

# Libertarians: Don't need state 'U' system

By Tim Richard  
staff writer

It won't happen over night. But if Libertarian candidates like John A. Salvette have their way, the University of Michigan will operate more like a private college in a few years.

State aid would end. Tuition would rise. U-M probably would be smaller, with lower quality departments being shut down.

"My view would be to push the issue of autonomy," said Salvette, a U-M graduate with a bachelor's degree in economics. "It's very important for the universities to do their own thing. The university has to be nimble enough to react to the market. To do that it has to be autonomous."

**SALVETTE OF Bloomfield Hills** is chief financial officer of Stahl Manufacturing Co., an automotive firm in Detroit. He is one of several Oakland residents fighting uphill battles against Republicans and Democrats for seats on three state university boards and the state Board of Education.

In an interview, Salvette came down hard on Gov. James J. Blanchard's "Big Brother strong-arm tactics" in forcing university boards to reduce tuition hikes below 10 percent.

Like liberals, Libertarians resist governmental intrusion in human rights, advocating repeal of laws restricting drug, alcohol, gambling and "victimless" sex activities.

***"I'm saying you don't need a state university system. A basic Libertarian premise is that it's not the function of government to operate schools."***

— John Salvette

Libertarian candidate for U-M board.

Like conservatives, they advocate repeal of the income tax, the draft, the Federal Reserve System, the Federal Aviation Administration, the Food and Drug Administration — virtually all regulatory agencies. Libertarians were on parade this week as the presidential candidate, former Texas Congressman Ron Paul, addressed the Economic Club of Detroit. "Prohibition did not work for alcohol. It can't work and is not working for drugs," said Paul, a Houston obstetrician.

**"TUITION IS a user fee,"** hence good to Libertarians, said Virginia Cropley, attorney from Sterling Heights and state Board of Education nominee.

If elected, she would challenge the "assumption that every middle class child shall complete college. . . College is too much 'something for everybody'."

"You'll see a lot more training by corporations," Cropley predicted.

That would leave universities free to educate "generic thinkers" and drop "computer tech-y kinds of things."

Cropley would use the state board as a forum to sell legislators the voucher idea — sending a check to parents and letting them send their kids to any school — government or private — they choose.

Said Salvette: "I'm saying you don't need a state university system. A basic Libertarian premise is that it's not the function of government to operate schools."

**THE SZBLAS**, husband and wife from Farmington Hills, are running for two other university boards.

Dianne Szbla is concerned with the quality of education at Michigan State University.

"Just because a teacher has tenure, it doesn't mean he shouldn't have to prove his excellence in teaching. Even with tenure, he should have to prove excellence," said the former Dearborn Heights

Riverside High teacher who earned her bachelor of arts degree at U-M.

Now selling financial products for Annuity Services Inc. and America Group in Pontiac, she would have MSU hire professors on the basis of teaching ability rather than books published.

Randy Szbla, an electronic systems specialist in Wayne State University's engineering college, is running for the WSU board and ap-

plauds President David Adamany's tough stand against two striking unions.

"Right now," he said, "Wayne has a 'speak' test for all foreign instructors to demonstrate they can speak English. I'd go a step further and have a 'teach' test — to evaluate their teaching."

IF ELECTED, Szbla probably would have to leave his WSU job for

conflict-of-interest reasons and is willing to do so.

But Libertarians have no illusions about toppling Democrats and Republicans from office — just making a dent in public thinking and building a base for the future.

In 1982 Dick Jacobs gathered some 15,000 votes — half of 1 percent of the 3 million cast — for governor. Jacobs this year is running for the U.S. Senate.

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## Oakland, Wayne State team up to fete Harding

Oakland and Wayne State universities are joining to honor researcher Clifford V. Harding Jr. for his many contributions to them and to lens research.

The universities have invited scientists from the major eye research institutions in the United States to a Sept. 29 to Oct. 1 conference on "Studies on the Ocular Lens." The program and a Sept. 29 banquet will both be held in Meadow Brook Hall and dedicated to Harding on the occasion of his retirement.

Harding and his wife, Drusilla, were longtime residents of Rochester and then Dearborn. The couple now has a home in Wood's Hole, Mass., where Harding has been conducting research each summer at

the Marine Biological Laboratory. **HARDING CAME TO OU** from Columbia University in 1964 to found the department of biological sciences. He served as its chair until 1973 when he left to become professor of ophthalmology and director of research at the Kresge Eye Institute, WSU.

Conference organizers say Harding has been instrumental in the application of new research techniques that have led to a better understanding of the normal and diseased or opaque lens.

They say Harding has been responsible for the training and development of many young investigators who are now making important contributions to the field of lens research.

**HARDING GRADUATED** from Brown University, received a master's degree from Yale and a doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania.

Early teaching assignments included a National Institutes of Health fellowship in Sweden and the Zoological Station in Naples, Italy, teaching at the University of Southern California and University of Pennsylvania and a one-year assignment with the Atomic Energy Commission.

Nalin J. Unaker, who succeeded Harding as OU biology chairman (1973-1987) is chairman and principal organizer for the conference and banquet.

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