

Too busy?

Patterson ducks debating Howe

By PAT MURPHY
STAFF WRITER

With less than two months before the Nov. 3 election, no debates are scheduled in the race for Oakland County executive — despite numerous invitations from organizations such as the League of Women Voters.

So far Democrat Elizabeth Howe and Republican L. Brooks Patterson have not agreed about meeting face-to-face to discuss issues and qualifications related to the county's top political office.

One of the first released opportunities is scheduled for Sunday by the Labor Zionist Organization at Temple Emanu-El in Oak Park.

Howe has agreed to participate — as have Republican John G. Peppageorge and Democrat Sander Levin, who are running for U.S. Representative in the newly created 12th Congressional District.

But Patterson declined the invitation. He has also declined invitations for debates or joint appearances from the League of Women Voters, the Jewish Community Center and the Madison Heights Chamber of Commerce.

"There are no debates scheduled," Patterson campaign manager



L. Brooks Patterson

Debbie Joalin-Menke said Friday. One factor, she said, is the former Oakland County prosecutor's hectic schedule.

"I don't think she (Howe) has earned the right to debate Brooks," said GOP county chairman James M. Alexander. "All we've heard out of her is personal attacks. . . nothing about issues."

Alexander, a Birmingham lawyer, said Howe has referred to Patterson as a "windbag" and made derogatory comments about his weight.

Alexander's Democratic counterpart, Donald Tucker, said that line of reasoning is false and totally out of line.

"Betty is the one talking about reforming county government," Tucker said, referring to Howe's proposal to, among other things, re-



Elizabeth Howe

quire the Road Commission for Oakland County to be more accountable to the executive and/or county board of commissioners.

"Betty is the one talking about issues," Tucker said. "Patterson

doesn't want to debate because he knows she would embarrass him and voters would see how ill prepared he really is to lead this county."

Howe is campaigning as the QUALIFIED woman candidate, a pointed reference to the expertise she picked up as an executive with the Bendix Corp. in Southfield and as director of the Michigan Department of Labor under Gov. James Blanchard.

As an indication of how anxious she is to debate, Howe has thus far accepted invitations for debates or joint appearances from the League of Women Voters, Sept. 24 and 27; the Jewish Community Center, Oct. 5, and the Madison Heights Chamber of Commerce, Oct. 9.

Patterson, as of last week, had accepted none of the invitations.

Doctor able to give both sides of mental illness

"Both Sides of Mental Illness," a presentation by Dr. Frederick Frese, takes place at 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 17, at the Oakland County Commission Auditorium.

Frese, director of psychology at Western Reserve Psychiatric Hospital, Cleveland, will offer a

personal and professional perspective.

Diagnosed as a paranoid schizophrenic in the 1960s, Frese spent a decade in and out of psychiatric hospitals.

Since then, he has served on a variety of state, local and national mental health boards.

Mental health group eyes future

The future of MORC will be discussed at the Association for Macomb-Oakland Regional Center meeting 2 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 13, at the Bloomfield Township Public Library, 1099 Lone Pine.

The association opposes the potential breakup of MORC, a

state agency which has supervised mental health activities in both counties for 29 years.

Tom Brown, president of the Michigan Association of Mental Health Professionals, is guest speaker.

When you think of GIFTS... think of Sherwood!



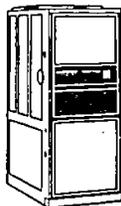
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