Community Corner

This week's question:

Have the political advertisements on television influenced your vote? Do you consider these ads nasty?

We asked these questions in the 12 Mile-Orchard Lake shopping center.

'They haven't influenced my vote. I'm happy with the governor. Part of politics is being nasty, but I don't think it is right.'
— Drew Mabry
Farmington Hills

'Yes, they have almost influenced me not to vote. They're not very informative and turn you off. I used to like the channel changer for commercials. Now it's for political ads.'
— Ed Wagner
Farmington Hills

'Yes, it will influence my vote, but I haven't figured out how. I look at the ads and both sides do a lot of mudslinging. They're using the press, too.'
— Bill Clark
Farmington Hills

'Not really. I'm tired of them and tired of the name-calling. Nobody is talking about the issues. I still don't know how I will vote.'
— Kyle Ferris
Bloomfield Hills

'Yes, often they bring out the negative that you weren't aware of. They're typical politics, no more nasty than the presidential election was.'
— Mary Ann Keane
Farmington Hills

'They irritated me so much. They set my mind against some people who I may have considered. I thought they were just nasty and not true.'
— Helen Hunter
Birmingham

Broomfield: Still fighting to curb big government

Continued from Page 1

Broomfield, 68, talked about the likelihood of a debate in a brief discussion about his future and what he sees ahead for himself and the 18th Congressional District, which includes parts of Oakland, Livingston and Macomb counties.

But for now, a debate with his challenger would not help his campaign, Broomfield said. "Right now I'm doing everything possible to get Bill Broomfield re-elected."

Since August, when Briggs, 33, challenged him to debate, Broomfield said his normal work schedule — including campaign stops — has been disrupted by the Persian Gulf crisis and at least two roll call votes on a deficit reduction package to trim the federal budget.

BROOMFIELD BROKE with President Bush and voted against both proposals, by the way, despite phone calls from former presidents Ronald Reagan, Gerald Ford and Richard Nixon to do otherwise.

"I support President Bush, but I'm no rubber stamp," asserted Broomfield, who said he opposed the compromise budget because it raises taxes rather than cuts spending.

Congress adjourned at 1:02 a.m. Sunday, leaving members precious little time before the Nov. 6 election.

Broomfield said he didn't object under the circumstances. But the longer-than-expected sessions wreaked havoc with his campaign schedule, forcing him to cancel some appearances and postpone others.

In the days remaining before Tuesday's election he intends to do what most other congressmen are doing, "Campaign hard for re-election."

He intends to visit constituents and make public appearances. Debating Democrat Briggs doesn't fit into that plan, he said. "How many people would watch Briggs debate himself?"

That doesn't mean he can't, or won't, talk about his record, Broomfield said. Or that voters should be in the dark about where he stands.

"I've voted more than 10,000 times since elected to office," said Broomfield, who was elected in 1956, the same year Eisenhower swept to his second term in the White House.

Broomfield was 34 at the time and had already served four terms in the Michigan Legislature. At the age of 31 he was speaker pro tem in the Michigan House of Representatives, then the youngest person in history to be elected to that post, according to the Michigan Manual.

BROOMFIELD SAID he has been philosophically consistent during his tenure in office, opposing what he considered a growing trend toward bigger government and a corresponding increase in the federal budget.

When government action is warranted, Broomfield said, it should be taken by individual states, not the federal government.

He voted, for example, against a federal proposal to provide child care for working parents, Broomfield said. But he does not oppose federal policies that provide money to individual states that may use that revenue to provide the same child care.

Some issues — like time off the job for workers who want to stay home with newly born children — should be resolved internally by companies and their employees . . . not government, Broomfield said.

Broomfield added he is proud of his civil rights record, even though he voted against the proposed 1990 bill that was eventually vetoed by Bush.

"I didn't want federal quotas," he said, referring to the contention that the bill would require employers to hire and promote according to established goals — something vigorously denied by Democrats.

Broomfield accuses Democrats of duplicity on the civil rights bill, saying they wanted Bush and the Republicans to look bad. "Democrats could have removed the quotas from the bill in committee," he said, "and I would have voted for it. But they didn't."

ON THE PERSIAN Gulf, Broomfield said Bush is doing a masterful job of rallying world support to condemn Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait. "Twenty-six nations have committed troops," he said, "and there's been 10 United Nations resolutions against Iraq.

Broomfield, vice chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said Iraq "is just starting to feel the pain" of the U.N. embargo against trade with that country. That embargo will be successful and eventually force Hussein to be more flexible about pulling out of Kuwait.

"If he's smart, Hussein will negotiate," Broomfield said.

The U.S. must be patient, said Broomfield, who forsees a diplomatic solution "unless something unforseen happens". . . like harm to American hostages or other provocation by Hussein.

Asked about reports that Bush may commit another 100,000 troops to the Persian Gulf, Broomfield said if hostilities break out the U.S. must have "enough people and equipment to do the job."

The conflict can not be resolved, however, until Iraq withdraws from Kuwait and Hussein's capacity for chemical or nuclear warfare is removed, Broomfield said.

Broomfield strongly disagreed with the complaint by his challenger that the U.S. acted too quickly when it sent troops to Saudi Arabia immediately after the early August invasion of Kuwait by Iraq.

As complicated — and sometimes hectic — as domestic and foreign matters gets, Broomfield said he enjoys it.

"I REALLY LIKE what I'm doing," he said. "And I intend to do it as long as possible."

Asked about retiring, Broomfield said not in the immediate future. "I'll know when to go," he said. "I don't want to walk until I'm incapable" of doing the job.

Every election is important, Broomfield said. But he is particularly concerned about 1992, when Michigan and other states will be redistricted.

Briggs: I'll be around

Democratic challenger Walter O. Briggs IV said he'd rather debate now, but he intends to be around in 1992 if incumbent William Broomfield won't debate until the next election.

"I intend to be around," Briggs, 33, said Tuesday. "If I'm the Democratic nominee, I'll definitely be ready and willing to debate."

Briggs made his comments when informed that Broomfield told The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers that redistricting will reshape the 18th Congressional District by 1992, forcing him to debate the Democratic challenger.

Broomfield said he won't debate Briggs because the Persian Gulf crisis, the budget bills and other pressing matters kept him and other members of Congress in session too long — disrupting campaign schedules.

In the few days he has left, Broomfield said he intends to campaign hard "to get Bill Broomfield re-elected."

But there's no time for debate.

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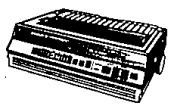

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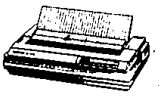

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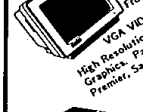

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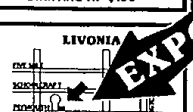

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