

Although the election is still 18 months away, gubernatorial politics already drives events in Maryland. What follows is a handicapper's guide to selected candidates. Candidates are rated from zero to 10, with zero representing "no chance" and 10 representing "a sure bet" to be on the ballot in November 1998. The ratings are unscientific and pretty much arbitrary, as shall become obvious, and the list isn't intended to be exhaustive.

Gov. Parris N. Glendening

Rating: 9

The incumbent Democrat used the power of the purse skillfully to move a campaign against urban sprawl and a bailout for the troubled Baltimore city schools through the General Assembly. He has thus far diverted the conversation away from his failures.



Ellen Sauerbrey

Rating: 9

Appears set to be the Republican nominee again. She has been campaigning and raising money continuously since her near-victory in 1994. She still suffers from the "Ellen Sour-grapes" label, but is working on a softer image.



Ben Cardin

Rating: 7

Said to be seriously considering a primary challenge to Mr. Glendening. His laid-back style, winning personality, ability to raise money and background as former speaker of the House of Delegates make the congressman a serious contender. But is the Baltimore Democrat crazy enough to leave the cushy confines of Capitol Hill for a stab at the



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By Sean Scully

State House?

Chuck Ecker

Rating: 5

Howard County's Republican chief executive wants to run, but Mrs. Sauerbrey is miles ahead in money and name recognition. As a power base, the bustling metropolis of Columbia is no equal to Baltimore, Montgomery County or Prince George's County.



Gov. George Allen

Rating: 1

Sure, he's governor of Virginia, but he'll be looking for work after 1997, as Virginia law forbids a governor from serving two consecutive terms. But what's to stop the son of the great coach George Allen from following his beloved Washington Redskins in their move to Landover?



Ex-Gov. William Donald Schaefer

Rating: 1

Appears to be retired, but Mr. Schaefer has always been a bit unpredictable. Besides, his ego can't let him second-guess every other elected official in Maryland forever.



■Have an item for *That's Politics*? Call Sean Scully at 301/858-6555 or write to him at *The Washington Times*, 3600 New York Ave. NE, Washington, D.C. 20002

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By Sean Scully

Ellen saves the Earth

Not only can she run for governor of Maryland, Republican Ellen Sauerbrey can save the planet.

Said a press release from the Sauerbrey campaign this week: "Ellen Sauerbrey announced today a revolutionary environmental technique, which may save much of Maryland's crabbing industry."

The new technique: replanting bay grasses, the once-plentiful vegetation that provides a safe home for crabs and other aquatic life.

Funny thing is, though, the technique is neither entirely new nor entirely revolutionary.

"We have been working with SAVs [submerged aquatic vegetation, or bay grass] for years now," a state Department of Natural Resources spokesman said.

Nor did Mrs. Sauerbrey develop the technique. That honor goes to waterman and Sauerbrey supporter Jim Iman.

Mr. Iman did come up with a novel angle: replanting the seeds from tons of grass hauled up by crab pots and floats. Those plants used to go to waste.

But Mr. Iman came up with the idea years ago, and DNR scientists are now working out the best way to apply the technique throughout the Chesapeake Bay, said Dave Goshorn, chief of the department's Living Resources Assessment Program.

"It's not going to solve all the problems, but it's something at least," Mr. Goshorn said.

Mrs. Sauerbrey's campaign didn't flinch when teased about the hyperbolic headline on the press release.

"Especially as a former biology teacher, she is committed to the environment," spokeswoman Laura Woolfrey said. "People like to think that Republicans like to drink dirty water and breathe dirty air, when in fact we enjoy being stewards of the environment."

Next week: Ellen cures cancer.

Guarding the rear

Democrats in Montgomery and Prince George's counties have been making ominous noises about Maryland Gov. Parris N. Glendening lately. The governor, therefore, has moved to shore up his home territory by naming two Washington-area powers to key positions in his re-election campaign.

Michael Barnes — a Washington lawyer, former congressman and Democratic Party activist — will head up the campaign, Mr. Glendening announced Wednesday.

Mr. Barnes represented Montgomery County in the House of Representatives from 1979 to 1987. He gave up the



Setting the pace

Virginia Gov. George F. Allen, his wife, Susan (left), and fitness expert Denise Austin lead a two-mile walk during yesterday's kickoff festivities for the Commission on Fitness in Richmond.



Ellen R. Sauerbrey

position for an unsuccessful run for governor.

His appointment, along with the recent selection of Prince George's County lawyer Peter Krauser as state Democratic Party chairman, consolidates the leadership of the re-election effort in the Washington suburbs, which, with Baltimore city, produced Mr. Glendening's 1994 victory.

Some Washington-area Democrats have become less than pleased with Mr. Glendening: The former county executive left Prince George's County with an imposing budget deficit, he handed over \$200 million in state money for a football stadium in Baltimore, and he backed a \$254 million bailout for Baltimore city schools without forking over as much extra school money as suburban counties demanded for themselves.

But Mr. Glendening's campaign denies he is pandering to the Washington suburbs to shore up his home territory.

"I think Mike [Barnes] has a

reputation of being concerned about all of Maryland," Mr. Krauser said.

Mr. Barnes said the re-election team "will be representative of people from all parts of the state."

Fighting tradition

Virginians do love their traditions — even some unpleasant ones — so Republican gubernatorial candidate James S. Gilmore III may be venturing into dangerous territory.

Mr. Gilmore promises to eliminate much of the state's local personal property tax. But while many state residents hate the tax, his promise flies in the face of three centuries of Virginia tradition.

The first tax on personal property in Virginia came in 1654, when the House of Burgesses voted to tax cattle and sheep. Because most of the burgesses were plantation owners who owned cattle and sheep, the tax was not enforced for decades until the the colonists found they needed the tax revenue for a war.

In 1842, the General Assembly added watches, pianos, gold and silver plates, and clocks. Nine years later the constitution extended the tax to all personal property.

Today the personal property tax focuses on the state's 4.1 million vehicles, providing the second-largest source of local revenue: \$1.1 billion a year, or about 14 percent of the total.

Mr. Gilmore has said growing tax revenue from other sources would pay for the proposal.

• This column is based in part on wire service reports. Have an item for That's Politics? Call Sean Scully at 301/858-6555 or write to him at The Washington Times, 3600 New York Ave. NE, Washington, D.C. 20002.

May 30, 1997

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No sweat

The key to winning statewide office in Maryland is never to let them see you sweat. Literally.

The annual J. Millard Tawes Crab and Clam Bake in Crisfield, held Wednesday, is the obligatory stop for all those that would be governor. And comptroller. And attorney general.

But Crisfield in July is about the hottest and muggiest place on the planet. This year's festival was so hot and so muggy that it was like breathing in a bowl of lukewarm soup. Most unpleasant, even with unlimited National Bohemian beer flowing.

But the statewide candidates, as always, looked as cool and sweat-free as country-club members in an air-conditioned clubhouse.

The king of this, of course, is the legendary Louis L. Goldstein, 84, who has held elective office in Maryland since Gov. Parris N. Glendening was in kindergarten. He's been comptroller for four decades and is actively seeking another term.

Louie, as he is invariably called, did not show evidence of a single drop of sweat, working the perspiring crowd while clad in what appeared to be a blue safari suit.

Other candidates managed a similar feat, although without quite the ultracool look of Mr. Goldstein.

Staffers for the candidates don't like to be quoted, but they will privately concede that there is a science to looking cool in the miasma of a Crisfield summer: lots of fluids, lots of fresh shirts, a quick wipe of the brow or judicious dab of fresh makeup.

Several candidates took the easy route — arrive late and leave early, before the sweat breaks out. The governor, a Democrat, tried a version of this — he dallied for a while and stayed under the shade of hospitality tents.

He was dogged throughout by the minions of Republican Ellen Sauerbrey. They paraded behind him with signs and taunted him with duck calls — "lame duck calls," they explained. Last year, they dogged him with stickers saying "Parris is corruption."

His only declared Democratic rival, Harford County Executive Eileen Rehrmann, didn't seem to stay very long at all, and she managed to look radiant and freshly pressed throughout.

House Speaker Casper Taylor, Allegany Democrat and a possible gubernatorial candidate, and Howard County Executive Chuck Ecker, a Republican candidate, stayed longer than the governor yet likewise never sweated. No word on their secrets.

Mrs. Sauerbrey, the Republican front-runner, as is her usual style, stayed from start to finish. The only sign of strain was a tendency for the Sauerbrey bumper sticker on her hat to sag off in the heat.

The one candidate on everyone's lips — Rep. Benjamin L. Cardin, a Democrat who is rapidly becoming the Mario Cuomo of the governor's race — didn't



Louis L. Goldstein



Ellen Sauerbrey



Gov. Parris N. Glendening

attend. The U.S. House of Representatives was in session and Mr. Cardin can't afford to be absent until he's decided whether to run for the State House. If he's serious about this governor's race, he better learn not to sweat before next year's festival.

Pressing matters

When Mayor Marion Barry introduced new D.C. Public Works Director Richard A. Malchow to reporters at a press conference on Wednesday, he warned his new hire to watch his step.

"Welcome to the rough and tumble politics of Washington, D.C.," said Mr. Barry, adding that the reporters who cover the city are "objective, sometimes."

Mr. Malchow is currently first deputy commissioner of the New York City Department of Transportation, a job he is giving up to assume the top job in the District effective Sept. 1. Mr. Malchow, diplomatically, said nothing about the press when he rose to make a few polite comments thanking Mr. Barry for the appointment.

After the press conference was over, Mr. Malchow was riding in an elevator when he was asked how the D.C. press compares to that in the Big Apple, where the New York Post, the

New York Observer, the New York Daily News and the New York Times all take coverage of the city government very seriously.

Mr. Malchow smiled and thought for a second. "I don't think they're as tough here," he said.

Free money

As Maryland prepares to close the books on the fiscal year that ended June 30, revenue collections are \$126 million higher than expected, officials said. That sets the stage for a State House battle next year over what to do with the extra money.

The surplus is small compared with the state's overall \$15.4 billion budget. Nonetheless, Gov. Parris N. Glendening said Wednesday he was pleased with the new revenue figures.

"We must seize the moment to invest in our future," Mr. Glendening said at a seafood festival in Crisfield.

Others weren't so sure. "We're going to have to fight the zealotism of people who want to spend more money without concern for the out-year consequences," said Delegate Howard "Pete" Rawlings, Baltimore Democrat and chairman of the all-powerful House Appropriations Committee. "That's where a lot of political battles are likely to be fought."

Delegate Robert Kittleman, Howard Republican and House minority leader, said he would like to see the surplus used for tax relief.

"In the first three years, it's easy [to deal with the tax cut] but after that it gets hard," Mr. Kittleman said. "We should make sure that the tax cut is real and not ephemeral."

• Vincent Morris contributed to this column, which is based in part on wire service reports. Have an item for That's Politics? Call Sean Scully at 301/858-6555 or write to him at The Washington Times, 3600 New York Ave. NE, Washington, D.C. 20002.

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Nero fiddles . . .

While the troubles in D.C. schools continue, school board President Don Reeves is worried about where he gets to sit at meetings.

Mr. Reeves, who is also a member of the emergency board of trustees appointed by the D.C. financial control board to rescue the troubled system, is bitter because he no longer gets to sit next to trustee Chairman Bruce K. MacLaury. He claims he was moved to the end of the dais last month after he demanded Mr. MacLaury resign in the wake of the trustees' decision that construction delays will postpone opening day until the end of September.

In an Aug. 18 letter to the trustees and to schools chief Julius W. Becton Jr., Mr. Reeves said the 11-member elected school board is behind him in objecting to the new seating arrangement.

But school board member Angie K. Corley was less than emphatic on Mr. Reeves' behalf when asked for comment.

"I would argue that he is representing 11 members and he is representing the public," Mrs. Corley said. "It's only a symbol, though. Everybody has the same one vote around the table."

Mr. Reeves also claims his new seat is in a hostile environment. At a public meeting Aug. 12, he charges, board member M. Charito Krivant "attacked" him.

"She was screaming and yelling at me the whole time and she took [documents] from me and threw them at me. Then she called me a name," said Mr. Reeves, who wouldn't elaborate on what she said.

A spokesman for Mrs. Krivant — and several people who attended the meeting — firmly deny that anything of the sort ever happened.

If you can't beat 'em

The Prince George's County Civic Federation spent a lot of time fighting the new Redskins

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By Sean Scully

stadium in Landover, racking up plenty of legal bills in the process.

What better way to pay the debt than become a vendor at Jack Kent Cooke Stadium when it opens next month.

Just last month, former civic federation President Stan Fetter received a letter from the team offering to let the group become a concessionaire at the stadium, an offer the Redskins extended to many nonprofit groups in the county.

"The first thing I thought was 'you guys are so stupid that it's beyond my original expectations, which I thought couldn't be exceeded,'" Mr. Fetter said.

When the handwritten envelope first arrived, Mr. Fetter saw the Redskins' return address and expected trouble.

"But I never expected to be invited down to be a peanut vendor," he said.

Redskins officials later conceded that the letter was a mistake, Mr. Fetter said.

"But there's part of me that still thinks it would be fun to call them up," Mr. Fetter mused.

Unfortunately, the deadline was Aug. 7.

Boss Hog?

Former Washington Redskin Ray Schoenke wants to be Maryland's governor.

In a surprise announcement this week, the retired football player and Montgomery County businessman said he had formed a committee to explore a run at the Democratic nomination for governor in 1998.

But the former star offensive lineman, who has never held political office, may face even tougher opposition than he did on the gridiron — a well-fi-

nanced incumbent in the person of Gov. Parris N. Glendening and a veteran challenger in the form of two-term Harford County Executive Eileen Rehrmann.

And that doesn't count the potential "Lawrence Taylor" of the primary, Rep. Benjamin L. Cardin, the popular Baltimore Democrat who is still weighing a stab at the Democratic nomination.

But Mr. Schoenke, a wealthy insurance company executive, hopes to turn his novice status into an asset.

"Voters want a clear alternative that will not be politics as usual," he wrote in a statement announcing his possible candidacy. "I come from a background of professional sports and business where there are no excuses. You must produce results."

Of course, Mr. Schoenke might run into a few problems on the issues. In 1995, as a member of Mr. Glendening's panel studying firearms and violence, for example, Mr. Schoenke suggested legalizing drugs as a way to cut down violent crime. And apparently he was serious.

"It's a very sensitive and hotly debated subject," Mr. Schoenke said at the time. "But many people argue that it's at the root of violence, and I think it needs to be looked [at] head-on."

The panel did not include the suggestion in its recommendations to the governor.

Mr. Schoenke is not the first long-shot candidate to make clear his desire to run. Earlier this summer, Dr. Terry McGuire, a general practice physician in Seat Pleasant, said he plans to step into the race. Like Mr. Schoenke, he plans to use his outsider status as a selling point.

• *Karyn Spellman contributed to this column. Have an item for That's Politics? Call Sean Scully at 301/858-6555 or write to him at The Washington Times, 3600 New York Ave. NE, Washington, D.C. 20002.*

Regional News

That's politics

By Sean Scully

has wrapped herself in the mantle of Virginia Republican Gov.-elect James S. Gilmore III and called for a cut in the state property tax.

■ **Ray Schoenke:** 1 (April rank: NA). Democrat. By the time this former Washington Redskins offensive lineman decides whether or not to run, the election will be over.

■ **Terry McGuire:** 2 (April rank: NA). Democrat. He's doing pretty well for a newcomer. But the doctor has only managed to raise a little more than \$100,000 — hardly enough to beat Mr. Glendening, the million-dollar man.

■ **Marion Barry:** 1 (April rank: NA). Democrat. As his powers dwindle in the District, perhaps Hizzoner should consider a pleasant retirement in Annapolis.

■ **Marvin Mandel:** 1 (April rank: NA). Democrat. The disgraced former governor has made an astounding comeback, even practicing law again. Today, the courthouse; tomorrow, the State House?

■ **Ben Cardin:** 0 (April rank: 7). Democrat. Look, he dropped out way back in the summer. Get over it.

■ **Don Allensworth:** ? (April rank: NA). Party: We can't tell. A call to his campaign headquarters, listed on his voluminous press releases, was answered by a person who said he was "no longer accepting his calls." A call to Mr. Allensworth's home got a small child. An adult could be heard lecturing the child on phone etiquette for more than a minute, but he never came to the phone. A Dec. 9 call to the new headquarters number has so far gone unreturned.

With the Virginia election in the bag and the Maryland election less than a year away, it's time again to visit the potential candidates for the Free State's top job.

What follows is a handicapper's guide to selected candidates. They are rated from zero to 10, with zero representing "no chance" and 10 representing "a sure bet" to be on the November ballot. The ratings are unscientific and pretty much arbitrary — as shall become obvious:

■ **Parris N. Glendening:** 9 (April rank: 9). Democrat. Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day, give a governor pfiesteria and he will eat for four more years.

■ **Ellen Sauerbrey:** 8 (April rank: 9). Republican. She remains the GOP front-runner, no question. But some recent grumbling in Republican ranks seems to have uncovered an unflattering defensiveness in the campaign.

■ **Chuck Ecker:** 6 (April rank: 5). Republican. Still don't know what he stands for, but he remains a heck of a nice guy. And with the grumbling over in the Sauerbrey camp, some Republicans are giving him a second look.

■ **Eileen Rehrmann:** 6 (April rank: NA). Democrat. Suddenly a sheep in wolf's clothing. She



Parris Glendening



Ellen Sauerbrey



Chuck Ecker



Eileen Rehrmann



Ray Schoenke

Courtesy of Jeff's Baseball Corner



Terry McGuire



Marion Barry



Marvin Mandel



Ben Cardin



Don Allensworth

Group hug

The D.C. financial control board seems to be coming under fire from all directions sometimes.

The Greater Washington Board of Trade thinks differently. It recently gave the control board its 1997 "Golden Links Award," presented each year to the person or group that's done the most to link business and the community.

"They have dug into the depths of the city's problems... they have rooted out mismanagement and poor practices, they've taken on the challenge of the school system, and every other aspect of city life, it seems," said Board of Trade Chairman Susan Williams.

"Their goal, in simple terms, is to again make Washington, D.C., the shining example of the

nation's capital."

Whew! Not bad for an agency that recently told Congress it had fallen well short in repairing the government in any significant way. By contrast, the other recipient of the award — D.C. United — has two consecutive professional soccer championships to its name.

Gunning for Young

Maryland legislators have hired Jervis Finney, a former Republican senator and federal prosecutor, as an independent counsel to help with the ethics investigation of state Sen. Larry Young, Baltimore Democrat.

Mr. Young has been accused of using his office to pressure health care firms to send business to private corporations he has interests in. Mr. Young has denied any impropriety and said he welcomed the probe by

the Joint Committee on Legislative Ethics.

Senate President Mike Miller, Prince George's County Democrat, called Mr. Finney "a person of unquestionable integrity." He said it also didn't hurt that Mr. Finney, a self-described partisan, conservative Republican, will help battle the perception the Democratic chairmen of the ethics committee are investigating a fellow Democrat.

Mr. Miller and House Speaker Casper Taylor, Allegany County Democrat, want a report on Mr. Young by Jan. 14. Mr. Finney said he is not sure it can be completed by then, "but we'll give it a good shot."

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