Electoral College novelist could be a member

Two elections ago, Alan May wrote a novel about political skulduggery in the Electoral College, the almost invisible 535-member body which officially elects the president and vice president of the United States.

This year, the Bloomfield Hills altorney stands a good chance of being a

memoer of the Electoral College him-self — that is, if the Republican Resgan-Bush ticket carries Michigan. May was nominated for presidential elector at last weekend's Republican State Convention in Detroit.

"When you get there, you have a sense of history," said Harry Greenleaf, Livonia Republican leader who was a presidential elector in 1980.



novel in 1978 about skulduggery in the Electoral College during a tight election. Here the 18th District chairman is pictured on the state convention lives.



MAY, 42, was selected from the 18th Congressional District cancus to be one of 20 presidential electors from Michi-gan. He is district chairman and was a delegate to the national convention in Dallas.

Dallas.

The 2nd District selected Michael Legg, 33, a Livonia attornoy and district leader. A national convention degate this year, Legg views the Electoral College post as "more of an honorary thing."

orary thing."
The 15th District picked Dan Dob-bins, 32, an independent insurance agent from Taylor. As district Reagan-Bush chairman, Dobbins knows about the Electoral College "just from my

the Electoral College "just from my reading of history".

The 17th picked Henry Dodge, northwest Detroit resident who is best known for his taxpayers group activities.

Typically, Electoral College cominations are given to older party workers like Dodge as a reward for years of raitful service. Selection of May, Legg and Dobbins was a departure from the pattern.

VOTERS DON'T actually vote for resident and vice president, though

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ticket wins a plurality on Novi. 8 is awarded all 20 of Michigan's electoral votes—(we for the senators and 18 for the U.S. representatives.

In 1880, Oreenleaf recalled, Michigan members of the Electoral College met one December day in the state Senate chamber in Lanning, Greenleaf himself formally offered George Bush's name for vice president, Ceremonicously, the electors cast their ballots and signed them. The ballots were scaled in an envelope, sent to the U.S. Capitol, read aloud and counted by House Speaker Thomas (Tip) O'Neill.

"Tia" probably an anachronicum, Greenleaf said — but four years later be admits to still being in awe of the ceremony.

MIST WESTERN nations have nar-

MOST WESTERN nations have laments, where members of the na-tional legislative body select their par-ty leader as prime minister. Voters pick only their MP, or member of per-liament.

pick only their nar, or similarment. Article XII of the U.S. Constitution, however, didn't give that power to Congress. Rather, it designed the Electoral College as a kind of super-parliament

to pick the president and vice president. The Founding lightness position, plaints a deliberative hotely and frame a stocked of compensative light frame a stocked of compensative light frame. In practice, political parties were for relapsed to the true and of the 19th control parties were for relapsed to the true and of the 19th control parties were for the parties to the control parties to the party and the party is conditionally and the party are consulted to the party and the party are considered for what it the candidate for the party and the party are considered for what it is the party are considered for the party and the party and



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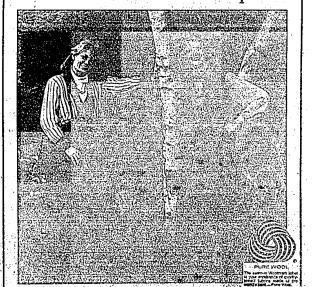
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