

# Opinion

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(A/F)

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## Here's better way to change state

SOME YEARS ago I stumbled across a bit of research done by the Michigan Republican Party on its precinct delegates.

The research showed the average active life of a precinct delegate was 3.8 years. The average party worker would run for two two-year delegate terms. I would guess the average Democratic precinct delegate lasts about the same amount of time.

Precinct delegates are the workhorses of the two-party system. They attend local congressional district conventions and pick party officers. They canvass their precincts looking for voters favorable to their cause, feeding those names and numbers to a headquarters so the favorable voters can be called on election day.

Many go on to attend the state convention, where candidates for the state administrative board (other than governor), education posts and the state Supreme Court are nominated. By and large their selections are first-rate.

CIRCLE THAT figure 3.8 years if you have a pencil in hand, and think about it.

Think about the effort that has gone into and is going into campaigns to recall the governor, a dozen or so state senators and another half-dozen state representatives.



Tim Richard

The recall talk started, as near as I could tell, on March 1, 1983 at the anti-tax increase rally on the steps of the State Capitol Building in Lansing.

So far, the recall effort has been successful in wiping out two state senators who voted for the tax increase. It is likely there will be enough petition signatures to put a question on the ballot to recall Sen. Patrick McCollough, D-Deerborn, though it is by no means as certain that effort will be as successful as the one against Philip Mastin, D-Pontiac, and David Serotkin, D-Mt. Clemens.

The effort to recall Gov. James J. Blanchard appears doomed to failure. The efforts against Reps. Debbie Stabenow, D-Lansing, and Justine Barna, D-Westland, and others are sputtering and are poor bets.

BY JUNE OF this year, we will be well into the process of electing a new state House of Representatives — new districts, new nominating petitions for the Aug. 7 primary.

From March of 1983 to June of 1984 is 14 years. For all practical purposes, it is one election cycle. If the persons doing the worker-ant labor in the recall movement are like precinct delegates in the two major parties, they would have lived half their productive lives.

For what? For the heads of two state senators in marginal districts and possibly the head of a third in a safe Democratic district?

ANTI-TAX recallers would have spent their time better by infusing new blood into the existing political parties.

They could have spent time nominating new candidates for state representative posts. They could have been learning the ropes of party organization and the rules of candidate committees and finances.

Only eight House seats would have had to change hands to give state government a vastly different complexion.

The moral of this tale is that it is easier to take over an existing piece of political machinery than to set up a brand new shop.

## Sports salaries: How high is up?

THE QUESTION the sports world is asking is, "Where is it going to end?"

Most every day you read in the papers that the baseball and football owners are offering millions of dollars just to get the players into camp.

The latest money issue to raise eyebrows was the Tigers turn-down of Eno Cabel, last year's first baseman. All he asked for was \$400,000 a year with a guarantee of five years and no trades.

You can guess what the Tigers did. They just decided to let him look for work in other places.

TAKE A LOOK at the football picture. The Pittsburgh team in the United States Football League signed Mike Rozier, this year's Heisman Trophy winner, for \$1 million a year for the next three years.

Then there's Billy Sims. If his contract with the Lions holds up he will receive \$1 million a year to



the stroller W.W. Edgar

play football for the hometown team.

Today's action is a far cry from the days when Tigers had to force Al Kaline to take \$100,000 for his final year as an active player. He turned down that sum for several years, but finally yielded.

THE STROLLER recalls the days when Harry Heilmann was the star of the Tiger outfield. He won the American League batting title three times in the

'20s. Yet he never asked for a raise.

Each year when he returned to Detroit for the Christmas season he would drop into the Tiger office to pay a visit with Frank Navin, the Tiger owner, and then ask for a contract form.

He would sit at the desk and sign it even though the space for salary was blank. "When you get around to it," he would say to the Tiger boss, "fill in the numbers and send it to me."

It was the same with Hank Greenberg. He never would sign for more than one year. His argument was that he was being paid this year for what he did last year. He didn't want a long contract for fear he might have a slump near its end and thus lose the raises he should have received each year.

One wonders just what these fellows would do now — with players asking a cool million for each season. No wonder folks ask, "Where is it going to end?"

## oral quarrel

This week's Oral Quarrel question asked readers how they felt about service clubs closing their memberships to women.

Following are the responses:

Women should be allowed to be in these service clubs. I don't see why not. It's wrong.

I do not believe that the bylaws should be changed. Sometimes male people would just like to be by themselves without any interference from women.

They shouldn't be changed. Women's clubs are for women and men's clubs are for men. The same as men's restrooms for men only and women's restrooms for women only. There are things where the two should not be intertwined, and if the ERA doesn't like it, ship them all to an island and call it the ERA Island and then somebody blow a missile at it.

I don't think that service clubs should change their bylaws to include women. I think it is asinine to think they should. Can't the men have a club to themselves without women invading them? The ladies won't suffer if they can't join. I never did.

I believe the bylaws should be changed to allow women. I don't think that clubs of this nature, that are servicing the community, should be restricted just because of sex.

Personally, I don't think the bylaws should be changed. There is no reason for it. I don't know what is with women. I don't know where they get off on all this crap. I think they should get off their pedestal and get down to earth.

I believe that women should be allowed to be members of any service club.

Service clubs should change their local bylaws to admit women. If they are expelled by the national organization, they should separate themselves from that national organization, band together with others to form a new national organization admitting women.

I don't see any reason why it should be changed. There should be some places where men are only members and I don't see why women should be members at all.

No, I don't want my wife to be in a service club. I don't want my wife to be around any ... Rotarians.

I don't think the bylaws should be changed. I am tired of these groups trying to say they want women to become equal to men. We are already superior.

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