehensive Employment Training Act). Their salaries are paid by the federal government for a specified period of six months to a year, after which their employers must absorb their wages.

"We're a glorified employment agency," she said from her desk in a cubical office in Troy High School. "We take kids from 14 to 21 years old who either aren't in school and unemployed or are from economically disadvantaged families and try to match them with jobs in public agencies or non-profit private industry."

SINCE GRADUATING from North Farmington High School in 1965 and completing one year at the University of Michigan, she has been a factory worker, secretary, keypunch operator, office manager, nursery school cook, error correction person at Henry Ford Hospital, employment counselor at Snelling and Snelling, director of Career Information Services in Southfield

people

schools and perpetual volunteer for the Feminist Federal Credit Union.

"I liked working with policy decisions and internal monitoring so my volunteer credit union job turned into a 20-to-40-hour-a-week commitment," she said.

She continued volunteering her time to the credit union throughout the early 1970s while working at other jobs, during which time she was married and divorced twice. Each time she married, she left the labor force for a year to be with her now 11-year-old son, Jim. But when she and Jim had to shift for themselves in 1974 when she was 26, she eased up on her volunteer hours and plunged back full time into the job market.

"I wore a red dress to an interview at Snelling and Snelling because I read that red is an aggressive color and I talked them into hiring me," Ms. Ozker said.

Making certain everyone knows she's not a traditionalist, Ms. Ozker tells of her quest for unconventional jobs for women.

As a career counselor at Snelling and Snelling employment agency, Ms. Ozker was responsible for placing people on jobs. Thriving on the challenge of difficult assignments, she said she loved securing a professional job for a woman in times when they were tied to clerical work.

"I didn't like placing secretaries, they were too easy. I liked career change cases or women in traditional positions. In 1974, I quit Snelling because they didn't agree with my philosophy," she said.



"If we can start with our young people and put them in jobs before they have long histories of unemployment, then there is less bandage work to be done," says Suzan Ozker, VIP youth program coordinator. (Staff photo by John Stano)

DETERMINED to become a "white collar professional," Ms. Ozker rushed to Southfield schools in a snow blizzard, wearing blue jeans to apply for the job as its career counselor in 1974.

"Since I had an employment background, they hired me," she added. She stayed until 1976, when Troy created the VIP office. She was hired as an adult counselor then became the youth specialist in 1978.

"I have always been in the right place at the right time," she said.

Landing youths jobs is more satisfying than securing jobs for adults, she said.

"CETA jobs are bridges to unsub-

dized jobs. If we can start with our young people and put them in jobs before they have long histories of unemployment, then there is less bandage work to be done. We're helping the young people rebuild rather than repair later in life," she said.

Sometimes Ms. Ozker gets frustrated with her job and its paperwork, but that isn't getting in her way. She has already set her sights on an administrative position.

"I'd like to administer manpower programs or work on the sponsorship level," she said. "The expertise I've gained will be useful for me to train new people coming in and that's where I'll be useful."

Farmington Elks take 2nd place

The Farmington Elks ritual team has taken second place honors in the state competition recently conducted in Marquette.

The team lost to the Muskegon Lodge by 0.144 of a point.

Earlier in the year, the Farmington Elks ritual team won the district title for the first time in 25 years. It was among eight teams competing in state competition.

"I'm very proud of this team," said Larry Ashmore, a lodge member.

"To win their first district title and

to go on to take second place, losing by such a small margin to a former national champion team is really great," he said.

The ritual competition is performed by the club officers and the team is rated for impressiveness, deportment and word accuracy.

Leading the Farmington team was John Aldrich with a score of 93.501. That score earned him top honors in the Exalted Ruler's category.

Ashmore won the best Leading Knight award with a score of 93.511.

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GETTING RESTLESS?

With summer comes the restless feeling that there must be something better to do than sit around. The Farmington libraries have some activities in store for persons of all ages. To see what's going on turn to Page 4A.