

Several candidates say they're not ready to give up

After losing in primaries, they're seeking write-in votes

Trounced in the Sept. 10 primary elections, a handful of persistent pols are continuing their campaigns in hopes voters will write them in on the Nov. 5 general election ballot.

They include three running for governor who have filed official requests to have their ballots counted individually: DFLer **Ole Savior**, the Green Party's **Richard (A-Bomb) Klatt** and the Independence Party's **Bill Dahn**.

Without the requests, any votes they got would be lumped with other write-ins, according to the secretary of state's office. But the extra counting shouldn't put much strain on election officials: The most primary support any of the three got was Klatt's 14.4 percent of the vote.

Savior has outfitted a 48-passenger blue bus for him and the other gubernatorial write-ins to barnstorm the state.

Ronald Wills, who finished third in the IP primary for U.S. Senate with 19.6 percent of the vote, has a different strategy. He has sued the Star Tribune in Ramsey County District Court for free advertising for his write-in campaign, alleging

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that the newspaper illegally denied him coverage and delayed running his paid ads for the primary race.

Star Tribune spokesman **Ben Taylor** said the company is reviewing the suit.

— **Conrad deFiebre**

Saying it in song

Dean Alger, the IP nominee for secretary of state, has taken to the airwaves with radio ads featuring his own guitar-playing, singing and songwriting. Here's a sample: "Special interests' big money/ Swamps our democracy/ We the people do lose/ We cannot let that be."

Suffice it to say the tunes probably won't contend for a Grammy Award. Or, as one spot's disclaimer says: "Paid for by Alger for Secretary of State Committee. Who else would pay for this ad?"

Alger is the first of the challengers to Secretary of State **Mary Kiffmeyer** to run broadcast advertising. Kiffmeyer, a Republican, began airing non-musical ads in August.

— **Conrad deFiebre**

All or nothing

Republican **Tom Kelly** is challenging DFL Attorney General **Mike Hatch** to a series of debates on reform of the legal

system and other issues, but Hatch is having none of it. His spokeswoman, **Leslie Sandberg**, said Hatch will face off with all his election opponents on Twin Cities Public Television's "Almanac" next month. "We feel that appearance will be sufficient," she said.

— **Conrad deFiebre**

Daggers and doughnuts

More than any other group, veterans have been dramatically split over support between U.S. Senate candidates **Norm Coleman** and **Paul Wellstone**. Last Monday that division briefly became physical.

At a Coleman news conference at a Bloomington American Legion hall, Wellstone supporters, including member **Gene Toronto**, tried to enter the hall as Coleman was speaking.

"Some tall guy poked his hand on my chest and told me I couldn't go in," said Toronto, 74, of Bloomington, a veteran of the 216th Army Chemical Service Corps. "I told him he better not try that again."

Toronto and his entourage were allowed in, but Coleman supporters stepped in front of them, using campaign signs to block the Wellstone supporters from view.

It all ended peacefully,

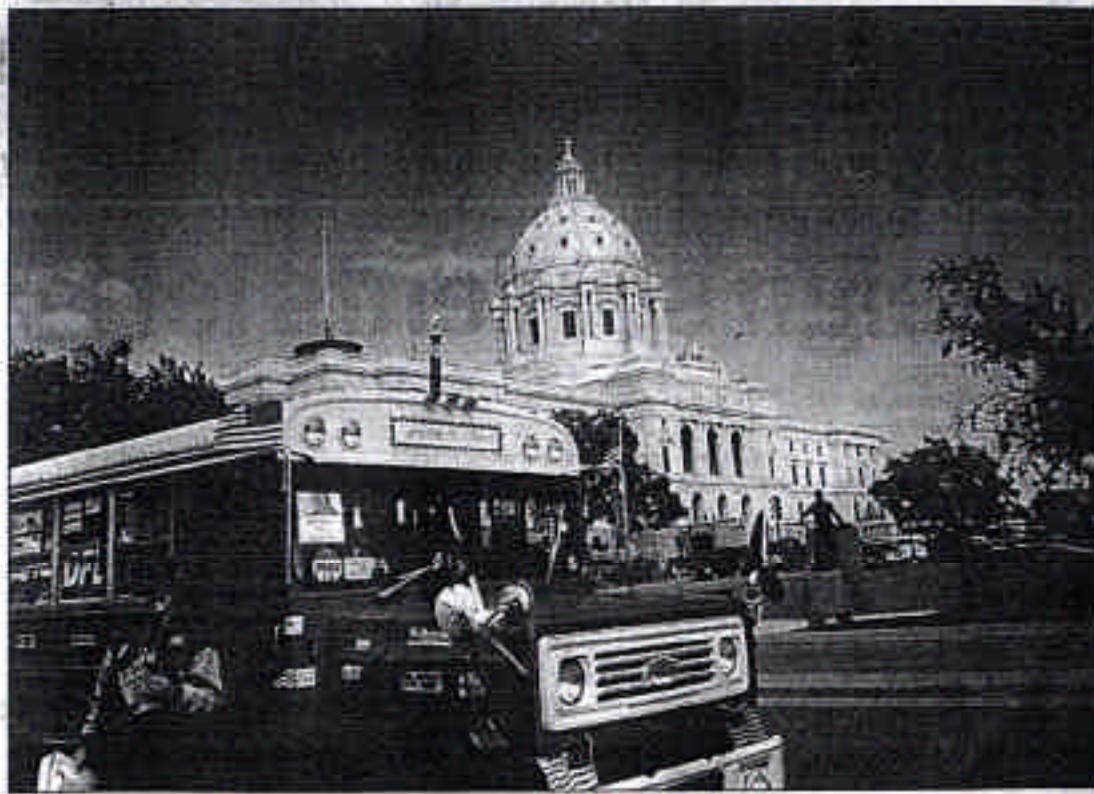


Photo provided by Ole Savior

DFLer **Ole Savior**, one of several people seeking write-in votes for governor, has outfitted a bus that he and other write-in candidates can use as they take their campaigns across the state.

though. After the news conference, as various vets supporting Wellstone gathered in the hall's parking lot, Coleman communications staffer **Kurt Zellers** came out with a tray of doughnuts, which the Wellstone supporters gratefully scarfed down.

— **Mark Brunswick**

Bringing in Keyes

Alan Keyes, a 1996 and 2000 Republican presidential candidate, will be featured at a rally and fundraiser for state Senate candidate **Dave Racer**. Racer is the Republican-endorsed candidate challenging Sen. **Moe Moua**, DFL-St. Paul, in District 67. Racer was Keyes' 1996 na-

tional campaign manager. Keyes is a fiery public speaker and a proponent of fundamental Christian conservatism. The event is from 2 to 5 p.m. Saturday at St. Paul Johnson High School, 1349 Arcade St.

— **Robert Whernatt**