

Troy attorney takes on Nichols for sheriff post

BY RALPH R. ECHTNAW
STAFF WRITER

Election
92

Republican Sheriff John Nichols, 73, is the oldest elected official in Oakland County government, and he wants to keep it that way.

Amidst a pantheon of senior county officials — Executive Dan Murphy, 67, drain commissioner George Kuhn, 67, clerk Lynn Allen, 67, and treasurer Hugh Doherty, 69 — Nichols is in the correct chronological position to call all of them sonny.

Democratic sheriff candidate Seymour Hundley Jr., 44, wants to change all that and wrest the \$80,000-a-year job from Nichols, but criticizes the sheriff on nothing.

However, campaign manager Carol Prince does. "(Nichols) is part of the good old boy Wayne County group and his attitudes are still there," she said.

Prince referred to Nichols' past involvement with the Detroit Police Department beginning in the 1940s. Nichols rose through the ranks and ultimately was named commissioner in 1970.

Nichols also ran a losing campaign for Detroit mayor in 1970, served as Oakland County under-sheriff for three years and police chief of Farmington Hills for eight years. He has been sheriff since 1985 and lives in Northville.

Stresses after-care
Hundley, a Troy resident, came to Michigan in 1985 from New Jersey. He's an attorney with his own practice, currently specializing in entertainment law. He has also practiced criminal defense law in Ohio, Michigan and New Jersey.

An officer in the Army Reserve since 1974, Lt. Col. Hundley is the judge advocate for the 300th Military Police Prisoner of War command.

Asked where he differs from Nichols in this campaign, Hundley said, "We have been working to try and assess that."

Hundley supports Oakland



Challenger Seymour Hundley

County's boot-camp system for minor offenders, but said there should be "some after-care, some follow-up (and) some training" for people sentenced to boot camp.

Nichols said there already is training in boot camp to help prisoners lead regular lives. "(Hundley) didn't do his homework there either," Nichols said. "It's not all marching and saluting."

Nichols added that he would like to expand the boot camp to accommodate more prisoners because the county jail is overcrowded and some prisoners are being kept in jails outside of Oakland.

On another subject, Hundley said he would try to do more in the way of anti-recreational-drug inculcation. "The only way you're going to reduce anything is through education," he said. "We've got to come up with some effective demand-reduction programs."

In the same vein, Hundley said he might give tours of the Oakland County Jail to elementary-age students so that they might get a good idea of where they'll end up if they go wrong. "It might be something we would certainly consider," he said.

Nichols said he's been doing that for the last five years. Hundley, he added, "is detached from reality. He has no conception at

See SHERIFF, 9A

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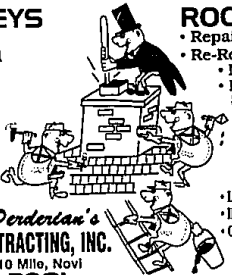
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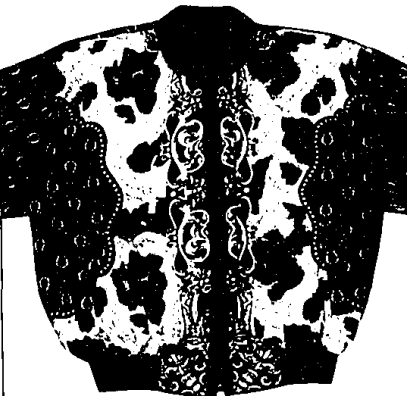
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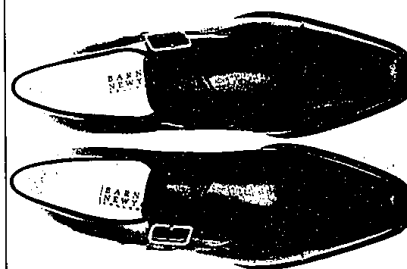
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