

# Unity is the word

## State Dems close ranks, look to '86

By Kathy Parrish  
staff writer

Michigan Democrats have taken a lot of heat since the November election. And much of that criticism came from within the ranks.

But party members presented a united front at the first state convention after the Reagan landslide.

Foregoing the spirited debate they enjoy so much, the 2,000 delegates pulled together during the two-day pep rally in Detroit's Ford Auditorium. Playing down the recent defeat, they harkened back to such past heroes as Franklin Roosevelt and John Kennedy and looked ahead to a Democratic victory for Gov. James Blanchard in 1986.

"THIS IS THE time we set aside the stinging and agonizing defeats of the past and look forward to a bright shining Democratic future," said party chairman Rick Wiener, who was elected to a second term Sunday with no opposition.

"We come here not to conduct a funeral, as some have said," added Detroit Mayor Coleman Young. The area's leading Democrat reminded the delegates that some considered the Republican party dead after Barry Goldwater's ill-fated 1964 presidential run.

"It's that dead party that just got through doing it to us in 1984. We must review our mistakes, regroup ourselves and move out together," Young said.

UNHAPPY ABOUT their November losses, Michigan Democrats have

*'This is the time we set aside the stinging and agonizing defeats of the past and look forward to a bright shining Democratic future.'*

— Rick Wiener  
State Dem chairman

talked a lot about new party leadership and reexamining their goals. Behind the scenes at the caucuses, there was a lot of nail biting.

Oakland County Democrats held a special brainstorming session Saturday morning to examine what went wrong for them. Republicans now hold all the county offices and 20 of 27 commissioner seats.

An "independent" caucus met during the convention to consider a new direction for the party.

There also was speculation over the absence of Wayne County Executive William Lucas, rumored to be leaving the Democratic Party to run as a Republican gubernatorial candidate.

BUT UNITY was more than just a theme for the convention, which moved along so smoothly that the morning speeches ended long before Gov. James Blanchard was due to deliver his keynote address.

"There is so much unity in this convention, we're ahead of schedule," kidded U.S. Rep. Sander Levin, D-Southfield, who was caught off guard and introduced the governor twice.

While waiting for Blanchard to arrive, delegates easily passed resolutions supporting Michigan agriculture, condemning South Africa's apartheid system, and applauding Blanchard's policies.

A state issues resolution backed "right to know" legislation, a plan to protect displaced homemakers, farm loans, growth of the cooperative movement, a plan for plant closings, and affordable child care. It also condemned attacks on medical clinics.

DEFEATED because it approved of domestic cuts, the national issues resolution was quickly rewritten by 17th Congressional District delegates from northwest Detroit and surrounding Wayne and Oakland suburbs.

The final effort supported "budgetary restraint to the extent that any freezes or reductions in spending take into account the needs of the poor, elderly and middle class and include defense spending."

The resolution called the federal deficit too high, supported protection for

family farming, opposed cuts in social security or medicare, advocated the cutoff of funding for nuclear weapon testing, and supported congressional review and approval of U.S. military involvement.

OVER AND OVER during the session, party leaders urged members to remember the Democratic principles of the New Deal, Fair Deal and Great Society. They also pointed to two recent party successes — Sen. Carl Levin and Blanchard, Michigan's first Democratic governor in 20 years.

"The conventional wisdom in Washington is that the Democratic Party is

drift, bereft of ideas, devoured by its factions and in despair of its future," said Levin, who won despite being a national target of the Republican Party.

"But the truth is we are just a party out of power reaching for the future while trying to save our soul and preserve our purpose for being."

Citing some of his achievements since taking office two years ago, Blanchard asked party members to help him make the state's comeback permanent.

"We are in a fight for Michigan's future, and I sincerely hope — as I believe you do — that the Democratic party will lead the way," he said.



The DVF dress is back...and you're going to love it more now than ever before! Its suggestive, body-hugging shape is right on target for Spring '85. Make your selection from an array of unexpectedly bold prints. By Diane Von Furstenberg in blends of imported Italian cotton and rayon. Sizes 4 to 14; \$100 each. In Dress Collections at SFA.

*Saks Fifth Avenue*

Somerset Mall, Big Beaver at Coolidge, Troy • Fairlane Town Center, Dearborn

## District leaders picked

During their state convention, Democrats elected officers to head their districts during the upcoming year.

Area officers are:

• District 1 — Chairman, Mike McCaskey of Plymouth; vice chairman, Deloris Peterson of Jackson; secretary, David Johnston of Northville; treasurer, Pat Housekeeper of Tecumseh.

• District 15 — chairman, Earl Hayes of Taylor; vice chairman, Ethel Howard of Ypsilanti Township; recording secretary, Helen

Walton, Taylor; corresponding secretary, Cathy Stivers of Westland; treasurer, Bryan Adams, Wayne.

• District 17 — chairman, Marie Weigold of Detroit; vice chairman, Sam McKnight of Royal Oak; secretary, Lorenzo Monor of Inkster; treasurer, Ann Mahberg of Southfield.

• District 18 — Chairman, Don Tucker of Franklin; vice chairman, Vicki Krenna, Rochester; secretary, Errol Dargis of Bloomfield Hills; and treasurer, Cicely Brookover, Birmingham.

Support Girl Scouting



Call your local Girl Scout office.

40% to 50% off\*

an extraordinary  
selection of  
beautiful wool coats

149.99 to 199.99  
orig. 255.00 to 420.00

Great selections in pure wool  
from Harv Benard, Steve,  
Bill Bliss, Central Park,  
Miss Gallery, Paul Levy,  
Karen, Reflections and others.

Your favorite coat could be  
a wonderful reeler,  
balmacaan, trenchcoat or  
Chesterfield—everything from  
the oversized long coats  
to slender silhouettes in  
sumptuous melton, tweed  
or herringbone. The colors,  
rich to sublime.

Selected collections, not every  
style in every size and color.  
\*Percentages off regular and  
original prices; intermediate  
reductions may have been taken

Sale ends February 21st.  
Lord & Taylor, Fairlane—336-3100  
Lakeland—call 247-4300  
Twelve Oaks—call 348-3400  
Briarwood Mall—call 465-4500  
All open daily 10 to 9 Sunday 12 to 5



## peck's presidents' birthday sale

Year 'Round  
Poly Vested  
Suits  
Comp. val from \$175

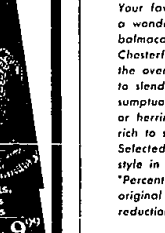
79<sup>99</sup>

All Wool Shetland  
& Welch Tweed  
Sportcoats  
Comp. val from \$135

59<sup>99</sup>

Corduroys, Cottons,  
Triblends, Polyester  
Slacks  
Comp. val from \$20

9<sup>99</sup>



Wool & Wool Blend  
2 pc & 3 pc suits  
Comp. val from \$130

Camel Hair Blend,  
Harris Tweed &  
Flannel Blazers  
Comp. val from \$79<sup>99</sup>

All Wool Flannel,  
Wool Blend, Tulle  
& Flannel Front  
Slacks  
Comp. val from \$21

Dress Shirts,  
Sportshirts &  
Sweaters  
Comp. val from \$22<sup>99</sup>

**Peck's**  
44 FAMOUS BRANDS FOR LESS  
Plus a beautiful  
American Express  
MasterCard  
any  
national card  
preferred garment

SOUTHFIELD SHOPPING CENTER  
2400 SOUTHFIELD ROAD • SOUTHFIELD, MI 48034  
OAKLAND PLAZA SHOPPING CENTER  
14000 OAKLAND BLVD. • OAKLAND, MI 48203  
LIVONIA TOWN SQUARE  
2919 LIVONIA ROAD • LIVONIA, MI 48150  
MON-SAT 10-6 • SUN 12-5