

Pols Slinging Cleaner Mud Than in Past

This year's gubernatorial campaign will be Michigan's costliest, thanks largely to the deep-pockets TV spending by Republican Dick DeVos. But it won't be the nastiest.

DeVos and Governor Jennifer Granholm won't sink to the level of personal attacks that 1998 Democratic nominee Geoffrey Fieger directed against Governor John Engler. Nonetheless, even before Tuesday's primary in which Granholm and DeVos were unopposed, the merchants of mud were throwing it from both camps.

Last year, the Michigan Democratic Party began attacking DeVos because Alticor Inc., when he was head of the company that is the parent of Amway, "cut nearly 1,400 jobs from Michigan and created tens of thousands of jobs in China." DeVos says "zero jobs" were transferred to

China, and contends Michigan benefits from Alticor's huge overseas investments, including about \$220 million in China.

(After he interviewed Granholm at the Traverse City Film Festival last week, I asked Qunduo Xu, a reporter for government-sponsored China Radio International, if he was aware of Dick DeVos and that Amway's China operation was an issue in the Michigan campaign. He was not, but said Amway products there are "very popular. The market is huge. People love it.")

When Democrats began attacking DeVos in TV ads, he countered with one that concludes: "Instead of getting down in the mud, let's get down to business - create more Michigan jobs."

But in late July, DeVos ran an anti-Granholm TV ad that

so distorted the positions of two Michigan newspapers that the ad was changed after the papers complained. The original ad had the *Detroit Free Press* using "phony" and "demagoguery" to describe Granholm's criticism of DeVos, and the *Lansing State Journal* saying: "It's all negative all the time out of the Granholm camp."

In fact, in each case, the views were not of the newspaper - but of a columnist expressing a personal opinion.

When I asked Granholm last week about the ad, she said: "I have a feeling that is just the beginning."

In truth, distortions to sharpen a 2006 campaign attack did not start with that ad - or with this year's campaign. Politicians travel muddy trails.

Jabs got sharper in the final week of the U.S. Senate GOP primary between Oakland Co-



Michigan Politics

By George Weeks

nty Sheriff Michael Bouchard and the Reverend Keith Butler.

In the taping of their only televised debate (WOOD-TV, Grand Rapids), Butler accused Bouchard of conflict of interest for getting about \$40,000 a year from Jackson National Life Insurance Company for a consulting role while still getting his sheriff's salary.

Bouchard, who said he is "a watchdog for policyholders," said: "I don't run a church and get paid over \$1 million a year."

In a TV ad, Butler, a former Detroit councilman, rapped Bouchard, a former state senator, as "a career politician. On the ballot 14 times in the last 19 years." Bouchard dismissed the ad as "a distraction" from important issues.

There was a glitch in a Butler radio ad buy last week Up North. A commercial designed to urge Detroit Democrats to cross over and vote for Butler was heard on one northern station during the Rush Limbaugh show. Not many Detroit Democrats in that audience.

Tribal Cops

Examples abound across

the northland of tribal law enforcement agencies working cooperatively with sheriff's departments and other local police agencies.

So it is not just Native Americans who will benefit from last week's announcement by Senators Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow of \$680,207 in U.S. Justice Department grants to eight Michigan Indian communities to assist tribal law enforcement activities.

The grants: Bay Mills Indian Community, \$123,701; Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, \$112,871; Hannahville Indian Community, \$43,556; Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, \$53,391; Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, \$35,700; Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, \$148,988; Little Traverse Bands of Odawa Indians, \$12,000; and Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, \$150,000.

George Weeks recently retired after 22 years as political columnist for *The Detroit News*. His weekly *Michigan Politics* column is syndicated by *Superior Features*.

2008 Seasons of Mackinac Calendar Winners

The winning photographs for the 2008 Seasons of Mackinac Calendar have been selected. The 2008 calendar will be the 25th that Mackinac Island Recreational Development (MIRD) has produced.

Each year, MIRD receives more than 200 photographs, which are grouped by season and voted on by people attending the Winter Festival in February.

The names of the photographers are kept secret until after the voting.

The results are as follows:
• Cover - "Winter blankets quiet cannon guarding the peaceful Straits of Mackinac" by Judy Diekman of Traverse City.

• Cover - "Fort Mackinac's cannon blast awakens Haldimand Bay to the summer season" by Emily Fullerton of St. Ignace.

• January - "St. Anne's Church stands watch over Mackinac's winter season" by Marcia and Tom Tomlinson of Mackinac Island and Saginaw.

• February - "Historic Fort Mackinac West Block House guards over winter" by Sara Chambers of Mackinac Island.

• March - "St. Patrick's Day landing on Straits of Mackinac ice bridge below Grand Hotel" by Greg Main of Mackinac Island.

• April - "Early spring shadows dapple Island dray's commute to town" by Jane Arndt of Big Rapids.

• May - "Towering 75 feet, the Sugar Loaf limestone formation sits proudly among the cedars" by Marcia and Tom Tomlinson of Mackinac Island and Saginaw.

• June - "A favorite summertime hang out - Grand Hotel's Esther Williams swim-

ming pool" by Debbie James of Verona, New York.

• July - "The schooner *Windy II* entering Haldimand Bay under sail" by Carolyn Kurowski of Kouts, Indiana.

• August - "Victorian cottage 'Brigadoon' proudly displaying summer splendor" by Kandi McCarthy of Port Saint Lucie, Florida.

• September - "Mission Point's Wedding Gazebo aglow with early morning sun" by Susan McGregor of London, Ontario.

• October - "A colorful fall buggy ride" by Jane Arndt of Big Rapids.

• November - "Craggy tree limbs frame view of stormy Straits" by Judy Diekman of Traverse City.

• December - "Mackinac's 'Geranium Cottage' dressed for the season" by Sara Chambers of Mackinac Island.

MACKINAC ISLAND POLICE REPORTS

Reports from the Mackinac Island Police Department from July 29 to August 4:

Two women and a man were warned by police that camping is not allowed on Mackinac Island after they were found in a tent next to an employee housing building in Harrisonville Sunday morning, July 30. The three campers were awakened by the sound of a resident's lawn mower. One of the campers began arguing with the resident and threw a beer can at the mower, whereupon the resident called police.

An 18-year-old Island man was warned by 92nd District Court Judge Beth Gibson Wednesday, August 2, after he arrived late to the police department for his mandatory breathalyzer test. The judge wrote a statement to the police that the man faces jail time if he is late again.

Police served a notice of trespass to a 21-year-old Eaton Rapids woman Wednesday,

August 2, after receiving a complaint from a hotel manager who claimed the woman had been staying at the hotel's employee housing and was warned several times that she could not stay there. The woman contended she has been looking for a job on the Island and did not have a place to stay. Her bicycle was impounded and her dufflebag of clothing was seized and held as abandoned property.

Police assisted the fire

department when it was dispatched to the Bay View Inn on Main Street at 6:19 p.m. Thursday, August 3 for a ceiling fan that was emitting smoke from one of the rooms. There were no injuries or damage reported.

Police logged 51 incidents reports between July 29 and August 4.

Of those, 16 were bicycle larcenies, three were minor in possession citations, and two were false fire alarms.

For the Record...

The photograph of the old Benjamin blacksmith shop on the front page of last week's *Town Crier* shows Herbert Benjamin shoeing a horse, not Robert H. Benjamin.

Capture Mackinac Island



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7529 Market St., P.O. Box 532, Mackinac Island, MI 49757

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www.MackinacIslandTownCrier.com

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