

# Labor leads convention picks

By Tim Richard  
staff writer

Frank Garrison didn't mince words. "Half this convention is in this room," the president of the Michigan AFL-CIO told the labor caucus the day before the Democratic State Convention.

In five minutes, the labor caucus Saturday unanimously endorsed the state of nominees recommended by the federation's executive council.

Next day the full convention, after two floor fights, picked the same candidates for the state Supreme Court and four education boards.

IN THE contested races, Stephen T. Economy, a Michigan Bay executive from Farmington Hills, won a nomination to the State Board of Education, and Vickie Krenn, a UAW organizer from Rochester Hills, won a nomination to the Michigan State University board after 20 years of party work and fund raising. Both her degrees are from the U-M.

"Wayne State needs someone on the board who respects organized labor," said Frederick Voicing, president of UAW Local 2071, whose 950 members went on strike last week at the state's third largest university. Voicing made the nominating speech for Krenn, on leave from her purchasing job at Oakland University.

KRENN WON a 2,184 to 850 victory over Christine Koch, who runs the 12th District office of U.S. Rep. David Bonior of Macomb County. Bonior, whose supporters are reportedly often at odds with UAW leaders

in the blue-collar district, led Koch's campaign.

Afterwards, Bonior had no comment on why the UAW put up Krenn against Koch despite its candidate's early head start and many union connections.

The WSU strike was clearly the issue to Krenn, a full-time UAW organizer for technical, office and professional personnel.

"I served on the board of the nursery school and the board of the PTA," she told the 18th Congressional District caucus.

"For the last 14 years I've been an employee of Oakland University in Rochester. The first couple of years at Oakland, I spent in their board of trustees office, so I'm familiar with the tremendous responsibilities."

AFTER REFERRING a half-dozen times to her UAW negotiating duties and the need for good labor relations, Krenn said, "My mother and father couldn't afford to send me to college except to business school for a few months. . . I'm also a single parent. I raised a beautiful daughter . . . and I couldn't afford to send her to college."

"I'm just one of a growing number of single parents who can't afford the cost of a college education for their children. And it worries me. I know the importance of those letters — B.A., M.A., Ph.D. — after your name," she said.

Within Oakland County, Krenn has been vice chair and treasurer of the Democratic Party.

Koch, a graduate of WSU, issued fresh literature Sunday saying she is a former teacher who once walked a

**'I have a strong interest in education, personally and through involvement of my company.'**

— Stephen Economy



picket line in Harper Woods and is the daughter of a UAW member. She carried only her home 12th Congressional District.

ECONOMY, EXECUTIVE assistant to the president of Michigan Bell, won top backing for the State Board of Education post though he is little known in Oakland County Democratic circles.

"I've never heard of him," said Vicki Barnett, Farmington Hills party worker and 1984 candidate for state representative there.

"The education caucus rejected Economy," said Gerald Faye, a professor at Oakland Community College and an active Democrat, "because they didn't hear a strong commitment on women's rights, and he

work with Detroit schools.

"I worked on the Partnership With Education task force — it was appointed by Phil Runkel (former state superintendent of public instruction) — whose purpose was to get business more involved with the schools."

Economy has a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Michigan and a master's in business administration from Michigan State.

TWO OTHER Oakland County Democrats won education board nomination without opposition. Both are attorneys who have done extensive work with bankruptcies.

Barbara Rom of Bloomfield Hills was nominated to the Michigan State University board after 20 years of party work and fund raising. Both her degrees are from the U-M.

"If you've heard of Sander's chocolate, that's one of the cases we worked on," she said. "I'm also treasurer of the Women's Economic Club of Detroit."

"We're going to make the Michigan Education Trust a viable program, and that tuition costs will be kept in line so people can afford to attend our universities."

Rom promised to make affirmative action a priority at the faculty level.

F. Thomas Lewand, a former Oakland County commissioner and 1980 county executive candidate, was nominated for the U-M Board of Regents.

A close associate for years of Gov. James J. Blanchard, Lewand was his chief of staff for a year.

## Democrats fill ballot for Nov. 8

Here is the Michigan Democratic Party's Nov. 8 slate, as picked by the state convention last weekend in Detroit.

Supreme Court (non-partisan) — Marvin Stemples, Wayne County circuit judge and former state representative from Livonia (nominated); incumbent Justice Charles Levin (endorsed).

State Board of Education — Larry Crawford, a dentist and former two-term mayor of Saginaw; Stephen Economy, Michigan Bell executive from Farmington Hills.

University of Michigan Board of Regents — incumbent Nellie Varner, former associate dean of the U-M graduate school, Detroit; and F. Thomas Lewand, Royal Oak.

Michigan State University Board of Trustees — Barbara Rom, Bloomfield Hills attorney; and Robert Weiss, former Genesee County prosecutor and former Grand Blanc school board member.

Wayne State University Board of Governors — incumbent Murray Jackson, founding president of Wayne County Community College; and Vickie Krenn, UAW organizer from Rochester Hills.

## College for Moss if Dukakis wins

Democrats are of two minds about the Electoral College.

For some it's a way to reward longtime party workers with chance to cast one of the 535 official votes for president and vice president of the United States. Others use it to reward upcoming party activists.

Last weekend the Michigan Democratic Party picked its 20 members of the Electoral College who will vote for Michael Dukakis and Lloyd Bentsen early in December in Lansing if that slate wins Michigan Nov. 8.

At-large nominees are two party officers: state chairman Rick Weiner and recording secretary Barbara Maddox, both relatively young people.

Other choices from Observer & Eccentric area congressional districts:

• 18th — Harry Moss of Birmingham, longtime party worker and resolutions chairman.

• 2nd — Neil Staebler, Ann Arbor businessman and state party chairman when G. Mennen Williams was governor (1940-46), later a congressman and 1984 gubernatorial nominee.

• 15th — Bryan L. Amann of Wayne, chief deputy Wayne County clerk, the kind of newcomer clerk James Kilhean likes to nurture and promote.

• 17th — David Plawewski of Dearborn Heights, 40, former three-term state senator and aide to Congressman Sander Levin.

## OU is poised for strike today

By Pat Murphy  
staff writer

Oakland University is poised for a strike today, with both sides hoping last minute talks would resolve an impasse over wages that threatens to disrupt the first scheduled day of classes.

At a press conference Wednesday afternoon, the president of the OU chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) said contract talks could continue into the morning today, "providing there is progress" to warrant continued negotiations.

"I hope we get a contract," said AAUP President Jack Barnard, a history professor. "But if we don't have a contract at 8 a.m., our teachers will not be in the classroom. It would be a sad day for us (if a strike materializes), and one we had hoped to avoid."

OU administrators, however, say classrooms will be open at regularly scheduled times. "We'll be open tomorrow one way or another," said spokesperson James Liewellyn.

Both sides have telephone hotlines to ease confusion. The university's is 378-2000, and the AAUP's is 375-2200, or 375-2282. Radio and television newscasts also are expected to give periodic updates.

The AAUP's three-year contract expired at midnight Aug. 15. Negotiations before a state mediator have resolved some "complicated" issues, said Barnard. But the remaining impasse is wages.

The faculty is asking for increases amounting to about \$1,600 per person per year, Barnard said. "The last offer administrators put on the table was for about \$800," he said.

Barnard said the AAUP has scaled down wage demands from last week when it was asking for pay hikes of 4.8 percent in the first year and 5 percent in each of the next two years. Its latest proposal called for

pay hikes of 4.4 percent the first year, 4.8 percent in the second year and 5 percent in the third year of the contract.

That proposed wage hike would be in addition to step increases of 2.3 percent which are scheduled to automatically go into effect for an estimated 60 percent of the faculty who have not reached the top of the pay scale, Barnard said.

The administration previously offered pay hikes of 2.4 percent in the first year and 2.5 percent in each of the next two years, Barnard said, and had not changed its proposal as of late Wednesday.

The average faculty member at OU makes about \$37,000 annually, Barnard said, or as much as \$9,000 to \$10,000 less than comparably educated teachers in nearby public school systems. "We don't begrudge those teachers their higher salaries," he said. "But we should get more as well."

Liewellyn declined to discuss the university's last proposal. But other administrators said OU is faced with a \$1.6 million budget deficit after Gov. James J. Blanchard forced the university to roll back a tuition increase from 10.3 to 9.7 percent.

Asked if faculty members supported the AAUP position, Barnard said that members authorized a strike last Monday by a 168 to 7 margin. "They are backing us about as strongly as we can ask," he said.

Of the 400 or so full-time faculty members at OU, 346 are members of the AAUP. Part-time faculty members have individual contracts and are thus not affected by ongoing negotiations.

About 12,000 students were registered at OU as of late Wednesday, administrators said.

There have been three strikes involving AAUP members at OU since 1971, when classes were delayed for 12 days. Strikes in 1976 and 1983 disrupted classes for three days each.

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