

OCC neutral on Proposal A

Oakland Community College will take no position on Proposal A on the May 19 ballot.

"I think we ought to sit still," said board Chairman Earl Anderson. By their silence, the six other trustees agreed.

OCC will be nearly alone in its position. "The Michigan Community College Association appears headed for an endorsement, and other education-oriented organizations have already done so," said President Robert F. Roelofs.

ROELOFS GAVE the board an analysis of Proposal A, which would reduce all local operating property taxes by half, reimburse local units with the new revenue from increasing the sales tax from 4 percent to 5.5 percent, and "cap" annual property tax increases by class of property at 6 percent.

"While we will theoretically be compensated for the lost property tax receipts," he said, "we will nevertheless have a net overall decrease in revenue from the combination of property tax and state aid."

And while inflation is running at 13.5 percent, Proposal A would limit growth of property tax bills to 6 percent, he said.

ONE MAIN reason Gov. William G. Milliken and bipartisan legislative leaders put forth Proposal A was to head off efforts for a more drastic tax cut advocated by Shiawassee County Drain Commissioner Robert Tlach.

"The theory behind this tax revision is that it would blunt a Tish III effort. However, there is no hard evidence

that Tish III would be thwarted or defeated," said Roelofs, adding: "Nothing will fend off Mr. Tish."

Proposal A will be the only item on the special statewide May 19 ballot. If it passes, it will begin to take effect in July 1981.

Roelofs noted, "Any formulation of Tish III cannot be voted upon until November of 1982. Therefore, it will not impact our 1981-82 budget and, in all likelihood, would have only a half-year effect on 1982-3."

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Narrative technique conference's focus

Literary scholars from the United States, Great Britain, Canada and Australia will gather on May 7-9 at Eastern Michigan University for a "Conference on Narrative Technique."

In celebration of 10 years of publication of "The Journal of Narrative Technique," the University is sponsoring a meeting at the University Center to examine narrative techniques in prose, poetry and drama from the Middle Ages to the 20th century.

Sheridan Baker of the University of Michigan will present the keynote address, "Narration: The Writer's Essential Mimesis," at the 11 a.m. session on Friday, May 8. Professor Baker is a poet, critic and scholar whose introduction to rhetoric, "The Practical Stylist," is well known to teachers and students of writing. Stanley Elkin of Washington University, author of "Boswell," "Criers and Kibitzers, Kibitzers and Criers" and other works, will read from his fiction to open the conference on Thursday at 9 a.m. and will speak at a practicing novelist on the functions of plot on Friday at 2:45 p.m.

John MacQueen, head of the University of Middleburg's School for Scottish Studies, will chair a session on literature of the Middle Ages and read a paper on narrative methods used by the Scottish poet Robert Henryson at 9:30

a.m. on Friday. In addition, Professor MacQueen will appear with Professor George Perkins of EMU to discuss the novel of Sir Walter Scott on Saturday at 10:45 a.m.

The session on 19th Century Poetry, presided over by Hoover Jordan, EMU professor emeritus of English, will feature papers on Browning, Coventry Patmore, Keats and the use of narrative in Victorian long poems. Professor John Ditsky of the University of Windsor will chair the session on 20th century poetry, with papers on the structure of early modern poetry and on the work of John Creve Ransom and E. E. Cummings. Both poetry sessions are scheduled for 9:30 a.m. Friday.

Literary criticism, journal writing and history will be the subjects of discussion in a session on factual and theoretical prose under the direction of Professor David Miller of the University of Oklahoma at 11:15 p.m. on Friday.

UM Professor Robert Super will chair a session on the novels of George Eliot, Charles Dickens, Elizabeth Gaskell and George Meredith.

Professor Dianne Osland will travel from the University of Newcastle, Australia, to deliver a paper on Fielding in the 18th century session chaired by Professor Paul McGlynn of EMU. Other papers in that group will consist

of Sterne, Goldsmith, and 18th century methods of narration. The session on 18th century prose is scheduled for 1:15 p.m. on Friday.

The American short story will be a central topic in the session on the 19th century chaired by George Perkins, while the drama portions of the program, chaired by Professor Al Nelson of EMU, will deal with the plays of Arthur Miller, Eugene O'Neill and Carson McCullers.

Novels by James Joyce, Virginia Woolf and Margaret Drabble will be examined in the modern English prose session chaired by Professor Frank McHugh of EMU. Professor W. J. Stuckey of Purdue will convene the session on modern American prose fiction, which will feature papers on Walker Percy, Thomas Pynchon and Kurt Von

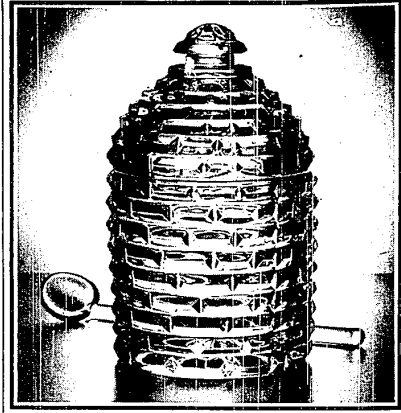
negut at 4 p.m. on Friday.

Professor John de Oliveira e Silva of Rutgers, Merrilee Cunningham of Houston and Raymond Stephanson of Saskatchewan will read their work in the Renaissance and 17th century session presided over by Professor John T. Shawcross of the University of Kentucky at 9:15 a.m. on Saturday.

A children's literature session, with Leukena Lukens of Miami University presiding, will hear papers on folk literature, Randall Jarrell, Lewis Carroll and Barbara Willard also at 9:15 a.m. on Saturday.

Conference registrations may be made through Patrick Barley, Credit-Free Programs, Division of Continuing Education, EMU, 330 Goodson Hall, Ypsilanti 48197.

For more information on the conference, call (313) 487-0312.



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Sign work planned for I-75

A Williamston company has been awarded a \$263,000 contract to upgrade and repair signs along an 11-mile stretch of I-75 in Oakland County.

The work, expected to be completed by November by the Midwest Bridge Co., will take place from University Drive north to M-15.

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