

# Gloves off: Honigman, Gilbert mount TV attacks

BY GREG KOWALSKI  
STAFF WRITER

The race between the Republican candidates for the 11th U.S. House district is sinking into the mud — literally.

In response to TV ads attacking him, state Sen. Dave Honigman fired back with his own ad showing a TV dropping into a mud puddle and blasting chief rival former Oakland County Circuit Judge Alice Gilbert for running a "negative campaign." Another Honigman spot shows the judge at a Detroit Tiger's game while a jury waits for her.

Gilbert has been running a series of ads that the Honigman campaign staff is calling false and misleading.

That came after Gilbert ran an ad saying Honigman failed to withhold taxes from campaign employees in his 1990 state Senate campaign, which would be a violation of federal law.

Welster Buell, director of election compliance and rules for the state, said no complaints have been made against Honigman, and the state is not investigating the charges.

Honigman, who had vowed to run a clean campaign, had so far shied away from attacking Gilbert or third Republican candidate Joe Knollenberg. Last week he said, in essence, enough is enough.

"For the last six weeks, my family, my friends and I have been the

subject of bitter, mean-spirited personal attacks by Alice Gilbert," Honigman said in a prepared statement.

## Firing back

At a press conference Thursday, Honigman fired back, charging that Gilbert and Knollenberg are in favor of "cutting Social Security benefits for many retirees."

Honigman quoted statements made by Gilbert and Knollenberg at a July 1 candidates forum.

Gilbert: "Some modifications should be made to Social Security. It's absolutely ridiculous to pay out for those who don't need it."

Knollenberg: "Some seniors have told me that they would give up part of it (Social Security check) . . . if it would help things out."

The issue is whether wealthy senior citizens should receive Social Security benefits.

At his press conference, Honigman had two senior citizens speak supporting him, including Lou Kondur, 70, a Honigman volunteer. "The senior is very sensitive to senior issues," Kondur said. "Social Security is something that is sacred and should not be tampered with. This is a betrayal of trust."

"Social Security is not welfare, it's insurance," Honigman said. "Citizens have paid premiums. If it's changed it would be a breach of trust."

Honigman said that no matter how much money people make, if they pay into Social Security, they are entitled to the benefits.

Gilbert responded: "He knows I'm talking about people coming into the system . . . for new workers coming into the system. He's not exactly being honest on my position."

She said a new contract might be negotiated with new workers. But she said of the current Social Security beneficiaries, "It's a contract. You can't change that."

Knollenberg said his comments were taken out of context. He said that he was repeating what various senior citizens had told him.

"I don't agree that any contract with senior citizens should be cut," Knollenberg said. He added that if the system were to be changed, "it would be done in the future."

## Ads disputed

Gilbert also objected to a pair of anti-Gilbert ads that have been on TV. Honigman had to pull and revise the TV into the mud ad because it showed a Gilbert ad on the falling TV screen, which drew loud cries of foul from the Gilbert campaign for using Gilbert supporters in a Honigman ad.

Honigman is also running an ad stating that Gilbert took the afternoon off from court to attend the



STEPHEN CANTRELL/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

On the air: This scene from state Sen. David Honigman's latest television advertisement shows jury members killing time while former judge Alice Gilbert went to a Detroit Tigers' game without telling them. Gilbert denies it.

Detroit Tiger's opening day game and left the jury waiting for the trial to continue.

Gilbert's former court clerk said the jury had been excused at noon that day and was not kept waiting in the jury box, as the ad implies.

Honigman spokesman Phil

Ginotti said the ad was "tongue-in-cheek, but it reflects Gilbert's work record."

She has been criticized by attorneys and court watchers for coming in late and keeping attorneys waiting.

Gilbert said that while on the

bench she tried to settle cases in chambers rather than go through lengthy and expensive court proceedings.

Ginotti said the media has been focusing on Honigman's ads, but not pointing out "lies" in Gilbert's ads.

# Briggs aims for home run in race for House seat

BY GREG KOWALSKI  
STAFF WRITER

Walter O. Briggs IV plans to hit a campaign home run and make a ninth-inning win on the road for the 11th U.S. House Congressional seat.

The great grandson of Walter Briggs — as in Briggs Stadium — doesn't have any official contact with the Detroit Tigers, but he wants to make his mark on the political scene. He and Michael Meyer are the only Democrats running for the seat vacated by William Broomfield.

But in this predominantly Republican district, Democrats are seen as long shots.

Briggs doesn't see it that way.

"I have a good shot at it," he said. "At every other door I go to, they say they are independents. Our job is to get to them and tell them they have a choice."

He added, "The district has changed. I walked in Southfield, it's solidly Democratic."

With the creation of the new 11th district, some key Republican strongholds, such as Troy and Rochester, were cut from Broomfield's old district.

Briggs' wife, Andrea, agrees. She strongly supports her husband.

"It's rough," she said of the campaign

trail. "But I believe in what Walter's doing. We need good leadership in Washington."

The Briggs have two sons, Walter ("of course" said Andrea of the name choice), 6, and Aaron, 4.

Even they get caught up in the campaigning, she said.

"They do know what's going on," Andrea said.

"Walter, (the son) wants to go to the parties," she said. But bedtime for the boys is usually earlier than party time. Briggs' parents live in Connecticut, Briggs' father is a broker on Wall Street in New York. The Briggs attended the recent Democratic par-

ty convention, and the kids stayed with the grandparents.

Being on the campaign trail does put a stress on the family, Briggs said, but it's only a temporary situation. And the couple shares parental duties.

"It's a partnership," said Andrea. Briggs, an accountant, is currently on a leave of absence from Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Michigan and Andrea is a treasury analyst for Kelly Services.

Briggs also said he gets a lot of support from his parents. Although his father was once chairman of the Michigan Young Republicans, he supports his son's Democrat-

ic leaning.

And how did a Birmingham resident of Republican background end up as a Democrat?

"I spent too many summers with Jane Hart," he said with a laugh. Mrs. Hart was the wife of the late Democratic senator Philip Hart, Briggs' uncle and a close family friend.

Briggs said he could make a difference in Washington because he said he feels more in touch with the voters. At one point his father was out of work for three years because of illness. "We had to sell the house,"

# Burglaries on the decline, police credit better security

BY JOANNE MALISZEWSKI  
STAFF WRITER

Decreases in burglaries could make 1992 another watershed year in Farmington Hills, if all goes as it has so far this year.

"At one time, we had burglaries in the 700 and 800s," said Farmington Hills police chief William Dwyer.

For the first six months of the year, serious crime, including burglaries, has decreased 8 percent compared to the same period in 1991. Serious crimes totaled 1,423 for January-June, compared to 1,547 for the same months in 1991.

Serious crimes include homicides, of which there were none reported, criminal sexual conduct, aggravated assault, robbery, burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft and arson.

"The glaring area is burglaries," Dwyer said.

For the first six months of 1992, the city had a 12.1 percent decrease in business and residential burglaries. That's a total of 247 burglaries so far compared to 281 at the same time last year.

Since the 1980s, the city has had a continuing decline in the number of burglaries. In 1987, for example, burglaries topped 745. The following year, 713 and in 1989, 671. In 1991, burglaries leveled off at 577, which was a 5.7 percent decrease from 1990 with a total 598 incidents.

"Burglaries have decreased 20

percent compared to the early 1980s," Dwyer said.

The continuing decreases in burglaries stem from residents taking an interest in protecting their houses with security systems as well as participation in Neighborhood Watch. Police subdivision patrols also have contributed to the decrease, Dwyer said.

Decreases also occurred in larcenies, down to 1,001 from 1,084 in January-June, 1991; motor vehicle thefts, 97 compared to 106; and arson, seven compared to eight.

The decreases don't mean that crime is slowly disappearing. "I think we go through various crime cycles. We experience increases and decreases in these various cycles," Dwyer said.

Other types of serious crimes increased. Criminal sexual conduct increased four in January-June, 1991 to five this year; robberies increased from 20 to 22; and aggravated assaults from 42 to 44.

Larcenies, Dwyer said, are often based on trends. For example, auto parts such as hood ornaments, come and go in popularity, and that shows up in crime statistics.

"I think most larcenies are committed by people who live in the area," Dwyer said. He doesn't believe larcenies are committed because of tough economic times.

While motor vehicle thefts are down so far this year, statistics show that in all of 1991 incidents increased to 250 from 192 the previ-

ous year.

Dwyer believes an auto theft task force in Oakland County as well as manufacturers' marking of auto components has helped reduce thefts. Security systems such as Lo-Jack and Teletrac have also helped.

As in the past, Dwyer assured that the majority of criminal sexual conduct incidents in the city are not random but rather between people who are related or acquainted. The majority of robberies have occurred at fast food restaurants or gas stations. "We will continue to experience these. They are being committed more with firearms than in the past — more semi-automatics," Dwyer said.

While robberies increased in the first six months of 1992, Dwyer believes the city is still not in bad shape. "In comparison with other years, our robberies are not really that great in comparison with other years."

Arrests for serious crimes decreased 4.8 percent, or 238 compared to 250 in the first six months of 1991. The majority of arrests were for larcenies, which also represent the greatest number of incidents in the serious crime category.

"Certainly we would like to arrest more people responsible for major crimes," Dwyer said. "I think we've cleared armed robberies with arrests. I have to give credit to the officers for being alert and to the detectives for putting cases together."

# Officers, civilians receive citations

Farmington Hills police officials announce the following awards, recommended by the department's citation and award board:

Citations were presented to:

• Officer Michael LaFave for the arrest of one suspect for carrying a concealed weapon and violation of the controlled substance act, March 3, 1992.

• Officer Robert Burkart for his assistance in the arrest of two suspects for armed robbery, March 11.

• Officer William Duffey for the arrest of two suspects for armed

robbery, March 13.

• Officer Charles Rozum for the arrest of three suspects for armed robbery, March 23.

A commendation was presented to officer Shelly Turner for the arrest of one suspect for big breaking and enterings in May 1992.

Unit citations were presented to:

• Sgt. Douglas Anderson, Gary Brandemihl, Patrick Comini, Daniel Herrick, Patrick Monti, Ronald Shankin, Craig Summers, Robert Tidginton and Shelly Turner for their effort between the CORE

group, patrol and crime suppression unit, which resulted in the arrest of four suspects for possession with intent to deliver marijuana, May 4-15. Drugs, money and vehicles also were confiscated.

Civilian citations:

• Dianne Hahn for information which led to the arrest of two suspects for malicious destruction of property, October 10.

• Robert Reboj for information which led to the arrest of one suspect for armed robbery, March 30.

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