

OCC president to speak at luncheon

The Birmingham Branch of AAUW will hold its October luncheon meeting Wednesday, Oct. 9, at the Orchard Ridge campus of Oakland Community College in Farmington Hills. The Farmington Branch is included. The luncheon is at noon following the 9:30 a.m. board meeting. Reservations for lunch are \$10, paid to Barbara Collosion by Thursday, Oct. 3 at 1936 Tuckaway Drive, Bloomfield Hills, Mich. 48302.

The guest speaker is Dr. George Keith, president, OCC, Orchard Ridge campus. His topic is "Technology: Community Colleges at the Crossroads." Following his talk special cake decorating/sugar-pulling demonstrations by the OCC Culinary Arts Department will be given.

Plea Bargaining

bargaining policies and reiterated his contention it deterred crime and contributed to Oakland County's reputation for safety. In his radio commercials, Thompson inferred that not voting for him was tantamount to opening the door to rampant plea bargaining.

Thus, as Kaplan and Gorceyca square off for, each is cautious about the circumstances under which each would plea bargain.

"I wouldn't say I was careful," Kaplan said following last Wednesday's forum. "I was painstaking in making the distinction between each of us," he said.

Gorceyca, who was an Oakland County assistant prosecutor for two years under Patterson and Thompson, said as a matter of policy, he would generally continue the no plea bargaining practices of his predecessors.

"I want 'tough justice' in Oakland County," he said. "But I'd

add the element of common sense. I'd never plea bargain away the rights of the victims, but I'd look at the merits of the individual case."

Kaplan, who has been a Macomb County assistant prosecutor for a decade, categorically ruled out plea bargaining on any assaultive crime such as murder, rape, armed robbery and burglary.

He said he would plea bargain in three general areas, however: • With nonviolent first offenders. Many of these cases can be resolved without going to court, Kaplan said.

• In cases for which the prosecution did not have a particularly strong case, such as cases where evidence was questionable or witnesses were reluctant or unreliable. "I think half a loaf (of bread) is better than no loaf," Kaplan said, meaning he'd prefer a conviction on a lesser plea to an acquittal to the more seri-

ous charge.

• In cases involving more than one defendant. "If there was a trigger man in a murder case," he said, "I'd consider offering a plea to an accomplice in exchange for testimony against the trigger man."

Before any plea bargaining could occur, said Kaplan, there would have to be approval from both the victim and the detective in charge of the case. "Prosecution is a team effort," he said.

Gorceyca, 34, a resident of Royal Oak where he is a city commissioner, practices law in Bingham Farms.

Kaplan, 43, lives in West Bloomfield. He is a former resident of Southfield where he was a member of the Southfield Board of Education.

Regents

person. We have to get the biggest bang for our (budget) dollars. We have to make certain we get our fair share of state aid."

Charter schools?

Unlike Central Michigan University, which has granted dozens of charters for specialized academics, U-M's Board of Regents has granted none.

Baker (R): "There has been only one discussion - an amalgamation arrangement with Wayne State University. Wayne went ahead and did that project themselves."

Taylor (D): "I'm not familiar with the responsibilities toward charter schools. . . whether it would detract from the university's mission. I would reserve a position on that."

Bishop (R): "The charter school act requires that those universities which charter schools become superintending controllers. It's difficult for universi-

ties, with many things they have to keep their eye on, to run charter schools. It's good to find different ways to educate our kids, but we don't want to lose our focus on the universities. I have faith in our public schools, and I don't want to scrap them."

Maynard (D): "I'm troubled by the concept of charter schools. I don't want to see the destruction of public schools."

Open meetings?

When the Board of Regents in 1987-88 conducted its search for a president entirely behind closed doors, two newspapers sued and won in the state Supreme Court. The Open Meetings Act requires candidate interviews to be conducted publicly.

Baker (R): "It presents some very real difficulties. Many competent individuals will not apply without confidential interviews. . . A committee will bring us five

candidates."

Bishop (R): "The law gives regents 'some significant setbacks. Whether we can attract the best candidates. We have to sit down and decide how to attract the most qualified candidates and find a way to satisfy the law."

Taylor (D): "I understand the Open Meetings Act and support its principles. There need to be some exceptions: union negotiations. . . presidential searches. You can't attract top-flight candidates (with open interviews). There should be no negative impact on the public. (Open interviews are) unworkable."

Maynard (D): "Open meetings are needed 'so the public can know what's going on. I'm confident the regents can live within the law."

Candidates were quoted in the order in which they spoke at the Sept. 26 AAUW candidates forum.

Judge

galling, Cooper said, because one of the two positions on the high court was occupied by Justice Charles L. Levin, who could not seek re-election because supreme court judges can not run again after reaching age 70. Levin is also the only Supreme Court justice in Michigan history to be elected as an independent - as Cooper is seeking to

do. In her rage, Cooper called members of the media who in turn called the Grand Rapids bar. "We had several phone calls about the forum," said Toeller-Novak. "So we faxed a letter to candidate Cooper today inviting her."

If the Libertarian candidates contact the bar, they too will be

invited to the candidate forum, said Toeller-Novak. "But every candidate who appears cuts into the amount of time available to other candidates," she said. "We only have about 45 minutes."

Cooper hadn't seen the invitation as of 5 p.m. Tuesday, but she had been notified about the bar's change of heart by phone.

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