With the candidates

Orlinsky: 'I'm going to pray for him'

By Ann Sagi
AFRO Staff writer

Want to hear "Nice to see yah", "How zit goin'?" and "How yah doin'?" about 200 times in two hours?

Follow City Council President Walter Orlinsky on a campaign tour of the Court House and Waxter Center.

For Orlinsky, a Democratic candidate for governor, politicking in those two places must have been balm for his ego. He trails both the incumbent Acting Gov. Blair Lee III and Baltimore County Executive Theodore Venetoulis in the polls.

And to further dampen Orlinsky, the Washington Star endorsed Harry Hughes, former state Secretary of Transportation, as did the Evening Sun about one week ago.

So the friendly greetings from the Court House employees, even though he knows most of them personally and is their next door neighbor in City Hall, must have buoyed his confidence.

Orlinsky visited a maze of clerk offices — District Cort I, District Court II, Register of Wills, etc.

And in most of them, he was greeted with "Hi, Wally."

Orlinsky went from desk to desk, handing out "handy - dandy" leaflets describing his platform, shaking hands, introducing himself, saying "Nice to see yah" or a variation of that greeting and then he was out the door.

Most of the employees glanced at the leaflets and tucked them under the corner of their blotters.

As he crossed Calvert Street to canvass more court offices he said he was surprised because the clerks all "looked busy. Everybody at least looked as if they were working.

"A couple of years ago everybody was doing embroidery."

First stop was the Sheriff's office. Orlinsky cracked several jokes about a supposed cockroach invasion in that office.

"OK, all cockroaches stand at attention," was his entrance line.

Once again, glad - handing, leaflet passing, vote - for - for - me.

One black employee — and they are scarce in Court House offices — barely glanced at the candidate, accepted a leaflet half - heartedly and went back to work.

More parting cockroach jokes — including pounding a desk to see what, if anything, scurried out.

Upstairs at the state's attorney's office, Orlinsky is greeted by blonde Mary Ann Willin, assistant state's attorney, who suggests offices for him to visit. And she wished him luck.

"Wally, you work harder than anyone I know" said a secretary with frosted blonde hair upstairs from Ms. Willin's office.

"Nice to see you. I sure do work hard," Orlinsky said.

Out of the courthouse, back to City Hall.

Orlinsky's escort for the day, Tegan Harby, daughter of one of his secretary's, drove him to his campaign headquarters on Cathedral Street.

At the corner of Howard and Biddle sts. Orlinsky told Ms. Harby to take a right onto Biddle.

But Biddle is one way — no right turns permitted. "Go ahead. There aren't any cops and nobody's coming," he said.

She made a right and turned into the headquarter's parking lot.

His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Orlinsky, had just returned from campaigning at the Waxter Center for their son.

"Go up there. They're waiting for you. There's a lot of recognition, especially with the black people," his father said.

A campaign aide jokingly asked the senior Orlinsky if he were running for office.

"I can't even walk, much less run. All my running is done downhill," Harry Orlinsky said.

The gubernatorial candidate walked one block to the Waxter Center.

He handed out leaflets to the senior citizens grouped in the lobby. Most of them used his literature as fans to supplement the air conditioning.

"Hi, I'm Wally Orlinsky. I'm running for governor. I hope you'll vote for me," he repeated again and again.

As he moved to another group, a woman he has just talked with asks, "Who is he?"

"He's running for governor. He wants you to vote for him," her friend explained.

"Oh. Is he a Democrat?" the first woman asked.

"Yes."

"Oh. What's his name?"

"Wally Orlinsky."

"Oh."

Orlinsky strode into the cafeteria to work the lunch crowd. He interrupted the diners and passed out pamphlets over their tuna salad, tomatoes and cole slaw.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Long, both Democrats, talked about Orlinsky over lunch.

"We'll vote for Democrats. Don't know which one, but may the best man win," Mrs. Long said.

Her husband nodded agreement.

Milton Croner asked this reporter if she was Mrs. Orlinsky.

"No, I'm a reporter for the AFRO - AMERICAN. What do you think of Orlinsky?"

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With the candidates

Oaks hears 'What have you done for us?'

"Hi. My name is Nathaniel Oaks and I'm running for the House of Delegates," he said, and flashed a campaign smile. "I'm asking for your support."

His campaign style was door-to-door. He left the discussion of the issues for the people to read in his campaign literature and to talk about at the functions where there were large gatherings.

His canvas through the Edmondson Village area Wednesday was just to say to the people "look at me. I'm Nat Oaks running in the 41st District for the House of Delegates and I'm going to work for you."

He was wearing green that day. Green slacks with a green flowered shirt. He walked up Lyndhurst Avenue with posters under his arm.

"Well, what have you done for us?" asked a man sitting on the porch of 602 Grantly.

The candidate ticked off his various accomplishments which included getting 102 summer jobs for the youth in the area and coaching a little league team.

"Ok, I'll support you and you can put a sign on my lawn," said the elderly man, shaking his hand.

"Thank you, sir," said Oaks. "And I don't want you to forget me on election day. I need all the help I can get."

"Hey," said a young woman who was standing on the same porch. "Aren't you afraid somebody will mess with you sign."

"I've got signs all over the community. Nobody's gonna mess with them." He flashed that easy, friendly smile.

"But what about the dogs?" askes the woman.

"I knew there was somebody I missed," Oaks said snapping his fingers. "I got the adults and little kids but forgot all about the dogs.

Oaks moved over to Gelston Drive.

"Hi. My name is Nathaniel Oaks . . ."

"Hey, Nathaniel," yelled a young woman. "I thought you were gonna call me so I could help you on your campaign."

"I still want you sweetheart," he said, and flashed that smile.

"Yeah, sure."

"No, really. I'm serious. I'm saving you because I want you right on Sept. 12."

"Okay," she said. He went to the next house.

"Hi," he said to the kid on the steps. "Is your mother home?"

"I'll get her." A middle - aged woman came out a few minutes later and smiled.

"My son came in and said Nathan was outside. I knew it sounded familiar."

"I want it that way," he said. And again, there was the smile. "I'm a home boy, raised in the community and I want everybody to know me and vote for me."

"Well, you have my support."

"Somebody told me that support and your vote ain't the same thing. So you gonna vote for me?"

"Sure."

At Edmondson Village.

"Hey, Oaks."

"Yeah."

"Hey, man, said a man in his 20's sporting one gold tooth. "I haven't got my voter's card."

"When didya register?"

"Back in June," he said. "Somebody in the street handed me a voter's registration card to fill out."

"Okay give me your name, address and social security number and I'll try to find out what's happened."

"Okay man, thanks," he said.

On Colborne St. By this time he has a crowd of kids.

"Excuse me," said a young woman in a Vega with a man and two small children. "Could I have a bumper sticker?"

"Sure thing," said Oaks, climbing out of his van.

"Are you a Libra?" she asked pointing to the zodiac chain around his neck.

"Yep. You gonna vote for me?"

"Sure," she said and the Vega pulled off.

On Augusta Rd.

"Hey Miss, Miss," yelled Oaks.

"I know who you are Nathaniel Oaks," said the woman, getting out of the car and heading for her house.

"But don't you want a bumper sticker for your car?"

"I know who you are," she repeated.

Frustrated, Oaks followed her up the walk.

"How about a poster for your front lawn."

"I know who you are, Nathaniel Oaks," she said one more time and closed the door.

As he was leaving, someone stopped him on the street.

"You're Nathaniel Oaks," he said.

"Sure am," he said flashing that campaign smile again.

"I've seen a lot of you around the neighborhood. You can put a poster on my lawn."

"That's the way it should be," Oaks said, getting serious. "The problem with the incumbency is - accessibility. If I'm elected I'm always going to be where you can reach me. If I can get in and you can't reach me then you should get rid of me."

The man nodded and they shook hands. Oaks flashed that smile and moved on.—C. W. H. -

CRC plans brutality hearings

Public hearings designed to bring out more information concerning the relationship between the Baltimore City Police Department and the public will be held on Sept. 19 and 21, officials of the Community Relations Commission announced this week.

The decision to hold the hearings came about as a result of reports of negative feelings about the Police Department on the part of residents of communities to which CRC staff are assigned.

Dissatisfaction and disagreement with many of the findings of the Police Complaint Evaluations Board, and testimony given to the Commission by witnesses and victims of alleged police brutality, contributed to the reasons to hold the hearings.

"It is not the intention of the Community Relations Commission or staff to prejudge the Baltimore City Police Department, but rather to allow persons who feel that they have had negative experiences with police officers to share those incidents with the Commission," said John Ferron, the agency's director.

Written, as well as oral testimony from citizens who are concerned about the police department and their communities is encouraged.

Oral testimony will be limited to five minutes per speaker. To arrange to be on the agenda of one of the sessions, call 398 - 3131.

Nature Walks scheduled

The Baltimore City Bureau of Recreation will again offer nature walks at various sites in the city during September and October.

These walks will be guided by an informed leader; there is no charge for them.

They meet regularly on Sundays from 2:15 to 4:15 p.m. The public is invited to participate.

Sept. 10 — Hopkins University Campus, meet in front of Museum of Art.

Sept. 17 — Herring Run Park, meet at Walther Avenue and Harford Road.

Oct. 1 — Sherwood Gardens, meet at Stratford and Underwood Roads.

Oct. 8 — Evergreen House and Notre Dame Campus, meet at entrance to 4545 N. Charles St.

Oct. 22 — Cylburn Park, meet at Cylburn Mansion, 4915 Greenspring Ave.

Oct. 29 — Leakin Park, meet at parking lot off Windsor Mill Road.

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