

# Two charged with destroying campaign signs

By Pat Murphy  
staff writer

Southfield assistant city attorney Phillip L. Poole said he is continuing to review a complaint leveled against two men arrested over the weekend for destroying campaign signs.

"I'm talking to the people whose signs were damaged or destroyed," Poole said Tuesday. "We may or may not issue a warrant."

The men were arrested about 3:35 a.m. Sunday in the 28870 block of

Northwestern Highway where police said they were caught destroying a sign of Deborah Tyner, a candidate for Oakland County Circuit Court.

Other circuit court candidates are Thomas Brennan, Rudy Nichols and James Sheehy.

Officers were sent to the scene in response to complaints that dozens of signs were being vandalized or destroyed, according to a police spokesman.

Signs from Tyner, Brennan and Nichols were destroyed in the havoc, but signs for Sheehy were not damaged, police said.

Neither Poole nor police would identify the two men arrested, but court records identify them as Mark R. Zarkin, 23, of Lathrup Village and Deneil Williamson, 27, of Southfield.

They are charged with malicious destruction of property valued at

\$100 or less. They were released on \$50 bond.

Reached by telephone, Zarkin said he has worked in numerous campaigns and was currently supporting Sheehy.

In previous elections he worked on the campaign for Circuit Judge Ed Sosnick and prior to the August primary he supported Dennis Drury who was then a candidate for Oakland Circuit Judge.

"I'd like to explain," Zarkin said, who declined to say whether he had hired a lawyer. "But I just can't right now... maybe later."

SHEEHY, a district judge in Rochester Hills, said he is aware that Zarkin has been associated with his campaign.

"But nobody authorized (or condoned) his damaging or destroying any signs," Sheehy said. "He's just

one of many workers in the campaign."

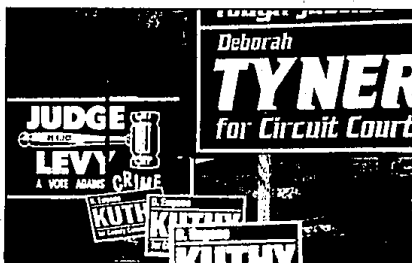
Some sign vandalism is part of most campaigns, he said. "Some of my signs along Telegraph were destroyed, but we never could find out who did it" and we never filed a complaint.

Morris Gleicher, a spokesman for the Tyner campaign, said nobody believes Sheehy or anybody in his campaign authorized, or had knowledge of, the vandalism.

"But hundreds of signs were cut down or destroyed," he said.

Southfield police said destruction of campaign signs is indeed common during elections. "This campaign is no different," said the spokesman, who asked not to be identified.

"Most of the time it's done by an over zealous campaign worker or people who just don't like political signs," he said.



SHARON LEMIEUX/staff photographer

Northwestern Highway is a mecca for campaign signs — as well as for the vandalism that often accompanies them.

## Agency seeks volunteers

Common Ground, the county's only 24-hour crisis intervention center, needs volunteers to provide telephone and face-to-face counseling.

The center, which moved from Birmingham to Royal Oak, also needs volunteers willing to help with typing, fund development and clerical work.

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