

# Career in politics starts with internship in D.C.

By Loraine McCallish  
staff writer

**V**ICE PRESIDENT Dan Quayle has four offices in Washington, D.C., and Neil Keurejian is familiar with all of them. The Hillsdale College graduate spent an internship running from one to another.

"I was lucky I was in such good shape," the ex-football player said. "There is a lot of ground to cover just doing your job and a lot more ground to cover if you take advantage of everything that's there."

The Farmington Hills resident was one of thousands who take to Washington, D.C., every season to get their political feet wet. In Keurejian's case he was earning credits instead of a salary in a program offered by his college, notably to students majoring in political science.

"You have to qualify to go and then you usually are assigned to some Congressional office, so getting there is an honor and landing in the vice president's office was, well, just unusual," he said.

Keurejian is home getting his resume shaped up, will get the machinery moving to get himself into law school, and will be volunteering his services in some upcoming GOP campaign, all with an eye to carving out a career in politics and getting back to Washington, D.C.

"DC residents are uptight," Keurejian said while talking about his impressions of the city. "Everyone walks a little faster. Everyone moves like they were characters in a speeded up movie. I loved it and I want to go back."

KEUREJIAN said he learned more than he ever expected he would during his stay.

"I don't think many people realize how much the staff actually does and how much influence these people

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ple actually have. The lobbyists realize this because they go through the staff members to get to the legislators, and that was just an interesting thing to watch," he said.

Keurejian described his own job as "a go-fer — filing, copying, running, moving to get himself into law school, and will be volunteering his services in some upcoming GOP campaign, all with an eye to carving out a career in politics and getting back to Washington, D.C."

"There were committee meetings or the think tank groups everywhere you looked and I sat in on them every chance I got. And there were a lot of speakers just for the interns. At one of these I heard Jack Kemp spell out his whole policy on HUD.

"There was no time to just sit around. It was foolish not to take advantage of all that was there, and then being an intern I got a lot of perks — admission into places I wouldn't have gotten into otherwise," he said.

Keurejian also took advantage of the social life, the night life, and mixed some business with pleasure.

"I met a lot of interns in the bars — they were all over the place — and they were different, different attitudes, different outlooks. And running into Hillsdale alumni was not uncommon. I made a lot of friends, a lot of connections," he said.

## Scientists seek families for genetic research study

Scientists searching for the genetic causes of neuromuscular diseases are seeking families in the Detroit area affected with the disorders for their studies. The need for such volunteers was announced by Muscular Dystrophy Association chapter president Ernie Backalar.

"Through the generosity of the American people we've been able to support efforts by many of the world's foremost genetic scientists to track down the genes responsible for inherited neuromuscular diseases," Backalar said. "But the work of these researchers can't be done without the involvement of families stricken by these disorders."

MDA researchers are seeking additional families for ongoing studies of the inherited neuromuscular disorders facioscapulohumeral muscular dystrophy, Limb-Girdle muscular dystrophy, Friedreich's Ataxia, and the Spinal Muscular Atrophies. They are also looking for families affected by Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (Lou Gehrig's disease). Although ALS is not considered a hereditary disease, between 5 and 10

percent of cases occur in families with a prior history of the disorder, leading researchers to suspect that at least these cases may have a genetic basis.

MDA-supported scientists at major medical research institutions throughout the world are working to locate and isolate the units of heredity, or genes, for a variety of neuromuscular disorders, through what's called "reverse genetics."

Through this approach, a gene whose normal function isn't known can be located and isolated by analyzing genetic material from affected families for signposts. Called markers these signposts indicate the gene's general location and enable researchers to focus on that location until the gene is found. MDA researchers pioneered the successful use of reverse genetics in the discovery of the gene responsible for Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy.

THE APPROACH, however, requires genetic material from large numbers of both affected and unaffected members of families with his-

stories of the disease being studied.

Families participating in genetic studies are required to provide information on the family history of the disease and to give blood samples, which contain genetic material. In some cases, individuals should write or call Donna Hooker, Genetic Research Coordinator MDA, 810 Seventh Ave., New York, N.Y. 10019; 212-596-0808.

MDA supports research worldwide into 40 neuromuscular diseases, including the muscular dystrophies, ALS, Friedreich's Ataxia, Spinal Muscular Atrophies, and Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease. It also maintains a wide-ranging patient services program, including a nationwide network of clinics, and supports public health and professional education programs.

In the Metro-Detroit area, MDA research projects are located at Wayne State University and University of Michigan, and MDA clinics are at Oakland General Hospital in Madison Heights and Children's Hospital of Michigan in Detroit.

## club circuit

**FARMINGTON AMERICAN LEAGION** and its auxiliary meet at 7:30 p.m. tonight in the post home, 31775 Grand River.

**WESTSIDE SINGLES** meet for a dance party at 8 p.m. Friday in Livonia Elix Club, Plymouth Road east of Merriman, and at 8 p.m. Saturday in Roma's of Livonia, Schoolcraft Service Drive west of Inkster Road. Dressy attire is requested. Admission is \$4 for singles older than 21.

**FARMINGTON PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S NETWORK** meet for breakfast at 7:15 a.m. Friday, Jan. 12, in The Community Center on Farmington Road north of 10 Mile. The event is open to guests. Reservations, at \$7 each for non-members, or \$5 for members, must be made before Tuesday, Jan. 9, by sending payment to PWN, in care of Farmington Secretariat, 25882 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills 48019. Speaker for the morning is Mary Fletcher, health enhancement direc-

tor for Farmington YMCA. She will talk about fitness for women of all ages and all lifestyles and discuss the new theories of weight control. Inquiries are taken by Farmington Secretariat, 473-2299.

**WELCOME WAGON** of Farmington and Farmington Hills meets at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 9, in the conference room of Farmington Hills Branch Library, 12 Mile east of Farmington Road.

Guest speaker for the evening is floral designer Carolyn Arlen, who does custom tailored arrangements for "Carolyn's Creations," which she owns and operates in Farmington Hills. She also teaches classes in silk and fresh floral design.

Women who are newcomers to Farmington and Farmington Hills are welcome to attend. Inquiries are taken by Linda Ray, 474-2114.

**BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN**, Farmington Branch, meet at 6:15 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 9, for dinner and a meeting in the Bug-

gy Works Restaurant, 29335 Orchard Lake Road.

Inquiries are taken by Betty Brown, 522-4484, or Karen Leppanen, 473-0512.

**FARMINGTON AREA ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL** meets at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 9, in Room 15, Shawwassee School on Shawwassee between Orchard Lake Road and Middlebelt. Members bring their own bag lunch. Beverage is available for 25 cents.

Speaker for the afternoon is Jerry Wagner, president of "Flexible Plan Investments" in Birmingham.

A short business meeting will follow his talk.

**FARMINGTON ARTISTS CLUB** meet at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 10, in Farmington Hills Branch Library, 12 Mile east of Farmington Road.

Linda Medelson, who works in water color and mixed media, will talk about the development of her work. She is an art teacher, juror and consultant.

Guests are welcome to this meeting.

**WOMEN OF NORTH FARMINGTON** meets at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 16, for a tour of the Detroit Pistons locker room, their custom dressing room, a multi-million-dollar television studio and see the view from the press box. The tour will be followed by lunch.

Guests are welcome. Package price is \$13. Reservations must be made by Wednesday, Jan. 10, with Beth Rice, 1-363-2737.

**BETHANY NORTHWEST** meets at 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 12, in Our Lady of Sorrows Social Hall, 23615 Power, at Shawwassee.

Program for the evening is polka and fox trot lessons. Admission is \$3 at the door.

The event is open to the divorced, separated and widowed of all faiths who are older than 35.

All club news and announcements for this column are to be addressed to: Club Circuit, Farmington Observer, 33203 Grand River, Farmington 48024. The information must arrive before noon on the Monday before Thursday publication.

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