

Dems select MSU slate

Thursday, September 2, 1976 OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC (F-10A)(BWT/3)11A

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He's not very effective. You hear it from students. You hear it from other trustees. The party hasn't seen him. He doesn't participate.

He's a very nice elderly gentleman. I don't want to see mud thrown at him, but he has served his time.

When a party leader in your home congressional district talks that way, your chances of getting a state convention nomination are slim.

And so Warren Huff, 67, of rural Plymouth, got up sadly before the Democratic state convention in Detroit Sunday and announced he would withdraw as a candidate for renomination to the Michigan State University Board of Trustees.

"LONG LIVE the cause of youth," Huff said, and he cut his finger in source of no political ferment on the MSU campus.

Dr. Blanche Martin, 59, East Lansing dentist and one-time Spartan football star, won the convention's nomination to a second term without a floor fight, though there was some open grumbling about his chairmanship of the MSU board.

Sen. Elmer Huff, 67, of rural Plymouth, got up sadly before the Democratic state convention in Detroit Sunday and announced he would withdraw as a candidate for renomination to the Michigan State University Board of Trustees.

summed it up: "The board has held its meetings at inconvenient hours for students—like 9 a.m. on a school day."

Barnes said of a Westland councilmember, told of the time students wanted to be heard on a placement office issue, the board reacted by passing an agenda item in a single motion, without discussion, and then adjourned into "executive" session.

"And Dr. Martin allowed it to happen," said Barnes.

THE SECOND nomination went to Michael Smidra, 27, who with his wife and siblings conducted an impressive hand-shaking campaign.

Smidra, raised in the upper peninsula village of Ontonagon, is a student at Coolidge Law School in Lansing and an organizer for the Democratic-leaning National Farmers Organization.

He defeated Carol Luck, the chair of MSU students active in the 19th Congressional District organization. Mrs. Luck is a publicity teacher in the Kalamazoo suburb of Portage.

Mrs. Luck's student supporters published a long list of complaints about MSU's administration and board. Restrictions on First Amendment rights, the declining value of MSU's diplomas, weak lobbying for funding, a housing policy and her program that aren't coordinated with the City of East Lansing, an extrajurisdictional health center.

With that kind of pressure building up, it was inevitable one trustee, at least, would bite the dust. It was Warren Huff.

"A CLASSIC confrontation" was the way another Plymouthite, Irving Roman, described it.

Huff has been around and worked with the administration and knows what compromises need to be made. Then Smidra comes along and says that as a consumer he wasn't satisfied.

Huff operates a farm at 5400 Curtis Road in eastern Washtenaw County, not far from Plymouth. An "agribusinessman," he is a manufacturer's representative and manages personal holdings in oil leases and real estate.

Huff estimated he put in 20 hours a week and made nine trips a month to the East Lansing campus on MSU business. He was first elected to the old State Board of Agriculture in 1959 and renominated to the new MSU board in 1966 but lost in the Barnum landslide. But he was renominated and re-elected in 1969.

Huff earned a bachelor's degree in agricultural economics at Texas Technological University and a master of business administration degree from Harvard. After years as a federal agricultural statistician in Omaha, Huff came to Michigan to work in the state civil service office and during World War II was an official in the Office of Price Administration.

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Who was nominated

Here is a rundown of the results of last weekend's Republican and Democratic state conventions and the candidates they selected to be on the Nov. 2 ballot.

SUPREME COURT
(runs as non-partisan)
Eight-year full term

Republican nominee: Joseph P. Swadlow, Wayne County circuit judge.
Democratic nominee: Roman S. Gribby, Wayne County circuit judge.
Self-nominee: Incumbent Chief Justice Thomas G. Kavanagh.

Six-year term

Republican nominee: Incumbent Justice Lawrence B. Landerer of Stockbridge.
Democratic nominee: Blaine Moody Jr., Wayne County circuit judge.
At an earlier convention the Human Rights Party nominated Zoltan Ferenczy.

Two-year term

Republican nominee: Incumbent Justice James J. Ryan of Bedford Township.
Democratic nominee: Charles Kaufman, Wayne County circuit judge.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Democratic: John Watanen, Northern Michigan University English instructor and Dr. Horace S. Safan, director for minority programs at Michigan State University.

Republican: Horace S. Safan, former president of Michigan Board of Education, and Clarence Dukes, president of Ann Arbor Board of Education.

Who was nominated

(No incumbents are seeking reelection.)

U OF MICHIGAN REGENTS

Democratic: Incumbents Robert Norder, Birmingham, director, and Gerald Dunn, legislative agent for several Wayne County school districts.

Republican: David Upton, St. Joseph, businessman and former legislator, and Earl Gabriel, of Dearborn Heights, president of the Michigan Association of School Boards.

MICH STATE U TRUSTEES

Democratic: Incumbent Blanche Martin, East Lansing, dentist, and Michael Smidra, law student and National Farmers Organization member from Lansing.

Republican: Nick Smith, Hillsdale County farmer, and Dr. Paul Gaudin, Flint.

WAYNE STATE U GOVERNORS

Democratic: Incumbent George C. Edwards III, Detroit attorney and Duane Jackson, former teacher.

Republican: Duane Edgeworth, Detroit convention center official, and John Voelke, Grosse Pointe Park.

School aid

Widows and widowers of veterans who died as a result of service-connected disabilities are eligible for education assistance from the Veterans Administration.

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