

Show time

Brunch kicks off 'Brooks and Ed'

BY RALPH R. ECHTINAW
STAFF WRITER

With a smooth schtick reminiscent of Hope and Crosby, metro Detroit's two nascent TV stars held forth Sunday at a casual bash featuring eggs, bacon and Bloody Mary cocktails as their program premiered on channel 4.

Good friends despite political differences, Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson and Wayne County Executive Ed McNamara played an impromptu comedy routine to a roomful of supporters at Farmington Hills' Botsford Inn just before their joint effort, "The Brooks and Ed Show," sprang from the five TV sets in the room.

"There would be more people from Oakland County here," Patterson claimed, "but all my friends are in church, Ed."

Retorted McNamara, "They probably need it more than my friends."

Commenting on the program, broadcast at 12:30 p.m. Sunday, Patterson noted that there were a few delays at the July 8 taping. "We had three false starts because Ed couldn't get his lines right."

Said McNamara, "I had the privilege of cutting (Patterson) off several times. I felt like a Jewish rabbi."

After pointing out every family member in attendance, McNamara went on to say, "I introduced my wife of 45 years as Lucille Martin last week. The memory goes second."

The party, paid for by Patterson's officeholder expense fund, attracted about 200 fans, but most of them rooted for McNamara, a resident of nearby Livonia.

For the most part, guests seemed to enjoy the half-hour public affairs show, loaded with levity as it was.

"I think they're very good together," said Deborah Turner of Franklin. "They're both so quick. It's difficult to be that spontaneous, and yet they are."

Kathleen Brang, a former Redford Township resident now living in Oakland County, said, "They play off each other very well."

Michelle Scharg of Farmington Hills, another former Wayne County resident, said the show was "wonderful" and "really informative" even though she's no admirer of Patterson. "I'm an Ed fan," she insisted.

Dick Southern, who works in Patterson's administration, said he's "glad that it's not just another political talk show. It will play well to each of our constituencies."

Not everyone in attendance was brimming with optimism, though. Lee Ekstrom of Oakland County said, "It's not something I'm going to stay up and watch. I think it's going to fall by the wayside."



Ballroom potatoes: More than 200 people gathered at Farmington Hills' Botsford Inn to watch the first episode of the show.

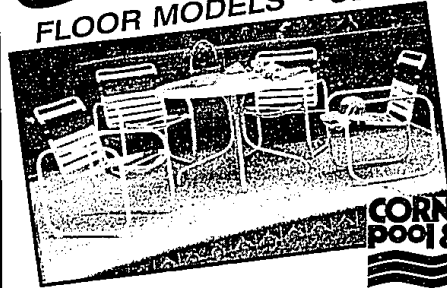


STAFF PHOTOS BY JOHN STORMZAND

Wake up, Brooks! Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson pretends to fall asleep, complete with sound effects, as Wayne County Executive Ed McNamara works the crowd at Sunday's party.

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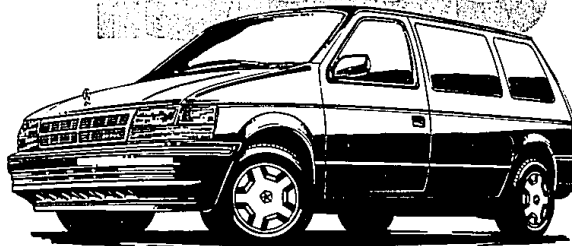
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