

Briggs claims gain from GOP abortion stance

**BY GREG KOWALSKI
STAFF WRITER**

Abortion isn't the only position decision for campaign workers siding with Republican Joe Knollenberg or Democrat Walter Briggs IV.

However, Briggs claimed last week the Republican Party's strict stance opposing abortion is benefiting his campaign for the 11th U.S. House district.

Briggs of Birmingham said more people have volunteered to help his campaign since the Republican Party renewed its anti-abortion position at last week's national convention in Houston.

"A large number of my new volunteers are upset about the platform's total outlawing of abortion and the criminalization of women

who choose to make their own decision," Briggs said in a press release.

The Republican platform calls for a Constitutional ban on abortions, even in cases of rape and incest.

Briggs is facing Knollenberg of Bloomfield Township in the Nov. 3 election for the new 11th District, which includes the Birmingham-Bloomfield area, West Bloomfield, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Redford and most of Livonia and Southfield. Knollenberg bent out former Oakland Circuit Court Judge Alice Gilbert and state Sen. David Honigman in the Aug. 4 GOP primary.

Knollenberg is anti-abortion, but attacked that abortion was only one issue in the race. In fact, some of

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**Walter Briggs IV
11th Dem candidate**

his supporters are pro-choice.

The Briggs campaign staff said it could not estimate how many voters it had, but figured the number is in the hundreds. One is Aggie Monfette.

"I'm more or less independent," she said. Monfette said the abortion issue was a critical factor in her decision to become a Briggs volunteer.

"They've gone overboard," she said of the Republicans. She said

she also was concerned with other issues, such as the environment and health care.

"I'm not a one-issue person," she said.

Monfette volunteered for Briggs when he ran against Broomfield in 1990.

Kenneth Davidson is a new volunteer.

"I think this is a person who looks at problems and looks at ways

to solve them rather than just take a moral position," Davidson said.

Republicans, Davidson said, "come out on both sides of the street. They say one thing in one place and another thing in another place."

While the Republican platform took an anti-abortion stand, in an interview President George Bush said he would oppose abortion if his daughter wanted one, while supporting whatever choice she made.

In the Knollenberg camp, campaign manager Carol Morlan said the campaign has an abundance of volunteers, nearly 1,000, and the abortion issue is one of many factors that helped Knollenberg win the primary.

"It's not like it's anything new,"

Morlan said about the issue.

"I support the pro-life platform," said volunteer Sean Zayas. "But I think it needs to be a bit more flexible."

Zayas said the Knollenberg machine has a wide range of volunteers, including pro-choice supporters.

"Joe is pro-life, but he has people on both sides because there are other issues," Zayas said.

"I'm pro-choice," said volunteer Maggie Basile. "But one issue doesn't decide an election. I agree with Joe. That's why I'm here."

She said Knollenberg's stand on the economy and other issues outweighed her pro-choice preference.

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children, finding out where they're going at night.

Lauhoff encourages people who see or hear anything suspicious to call 9-1-1 — the city's emergency number — or the regular police line at 474-4700. He said those concerned about becoming involved can make the call anonymously, if they wish.

Lauhoff said he is concerned that the area "not be portrayed as a crime-ridden area. It's not," he added. "There's just a lot of activity there."

Parents and school employees are rallying around, making an effort at making the community aware. "We're just looking for any way we can have the community come forward," said Flanders principal Mary Joyce Reader. "This is a community effort — if people know something they need to get involved."

"The frustrating thing is, they're getting away with it (the vandal-

'We need parental involvement in this — people have to start talking to their children, finding out where they're going at night.'

**Frank Lauhoff
public safety director**

ism). I truly believe it's a small group of kids. I just don't want this to get out of hand."

The first two spray-painting incidents at the school occurred in early- and mid-August, and the most recent one occurred early the morning of Aug. 19. Some of the graffiti was generally obscene and other slogans were anti-police in nature.

Ironically, vandalism to the Flanders school in the past year totaled less than \$300, said building and student services director Don Cowan who offered a theft and vandalism report to the school board last week. "It's been one of the better schools, so this kind of came as a shock," he said.

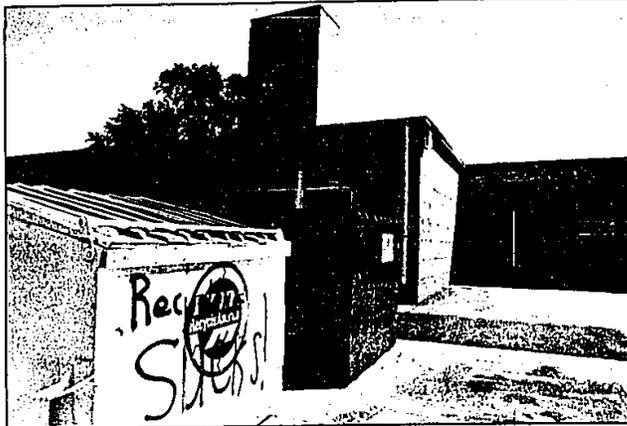
Cowan said the district was considering installing better lighting at the school and other security measures to help the situation. He said the schools want not only to stop vandalism, but also to work with

teens and families who are having home situations which may be causing some of these problems.

Reader said the PTA group will likely address the issue again this fall. She said they want the Flanders playground to be one which the entire community can use. "The more that we can clean this up, the more they will use the playground — and that will be a deterrent," she added.

Arnie Campbell, a Flanders parent and councilman for the city of Farmington, said he often hears about these neighborhood situations firsthand when people stop to talk. He said he believes the problems are caused by a few troublemakers, and called on those living in the area to call the police for anything, anytime.

"Just call and let them look into it," he added. "It just takes one person — that's the key."



Vandals strike: A recycling bin at Farmington's Flanders Elementary School shows the work of vandals.

'Artathon' set

Registration is under way for the Birmingham-Bloomfield Art Association's first "Artathon" set for 9 a.m. to noon Sunday, Sept. 20.

The event is sponsored by the Birmingham-Bloomfield Art Association and will include a 1.4-mile walk or a 5.5-mile walk through Birmingham to see four new pieces of sculpture in the city.

For more information, call the art association at 644-0866.

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