

# Ho, hum — Dems to pick delegates

Democratic delegates could be lonely at next month's district conventions in Oakland County.

Voters are supposed to pick up to 545 precinct delegates in the Aug. 5 Democratic primary.

But three-fifths of Oakland precincts have no Democratic delegate candidates. And there are only a handful of contested races.

**OAKLAND HAS** something like 482 precincts, and up to 545 Democratic delegates can be elected. (Some precincts are allowed to elect two delegates, based on past Democratic turnout.)

Candidates have filed in only 178 of those precincts, however, according to the candidate list supplied by the Oakland County elections division office. In only 17 precincts are there contests. Candidates are most common in "south end" cities, least common in townships.

Write-in candidates could run, which would swell the total number of delegates.

**THERE ARE** two possible reasons for the small field of Democratic delegate candidates:

• Under party rules, the process of selecting delegates to the 1988 Democratic National Convention to nominate a presidential candidate can't begin until 1988.

Republicans, on the other hand, will pick their '88 presidential delegates based on the '86 precinct delegates, and so most Michigan precincts are seeing spirited contests between supporters of George Bush, Jack Kemp and Pat Robertson.

• Precinct delegates will form the backbone of the 1988 Democratic State Convention to pick the state ticket. But the top of that ticket is already known: Blanchard, Griffiths, Kelley and Austin.

The Republican ticket, however, will be picked from scratch. And so people in the minority party have an incentive to run for precinct delegate.

**DEMOCRATIC PRECINCT** delegates are selected to attend congressional district conventions. Those district conventions send delegates to the state convention to nominate the state ticket.

Typically, Democrats fill their state convention delegations by sending 1) all elected precinct delegates, 2) all paid-up party members and 3) Democratic officials.

Besides picking candidates for lieutenant governor, attorney general and secretary of state, the state convention must pick candidates for State Board of Education, the governing boards of the three largest universities and the state Supreme Court.

Southfield has the largest contingent of precinct delegate candidates — 29 of the city's 50 precincts have at least one candidate for delegate.

Pontiac also has 50 precincts but fielded candidates in only nine, although the county seat is considered a Democratic stronghold.

**HERE IS** the lineup in other Observer & Eccentric area cities:

Birmingham — 15 precincts, six with candidates, no contested races.

Bloomfield Hills — two precincts, two candidates.

Farmington Hills — six precincts, three candidates, no contests.

Farmington Hills — 27 precincts, 14 with candidates, no contests.

Lathrup Village — two precincts, no candidates.

Orchard Lake Village — one precinct, one candidate.

Rochester — four precincts, two with candidates, no contests.

Rochester Hills — 24 precincts, three with candidates, no contests.

Troy — 35 precincts, 12 with candidates, no contests.

**AMONG TOWNSHIPS** in the area, here is the lineup:

Bloomfield — 32 precincts, four with candidates, no contests.

Oakland — four precincts, no candidates.

Southfield — 10 precincts, five with candidates, no contests.

West Bloomfield — 20 precincts, two with candidates, no contests.

# New president for Ridge Jaksen wants to learn students' goals

By Tim Richerd  
staff writer

The new president at the Orchard Ridge Campus of Oakland Community College is committed to more than traditional teaching.

Daniel A. Jaksen, 40, also wants to learn about student goals and tailor the two-year college to meet them.

"I'd like to see attention given to knowing the student body — not only demographics but their goals and desires," Jaksen said in an interview shortly after the OCC board gave a 9-0 approval of his nomination by Chancellor R. Stephen Nicholson.

OCC officials are paying much attention to student retention as the supply of "traditional" students — 18-year-old high school graduates — dwindles. The college is marketing itself to older students with more specialized needs and trying to reduce the number of dropouts.

**JAKSEN** (pronounced with a long A: Jaksen) is a one-time coach who is currently director of college planning and evaluation at neighboring Macomb Community College.

At Orchard Ridge, largest of OCC's four campuses, Jaksen in mid-August will replace James Stevenson, who left to become president of Muskegon Community College.

"I've had a broad base of experience," said Jaksen, who earned his doctorate in educational leadership from Western Michigan University in 1985 and decided to seek a college presidency only in the last year.

After earning a degree in economics from Alma College, where he was an infielder on the baseball team, he began teaching in 1959 in Roseville public schools, then moved

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— Daniel A. Jaksen, president  
OCC Orchard Ridge Campus

to Pennsylvania as a superintendent of recreation in New Castle County. At Penn State University, he earned a master of education degree in 1982.

He joined Macomb Community College in 1985, at the beginning of the explosive growth in two-year colleges in Michigan. In 21 years there, he moved through the ranks: physical education teacher and baseball coach, director of athletics and physical education (1989-75), associate dean of general education and liberal arts (1975-81) and currently director of college planning and evaluation.

**BESIDES WORKING** in labor relations and staff development, Chancellor Nicholson said, Jaksen "has a

thorough grounding in college student personnel operations, including admissions, registration and counseling."

"He is also experienced in managing programs relating to special populations, community services and cultural events."

Jaksen said he will put that experience to work in serving the high-technology boom Oakland County is undergoing.

"I'm concerned with business and industrial growth — the education and training that are needed," he said.

"That's part of our community. We'll seek linkages with business — in the traditional sense and in the customized sense."

**JAKSEN'S NAME** emerged from a field of 76 applicants, according to Highland Lakes Campus President Ned Brodbeck, who chaired the search committee.

Brodbeck told the board that a committee representing faculty, administration and staff pared the applications to 36, then assigned scores ranging from 318 to 666 to the qualifications of the remainder.

The committee interviewed the six finalists, asking them all the same list of questions and recommending three to the chancellor.

Nicholson made his decision quickly. He offered Jaksen the \$57,000 job Wednesday afternoon, discussed terms over dinner that evening, and presented his name to the board Thursday.

**IN OTHER** personnel matters, the OCC board ratified two union contracts with staff:

• 100 maintenance workers, members of Local 1999 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, will receive pay increases of 5.6, 5.1 and 5 percent in a three-year period. The group includes custodians, mailroom clerks, groundskeepers, maintenance workers, craftsmen and group leaders.



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