



# Daniels Den

By EMORY DANIELS

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During the past summer, persons attending the Rotary Club of Plymouth were treated to an interesting contrast in style, personality and philosophy of public officials holding the same office in different counties.

First, Oakland County Prosecutor L. Brooks Patterson came to town with his aggressive personality and lively speech delivery. Then, a couple weeks ago, Wayne County Prosecutor William Cahalan arrived with his reserved mannerism and academic delivery.

BOTH SPOKE about crime, of course, and each has possible solutions which might work. There are thousands of potential solutions to the crime problem and, worse yet, thousands of definitions of the crime problem.

In his visit to Plymouth, Patterson said a great deal of progress can be made if persons in jail would be required to serve "minimum" sentences and not allowed to go free on probation for good behavior. He recited a number of horror stories about persons released early on probation who within days committed violent crimes.

Cahalan suggested each person arrested for a crime must receive a "mandatory" jail term from the sentencing judge. The certainty of punishment is the best deterrent to crime, he argued.

The Wayne County prosecutor didn't have any better stories to tell, or at least chose not to, but held his audience captive with a reasonable approach on how to deal with persons who violate the law.

I'M NOT PARTICULARLY interested in Cahalan's potential to hold higher office, or even his performance as county prosecutor.

If you're interested, I think Cahalan has reached his plateau and would do

well to stay where he is. And frankly, there are times Cahalan upsets me with what I consider political antics. But he basically has been a good prosecutor and is a reasonable man with a deep appreciation for justice and the law.

What did interest me was Patterson's appearance in town because I had occasion to hear him speak after he had just taken office as Oakland County prosecutor. He's an interesting and frightening person.

Patterson first came to prominence when he was fired by former Oakland Prosecutor Thomas Plankett—a prosecutor from the Cahalan mold. Then Patterson boomed into the limelight as attorney for Irene McCabe and NAG during the heyday of the anti-busing controversy.

This was enough to put Brooks into the position where he kept the ear of his former boss at the polls. Since that first political victory, Patterson has moved into the political limelight in Michigan as a force to be contended with.

WHAT STRIKES me most about Patterson is the way he has changed in appearance and style.

Appearance-wise, he has gone through a similar transition in favoring Sander Levin did when he

first sought the governorship. Style-wise, he has "moderated" his stance in much the same way Richard Nixon did between the Alger Hiss days and his rise to the presidency.

So I have been shown the "new Brooks" but cannot decide if it's the same old Patterson from NAG days or a new, "moderate" Patterson.

I have also watched Patterson jump from issue to issue (from welfare cheaters, probation reform and pornography abolition without ever showing ability to follow through one issue to a conclusion. He jumps onto an issue that has popular appeal like the big bad wolf puffing at the three little pigs when he puffs at straw, the house falls. But when he puffs at brick, the mortar stands and Brooks goes off searching for another little pig.

His puffing will one minute consist of an attack on defense attorneys who are judge-shopping on behalf of a client, and the next minute he is judge-shopping himself in a fight against pornography.

Yes, Cahalan and Patterson are interesting contrasts. But even more interesting are the contrasts within Patterson himself. I have trouble knowing who and what he is, and what he really stands for, but L. Brooks Patterson is certainly a different kind of fellow.

## O&E newspapers wins press awards

The Observer & Eccentric dominated the Michigan Press Association's 1975 newspaper contest.

The winners in the competition were announced this week in conjunction with the annual observance of national newspaper week. In total, the newspaper organization garnered 10 awards. Among the awards were several first place honors.

First place in general excellence went to the Birmingham-Bloomfield Observer & Eccentric. This is the most coveted of all awards and is determined on the basis of general and departmental news, mechanical quality, advertising enterprise and general appearance.

The Observer & Eccentric also took first place for sports coverage (Birmingham-Bloomfield), news reporting (Birmingham-Bloomfield), use of pictures (Birmingham-Bloomfield), and advertising idea of the year.

Honors went to Co-publisher Philip Power for third place in original personal column. Other awards included second place in sports coverage (Rochester), second place in use of pictures

(Rochester) and third place use of pictures (Southfield) and second place general excellence (Rochester).

Judging in the contest was done by members of the Virginia Press Association. They chose the winners from among 282 entries submitted by 42 newspapers.

According to John Reddy, executive editor of the Observer & Eccentric, "It is always significant honor when your professional peers judge a newspaper staff's efforts so highly. A greater test, however, is whether our readers believe we are effectively serving them."

"A good journalist in another state can tell you if your typography is good, or if you have excellent photographs. But it's the man down the block who'll judge you if his neighbor's name is spelled wrong or if an important item is left out of the newspaper."

National newspaper week will begin on Monday. It is a time when a concentrated effort is made to stress the community service role of a newspaper and the relationship between personal freedom and a free press.

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