

# Patterson woos brain trust from private sector

BY RALPH R. ECHTINAW  
STAFF WRITER

Speaking Tuesday to a packed house of public servants and elected officials in the Oakland County executive building, Executive-elect L. Brooks Patterson announced Tuesday that one of his remaining appointees to the county executive staff.

Most of the nine people Patterson selected are coming from the private sector, and some of them are taking pay cuts to do so, Patterson said. "It was a tough negotiation with a couple of them. But the excitement and challenge sometimes makes up for take-home pay."

Edwin Blumberg, a doctor of osteopathic, was appointed to be director of institutional and human services. He is a specialist in family medicine practice with a sub-specialty in geriatrics.

Because Patterson heard a lot of complaints during his campaign about the "benign neglect" of southern Oakland County, he wants to create a new job for Jean Nash Chamberlain as liaison to southern Oakland County. Patterson must get approval from the county board of commissioners before Chamberlain can start work, but he appointed her Tuesday anyway.

Chamberlain, he said, will sit in on staff meetings to speak for cities like Royal Oak, Madison Heights, Hazel Park and Berkeley that have been allegedly neglected by county government.

Said Chamberlain: "I want to make this job as we go. It's a challenge, and I like the challenge."

Chamberlain is currently the executive manager of the Greater Royal Oak/Oak Park Chamber of Commerce. Since 1986 she has tripled membership of that organization and quadrupled the budget.

**'Biggest steals'**  
Robert Daddow will be Patterson's director of management and budget. Patterson said that appointing Daddow was "one of the biggest steals we've pulled off in the recruitment process."

Daddow is currently the vice president of Gordon and Company, an outfit that specializes in audits and consulting projects directed at governments. Daddow has been a certified public accountant since 1977.

Robert Drestman was appointed director of public relations. He has worked for 25 years in radio and television journalism, including stints as news director for WPON in Pontiac and WMJQ/RHND in Detroit. "He said if I didn't appoint him he was going to break my arm," Patterson joked.

Rebecca Holowicki was appointed community and minority affairs coordinator. Among Patterson's Tuesday appointments, only Holowicki already works for the county. She is currently the chief of the employment and training division. Kenneth Rogers is the new director of economic and community development. He is currently the co-owner of L.H.R. Evans and Associates Inc., a real estate brokerage firm that has been in business since 1973. Rogers is a past president of the Oakland County Chamber of Commerce and was one of the initiators of the Oakland County Economic Development Corporation.

Carmen Talbot will be Patterson's liaison to state government. She worked closely with Patterson during the campaign, served as his executive secretary when he practiced law, and currently heads Patterson's transition team.

### Disappearing act

Steve Weikal is the new cultural affairs coordinator. A West Bloomfield native, he has been involved in theater most of his life and once traveled with magician Harry Blackstone Jr. as his assistant. Noting that Weikal is a magician himself, Patterson gestured to the press and said, "Can you make the reporters disappear?" Later he added, "That'll cost me tomorrow."

Michael Zehnder will be Patterson's director of public services. He is currently a manufacturer's representative for a sporting goods company.

# County sheriff detours liability issue

BY RALPH R. ECHTINAW  
STAFF WRITER

Re-elected just last month, Oakland County Sheriff John Nichols is already locked in a dispute with Walled Lake Police Chief Ken Borico.

Nichols has ceased housing prisoners bound for the 52-1 district court in Walled Lake's lock-up because he won't let his deputies witness (by signature) a statement signed by prisoners verifying their health status.

Instead, Nichols is taking prisoners to the Novi jail, about five miles from the district court, when they have court appearances.

Since the Walled Lake jail is just two blocks from the courthouse, Borico has offered free lock-up service for the last several years to all law enforcement agencies bringing prisoners to the court. "That's a big advantage to police," he said, because of the time saved in taking prisoners from jail to court.

In the past, the sheriff's department would bring five to 10 pris-



Silent sheriff: John Nichols refers questions to jail administrator.

then died from an alcohol-withdrawal heart seizure shortly after being returned to the county jail, Borico said.

Hayes' widow subsequently sued the sheriff's department and Walled Lake.

Nichols has refused to allow his deputies to sign the form, so he now has to lock up his prisoners in Novi.

"I said, 'Fine, if you refuse to sign the form, you take the prisoners elsewhere,'" Borico said. "Sheriff Nichols has not made any attempt to sit down and discuss the matter."

Nichols did not return the Observer & Eccentric's phone calls on this subject, but instead referred it to corrections staff assistant Ann Russell, a county jail administrator.

Russell said that, if a deputy were to sign Walled Lake's form, it would be tantamount to verifying the prisoner's good health. "And these officers really aren't trained medical professionals at all," she said.

Borico argues that the delivering officer isn't verifying the prisoner's good health by signing the form, but verifying the prisoner's statement in regard to his health.

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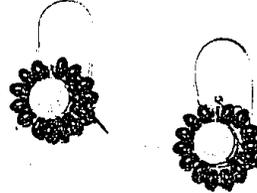
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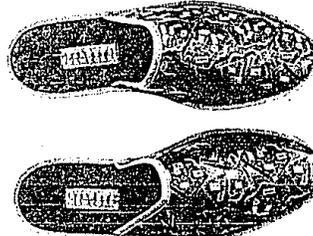
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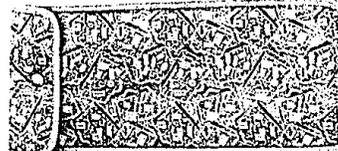
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