

WSU's Adamany, labor are issues in 1988

By Tim Richard
staff writer

Two issues — strikes and President David Adamany — could turn the normally ho-hum election for Wayne State University trustees into a real contest this year.

Democrats assured that last month when they nominated Vicki Krenm, a UAW organizer from Rochester Hills, for WSU's board of governors. Her labor supporters are critical of Adamany.

"Adamany is the best thing to happen to Wayne State in years," replied incumbent WSU board member Richard Van Dusen, a Bloomfield Hills lawyer. Republicans renominated him last weekend and picked Hattie Massey, a Detroit community school activist, as his running mate. She is equally pro-Adamany.

The Democratic view is that "Wayne State needs someone on the board who respects organized labor." That's according to Frederick Vocino, president of UAW Local 2071, whose 950 members have been

on strike at the state's third largest university since the third week in August. Vocino made the nominating speech for Krenm.

NOT ONLY are UAW staff workers and some of the faculty on strike, but the issue is revolving around the policies of Adamany, president since 1982 of the state's third largest university.

"The AAUP (American Association of University Professors) and UAW have chosen to personalize the matter, contrary to their own interests and the interests of the students and the state," Van Dusen said in an interview at the GOP convention.

"They made a serious mistake. Adamany says, 'I'll take the heat to relieve the protest and the deans,'" Van Dusen said of the president's tactics.

"It's unfortunate that the Oakland University labor organizer (Krenm) who was nominated by the Democrats who evidently have the mission to deal with Adamany were she to be elected."

VAN DUSEN said Adamany has:

- "Done a superb job of building relations with state government."
- "Preserved Wayne's position in the appropriations process."
- "Done a superb job of attracting faculty and administrators. The faculty and staff should be so grateful that they make a serious mistake in personalizing issues."

Massey, who directs a program called Reach One Teach One in Detroit, agreed. "We had noticed a little slippage (before Adamany), but I have been so impressed with him," she told a caucus of 2nd Congressional District delegates.

"I'm pleased with the experienced and dedicated faculty. The grounds and buildings are now beautiful. Some positive things are going on," said Massey, the only black member of the eight-candidate GOP state education ticket.

THE UAW STAFF workers were later joined on the picket line by some faculty represented by the AAUP. Wages and the administration's degree of interest in the liberal arts are among the issues.

It's ironic that Adamany is being criticized by Democratic candidates because his own political background includes a stint as a finance officer for a Democratic governor in Wisconsin, and he was hired by a Democratic-led WSU board.

The strike was clearly the issue to Krenm, a full-time UAW organizer for technical, office and professional personnel. She is on leave from the purchasing department of Oakland University.

The Democratic Party's labor caucus picked Krenm, who has no college degree, to run for the WSU



Richard Van Dusen
WSU incumbent

board over a former teacher who works for a congressman.

"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."

Krenm's caucus speech contained several references to the need for good labor relations at WSU, leaving no doubt she thinks the current situation is intolerable.

Within Oakland County, Krenm

'Adamany is the best thing to happen to Wayne State in years.'

— Richard Van Dusen
incumbent Republican

Vicki Krenm (right), the Democratic candidate, made several references to the need for good labor relations at WSU, leaving no doubt she thinks the current situation is intolerable.



Vicki Krenm
Democratic challenger

has been vice chair and treasurer of the Democratic Party.

VAN DUSEN, a board member at WSU since 1979, pointed out the faculty strike isn't universal.

"AAUP represents only 37 percent of the faculty," he said. "They want an agency shop. An agency shop would require all to join or pay dues to the union."

Van Dusen was last elected to the WSU board in 1986, along with Democrat Murray Jackson, who was renominated by his party. Jackson is a former president of Wayne County Community College and is a professor of education at the University of Michigan.

Van Dusen was a state legislator

in the 1950s, a Constitutional Convention delegate, legal adviser to Gov. George Romney and Romney's deputy at the Department of Housing and Urban Development in the first Nixon Administration. For 15 years he has been an officer of Automobile Club of Michigan.

WSU is one of three state universities whose boards are elected by voters under the state constitution. (The others are U-M and Michigan State.) Two board members are elected every two years.

Off campus, the university contests draw little public attention — until this year — and voters usually follow party lines when picking trustees.

Fight against 'A' not just tax issue

By Alice Collins
staff writer

People's Campaign for Choice in Oakland County kicked off its drive Wednesday against Proposal A, accusing Right to Life campaigners of posing as tax reformers when their ultimate goal is to make all abortions illegal.

"I came from the coathanger days (when abortions were illegal), and we certainly don't want to return to that," said Betty Kurtzman of Bloomfield Hills who represents Grandmothers for Choice in the People's Campaign.

Representatives of more than a dozen organizations turned out at a news conference in Birmingham to outline their campaign to defeat Proposal A on the Nov. 8 general election ballot. The proposal would ban Medicaid-funded abortions in Michigan for all women except those whose lives are endangered by the pregnancies.

SPEAKERS CHARGED that the TV ad campaign just launched by Right to Life favoring Proposal A describes the ballot question simply as a tax issue, asking voters if they want their tax money being used to pay for abortions (see related story below).

"Despite what their television ads are saying, the intention of proponents of Proposal A is to ultimately make all abortions illegal again," said Marian McCracken, a former school teacher from Farmington and co-coordinator of the Oakland campaign.

Pro-choice TV ads, expected to begin airing at the end of this month, will deal with emotional issues such

as women impregnated as the result of rape and recent denied Medicaid funds for abortion.

"The ads will also address what the long-term effect of what Right to Life plans to do," said McCracken.

THE PEOPLE'S Campaign for Choice launched its fund-raising and promotional drive Wednesday night at a rally at Oakland University.

It will follow up with a rally for southern Oakland at 7:30 p.m. Monday in the Southfield Civic Center.

Fund-raising parties, speaking at public meetings, telephone banks and other campaign rallies and events will be coming up.

Plans are in the works to bring in at least two high-powered speakers, Gloria Steinem and U.S. Sen. Robert Packwood, R-Ore.

OAKLAND COUNTY is expected to be a major force in defeating the ballot proposal, said Maryse Long of Farmington Hills, co-coordinator with McCracken. She didn't offer statistics to back that up, "but it's a gut feeling based on the success we had in getting petitions signed to put it on the ballot."

To make her point, McCracken cited the results of the Republican primary in the 69th state House district, which included Farmington, Farmington Hills and the villages of Franklin, Bingham Farms and Beverly Hills.

"In that district we had a woman who was a pro-choice advocate (Jan Dolan) defeat three anti-choice male candidates."

People's Campaign for Choice is a statewide coalition of more than 40 organizations.

Proposal A hits cost of abortion

AP — Do Michigan voters really care about money above all else?

Is the phrase "tax dollars" so emotionally packed that voters will remember that argument above all others when they cast their Nov. 8 ballots on Proposal A?

Leaders of the anti-abortion movement are counting on it.

They surprised some campaign-watchers last week by unveiling mild, undramatic television commercials, the first of the referendum drive.

They include no footage of aborted fetuses, no lectures on the sanctity of life, nothing that could arouse charges of extremism.

THE "YES" clearly has decided it doesn't have to preach to the converted, since people who believe all abortions should be stopped are sure to vote to stop Medicaid-paid abortions.

Barbara Listing, the president of Right to Life of Michigan, is heading the ballot campaign, significantly named Committee To End Tax-Funded Abortions. She said the top priorities are to convert the undecided and make sure the converted know to vote "yes" to trigger a new law ending welfare abortions unless the mother's life is in danger.

The committee's ad campaign is directed at people who may agree with or have mixed feelings about a woman's right to an abortion, but who feel frustrated by a lack of control over their tax dollars.

That segment of the electorate may be as large as "18 to 18 to 18 percent," according to Listing. "We don't get many changes to decide how our tax money's spent," says a character in one of the ads.

THE STRATEGY seems to be supported by results of a poll conducted in July for the Detroit Free Press and WXYZ-TV.

It showed voters contacted wanted to scrap the Medicaid abortion subsidies by a margin of roughly 2-to-1.

And some respondents elaborated, telling the pollsters they think their taxes are too high.

"We're really looking at who should pay for elective abortions," Listing said.

The people running the other side of the campaign now have to counter that argument by convincing voters their decision is not as simple as that and criticize the opposition's strategy as deceptive.

The People's Campaign for Choice says it's likely that if Proposal A passes Michigan will spend more money on welfare recipients, not less.

Currently, state government picks up the tab for about 18,000 abortions a year, at a cost of roughly \$5.8 million. A Medicaid abortion usually costs the state a little more than \$300.

DEPARTMENT Of Social Services Director C. Patrick Babcock, who is pro-choice, has estimated the state spends about \$7,070 on the first two years of care for each baby born to a welfare mother.

Babcock said that if voters end abortion bans and just 30 percent of those fetuses are carried to term by welfare mothers who choose to keep and raise their offspring, taxpayers' bill for a hospital delivery and two years of care for the additional children born in 1989 will be \$37.7 million.

Compare that to roughly \$58 million, the department's budget for all medical services.

As the campaign began its nine-week countdown, the strongest rhetoric came from the pro-choice camp.

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