

# Board kills salary hike for Circuit Court post

By SUSAN L. SILK

**OAKLAND COUNTY**—County commissioners into the "silly season" of campaigning, or just being conservative. Thursday killed a plan to fill the 8-month vacant post of Oakland County Circuit Court administrator.

Failing to get a 14-vote majority of the board to approve the resolution, efforts to raise the non-merit system position salary from \$26,000 to \$31,000 were defeated.

Both the Personnel Practices and Public Protection committees approved raising the salary range as the court requested.

**PRESIDING** Judge William P. Hampton explained to the public protection and judiciary committee recently that the court had been interviewing appli-

cants since the vacancy was created in December 1973.

Then court administrator John Mayer left Oakland County to assume a post with the Michigan State Supreme Court in Lansing.

Hampton told the commissioners at that meeting that recruiters could not find a qualified candidate for \$26,000. However, the applicant they would like to hire—a Detroit-based federal district attorney—would accept the job for \$31,000.

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"WE'RE not wild eyed spenders,"

we're blind spenders," charged Commissioner Lew Coy, R-24.

Referring to commissioners Kasper, Robert Pinales, R-16, and Alexander Perinoff, D-21, practicing attorneys, Coy said, "I think you are in conflict of interest when you come here and vote for their (court personnel's) salary raises."

Commissioner Robert Button, R-11, is a law school student.

"I abhor the thought or the implication that there is a conflict of interest," Perinoff said.

**BUTTON** said that the Michigan State Supreme Court feels that for its case-load volume, Oakland County should have five additional circuit court judges.

Since the beginning of the year, Oakland County and the Circuit Court have "fought a long fight" to keep the county bench at 11 judges, Button said.

According to estimations, each new bench member costs approximately \$150,000, Perinoff said.

"Efficient operation of the court by a court administrator" able to relieve judges would save money, the Southfield commissioner said.

"When you make a (conflict of interest) statement like that it impunes me... and the circuit court, you

should be called to task for it," Kasper said to Coy.

"You do not realize the court situation, we (practicing attorney commissioners) see it on a day-to-day basis. Lack of knowledge breeds the ignorance you speak of," Kasper said.

**DEMOCRATIC** Party Caucus chairman, Commissioner Bernard Lennon, D-18, called the \$5,000 raise "unfair to other county management-level employees."

"Anyone who votes for a \$5,000 raise should have to go back to his constituents before Nov. 1 and explain," Lennon said.

"Your comments are slanderous as far as the judges are concerned," said Perinoff, whose law practice rarely brings him to the Circuit Court in Pontiac.

"What benefit could I ever get from the judges. Absolutely nothing," he said.

**REPUBLICAN** Party Caucus chairman, Wilbur Brotherton, R-27, said the heated remarks reflected "a period before an election known as the silly season."

"Why weren't the people speaking against this at the committee meetings?"

"You have done so at this time because of the other benefits (press cov-

erage) you will gain from it," Brotherton said.

Twelve commissioners voting for the \$31,000 salary tag included: Fred Houghten, R-6; Lillian Moffitt, R-15; Dr. Joseph Montante, R-26; Patrick M. Nowak, R-25; Kasper, and Perinoff.

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## Cranbrook elects Nash

Frederick C. Nash, Detroit attorney, has been elected chairman of the board of governors of Cranbrook Schools.

Other officers elected of the governing board of three independent schools enrolling 1,220 students in grades kindergarten through 12 are: Vice-chairman, John W. Fauver, president J.N. Fauver, Co. Inc., Madison Heights; secretary, Eugene A. Moore, Oakland County Probate Judge; treasurer, P. Thomas Austin, partner in the accounting firm of Ernst and Ernst Southfield.

Nash, who holds degrees from Yale University and the University of Michigan, is a partner in the Detroit law firm of Bodman, Longley, Bogle, Armstrong and Dahling.

Nash has been active in Cranbrook volunteer governing positions since 1959.

Cranbrook Schools (Kingswood, Brookside and Cranbrook) are one division of Cranbrook Educational Community. Other divisions are Cranbrook Academy of Art and Cranbrook Institute of Science.

## Hearing set on paving

**OAKLAND COUNTY**—The County Road Commission has scheduled a public hearing tomorrow on the apportionment of benefits and costs of paving five streets in Wing Lake Shores subdivision in Bloomfield Township.

The meeting will be held at 3:30 a.m. at the road commission offices, 2420 Pontiac Lake Road, in Pontiac.

Frazer W. Slaman, commission vice chairman, said the purpose of the

hearing is to hear objections and to effect apportionment of benefits and costs to property owners.

Bloomfield Township and the road commission will each pay ten percent of the project cost, Slaman added. The balance of 80 percent will be paid by benefitting property owners through a special assessment, with payments spread over a period of up to ten years.

## Newspapers win awards

Observer & Eccentric newspapers won six awards in the 1974 annual better newspaper contest of the National Newspaper Association.

The Birmingham edition was awarded second place in the category of general excellence for weeklies over 10,000 circulation.

The Birmingham Observer & Eccentric also won second place for excellence in typography for newspapers over 6,000 circulation.

Honorable mention certificates were awarded to the Birmingham edition for newspaper promotion and best use of photographs, over 4,000 circulation.

The Southfield Observer & Eccentric won second place for best feature story, over 4,000 circulation.

The award-winning feature was written by Kristee Monte and photographed by Tracy Baker.

The Rochester Observer & Eccentric won third place for best sports picture, circulation over 4,000. The winning entry was photographed by Lona Askins.

The awards were presented July 26 during the National Newspaper Association-Canadian Community Newspaper Association Convention in Toronto.

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### Dance classes set

Women's belly dancing and girls' ballet classes will be offered by the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Department this fall at Waterford-Oaks Activity Center, 2809 Watkins Road, Waterford Township.

"Naja of Lebanon" will teach the eight-week dancing course, beginning Wednesday, Sept. 25. Beginning, intermediate, and advanced classes are available; also a beginning morning class will be offered at 10 a.m.

The eight-week ballet course begins Sept. 19. The instructor is

Linda Cooper. Beginning classes are available for girls four to six years of age at 4 p.m., and girls seven to twelve years at 5 p.m.

Registration for the classes is open to Oakland County residents by mail. Fees are \$18 for belly dancing, \$16 for ballet. Send your check to: Waterford-Oaks Activity Center, 2809 Watkins Lake Road, Pontiac, Michigan 48054.

Persons not preregistered will be charged an extra \$2 on or after the day the class starts. For more information, call 858-0913 during business hours.

### Schools ask attendance

**BIRMINGHAM**—At the start of each school year the board of education repeats its request that members of the community attend meetings of the board.

Scheduled meetings are held at 8 p.m. the first and third Tuesday of every month in the administration building, 530 W. Merrill. Open study sessions are held on many alternate Tuesdays.

At the start of each board meeting, an opportunity is given for public address. Copies of the board agenda

are available to the public the night of each board meeting.

Copies of the agenda and minutes are also available at Baldwin Public Library and the Bloomfield Township Library.

Robert S. Ketchum is president of the Birmingham Board of Education. Other officers are John B. Dixon, vice-president; Janet Johnson, secretary; and Gary Petersen, treasurer.

Trustees are Dorothy Ecker, Donna Hartwig and Ralph Seiser.

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