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Alan Page for Minnesota Supreme Court

The clear thinking that is one of Alan Page's many qualifications for the state's highest court was evident when he successfully challenged the gubernatorial extension of a Minnesota Supreme Court justice's term and fought for an election. His keen mind, his dedication to justice and his diverse experience in a 13-year legal career argue for Page's election.

Now a Minnesota assistant attorney general, Page worked as an attorney in a large Minneapolis law firm from 1979 to 1984 and as a special assistant in the attorney general's office from 1985 to 1987. His success in arguing cases before the supreme court and appeals court prepare him for the civil and workload commitments that make up the bulk of the supreme court's work. Page has been a University of Minnesota regent since 1989 and

financed an educational foundation that provides financial assistance to students of color. If elected, Page would become Minnesota's first justice of color. In a state where about half of prison inmates are minority-group members, the underrepresentation of color in the court system is troubling. It underscores the distressing racial separation between the dispensers and recipients of justice. Page's election would change that.

Johnson is also well qualified. A former public defender and now a Hennepin County prosecutor, he's a veteran criminal-trial attorney. Johnson was a finalist for a Ramsey County judgeship last year and for chief judge of the Minnesota Court of Appeals this year. Such judgeships would make the most of his criminal-justice experience.

Both candidates have good credentials for judicial service. For this office, at this time, Page is the better choice.



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Keep Justices Keith, Tomljanovich, Garbering

The voters' antiscandal mood will inevitably send some office-holders packing. But three incumbent justices of the Minnesota Supreme Court deserve, instead, a strong affirmative vote to stay.

Garbering has the strongest opponent, Roger Peterson. Peterson is an able union lawyer with 34 years of broad legal experience. He's disillusioned, he says, with the judicial appointment process, with what he alleges are some jagged conflicts of interest with low work ethic, and with certain practices of the Court of Appeals. Garbering's judgeship arose from his career service in government and from the appointments process Peterson opposes.

Peterson is right about Garbering getting to the court, but wrong to conclude that her background leaves her less qualified than he to be there. Garbering was known as Gov. Rudy Perpich's trouble-shooter; he put her in charge of pollution control, human services (the state's biggest agency) and the Metropolitan Council. These experiences, plus a stint as a federal official, gave her insights that strengthen the court's deliberations. When she moved up from the appeals court after 18 months there, fellow appeals judges described her as bright, innovative, compassionate and a team player. She deserves election.

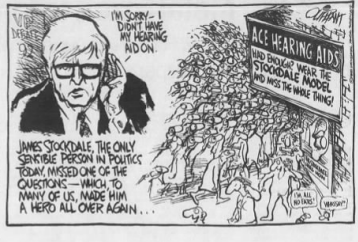
Sandy Keith is challenged by Ross Phelps, a La Crosse-area practitioner and part-time public defender. Although he's a small-town lawyer, Phelps says he's had experience with big and difficult cases. He too is challenging the system, including appoint-

mentees based on political ties. He proposes higher pay for jurors, better jury access for the handicapped and cameras in courtroom.

Keith says that he also favors cameras, but justice doesn't, that handicapped access is being worked out, and that a substantial increase in jury pay, as Judge proposes, is out of step with state finances. Keith says all judges he knows had some political connections, even if minimal in some cases. Furthermore, Keith was appointed by Perpich, who no longer speaks to him because of a court decision favoring Arne Carlson. Meanwhile, Keith is working to speed up criminal cases, to implement gender-equality recommendations and to promote mediation as an alternative to trial. He should stay hands-off.

Esther Tomljanovich's opponent is Mark Dopplars, a solo practitioner in downtown Minneapolis. He says he's turning to challenge the system rather than Tomljanovich specifically. Politics destabilize the system's integrity, he argues. A governor's appointments are supposedly for six-year terms, but actually are lifetime unless voters have a subsequent choice in elections. His opponent, he says, is a government carterist.

But Tomljanovich's six-year term ended government work because private law practice was not a promising career for women who she got her degree. That's changing, nowhere more significantly than at the Minnesota Supreme Court where women are now a majority. The women justices have enlarged the court's sensitivity and understanding while maintaining its high judicial standards. Voters can maintain those qualities by returning Tomljanovich, along with Keith and Garbering.



JAMES STOKOALE, THE ONLY SENIORS PERSON IN POLITICS TODAY, MISSED ONE OF THE MANY OF US, MADE HIM A HERO ALL OVER AGAIN...

Letters from readers

A duty to speak out

I am 39 years old. I want quite old enough to participate in demonstrations against the Vietnam War, but as a man I wanted them with great interest. As an adult looking back, I understand what a tumultuous period that was in our nation's history. Some of my most voluble years were spent in Canada doing conscientiously and self-educating myself on the Vietnam War. Some of the most demoralizing military involvement in Vietnam was that time period typical for me as well as for little children there. We all made choices, either consciously or not, to support or oppose the war. We all operated with the best light we had available. I am sure that the young Bill Clinton made the choice he believed at the time, was right.

That President Bush should accept Gov. Clinton of being unopposed because he participated in anti-Vietnam War activities is not only a disservice to him but also a disservice to the many difficult challenges ahead of us. It is time to be heard from the front lines. It is time to put the war behind us. It is time to put the blame on the war machine. —Sally Carlson-Brenner, Roselle, Ill.

Media prurience

As a proponent of the Equal Rights Amendment, I have experienced a number of situations involving the media in the past several months. It is no secret that the media has a long history of prurience. During this time, I have seen how the media has covered the Equal Rights Amendment and both papers in the metropolitan area have been very unbecomingly and unprofessionally in their coverage of the amendment. Not only have we been dealt with the loss of our own and brother's friends, but we also have had, in some instances, with media insensitive to the needs of the community.

My frustration, however, does not speak out here but the tragedy here. Hennepin County High School, consisting of 250 students, was recently one of two chosen in a feature area commissioned by Delta Records to record a Christmas album. This same album will perform this spring at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

Makowski too extreme

Hennepin County Commissioner Judy Makowski appeared Oct. 8 at the Senate District 59 Independent Republican candidate forum. Although she was the only candidate not endorsed by the party, she asked for our support and invited her campaign. After hearing DFL Rep. John Sannes give public testimony to the Senate Arch Bridge, she attempted to justify her request for funding the recommended family planning programs of Planned Parenthood and Midwest Health Center for Women. Her support, along with John Larson and John Keefe, for Total Life Care Centers and natural family planning, indicates how extreme some County Board members have become.

Makowski's efforts to deny a complex range of family planning services must be viewed as insensitive to individual and family needs and as grossly out of step. Her continued support for right-wing conservative social policy is not in line with mainstream Republican ideals or her own record. —Thomas Church, Minneapolis.

Attack on church

Question: Since when does the Star Tribune print anything that is not signed with the correct name? The box at the bottom of the Commentary page states: "We require that all submissions be exclusive to Minnesota. All must include the writer's name, address and telephone number (week and home) and letters must include the writer's signature as well." Yet "Pharisee Mason," Commentary, Oct. 13 is a pseudonym.

"Mason," president of a disorganized body, states she called the Catholic Church. What Catholic Church? What Catholic Church? What? If one wasn't prepared to help her, why not suggest that she call Catholic Charities — in the diocese of Catholic Charities, Catholic Charities has programs dealing with both property and adoption.

It is obvious that "Mason" is putting us on in an attempt to paint the Catholic Church, family values and Dan Quayle with the same broad brush of immorality. It is sad that "Mason" felt the need to denigrate the Catholic Church. It is even sadder that the Star Tribune, while pride itself on its professionalism, either fell for "Mason's" ploy or aided and abetted her in pulling it off. —Peg Collins, Pevely, Mo.; Catholic League, Milwaukee.

Insight from oversight

On Sept. 24, the day after I submitted the article, the Fortrell bill mentioned — the one that tightens the U.S. blockade against Cuba — passed in Congress with barely a vote. Three weeks later, in Oct. 13, Star Tribune carried a one-inch report of the vote. Three weeks later, with out the usual update, my article indicates that it is still pending.

But in an ironic way, your paper's editorial oversight illustrates a couple of important points about the legislative process. First, it demonstrates how little we know about what our representatives in Washington do from day to day and how pathetically dependent we are on the news media to keep us posted. Even at the Star Tribune, the right hand seems not to have known what stories the left hand was writing.

I think it is also sad to say, second, that had the average citizen known about this bill and its implications, there would have been more opposition to it in Congress. Judging from my admittedly unscientific polls of neighbors and friends and police people who have asked me about my September trip to Cuba, most people are puzzled — even esterase — about our government's continuing punishment of Cuba. If majority votes were truly reflected in Washington, I have no doubt that constructive reform rather than destructive violence would shape our policies, especially regarding Cuba. —Harley Bridges Elliott, St. Paul.

Reaching across the generation gap

Letter from a 41-year-old daughter to her 67-year-old mother: Dear Mom:

Did you see the story in the Star Tribune a few days ago, the one about the generation gap? Please take a look at it. I think it says something important to you and me.

It says we're not alone in our disagreements on so many things — me working while the kids are little, how often I go to church or to a gambling casino, whether I'm OK for my white friend to be involved with a black man. Lots of people in my generation see the world differently than people in your generation do — especially on those kinds of issues, social rather than political. Our ages, something we can't control, may be at the root of the friction between us — not, as you say, that I'm stubborn and won't listen to criticism, or, as I say to others, that you won't let me grow up.

The world I grew up in was so different from what you experienced. You knew a high-kiln, isolated little town, poverty during the Depression, the anxiety and patriotic zeal of your war. I'm always amazed to realize that you didn't have electricity on the farm until you were 11 years old.

You moved to the city and bought your first television set when you were pregnant with me — and that alone made my world so much bigger than yours. My hero was the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.; my war music made me question my country's leaders; my dreams more than once included a nightmare about nuclear holocaust. The Minnesota State Phil says those things didn't just make you different from me — it made my generation different from yours.

The story quotes a professor who says we have to just live with those disagreements for the rest of our days, that they're locked into who we are. Maybe so. But maybe if we understand better why we disagree, we can at least accept each other, respect each other and be gentler to each other.

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Refighting the ERA war: Iowa ponders a constitutional change

By Ellen Goodman
In the Boston Globe

Developers, Iowa has long been the proponent of the Equal Rights Amendment but has been behind in the right-wing attacks that had put it as a conspiracy concocted by feminists who were hell-bent on forcing mothers out of their homes and into combat boots.

The federal amendment ran out of time in 1982. The last attempt to get the ERA was a bitter battle five years ago in Vermont, when a bipartisan coalition of Democrats and Republicans carried a typical dad war-time bill to the state legislature. It was about equal rights for women. It was not about equal rights for men, and it was not about equal rights for women. It was not about equal rights for women. It was not about equal rights for women.

There are now 15 states that have had an equal-rights amendment for more than a decade. The fear that an ERA would have untold effects on the economy, you see. There are now 15 states that have had an equal-rights amendment for more than a decade. The fear that an ERA would have untold effects on the economy, you see.

add women to the state constitution that now reads, "all men are by nature free and equal possessors of the rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

What is different this year is that Iowa voters may have been inoculated against attack ads. What is different is that the pro-ERA forces are better prepared. They are spending less time answering charges about women voters and homosexual marriage, and more time talking about discrimination and — at the age in Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton's campaign headquarters put it — "the economy, you see."

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they produced feminist slogans. They have however closed the loopholes in laws that allowed discrimination in jobs, health insurance, and scholarship.

"We are playing a much tougher game," said Sen. "We're not just talking about the ERA as a simple matter of justice. We studied what the ERA has done in other states and how it would impact Iowa. We're aware it means more to your pocketbook."

They cite examples right across the age spectrum. In Iowa, college students still face the threat of sexual harassment. Young men, working women, boys and girls are being sexually abused for every dollar paid to men, and several women receive \$1 million less in assistance than men with the same policies.

The anti have clearly targeted elderly voters whose support for the

amendment is softer and the vote turnout is stronger. Reassigned reports this that emerging a kind of "can" by people "preying on the elderly." The ERA groups have concentrated ads, including one with anti-feminists. Dear Abby suggests: "Take my advice and support Amendment No. 1 on November 3."

Despite all the old battle sounds, there is something refreshing about the ERA fight. For the first decade, most of the energy of the women's movement has been used to hold on to past gains, to resist the disintegration and erosion of rights. Here, in Iowa, as broad as, "The beauty of this campaign is that we are fighting to move forward."

To quote again from Robertson's die-hard feminist, "Frat, Iowa, you're the nation." He had it right.