

# County board against 'boot camp' here

By Janice Brunson  
staff writer

"Voting along party lines, Oakland County commissioners opposed allowing the building of detention facilities for non-residents youths."

"As adopted, the resolution prevents 'the placement of municipal or privately run youth detention facilities in Oakland County to primarily service juveniles from other geographic locations.'"

Commissioner John Olsen, one of 18 Republicans who voted for the resolution, expressed the sentiments of many when he said a new facility in Oakland County "is inappropriate. There is no reciprocal benefit to us," said the Huntington Woods representative.

Commissioner Lillian Oaks of Southfield, one of six Democrats who voted against the resolution, said, "I think I have a little more feel for things that help people."

"The resolution, according to Re-

publican sponsors Ruth Johnson of Holly and Richard Skarratt of Milford, is aimed at a proposal by Detroit Mayor Coleman Young for juvenile facilities styled after military boot camps. Late last month, Young vetoed the Detroit city council's 1989-90 budget by restoring \$2.2 million for the camps after the council cut money for juvenile camps from \$4.5 million to \$500,000.

THE RESOLUTION made no mention of specific locations. Wording was vague, said Johnson, because Detroit city officials have been vague in their requests for information. "Nobody will respond to my Freedom of Information requests."

Johnson proposed the resolution because "people have been looking at farm property in northern Oakland County."

The resolution is based on rumor, said Democrat commissioner Lawrence Pernick of Southfield. "There

may be political value to those who sponsored it, but elected officials have to be responsible in their thinking and in their actions."

"Establishing a camp in a remote area doesn't help in building relationships between local units of government and, more importantly, our neighboring unit of Wayne County with whom we share roads, police, environment. It does nothing to serve the people of Oakland County," Pernick said.

Republican commissioner Marilyn Gosling of Bloomfield Hills, who represents Rochester Hills, said Oakland County already has adequate facilities for its own troubled youth. Camp Oakland, a private facility since 1987, and Children's Village, a county-sponsored facility.

"Establishing a camp in a remote area of the county would be like setting up a jail. It's in direct contradiction of state (penal) criteria, which calls for placing facilities close to centers of population where offenders are likely to live," Gosling said.

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Commissioner Marilyn Gosling

"I AT LEAST would have listened," said Republican commissioner John Pappageorge of Troy, if city officials had engaged in a more "up-front discussion" with county commissioners. He supported the resolution to guard against "continued efforts along such informal lines and then a last accompli."

Commissioner Robert Price, a Democrat from Pontiac who is the

only black person elected to the commission, said the entire issue is "part of the NIMBY movement, a new acronym that stands for Not-In-My-Backyard, a result of provincial politics. When you look at the sponsors and where they live, it's part and parcel of NIMBY."

Other NIMBY issues, according to Price: prisons, incinerators, landfills and recycling plants.

"But hell, in this instance we're too late. We have no such resolution against Camp Oakland or Children's Village," he added.

In fact, both centers contract with agencies in other counties on a space-available basis to make money, said Mike Worrell of Children's Village. Most facilities in the state have such reciprocal agreements, Worrell said. "We all cooperate with one another."

OAKLAND COUNTY'S system for dealing with youthful offenders, Children's Village, the Judiciary and Families in Action, are the best programs in the state, said commissioner Donn Wolf, a Republican from Farmington Hills.

"If somehow we could assist Wayne County in developing their youth camp idea, I'd certainly be supportive of that. As it is now, I don't want to bring that kind of a lacking program into Oakland County."

# House rejects Senate's hikes for education

By Tim Richard  
staff writer

Colleges and out-of-formula suburban school districts can expect to see some of their big state Senate-approved increases whittled away in the week or two ahead.

The House of Representatives rejected the Senate-passed bills. It means they will go joint conference committees, where the usual result is compromise.

"That's the procedure 99 percent of the time," said Rep. James O'Neill Jr., D-Saginaw, dean of education money in the lower chamber.

LOOKING OVER their shoulders will be Gov. James Blanchard, who

held a brief news conference to announce he will veto some of the \$2.1 billion Social Services Department budget because it is "\$200 million out of line."

Rejecting last year's blast that legislators spend like "drunken sailors," Blanchard was patrician and firm: "We're pleased with the economic growth, but we're talking slow growth. . . I have deep concern that advocates of important needs and services, and their friends in the Legislature, thought we had more money than we assumed."

Saying 28 states and the federal government are running deficits, Blanchard cautioned that "the budget process can get carried away," and that spending can rise only 2-3

percent this year. He said federal program cuts had put strains on Michigan's budget, adding:

"The good news is that we're on top of it. The bad news is that we can't meet all constituent needs."

Rather than arguing over nitpicky details, the governor said he would watch overall goals in his \$6.99 billion general fund proposal.

THE SENATE Fiscal Agency, however, contends the administration underestimated revenues.

So the Republican-led Senate voted \$600 million more, and the Democratic-led House \$350 million more, than the governor recommended.

Key items:

- The Senate voted \$266 million more for K-12 schools, eliminating the Blanchard-House effort to cap Social Security and pension payments for out-of-formula school districts. The latter items was \$103 million to many suburban districts.

- The Senate abandoned a year-long system of percentage increases for 15 state universities. It substituted an enrollment-driven formula that was particularly helpful to such commuter schools and Oakland University and the University of Michigan-Dearborn. The House rejected it.

FOR COLLEGE students and their parents, the question is whether college boards will increase tuitions by nearly 10 percent, as OU

and U-M officials have hinted. Some, including OU president Joseph Champagne, say they are cutting enrollments because Blanchard's proposed 3 percent increases are too small.

"Rhetoric," said state treasurer Robert Bowman, after Blanchard cut short his news conference.

"We'll see what they do first," Bowman said.

Asked if there might be a repetition of last year's battle in which

Blanchard and Bowman jawbowed college boards into reducing double-digit tuition hikes, Bowman replied:

"We're not too concerned. Last year they were talking (an average of) 12.5 percent tuition increases. This year they're talking less than 10. That's a 35 percent difference."

He said the Michigan Education Trust, a pre-paid tuition investment plan, is earning 9.5 to 10 percent — enough to keep pace with planned tuition increases.

# Medical group opposes 2 incinerator ash bills

The American Lung Association of Michigan is urging Gov. James J. Blanchard to veto the recently passed incinerator ash legislation, House Bills 4304 and 4311.

"With a veto you can make the landmark decision signaling a commitment that public policy regulating incineration must protect health and environment," said Merrill Clark, chairwoman of the association's environmental and occupational health committee.

The state Senate passed the bills last Thursday and House concurrence came the same day. Blanchard has until about June 12 to either sign the bills or veto them.

In a letter to Blanchard on May 30, the lung association expressed concern about the legislation's effect of terminating the applicability of certain occupational health regulations for exposed workers and its failure to require effective toxic fugitive dust controls on ash landfills.

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**OPEN HOUSE MEETING**

**I-696 WETLAND REPLACEMENT IN SOUTHFIELD, MICHIGAN**

The Michigan Department of Transportation and the City of Southfield will have representatives present at an Open House meeting from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., on Tuesday, June 20, 1989. There will be a short presentation at 7:30 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Lathrup High School North Commons, 19301 W. 12 Mile Road, Lathrup Village, Michigan.

The purpose of this Open House is to provide the opportunity for the public to drop in and discuss the construction of 2.8 acres of wetland and the enhancement of an existing wet prairie in the City of Southfield. The new wet prairie wetland will be constructed on an 11 acre site west of I-696 and south of Lincoln Avenue. After completion, the wetland will be owned and managed by the City of Southfield. This action is required to compensate for the wetland taken by the construction of the I-696 freeway.

It is the intent of the Department not only to invite, but also to encourage citizen involvement and participation in this project. It must be stressed that this is not a public hearing. The objective of the meeting is to gain input from local residents and to stimulate communication and cooperation.

Additional information may be obtained by contacting Bob Tiara, MDOT I-696 Ombudsman at (313) 548-7351 or Philip Chisholm, Public Hearings Officer at (517) 373-9534.

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