



Ross takes swipe at Fieger as suggested

Highly, she's the 'chairman' (her preference) of the Michigan Republican Party so she's got to do her thing from time to time, right?

Well, yes. And so she did Wednesday morning. But the initial reaction was to go "yass we" until...

It began at a seemingly shallow morning news conference on the fourth floor of the state Capitol here. DeVos picked a public building for her wholly partisan event where she took her finger at Democrats and insisted that they "sissies" their had big gubernatorial candidate, Geoffrey Fieger and all the nasty and outrageous things he'd been saying about Gov. John Engler (see news story on page 4B).

Among other things, she charged Fieger with single-handedly trashing a long-standing Michigan Democratic tradition of "being able to disagree without being disagreeable."

And so on and on. Initial reaction was mostly predictable. Spokesmen for two other Democratic candidates for governor, Ross and LaRy Owen, pool-pooled the attack as a critical attempt to divert attention from the real issue — Engler's lousy record in office. And Fieger glared about how the DeVos performance was proof that Republicans fear him. He said that Engler, if somehow he, Fieger, were no longer in the race, "would be as happy as a mastodon in whatever it is that mastodon's roll in."

And so on and on. DeVos, of course, had made no mention of any of the bad boys of Michigan Republicanism, i.e., state Sen. David Jape, of Macomb County, or of the bombs being thrown in GOP legislative primaries this year, e.g., the attack by state Rep. Don Gilmer of Augusta on state Sen. Dale Shugars of Portage as someone with a "narrow-minded, militia-like mentality."

And, of course, she was silent on some of her own fiery partisan rhetoric (oddly uttered in person but regularly quoted in party press releases) such as the trade 1997 attack on U.S. Rep. Bart Stupak, D-Memorial, headlined "Las, las, pants on fire," or her June description of Fieger as "a boorish opportunist."

Still, well, arguably, Fieger's stuff is far more crude, — and, yes, scatalogical — than DeVos will ever be. But at least Republicans are not wholly without sin, eh?

Anyway, as noted, the initial temptation was to shrug at the DeVos attack and let go with a big yawn.

Until Ross came on the line in a conference call to political reporters about five hours later. For he ripped Fieger as "a dangerous threat" to party values, etc., and said he was "amazed" that Mr. Owen and his political sponsors (read Big Lake) weren't speaking out about it. And later on WXYZ-AM (1270), Fieger ripped back about how Ross "has absolutely no respect for the truth," etc. But in the end it was DeVos who was smiling.

FOOTNOTE: DeVos, GOP chair since 1992 and whose most recent term expires in February, says she intends to seek re-election again.

'A DIFFERENT PHASE' Measles outbreak targets infants The vaccine is effective — but is usually given at an older age. Page 3B.

FOURTH OF JULY Holiday closings Banks, courts and government offices shut doors for Independence Day. Page 6B.

OTHER OAKLAND NEWS BUSINESS: Hazel Park Raceway settles with union. Page 2E. SPORTS: Red Wings stay in shape in Toy. Page 7F.

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Have news to report? Call us at 313-256-2500

26 Oakland Detroit Free Press News about your county and the metropolitan area

OAKLAND COUNTY Sewage drain fix costs \$130 million

It would reduce pollution in river lake 25 percent

BY ERIN LEE MARTIN

A detailed plan to fix the 12 Towns storm water and sewage drain linded on government desks across southeast Oakland County on Wednesday with a resounding \$1.9-billion bid.

River and Lake St. Clair during heavy storms. Earlier estimates had placed the cost at \$90 million to \$140 million. "Obviously we were hoping it would be nearer to the \$90 million range," said Royal Oak City Attorney Chuck Senichens.

The changes would upgrade sewage treatment methods and expand the 12 Towns retention basin, an underground storage tank. The cost to individual users was not available Wednesday.

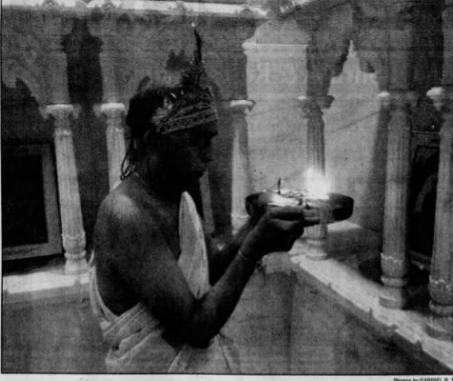
What it would cost

It will cost \$130 million to repair the 12 Towns Drain to the state's satisfaction. Each community in the drain district will pick up the bill, likely passing it on to sewer users. This is how much it would cost each community using a low-interest state loan (2.5% interest) or a revenue bond (6.5% interest).

Table with 3 columns: Community, State loan \$130 Million, Municipal bonds \$130 Million. Lists 12 communities and their respective costs.

FARMINGTON HILLS

An ancient religion in a new temple in a faraway land



Vinubhai K. Shah of Bombay waves a tray of incense at depictions of deities in the new temple of Jainism in Farmington Hills.

India's Jains get place of worship



Shri Mahesh Swami is one of the Jains gods worshipped at the temple.

Jainism — an ancient Indian religion with nonviolence tenets that influenced Mahandas Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. — has its first home in Michigan. Celebrations this weekend will mark the opening of the Farmington Hills temple, which will serve Jains from across Michigan and northern Ohio.

Jainism is characterized by humility, nonviolence and detachment.



Surbhjee Doshi, at 92 the oldest member of the Jain congregation, is assisted in worship by another parishioner. Jains go to great lengths to protect life. The cloths are meant to avoid harming microorganisms by breathing them in.

Thefts up in county since '96

BY BRIAN MURPHY

Police in Oakland County blamed a surge in air bag and cellular phone thefts from vehicles for driving up the county's property-crime rate in 1997, but the number of violent offenses continued to drop. Several communities saw significant increases in larceny, which jumped by 11.2 percent in the County from 1996, according to a community-by-community report released Wednesday by the Michigan State Police.

PONTIAC Panel adds to judge's charges

BY DAVID ASHENFELTER

A Pontiac district judge accused of judicial misconduct received more bad news from the Michigan Judicial Tenure Commission on Wednesday. The agency added two more charges to its misconduct complaint against 50th District Judge Christopher Brown. The commission said he violated the rights of a Southfield man in a marijuana possession case in January and revealed over several land/tenant disputes involving his bailiff, Avery Hackett, who owns rental property in Pontiac.