

Senators ask how canoe can run bus

"I never heard of a canoe moving a bus," said a poker-faced state Sen. Lana Pollack, D-Ann Arbor, during a State Capitol debate last week.

"I never heard of a bike moving a bus. I never heard of a horse moving a bus, though it might be possible," said Pollack, a former community college instructor, her mouth tight in mock seriousness.

IT WAS OPEN season in the Michigan Senate on lawyers and their legal language as the upper chamber debated a bill on bus operators' liability insurance. And senators who are former educators were having the most fun with the legal jargon.

"This speaks to 'transportation to or from a point,'" chimed in Sen. Jack Faxon, D-Farmington Hills, a private school headmaster. "Transportation is moving people, by definition. 'To or from a point' is redundant."

Here is the exact language of the bill which amused them:

"A bus operated by a canoe or other watercraft, bicycle, or horse livery used only to transport passengers to or from a destination point" is exempt from requirements for personal protection liability insurance.

ACTUALLY, THE bill applies to buses operated by liversies which rent out canoes, bicycles or horses — not to buses operated by canoes, bicycles or horses.

Once the language question was cleared up, at the expense of the lawyers' dignity, amused senators sent the bill on for third reading.

"Third reading?" That's legislators' talk for placing the bill on the calendar for final passage next time.



GOP targets suburban seats

Voters in Oakland and western Wayne counties who are represented in the state House of Representatives by Democrats can expect a lot of Republican knocking on their doors and calling them on the phone by Nov. 6.

"The opportunity to take control of the House is clearly within our grasp," said House Minority Leader J. Michael Busch, R-Saginaw.

As he spoke, an "Elephant Express" busload of Republican leaders was campaigning through Macomb and St. Clair counties in an effort to defeat six Democratic representatives there.

Democrats have had a majority in the House for 16 years, including a 63-47 margin in 1984, when the recall of two Democratic senators gave the GOP a 20-18 edge.

BUSCH DECLINED to identify 15 "target" districts for the Republicans, but he did say most were in the Metropolitan Detroit area.

OCC opens gym center

The community activities center of Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge campus is available to the public for individual and group use.

Located in H Building on the campus at 1-895 and Orchard Lake Road in Farmington Hills, the center has a gym, an indoor track, racquetball courts, an Olympic-sized pool, a nautilus weight room, outdoor tennis courts and a 2 1/2-mile fitness trail.

And he said two issues appear to be significant to voters.

• A Republican promise to return the state personal income tax to the 4.6 percent level it was at until 1983. "Our argument for opposing the tax (increase) was that it was too much for too long," he said, pointing to administration estimates that a \$335-million budget surplus could appear next year.

• A largely Republican-backed resolution asking the U.S. Congress to call a constitutional convention to adopt a balanced-budget amendment.

"Our candidates are committed to these," he said.

A POLL taken for the Michigan State Chamber of Commerce, he said, showed that 69 percent of voters want the balanced-budget amendment. "That, and the income tax vote, indicate a swing of anywhere from a few percentage points to 30 points for Republican candidates," he said.

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Writing lectures set

Oakland Community College will present a free lecture series at its downtown Royal Oak Campus for area English and Journalism students and interested area residents.

The two-hour programs will be in the Royal Oak auditorium at 1:30 p.m. on the first Thursdays of October, November and December.

Guest speaker Greg Loebell will open the series Oct. 4 with "Write to the Point: A Profile of Working Prose." Poet and editor Beth Brant will lecture Nov. 1. Nationally syndicated journalist Joan Greenfield will conduct the final lecture on Dec. 6.

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