

editorial opinion

1974 Primary Endorsements

State and national offices

Governor

The Democratic primary centers on the charisma of Jerome P. Cavanagh and the organized, practical approach of Sander M. Levin. We believe Levin's approach will, on balance, provide the greatest opportunity for effective action on the state level. We recommend Levin as the most effective choice in the Democratic primary. There is no contest in the Republican primary.

17th Congressional District

Seventeenth district incumbent Rep. Marjorie Griffiths' decision to retire at the end of this year, has produced the most hotly contested Democratic congressional primary election in the state. No less than four excellent candidates are seeking nomination in what will probably be a solidly Democratic district this November.

On balance, we rate Robert FitzPatrick and William Brodhead as highly qualified to represent the district and Joseph Levin and Kathleen Strauss as qualified.

FitzPatrick's record as Chairman of the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners has given us hope that there is a real future for county government in this area. He has brought efficiency and organization to a previously chaotic board, and his leadership on behalf of an elected county executive has been outstanding. His experience, coupled with his solidly thought through positions on the issues, gives him solid credentials for Congress.

BROADHEAD IS perhaps the most imaginative and humanitarian of all the candidates, building his posture on his legal training and two terms in the state House of Representatives. He has taken the lead in stopping discrimination against women in credit transactions, worked for much-needed mass transit, and spoken out against legislative waste. We admire his deep caring for people, and we are impressed by his skill in translating this concern into concrete legislation.

Joseph Levin is the dark horse in the race, building a highly professional campaign on the foundation of his family's well-known name. He should not be discounted, however, as he is an able lawyer with very considerable behind-the-scenes political experience. His soft-spoken, decent thoroughness

manner is attractive, as is his concern that make Martha Griffiths one of the most influential women in America. Stressing a person to person approach, she brings to the district an extensive background of service in Detroit at regional government, coupled with a pleasing down-to-earth approach.

In the Republican primary, we rate A. J. Goldenthal, of Southfield, as the choice. An economist with impressive intellectual credentials, he has worked extensively in the fields of pollution, transportation and urban development.

64th State Representative

Wilbur V. "Sandy" Brotherton is the standout in a four man race for the Republican nomination for the 64th state representative. Brotherton, the owner of Astro Tune-Up Center, was mayor of Farmington for seven years and on the Farmington City Council for 14 years.

In addition, he has served as a county commissioner for two years and seven years on the planning commission.

Throughout his extensive service as a public servant, Brotherton has earned a reputation for keeping in close contact with his constituents. This quality will stand him in good stead if he is elected in November to the state legislature.

47th district court

Of the 12 attorneys in the race for the nomination to the 47th district court, Margaret Schaeffer stands out.

Mrs. Schaeffer is closely attuned to the people living in Farmington and Farmington Hills through her activities in numerous civic organizations. She is presently a member of the Farmington Hills City Council and was a trustee in Farmington Township.

Her strong local background will make it possible for her to do an excellent job if she is elected to the district court.

Others in the field include: John Burke, Clark Carney, William Dillon, Gerald Freedman, Frank Hill, Judith Holtz, Richard Megerian, Edward Reagan, Kenneth Rosen, Bruce Saperstein and Lawrence Sklar.

Oakland County offices and issues

Unified Government Proposal

This proposal is the most important issue for residents of Oakland County in this election. The question will provide for a single official to administer the various departments of county government. At present a number of separate, loosely coordinated groups of boards and officials are charged with administering the day-to-day business of county government.

The unified form of government will provide a focal point for leadership and a single office to coordinate county functions. The office of county administrator will be the place where the three stops.

Oakland County is too large to remain in the administrative backwoods. We do not mean that officials and board members now serving are not doing their job. On the contrary, given the structure, they must deal with the individuals, themselves, and relatively ineffective. Daniel T. Murphy, who is chairman of the board of auditors, is the one to shed light in county administration.

A yes vote on the unified county government will result in the administrative efficiency and effectiveness needed today.

Elected-Appointed Exec.

We believe an elected county executive will be the most effective form of county administration. An elected administrator will be directly responsible to the electorate and not a majority of partisan county commissioners.

Even if you vote against the unified county government, you must make a choice between an elected and appointed county administrator in the event that the proposal passes.

We strongly favor a yes vote for unified county government and an elected county administrator.

There is no contest in the Republican race for the county executive. Two men are standing for the county executive, Eugene W. Kuthy and Daniel W. Barry.

We strongly favor Eugene W. Kuthy for this position. Kuthy is manager of government consulting, management consulting staff of Egan and Ernst. He holds a J. D. degree from the Detroit

Observation Point

by PHILIP H. POWER

Cross district busing — the issue that dominated the politics of these suburbs for more than three years — ended last week, not with a bang, but a sigh.

Mostly, it was a sigh of relief from hundreds of thousands of suburban families, freed by the U.S. Supreme Court's 5-4 verdict of the fear that one day some judge would order them to put their children on the school bus to Detroit.

But it was also a small, quiet sigh marking the end of an era in which men and women of power could envisage accomplishment of a truly integrated society within a near future.

The busing plan proposed by the late Judge Roth was the high-water mark of those hopes and perhaps naive times that produced the excitement of the civil rights movement, the reality of one man, one vote, and the flawed promise of the New Detroit Committee.

For the momentum of this surge had petered out by the time the court finally ruled, signed by black power, white fear, and the sad realization by both that racial progress was not as simple or certain as was once hoped.

MOST PEOPLE in the suburbs are very satisfied by the Supreme Court's ruling. But in the at-

Fairy tale education

ermath, it is crucially important to sort out just what the ruling means, and what it does not.

It does mean that, on balance, the personal, aggravated and educational distortions that busing would have provoked were more weighty than the allegation that the suburbs produced knowingly a segregated school system in metropolitan Detroit.

What the ruling does not mean, on the other hand, is that it is now time for us in the suburbs to stick our heads back into the sand and to pretend that there are now no problems worthy of our attention.

Busing or no, our region is still essentially segregated in housing and, thereby, schooling, with blacks in Detroit and whites in the suburbs. Busing or no, our region is still plagued with the simple fact that the quality of education is generally good in the suburbs and generally lousy in Detroit.

Busing or no, our region is still one in which equality of opportunity is mostly available to white children in the suburbs and mostly only a fairy tale to black children in Detroit.

And busing or no, our region is still one in which the suburbs and the central city must come together in some consonance — perhaps fragile and uneasy but a relationship of some sort. For without each, the other will surely wither and die.

Endorsement policy

Observer and Eccentric Newspapers endorse political candidates and ballot issues because we believe we have a responsibility to the general public to do so.

Our editors and reporters have covered the various races, listened to the candidates, read their literature and press releases and have developed an informed evaluation. We believe it is our responsibility to bring this evaluation to the public.

Our endorsement procedures are careful and thorough. We try to contact all candidates and request biographical information and photographs. In some races we send

questionnaires to all candidates and publish those that are returned to us. We have a personal interview with candidates in a race in which we endorse if such an interview is at all possible to schedule.

Our editorial board then meets to discuss the endorsements. The board consists of the executive editor, county editors, various local editors and reporters in relation to their respective campaign coverage and the two co-publishers. Our endorsements are determined not by one individual but represent the informed views of our entire news staff.

Judicial offices

2nd Court of Appeals

The decision in this race is a difficult one because of the number of experienced, qualified circuit court judges standing for nomination. Two names will be selected by voters. The top four candidates will stand for election in November and two judges will be finally selected. We believe Farrell E. Roberts, Oakland County circuit judge, and James P. Churchill, Lapeer and Tuscola counties circuit judge, are well-qualified for this position.

6th Circuit Court

Robert B. Webster, incumbent Oakland County circuit court judge, deserves voter support in his bid for nomination.

Probate Court

William M. Travis, probate registrar of Oakland County, has the knowledge and experience to qualify for this position.

46th District Judge

Clarence Reid, Jr. deserves to be nominated once again for the 46th District Court. He has served as Southfield judge for the past 17 years.

Judge Reid has achieved a distinguished record during his lengthy service to this community. He has acquired a reputation for fair-mindedness and clarity in his application of the law.

The judge believes strongly in providing prompt attention to the important matters facing his court. He has worked hard to keep himself abreast of the latest developments and precedents in the legal field.

Besides his work on the bench, Judge Reid has been a visible representative of the 46th district court in the community.

From our readers

Change hearing date

To the Editor:

I feel it important to write to you in regard to your recent article stating that the Southfield Board of Education has proposed a public hearing on affirmative action on Tuesday, Aug. 6.

I, and other taxpayers of this city, have felt that the date of this public hearing be changed. Since many of us who are interested in our school system, will be participating in the primary election which occurs that day, we feel the change of date is necessary. It is very difficult to work for a candidate or at the election boards all day and still attend this meeting.

WHEN WE REQUESTED the change of date of some of our board members, we were told that the date could not be changed — absolutely not! They had made a decision and would not consider the thinking of the citizens.

I raise the question — were the members of the board refusing to co-operate in changing the date as they may not want a large turnout at this meeting?

ALSO, I HAVE been told by a board member that "We have discussed this issue for three or four months and it's time we voted on it." I ask what is the rush?

An item as important as this should be given utmost consideration by the citizens of Southfield before our board members should rush to pass it. Since many of our citizens are on vacation during the summer months, how many are

aware of this matter? How many will be in town to attend the meeting?

Since the board members are elected to represent the citizens, I feel there is no valid reason why this matter could not be discussed at a public hearing in the fall when our citizens are home and can attend to express their opinions. The day of our primary elections is not the day for our public hearing.

Finally, may I state that the time is ripe to question the responses of elected officials to their constituents.

Sara Lee Segel
Southfield
July 27, 1974

Diverting

To the Editor:

Hopefully, in time, the merchants in downtown Birmingham will come to the realization that a four-way diverter at Maple and Woodward, permitting right turns only, is the only sensible solution to the mid-day traffic congestion that occurs every day in the week and particularly on Saturdays.

The current belief that this congestion is good for business is indeed difficult to comprehend. Whether Birmingham's Ring Road is one-way or two-way, a viable business district requires the elimination of through traffic on Maple and Woodward having no destination in the downtown area. Only a four-way diverter can accomplish this.

William Lyman
Birmingham
July 25, 1974

Speedway route

To the Editor:

Thank you very much for the excellent article by Susan L. Silk in today's Observer & Eccentric regarding the paving of Kensington Road in Bloomfield Township.

We, the residents, had no idea of the scope and magnitude of the plans for destroying the character of our neighborhood and creating a speedway for traffic from the Pontiac Stadium.

Because of the condition of Big Beaver from Adams to Woodward, our subdivision has been subjected to a tremendous amount of traffic trying to avoid the bottleneck on Big Beaver. It is only a matter of time before it will have to be widened and the township should face that fact immediately.

The present amount of traffic on Kensington certainly doesn't warrant the expense involved in paving it.

John C. & Evangeline K. Brooks
July 22, 1974 Bloomfield Hills

Bye, bye, Baldwin

To the editor:

(An open letter to the City of Birmingham)

Hurry and clear away that building. We want a place to park our cars.

The ladies want to go into Jacobson's to buy some clothes so they can show off their belly buttons.

Glenn L. Rosene
Birmingham
July 25, 1974

Farmington Observer & Eccentric

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Eccentricities

by HANK HOGAN

There was great joy in the suburbs last week when the United States Supreme Court reversed the late Judge Roth's decision to include the suburbs in a plan of integration of education by busing. But when the smoke clears, who will be the winners and losers in the case?

To begin with, Judge Roth did find that the Detroit Board of Education at one time systematically promoted segregation in education by busing Detroit students past the school closest to their homes. In other words, Judge Roth found that Detroit had overtly pursued the opposite of the neighborhood school concept.

THE UNITED STATES Supreme Court has ruled that, although Detroit's Board of Education may have been bad guys, there are no grounds to hold the suburbs guilty by association and that, to right a wrong they should not be included in the overall plan.

With that accomplished, why even consider the subject of winners and losers? The answer is that there is no such thing as a free lunch and there is a price for this alleged victory.

THE WINNER is easy to identify. It is education.

No Detroit, no suburbs

Studies show that in situations where there has been busing to achieve integration, the level of education has declined more rapidly in the outlying areas than the level of education in the core city has risen, with a net result of the total lowering of the standards of education.

The children will be educated with their neighborhood friends, and develop social as well as educational skills.

THERE WILL be more money for the classroom if fewer buses are purchased and staffed. And the children won't be subjected to the long hours on buses which would take time away from the classrooms.

On the other hand, the Supreme Court ruling will hasten the departure of whites from the core city to the suburbs, which will help cause the deterioration of downtown.

If downtown falls, there aren't, in the long run, going to be any suburbs.

So we have our winners but we may have our losers unless we, ourselves, are willing to break down the barriers that have a tendency to keep whites in one place and blacks in another.