Patterson sends letters firing department heads

BY PAT MURPHY
The Oakland County executive's office is experiencing something new: a genuine personnel shake-up.

In letters sent out last week, executive-elect L Brooks Patterson notified at least six department heads they will not have jobs after Jan. 1, when he officially takes over. Furthermore, other heads may roll.

The move — or perhaps the method — caught a number of appointees by surprise, even though as one of his first public acts Patterson promised to "clean house."

Among those expressing aston.

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Among those expressing aston-ishment is outgoing executive Daniel T. Murphy, the person who hired the people Patterson is firing.

"I wouldn't handle it the way he's doing it," Murphy said

COUNTY

Thursday, as the courthouse complex was buzzing about what amounts to the highest level mass firing in county history. "But this is Brooks' show. The people elected him and he's the one putting his team together.
"He'll make some mistakes. I certainly made mine."

the executive form of government in 1974, he knows how a new broom sweeps.
Others — Including some of those getting the ax — are aware of it, too. But many expected a six-month grace period.
They felt anger at the ax falling so swiftly. The also said the dismissals were needlessly cold and callous. Most were notified by letters delivered by the newly appointed transition team while Patterson was on vacation.
"I deserve better than that," said Russell Martin, the outgoing director of management and budget, Martin was appointed to that job four years ago after serving five years as deputy director. His salary is \$85,970 annually.
"I've been seen as cocky, even arrogant," Martin said rusfully. "But it's a tough job and I've done it well."
Martin said he and other outgo-Wait and see Asked if he thought Patterson was making a mistake by getting rid of so many of his appointees, Murphy said, "I con't say. They're qualified people, but he wants his own people in there. We'll have to see who he ap-noists." The outgoing executive was careful not to criticize Patterson. As Oakland's only chief administrator since the county went to

ing department heads descried at least a phone call from the new executive if not a personal visit.

"I guess I was ready to leave," he said. "I think I'm going to shoot for an executive position somewhere."

While Martin, like others, was miffed at the seemingly callous way he got news of departure, he figuratively funed over the return of the \$940 contribution he made to Patterson's campaign.

Refunds too

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or painless way of notifying some-body they will no longer have a job," said Douglas J. Williams, who last week was named deputy county executive. He's also a key member of Patterson's transition

member of Patterson's transition
team.
"The new executive is looking for competent people who are also every loyal to him," said Williams.
"That's nothing new," he said. "Any new executive makes his own appointments. Maybe it's that where not seen any-entry loyal to him," said Williams.

Womencenter gives AIDS update

to Patterson's campaign.

Refunds too

Appointees who got exit letters from Patterson also got refunds on campaign contributions.

"It was almost insulting," said the whole episode was handled crudely, one of those close to the diamissals said there was no other way.

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Willie Martin and others said the whole reproduce was handled crudely, one of those close to the diamissals said there was no other way.

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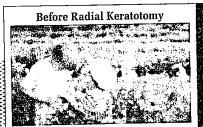
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