

Among 'children of 50s'

Dem's youth leader hopes to spur action

By SUSAN L. SILK

Michigan's young people -- party joiners or independents -- are being seen as the key to what the National Democratic Party thinks may be major political victories in 1974.

The fact that Michigan is a 'key state in the nation' brought the Democratic Party's national director

of youth affairs, Robert N. Smith, to the area recently.

Smith, 29, is a 1962 graduate of the former Bloomfield Hills High School, since renamed Andover High School.

A licensed attorney, Smith was active in campus political groups while attending the University of Michigan during the mid-60s.

Since becoming youth affairs director, Smith is making contacts in 'key

states' with state level political leaders to establish a nationwide organization of young people, between the ages of 18 and 35, to work on important campaigns.

"THE NATIONAL organization will attempt to act as a catalyst to get the established youth organizations in the Democratic Party involved in the elections, to coordinate their activities.

"But we'll also be working to appeal to young people not in established organizations interested in issues or candidates, to bring those people into the races," Smith said.

"There's a chance (following the Watergate situation) to lose a whole generation of young people," Smith said, unless a "specialized effort is made" to bring as many as possible within the existing political parties.

"This effort to establish a 'nation-wide network' constitutes the first time in an off-year election that the national Democratic Party is playing such a role, Smith said.

Despite the victories in special elections "Democrats cannot sit back and think that Watergate will bring them automatic victories in '74," he said.

SMITH DENIED that the "children of the 50s" are apathetic and impossible to motivate.

"Young people today are as intelligent and care as much as the kids of a few years ago.

"But it is much harder to get involved in the process now than it was in the 60s, and after you get beaten back so many times, you begin to wonder what effect you could have," Smith said.

But Smith points to the Vietnam conflict to demonstrate "what effect the young people could have.

"Young people had the most



ROBERT N. SMITH

profound effect on an issue in that war than in all time. God only knows how much longer the war would have gone on," Smith said.

THESE YOUNG people do not see

the possibility of political activism as accomplishing anything, Smith said.

"The young people have a lot of energy but don't think they can change the system," Smith said.

It may be "much, much harder" to be a political organizer in 1974 than 1964, but Smith is committed to trying.

"We have to reach them before they say 'the hell with it!'" Smith said.

WITH THE go-ahead from state level Democrats, Smith said the national effort will attempt to get voter awareness programs into the schools, peer groups and communities to establish a "strong precinct level voter program."

The Michigan target areas will be those five with congressional seats up for election in the fall, Smith said.

"Young people have got to realize that it's their ideals, their integrity, their efforts that is going to make it a better system," Smith said.

Smith is no dreamer, though.

"YOUNG PEOPLE are not going to work for a candidate because he's a Democrat or a Republican but because of his integrity, his proposals.

"Most of the people I am appealing to are just not going to be party workers. If there's a candidate they like, though, they'll get involved," Smith said.

Seventy congressional seats, 10 senatorial campaigns and 10 gubernatorial elections in 20 states are the proposed national volunteer targets, Smith estimated.

"Hopefully the ultimate result of all this will be for the Democratic Party to prove itself to the people, to prove to the young people that there is a valid reason to involve themselves in the system," Smith said.



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78 students vie in auto contest

The annual Plymouth Trouble Shooting Contest will bring together the top auto mechanics students of 78 Michigan schools Wednesday in Oakland Mall, 14 Mile Road and John R. Troy.

The students will compete in one of 100 regional contests being held in all 50 states this spring under the sponsorship of Plymouth dealers and participating schools. Regional contest winners receive all-expense trips to the National Trouble Shooting Finals at Dallas June 16, 17 and 18.

In addition to the trip, prizes and awards in the National Finals are worth more than \$90,000 in college scholarships and other prizes for contestants.

At the National Finals, each member of each first-place team wins a \$2,500 scholarship. A total of \$37,000 worth of scholarships is offered.

EACH TEAM that places in the Na-

tional Finals receives a trophy and a set of tools for its school.

Trouble Shooters, sometimes called "Road Scholars," have to hit the books before they can hit the road to Dallas and the National Finals. They have to be outstanding in their classes to qualify for a regional contest, and they must be top students and auto mechanics to win in the regional meet.

Teams consist of two students, who are assigned to a new car in which a series of malfunctions have been deliberately placed. Malfunctions in all cars are identical, and all are related to the electrical, starting, ignition, fuel systems and body hardware of the cars. Teams race the clock and each other to find and fix the "bugs" and restore their cars to normal running order.

To win, however, a team must receive high marks in a written examination which is part of the contest and which contributes to the final score.

5 candidates running for Oakland board

Five candidates are running for two six-year terms on the Oakland Schools Board of Education, the governing board for the intermediate school district.

Members are elected to the board by a representative from the board of education of each of the 28 school districts which comprise the Oakland Schools.

Representatives will vote on Monday, June 3. Absentee ballots can be obtained by representatives who will not be able to vote in person.

The candidates are Blanche Bell of Birmingham, David Sparrow of Bloomfield Hills, Dorothy Beardmore of Rochester and Stanley Roh and Paul Jeffrey, both of Pontiac.

MRS. BELL was a member of the Birmingham Board of Education from 1968-1972 and served as secretary for one year of her term.

She has been active in many school and community activities in the 27 years she has lived in the area.

Sparrow, an incumbent, was elected

to the Oakland Schools board in 1972 to fill an unexpired term. He also served on the intermediate board in 1969 and 1970 when he was appointed to fill another unexpired term.

Mrs. Beardmore is currently secretary of the Rochester Board of Education and president of the Oakland School Boards Association. She was elected to the Rochester board in 1967 and her current term expires in 1975.

JEFFREY IS secretary of the Pontiac Board of Education. He also is a member of the executive board of the Republican Party of Oakland County and was a candidate for state representative in 1968.

Roh has had teaching experience at the secondary and early elementary level and works with the Oakland County Head Start program for low-income preschoolers.

R.A. Ambrose, whose term on the board is expiring, is not running for re-election. A resident of Oxford, he has served on the intermediate board for 14 years.

Students go on excursions

Mary Kuhn of Birmingham, a student at the Leelanau School, Glen Arbor, will participate in a tour of France, the Riviera and Italy during the summer.

Beth Reynolds, a Leelanau School alumna from Birmingham,

also will join the tour.

Paul Bazell of Bloomfield Hills, a Leelanau senior was among a group of horsemanship students who visited the Windward Stud Breeding Farm in Oklahoma recently as a senior project.

Rep. Huber seeking intern help

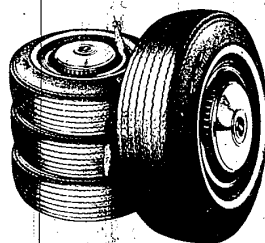
Rep. Bob Huber (R-18) is accepting applications from persons who are interested in serving as a summer Congressional intern in his Washington office.

Applications for the Congressional intern program, which begins July 1, must be received no later than Wednesday, May 29, at Huber's district office, 710 W. Eleven Mile, Royal Oak, 48067.

To be eligible for the congressional intern program, each applicant must have been a bona fide student at a college or similar institution of higher learning, or a government or social studies teacher at a secondary or post-secondary school in the academic year preceding employment.

The intern selected will receive a salary of \$500 per month, and will work under the direct supervision of Huber's Washington staff. Interns work on several constituent-related areas such as reviewing casework and doing research on pending legislation.

Selection of the summer Congressional intern will be made by a committee of community leaders. Membership on the committee will be announced later.



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