

PREMIER ISSUE

LLOYD POWELL'S WINNING CRIMINAL DEFENSE STRATEGY: The Power of Prayer

PLUS: How to tell if your pet is a space alien

WCBA TODAY

THE VOICE OF THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE

SPECIAL EDITION

MUSICAL COURTROOMS GAME: We have a winner! Now you can stop searching - Page 12

FRIDAY, June 27, 1997

NEWSLINE

A QUICK READ ON THE NEWS

TITANIC EFFORT: The WCBA will embark on an expedition to raise the RMS *Titanic*. Experts doubt any of the WCBA members can hold their breath long enough to make the mission a success. Page 83.



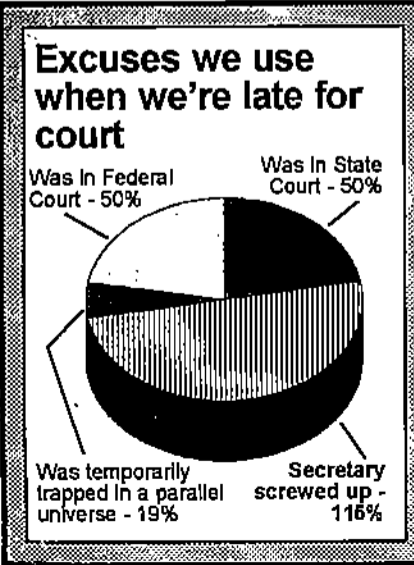
MONEY: Most of us like it, and want more, survey shows. Pg. 40.

FEE AGREEMENTS: Some WCBA lawyers adopt strict no-tipping policy; others label monthly billing statements: "For clients with bills of \$100 or more, an automatic 20% gratuity is added." Attorney Grievance Commission is reviewing the policy. Page 93.

KILLER VIRUS EFFECTS BREATHALYZER TEST RESULTS: New defense used in OUIL cases. Pg. 70.

SPORTS: Year 2000 Olympics will feature mud wrestling, pillow fighting events. Page 21.

FASCINATING FACT: If a medieval battering ram were placed in the aisle of a 747 Jet Liner, the flight attendants would have to build a temporary ramp to move the food cart - *Researched by Pam Byrnes*



The Pilot Project: Beacon of Reform, or Tool of the Devil?

SURVEY SAYS: EVERYONE LOVES THE UNIFIED COURT

ANN ARBOR - WCBA TODAY has obtained exclusive results of the Unified Court survey, and (not surprisingly) they show overwhelming support for the Demonstration Project's Unified Court System in Washtenaw County.

The complete survey results were revealed at the March 14 WCBA Bench/Bar Conference at the Travis Point Country Club. Upcoming phases in the Demonstration Project (see feature article) promise even more streamlining and efficiency in the future.

Here are some highlights of the survey results:

- 98% like the free soft drink refills with every new divorce case.
- 3% are "very satisfied" with the indoor pool and massage room in the attorneys' lounge, but would be more satisfied if it remained a secret from the other 97%.
- 62% are "extremely satisfied" that WCBA President Jonathan Rowe wears a top hat in his photos, but 27% think that only Andy Fanta should be allowed to wear headgear in the

bar portraits.

- .07% suggested the project would be "greatly improved" if it caused Eugene Hanlon to win all of his cases.
- 100% favor a new court rule allowing adjournments when litigants can't find the courtroom. The rule was inspired by a lawyer who was recently found wandering the halls for 6 days, without food or water. The statute of limitations on his case expired before he found the courtroom. Several witnesses in the case are still missing.



USA PRESIDENT FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT signs a bill into law allowing Washtenaw County to launch its Demonstration Project court system.

Washtenaw's Unified Court System Plans New Phases

Appointment of new judges is crucial to project's success

The Washtenaw County judicial system's foray into the 21st Century is proceeding rapidly. The unified court system has put our county at the forefront of justice delivery and continues to set standards across the state. Several additional phases are upcoming, which will make the system "more streamlined, efficient and convenient" and "less costly for the public," according to County and WCBA officials.

Current problems with the unified court system can be directly traced to the judicial vacancies created when Judges Patrick Conlin and Karl Fink left the bench. Unified court officials expect all problems to be eliminated now that Archie Brown and Kirk Tabbey have taken the bench. Here is a brief description of the upcoming phases for the Demonstration Project:

Phase III: The two new Judges will be assigned to handle all contested and uncontested divorce and custody cases, all Circuit Court felony cases for the whole

From the home office in CLASSIC YPSILANTI . . .

Ypsilanti Township Considers Name Change

THE TOWNSHIP (AP) - The Ypsilanti Township Board of Commissioners has floated a proposal to change the Township's name to "Ford Lake Township." Others would change the name to honor former Supervisor Wesley Prater (see #7 below). No action has yet been taken, and the Board has solicited other ideas for a new name. The following is the result of a non-scientific survey:

TOP 10 NEW NAMES FOR YPSILANTI TOWNSHIP

10. Ypssissippi
9. Babylon-on-the-Huron
8. West Pointe
7. St. Pratersburg (formerly Pratergrad)
6. West Van Buren Township
5. Courierville
4. New Belleville
3. Ho Chi Minh Charter Township
2. (Prince Symbol) *Read: The Township formerly known as Ypsilanti*
1. Inferior Township

Please see COVER STORY page two

WCBA
TODAY

Life

FRIDAY, June 27, 1997

Horoscopes

PISCES - February 19 to March 20: Try to be more charitable; give money to Greg Dodd.

ARIES - March 21 to April 19: This is a good week to buy expensive gifts for Greg Dodd.

TAURUS - April 20 to May 20: An angry motorist has it in for you this week; for safety's sake, loan your car to Greg Dodd and take the bus.

GEMINI - May 21 to June 20: Try to work harder at the office; ask Greg Dodd if you can do some work for him.

CANCER - June 21 to July 22: A visit from Greg Dodd may be in your future. Treat him well.

LEO - July 23 to August 22: Pamper yourself with a gourmet dinner; why not invite Greg Dodd?

VIRGO - August 23 to September 22: A financial windfall is in your future; let Greg Dodd play the stock market with your money.

LIBRA - September 23 to October 22: This is a good week to do favors for Greg Dodd.

SCORPIO - October 23 to November 21: Let your conscience be your guide; give money to Greg Dodd.

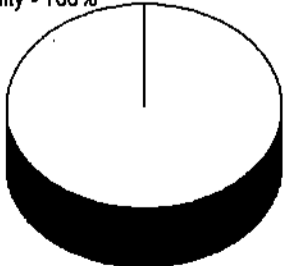
SAGITTARIUS - November 22 to December 21: Material goods are of no use to you; let Greg Dodd take them off your hands.

CAPRICORN - December 22 to January 19: Remember: it doesn't hurt to do favors for people; see Greg Dodd.

AQUARIUS - January 20 to February 18: Be nice to Greg Dodd; your future could be in his hands.

Types of cases
handled by
Mike Vincent

Falsely accused defendants
who are absolutely, 100% not
guilty - 100%



Source: NASA

TODAY'S
TIP-OFF

WCBA GROUP PORTRAITS: If you purchased the group portrait, please stop by the WCBA office to pick up your FREE **MAGNIFYING GLASS**

AVAILABLE IN STORES FOR CHRISTMAS:
The Unified Court Home Game
(WARNING: too complicated for children - and most adults)

More Efficient for Everyone - and No Gripping!**Pilot Project Moves Forward**

COVER STORY Cont. from front page
county, probating of all estates, small claims for the 14-B District Court, as well as answering phones for the County Clerk and Register of Deeds, and janitorial work in several County buildings. Unified court planners cite the "streamlining, efficiency, and cost savings" which the plan will bring to County government. For further cost savings, the plan also includes a 50% reduction of the new judges' salaries, phased in over 3 weeks.

Automation: The 14-A District Courts have already stopped answering phones after 3:30 p.m. With Phase III, phone answering will be cut back to 1:00 p.m. and eventually discontinued altogether. County officials have determined that by not answering the telephones, court staff would be able to get far more work done. Still under study is a plan to eliminate computers and typewriters, which would further reduce a major burden on the justice system and save the County an estimated \$36,000 annually. "It's surprising no one thought of this before" said a spokesperson for the County.

Phase IV: All case classification codes under MCR 8.117 will be consolidated into one unified code: LS ("Legal Stuff"). With this phase, all pleadings must bear this unified case code, or they will be rejected by the clerk. No other codes will be accepted.

Physical changes: With this phase, the glass partitions at clerk's offices will be replaced with solid brick walls, to help prevent an increase in case filings and therefore allow the system to operate more smoothly.

Security: The Sheriff will also beef up courthouse security by sealing off all remaining doors to the courthouse.

Phase V: This phase will see the elimination of all off-site courts (those outside the US-23/M-14/I-94 beltway). Judges currently assigned to off-site courts will be provided with roving bookmobile-style vans to administer justice off-site, in the outlying areas of the county. This phase will also see the elimination of all off-site police agencies. Police officers currently assigned to the defunct departments will be reassigned to clerical duties with the Ann Arbor Police Department.

Phase VI: The bookmobile-style vans will be eliminated and replaced with push-carts which the judges can use to walk up and down streets outside the beltway.

Judges will go door-to-door asking residents if they have any legal problems which they need resolved while the judge is in the neighborhood. The push-carts will also be fitted with warming trays so the judges can offer hot dogs and big salty pretzels, which should defray their costs (County funding of off-site courts will be discontinued with this phase).

Phase VII: Remaining police agencies in the county will be eliminated. Law enforcement for the whole county will become the responsibility of the two new judges. Officials are predicting that police response time will drop only "imperceptibly," and only for a short time. As soon as the slack is picked up, fire fighting will be added to the new judges' duties.

With the completion of this last phase, officials foresee a completely streamlined system, more convenient for the County to operate and administer. They are hopeful that Washtenaw County will be a beacon to the state, and these changes will be picked up by other Michigan counties and implemented on a wider scale statewide. For example, it has already been suggested that the new Washtenaw Circuit Court judges will add managing the State DNR to their portfolios. One might also have to conduct the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

Some of the most pressing problems with the system have yet to be addressed. Officials have long promised greater reliance on astrology in the judicial decision making process, but this has yet to be reflected in local court rules.

Clip and save these valuable money-saving couponsDoes *Res Ipsa Loquitur* offer you this?**PLEA TO IMPAIRED
DRIVING**GOOD FOR CHARGED OFFENSE OF
OUIL 1ST OR LESS

SORRY, NOT HONORED FOR OVER .15%

BLOOD ALCOHOL CONTENT

REDEEM WITH ANN ARBOR CITY ATTORNEY

**FILE ONE
MOTION, SECOND
MOTION FREE**Both motions on same case
Redeem at Washtenaw
Trial Court Services
(See also MCR 2.119)**BYPASS PROBATE, GO
DIRECTLY TO HEIRS**GOOD ONLY FOR \$15,000 WORTH OF PROPERTY
TITLED TO THE DECEDENT ALONE
(SEE ALSO MCL 700.102)FREE SUBSCRIPTION
TO WCBA TODAY
Newsstand Price: \$50
Get the UNTOLD STORY
behind the Washtenaw
County Courts!