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# The Detroit News

Friday, April 18, 2008

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Metro Final

## Michigan GOP finds itself in debt

### \$240,000 deficit, fundraising difficulties threaten party's ability to compete in fall

By GORDON TROWBRIDGE  
Detroit News Washington Bureau

Michigan Republican activists are worried that their state party, heading into an intensive and expensive 2008 campaign, is in debt and failing to raise the money it needs to be competitive this fall.

The combination of a \$240,000 debt and a harsh fundraising environ-

ment for Republicans is expected to be the topic of debate this weekend, when the state GOP's budget and central committees meet in Lansing.

"Basically, we're close to a quarter of a million dollars in debt, and this should be a time we're raising money and not spending it," said Bill Beddoes of Allen Park, the party's 14th Congressional District chairman. "It's ve-

ry disturbing."

The financial picture could be key to a list of crucial races up and down the ticket — from the presidential race in what is expected to be a battleground state, to GOP hopes of recapturing control of the Michigan House.

"If the money isn't there, you can't get the message out," said Oakland County Commissioner Robert Gosse-

lin, a former state representative who said he is worried about his party's debt.

State GOP officials defend their financial decisions, saying the loans taken during 2007 for the party's main fund will be covered by money from a separate federal account with more liberal rules.

"I don't think it's anything out of

the ordinary to have a cash flow issue in a bad economy and to resort to the contingency plans put in place to handle that," said party spokesman Bill Nowling.

It's difficult to judge just where the party stands, financially.

State law requires political party

Please see GOP, Page 8A



Gosselin

## Pontiff consoles abuse victims

■ Pope meets with some affected by sex scandal; Metro area Muslims join interfaith gathering.

By DEB PRICE  
Detroit News Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Pope Benedict XVI met privately Thursday with victims of sexual abuse by clergy, following a Mass for 46,000 Catholics at a baseball stadium here.

The pope and Boston Cardinal Sean O'Malley met with five or six victims and gave them encouragement and hope, according to the Rev. Federico Lombardi, a papal spokesman.

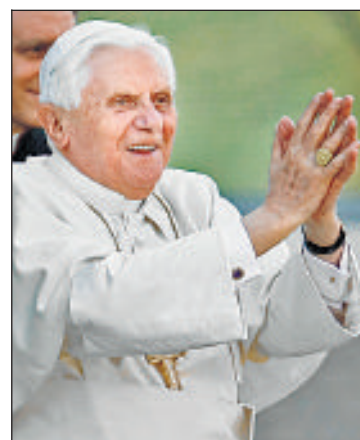
The emotional meeting was part of a packed day for the 81-year-old pope, who is on a six-day visit to the United States.

In addition to the lavish Mass, the pope spoke to Catholic educators, including Sister Frances Naldony, director of education for the Archdiocese of Detroit, and the Rev. Gerald Stockhausen, the president of the University of Detroit Mercy.

He ended the day with an interfaith meeting with 220 representatives from five religions, including Imam Sayed Hassan Al-Qazwini of the Islamic Center of America in Dearborn.

At the meeting with victims, some of whom cried, the pope said he would pray for them, their families and all victims of clergy sex abuse, Lombardi said. The 25-minute meeting took place in the chapel of the papal embassy and is believed to be the first time a pope has met with victims.

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Mark Wilson / Getty Images

Pope Benedict XVI celebrates Mass Thursday at Nationals Park.

## UAW FLEXES ITS MUSCLES



Dale G. Young / The Detroit News

United Auto Workers members picket Thursday at General Motors' plant in Delta Township.

## Weakened union shows strikes still powerful tool

### Recent walkouts snare dozens of plants

By SHARON TERLEP  
The Detroit News

LANSING — Only a few thousand of the United Auto Workers' nearly 480,000 members will be on strike and walking the picket line today.

But the union, roiled by demands for wage and benefit cuts from a crippled U.S. auto industry, is still managing to snarl the nation's auto manufacturing epicenter with a drumbeat of threats and strikes that continued Thursday with a walkout at a key General Motors Corp. plant near Lansing.

In the seven weeks that have

passed since the UAW struck parts maker American Axle & Manufacturing Holdings Inc., GM has lost more than 100,000 units of production and been forced to shuffle parts across the country to keep its factory lines flowing.

Dozens of plants across the United States, from GM factories to independent suppliers, have been either idled or partially shut down. One report put the tally of laid-off workers at more than 40,000.

With GM's Delta Township plant now shuttered by a strike, the automaker faces a potential

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shortage of some of the vehicles it can least afford to lose — its trio of crossover SUVs. The factory's 2,300 workers walked off the job after a strike deadline passed with no plant-level contract in place.

The labor actions and the fallout from them underscore how

Please see UAW, Page 11A

## Kilpatrick adds more power to legal team

■ High-profile Alabama lawyer to help fight perjury and obstruction charges.

By DAVID SHEPARDSON  
Detroit News Washington Bureau

DETROIT — Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick added another high-powered lawyer to his growing legal team, which plans to mount a vigorous defense to the perjury, obstruction of justice, conspiracy and misconduct in office charges against him — starting with his pretrial hearing today.

**MORE ONLINE**

Find video, photos, more reports and documents in the mayoral scandal at detnews.com/kilpatrick.

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James W. Parkman

III, an Alabama attorney best known for successfully defending former HealthSouth CEO Richard Scrushy, has joined former Illinois U.S. Attorney Dan Webb and Detroit attorney James C. Thomas in defending Kilpatrick in the criminal case.

"I want people to just slow down a minute and give us an opportunity to present our case. Don't kick me off 'Dancing with the Stars' until we get to the performance," Parkman, 58, said in an interview Thursday.

"I am not a smoke-and-mirrors lawyer. I like to do things straightforward."

Kilpatrick and his former chief of staff, Christine Beatty, face a total of 15 felony charges between them in a complaint filed by Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy. Parkman said he was hired last Friday by Kilpatrick and has been in Detroit since Tuesday, along with his partner, William White.

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### IN OTHER NEWS



Ted S. Warren / Associated Press

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