

# editorial opinion

## 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.

## General elections--1974

### Congressional contest

#### 17th DISTRICT

Voters in the 17th Congressional District, which includes Southfield, Farmington, Redford Township and parts of northwest Detroit, are losing the strong representation given them by veteran U.S. Rep. Martha Griffiths (D-Detroit), who is retiring after her current term ends.

However, they are fortunate to have an exceptional candidate to fill the post. William Brodhead, a state representative from Detroit, defeated a strong group of candidates in his party's primary, and has an impressive record in Lansing.

Besides his demonstrated record of ability on the state level and his good ideas for legislation on the national level, Brodhead has shown a concern about all areas of the diverse 17th district. He has campaigned conscientiously in Southfield, Farmington and Redford Township. If he is chosen to succeed Mrs. Griffiths, he will follow her example of close contact with constituents in the district.

### State offices

#### 15th DISTRICT SENATE

In the 15th state senate district, which includes Farmington and most of Southfield, incumbent Daniel S. Cooper of Oak Park has earned another four-year term in Lansing. Cooper, 44, was elected by 15th district voters for his first term in 1970.

A total of 10 years in state government equips Cooper well for a leadership role in the senate. He has demonstrated a knowledge of the inner workings of the legislature which he can put to use on behalf of constituents.

#### 64th REPRESENTATIVE

The 64th district state representative contest offers two candidates with sharply differing political philosophies. Our choice is Republican Wilbur "Sandy" Brotherton over Democrat John Campbell.

Brotherton, with a long record of good governmental service in his favor, is rated as a moderate Republican. He is now a county commissioner and has earned the respect of members of both parties during his term.

### Judicial offices

#### 2nd DIST. COURT OF APPEALS

##### New judgeships

##### (Vote for 2 candidates)

A highly confusing primary election involving 15 candidates resulted in four, Michael F. Cavanagh, Bernard L. Kaufman, Michael J. Kelly and George E. Montgomery, contesting for two new judgeships in the general election.

More experienced candidates were rejected by voters in the primary. The size of the district and the huge task before voters to familiarize themselves with the large number of candidates turned this race into a popularity contest. This fact supports efforts to qualify candidates in some professional manner before an individual stands for election.

Of the candidates remaining we believe the experience Michael Cavanagh

has as a judge of the district court, although his tenure is just shy of two years, gives him a slight edge over other candidates. Cavanagh's candidacy is worthy of voter support.

Bernard Kaufman's two decades of experience in the medical-legal field and working familiarity with workman's compensation cases, would bring a special expertise to the appeals court which would be valuable to voters. We support Kaufman's candidacy on this basis.

Michael Kelly, although he certainly possesses the intelligence to fulfill the duties of appeals court judge, lacks, in our opinion, the judicial temperament. **2nd DISTRICT COURT OF APPEALS Existing seats**

##### (Vote for 2 candidates)

Incumbent judges S. Jerome Bronson and Robert J. Danhof deserve voter support in their bid for reelection. Both have been serving as appeals court judges the past six years and have extensive experience in the public and private sectors of the law.

#### 6th CIRCUIT COURT--OAKLAND

##### Unexpired term

Judge Robert B. Webster, appointed to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Clark Adams in March, 1973, deserves voter support in his bid for election. He has gained the respect of his colleagues since his appointment.

#### PROBATE JUDGE--OAKLAND

Of the two candidates for this position we believe Barry M. Grant carries the slight edge over his opponent, John J. O'Brien. Grant has extensive experience in private practice, visible concern with children, community service and held the position of trustee of the Southfield Board of Education.

O'Brien, serving his second term as a Beverly Hills councilman, also has trial experience and a record of involvement with community and youth projects. He is not to be confused with the circuit court judge. On balance, we believe Grant would serve the interests of Oakland County more effectively.

#### 48th DISTRICT JUDGE

Judge Alice Gilbert, incumbent, unquestionably possesses the higher degree of experience and proven effectiveness than her opponent in this contest. Judge Gilbert deserves voter support in her bid for reelection.

#### 47th DISTRICT JUDGE

The campaign for a new district judgeship in Farmington and Farmington Hills has displayed two qualified candidates—one an experienced local politician and the second a hard-running newcomer.

Our choice is Margaret Schaeffer. She has served on the Farmington Hills city council and on the quasi-judicial workmen's compensation appeals board.

Judith Holtz, her opponent, defeated a good field of candidates in the primary and has campaigned aggressively for the post. Many of her ideas deserve to be adopted.

However, Mrs. Schaeffer's long experience in the community earn our endorsement.

## JOG TO THE



**POLLS!**  
CLEAN YOUR PLATE TURN DOWN THE HEAT SAVE GAS STAY HEALTHY SAVE MONEY SHOP WISELY SHARE VOTE WIN

### County offices

#### COUNTY EXECUTIVE

For the first time voters in Oakland County will choose an elected county executive. The office was created when citizen approval was given for a unified system of government in August.

Eugene W. Kuthy, a Democrat, and Daniel T. Murphy, a Republican, are contesting for this office. Kuthy believes voters in the primary spoke strongly in favor of a departure from past policies of administration in county government when they chose an elected county administrator over an appointed one.

Kuthy, who has professional training in management and displays considerable political skills, has argued forcefully for a revitalization of Oakland County government. He is a man of intelligence, sincerity and very considerable ability.

Murphy, who has served as chief county administrator under various titles for 11 years, defends county operations.

Murphy, a top vote-getter between 1956 and 1963 when he was county clerk, displays a thorough knowledge of county government and problems facing residents. He is aware of the strengths in county government and is working to correct its weaknesses. We believe that Oakland County government is well administered and that residents would be well served to support Murphy in his candidacy.

#### 15th COUNTY COMMISSION

Linda Hirshberg, a Democrat, is challenging Republican incumbent Lillian V. Moffitt. We believe Mrs. Moffitt's experience and unquestioned sincerity deserves voter support in her bid for reelection. Although Mrs. Moffitt reflects well the needs and attitudes of her district, she would be well advised to increase her efforts in communication with her constituency.

#### 23rd COUNTY COMMISSION

Paul Kasper, the Republican incumbent, reflects the needs and attitudes of his constituents to a greater degree than his Democratic opponent, Bernard Winograd, executive director of the county Democrat party. On this basis Kasper deserves voter support.

#### 25th COUNTY COMMISSION

Patrick M. Nowak, the Republican incumbent, deserves voter support in his stand for reelection in this district.

#### 27th COUNTY COMMISSION

Our choice for county commissioner from the 27th district, which includes the southern portion of the Farmington area and part of Southfield, is Republican John McDonald. Although working his way through law school and service as an Oakland County prosecutor have curtailed his community participation, McDonald nevertheless has better credentials than Democrat Gerald Farrell.

## Eccentricities

by HANK HOGAN



### Tales with morals

Once upon a time a group of animals wanted to pave the whole, wide world. They wanted to pave the world because they were in the construction and paving industry.

Money for constructing highways comes from a gas and weight tax.

One day the king of the jungle decided that some of this gas and weight tax could be diverted from paving highways to use for other means of transportation.

This naturally incensed those animals who make a living paving highways, and they asked all the animals in the jungle to vote on a constitutional amendment that would eliminate the diversion of gas and weight taxes from purely highway building.

**MORAL:** If you believe that mass transportation is a good thing, and the whole wide world should not be paved, vote no on Proposal A.

**ONCE UPON A TIME** the employees of the Treasury, Agriculture, Postal Service and other federal agencies decided to go to each state and ask for a bonus.

Although these employees did not actually work for the state, they felt that the residents of the state derived some benefit from their performance of their federal duties.

They also cited as precedent the fact that ever since the Civil War, in Michigan the veterans—who have worked for the federal government and not the state—have received a bonus. Therefore, the other federal employees are being discriminated against.

**MORAL:** What is good for the goose is good for the gander. Vote no on Proposal B.

**ONCE UPON A TIME** a group of animals decided they were paying too much in taxes. They gathered petitions to amend the constitution to eliminate the sales tax on food and drugs.

The king of the jungle, an elephant named Billy, said that if this proposal passed, the total tax collection would not be reduced because the state would have to turn around and increase taxes on income to replace the lost funds.

His worthy challenger, a donkey named Sandy, said that new taxes would not be needed and the money lost from the repeal of the sales tax could be made up by more efficient government.

Two other donkeys, both named Bill—one speaker of the House and the other the head of the Ways and Means Committee of the jungle legislature—disagreed with Sandy the donkey and said there definitely would have to be increased taxes if the proposal passed.

**MORAL:** There is no such thing as a free lunch. Vote no on Proposal C.

**ONCE UPON A TIME** the animals in the State of Michigan discovered that time had passed them by.

They discovered that the largest city in the state was the only major metropolitan city in the whole country that did not have a mass transportation system.

They also found out that their rail transportation throughout the state was inadequate, that their port system throughout the state was inadequate, and that their airport system throughout the state was inadequate.

A proposition was put on the ballot to raise money through bonds to bring the state up to the 20th century.

**MORAL:** The only way to emerge from the dark ages is to light a lamp. Voting yes on Proposal D could shed a lot of light on the transportation problems of the state.

## Observation Point

by PHILIP H. POWER

### Ballot horror

Tuesday is election day, and the bedsheet ballots will be out in force, concealing many persons who are running for office and in search of your vote.

It's a big problem: On one giant ballot, we will be voting for governor- lieutenant governor, secretary of state, attorney general, U.S. representative, state senator, state representative, township officers and trustees, State Board of Education members, University of Michigan regents, Michigan State University trustees, Wayne State University governors, State Supreme Court justices, State Court of Appeals judges, Circuit, Probate and District Court judges.

**LIVONIAN** James O'Neil, a Republican and vice president of the State Board of Education, is one of many who objects to our system, especially as it applies to education candidates.

He argues that the bedsheet ballot produces "blind partisan voting with little regard to candidates' qualifications, abilities or positions."

He therefore urges nonpartisan voting for state education posts with nomination by party conventions (which may or may not be a good idea), coupled with the notion that incumbents could renounce themselves to eliminate the partisan threat of retaliation (which is both absurd and obviously self-serving.)

But his point is basically good: The bedsheet ballot is too long and news coverage too rushed for voters to become fully informed about low-visibility races for educational and judicial posts.

**A STATE COMMISSION** appointed by the governor has suggested gubernatorial appointments for educational and judicial posts. I have reservations about this. You might get good appointments when the governor is good, but you might also get bad appointments when the governor is not good.

A better solution would be to move the elections for these posts to June of odd-numbered years. It preserves the test of election, reduces the number of posts and the ballot and allows adequate news coverage.

**Farmington Observer & Eccentric**

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