

Robertson's team joins party

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The mother of two sons in the Navy and two daughters, Blomberg became politically active in April of 1988 when, "very frightened and very reluctantly," she ran for delegate in precinct 13.

She called the Robertson newcomers "harder working than the liberal, old-line Republicans," adding, "we quadrupled the number of Republican delegates from Westland."

"HE HAS LED us in the right direction," said Mary Lowe, a first-time delegate from the Troy corner of the 14th Congressional District. A widow who works part time as a nursing assistant, Lowe said, "We're going to cooperate with the Bush people because Pat Robertson wants us to."

"Some of those (Bush) people will say, 'Hey, look how those (Robertson) people have really gone out and worked for this thing.'"

"I went to hear him speak in 1986, and he asked us to run for precinct delegate in our areas," said Lowe, who had never previously been active, what with raising two children and seeing two grandchildren come along.

"Years ago I was a Democrat. I changed to Republican about eight years ago."

"Lori Packer said we didn't come here to take over the Republican party; we came here to be a part of it."

PACKER, THE 25-year-old Southfield woman who led the Robertson drive in Michigan's precinct battles of 1986 and bitter caucuses of early '88, attracted half the delegation afterward as she was interviewed on national TV by Sam Donaldson.

She said Robertson's speech "sends a message because Michigan was the most intense battle because of the length of time."

Packer is a graduate of Southfield Christian High who attended a Texas Bible college and teaches Sunday school at Brightmoor Tabernacle. Her first job was with the Freedom Council, a conservative educational organization.

She was part of the conservative group that walked out of the Jan. 30 state convention in Grand Rapids. But late last month, Packer and the Robertson group made peace with the Bush leadership, and she was one of the five conservatives named to delegate posts.

What's next for Lori Packer politically? "I'm concentrating on the convention now and getting some fun in. And at the state convention, I'm supporting Cliff Taylor for the U-M Board of Regents."

"DEFINITELY," the Robertson people are adding strength to the Grand Old Party, said Suzanne Miller, a Kemp at-large delegate and

youth vice chair of the state party.

"It's an untapped resource," the 23-year-old Farmington Hills resident said. "The left has always tapped the ultra-left-wing churches. Why can't the right do the same thing?"

"He taught a lesson to everybody: If you want to win, you have to work. Everywhere. All states."

ROBERTSON, since failing to win the presidential nomination, has formed a political group called Americans For The Republic Inc., to train and support conservative candidates at all levels.

The founder of Christian Broadcasting Network and CBN University, Robertson told the Michiganders "the longest running primary in the history of America" is over.

He urged his followers to support George Bush for president because Democrat Michael Dukakis is a member of the American Civil Liberties Union, "a lobby for criminals, that's reason enough for me."

College tuition hikes irk delegate

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the convention participating in platform hearings and debates.

A Jack Kemp supporter until the New York congressman dropped out of the presidential race, May was on the platform subcommittee on defense, and there's something in it for U-M.

"In the platform, those universities which participated (in Strategic Defense Initiative research) are formally thanked and encouraged to

continue," said May, a supporter of the so-called "Star Wars" missile defense system.

Although U-M officially takes part, May said, "There was a group of professors who sought to make it a political tool and who didn't want (U-M) to participate."

THE PLATFORM generally up-

dates 1980 and '84 Republican positions, he said.

"In 1984, SDI was on the drawing boards, but now it has come to a reality as a defense and a diplomatic tool," May said.

Contrary to popular objections that no one reads party platforms, May said they are "a forerunner" of what Congress will debate in future

years. "You can count on this being introduced in the next few years," he said, pointing to the '88 plank on helping the shipbuilding industry.

Does that mean Al May might like to succeed U.S. Rep William Broomfield of Birmingham some day?

Despite a 20-year interest in foreign policy (Broomfield's specialty) and defense, May said no.

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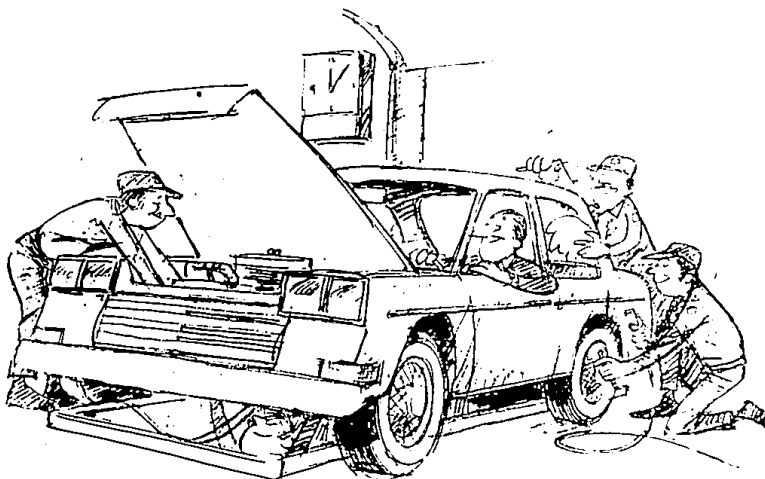
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