

Grant seeks vote recount

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Grant said he believes the greatest number of inaccuracies take place when absentee ballots are used. Residents who are voting absentee have to match names on a separate ballot with a punch card.

"That gives me the feeling that if there is an inaccuracy, it is in the absentee ballots. They (voters) are not able to line them (ballot and punch card) up," Grant said.

AFTER LOSING his council seat to Marks following a recount last year, Sever is prepared to battle for his two-year term. Unlike last year, Sever this time plans to have representatives on hand while the county canvassers recount the votes.

Under state law, bipartisan canvassers check ballots by hand. Chads — the rectangular perforations on the punch card ballots — are checked to be sure they are properly detached. At least two corners of the four-cornered chad must be detached for it to be counted as a vote. Once the ballots have been hand-checked, votes are totaled by computer.

After losing to Marks in the recount, Sever took the issue to Oakland Circuit Court. He asked Circuit Judge Alice Gilbert to intercede and declare the recount unconstitutional. Through his attorney, Sever argued that the process of recounting punch card ballots is unconstitutional.

But about four months after the recount, Gilbert ruled that the state Legislature provided a process of recounting election ballots that, while not infallible, is constitutional.

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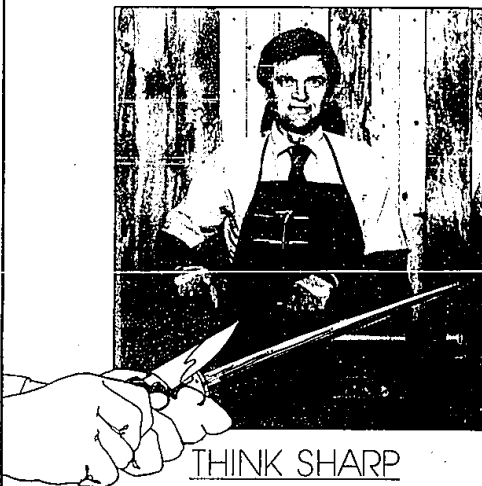
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As depicted in this artwork, Larry Hayden finds inspiration in the world of nature.

Creations

Nature captures this artist's fancy

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Ducks are unable to fly during the summer while their wings are molting in preparation for fall migration, Hayden said. Male ducks lose their bright colors during this summer period — "nature's way of camouflage."

"In the early fall, flight wings molt into winter plumage," Hayden said.

Unlike drake decoys, dull-colored decoy hens must portray subtleties with brown and gray colors. It's often easier portraying a hen than a drake. Achieving realism with flashy drake colors is especially difficult, according to Hayden.

CARVING A decoy duck out of bass wood begins with a pattern. The duck's outline is drawn on a piece of wood, then sawed and sanded into shape. A decoy's body and head require separate pieces of wood. Once the wood is smooth, feathers are added to the surface, Hayden said.

Hayden uses a Fordham flexible shaft — a motor-driven tool similar to a dentist's instrument — to create characteristic puffiness and veining on the decoy's feathers. The final step is painting the decoy as realistically as possible and gluing the glass eyes into place.

Hayden mixes acrylic paints to achieve the realistic colors he prefers.

Hayden's home is filled with artistic examples of his affinity to North American waterfowl. Often, he travels across the country to find the perfect setting for his waterfowl paintings.

HIS FAVORITE duck to re-create on paper or in wood is the

Decoy duck carving is 'one of the only true forms of American folk art.'

— Larry Hayden
wildlife artist

pintail duck, indigenous to Arkansas, California and Texas, but found occasionally in Michigan. Recently, Hayden traveled to Sacramento, Calif., in pursuit of the pintail duck.

Creating waterfowl graphics for duck stamps is another pet project. Duck stamps are affixed on the back of small game hunting licenses. Hunters must purchase the stamp along with a license. Revenue from the sale of duck stamps is earmarked for restoring marshes or other wildlife projects, Hayden said.

The winner of annual duck-stamp contests in Nevada, Texas and Michigan, Hayden hopes to one day top the federal duck-stamp competition. He previously took second place.

Last year, Hayden was seen carving a decoy duck in a Kodak commercial. His intricate crafting technique was chosen as a metaphor for Kodak film processing.

A man who pursues the work he likes, Hayden has found that even as an independent artist, deadlines and demand for his work keep pouring in. His one regret is that he spends more time painting than carving.

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