

# Issues unidentified in OCC trustee races

By MICHAEL MATUSZEWSKI

Eight are in the race, but few have identified any issues.

Two positions on the Oakland Community College (OCC) Board of Trustees are up for grabs in the June 12 election.

Of the eight candidates, two—Peter V. Temila of Pontiac and Sandra R. Rutter both of Pontiac—could not be reached for comment.

The contest pits two incumbents, Lila Johnson, 51, of Huntington Woods and Dennis Rogers, 37, of Troy, against a field of newcomers with relatively little political or administrative experience.

MRS. JOHNSON, who has been a trustee since the college was established in 1964, had considered foregoing this year's race to "be a parasite on society, instead of a mover and a director."

"After 16 years you sometimes get the urge to spend your time in other ways, like taking piano lessons and art

lessons and watching some TV," she said.

The death of OCC President Joseph E. Hill, however, changed her mind. Since Hill's death more than a month ago, the college has called together a committee which has embarked on a nationwide search for a successor.

Mrs. Johnson said her husband's advice finally convinced her.

"My husband said 'After all the life and heart you've put into the college, you can't turn your back on it right now.' He was right."

ROGERS ALSO initially decided not to run.

Earlier this year he made an unsuccessful bid for the Troy City Council and said he would not seek his old OCC seat.

"We have an interim administration," Rogers explained. "I feel I would be remiss in not contributing with the experience I've gained."

Rogers chairs OCC's 20-member presidential search committee.

JOHN R. BOWKER, 40, of Bloomfield Hills is making his first bid for an OCC seat.

Bowker, who has been with Wayne County Community College (WCCC) for 10 years, currently serves as WCCC's assistant dean for student services and director for financial aid.

He said he has always been interested in community colleges and is especially interested in OCC. The multi-campus college, Bowker said, has great potential "to assist the middle class in avoiding some very high-priced education."

"Students can pick up a quality education close to home."

It also gives students a chance to make some very important decisions about their future without going away to school only to find out that what they're majoring in really does not suit them. "It's really expensive to do that kind of trial-and-error experimenting," he said.

MARILYN LEVINSON, 48, of West Bloomfield said she could add "a different dimension" to the board.

She is the widow of Irving J. Levinson, the first provost of OCC's Highland Lakes campus in Union Lake.

Mrs. Levinson said that through her late husband she has been "closely associated with the everyday life of OCC."

That, she said, would enable her to provide the board "a closer insight into the actual workings of the college."

MARY PAMELA RYAN, 40, of Birmingham, said the college was in "a state of turmoil" in its search for a new president.

"They're going nowhere looking for a president," she said. "They're not promoting any great programs or anything."

Of her qualifications for the position, Mrs. Ryan, the mother of three college-age students, said, "I'm in the stature in life where I can add a good deal to the board."

Orchard Lake, is the only candidate who is reconsidering his decision to run.

Newton, who is a vice president with Bank of the Commonwealth, said he would review the list of candidates and would withdraw if he felt others were more qualified.

He said he "felt a civic obligation to contribute some of my professional talents... to the community in which I live and work."

"I'm not a seeker of political position and will not run a strong campaign," he said.

## Feds under fire over 'people mover'

Expanded system ripped by County Executive Murphy

By MICHAEL MATUSZEWSKI

Oakland County officials are unhappy with a federal proposal to expand downtown Detroit's planned elevated monorail "people mover."

The federal Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) is pressuring the Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority (SEMTA) to add another loop to the single-rail plan already on the drawing boards.

"It's unnecessary and too expensive," said Oakland County Executive Daniel T. Murphy. "It only takes 10 minutes to travel the entire loop. I just don't see the necessity in adding another loop to speed up travel."

According to UMTA, more people would use an expanded people mover because travel would be easier and faster.

A DOUBLE LOOP system, however, would push costs from \$97 million to \$130 million.

The proposed route, which EMTA favors, runs from the Renaissance Center west to Cobo Hall and the Riverfront Arena. There it turns north and runs through the Central Business District and returns to the RenCen. UMTA's suggested plan would require the construction of another elevated track along the route.

Even though Detroit Mayor Coleman Young does not approve of UMTA's latest suggestion, Oakland officials, who had been letting the dust settle after the board of commissioners' decisions to leave and rejoin SEMTA, see the proposal as another effort to deprive the county of its "fair share."

Southeastern Michigan has been promised at least \$600 million in federal funds to develop a regional mass transit system.

SEMTA opponents such as Commissioner James Lanni (R-Royal Oak) say the latest proposal, combined with other plans, cuts the suburbs' share of the \$600 million.

"FOR EVERY dollar we spend," Lanni said, "we get back maybe 25 cents."

"By the time it's completed, the people mover will cost \$200 million. It'll cost another \$100 million to sub-

sidize DDOT's (the Detroit Department of Transportation) pension plan."

"Half of the \$600 million will be gone before we even start," Lanni said.

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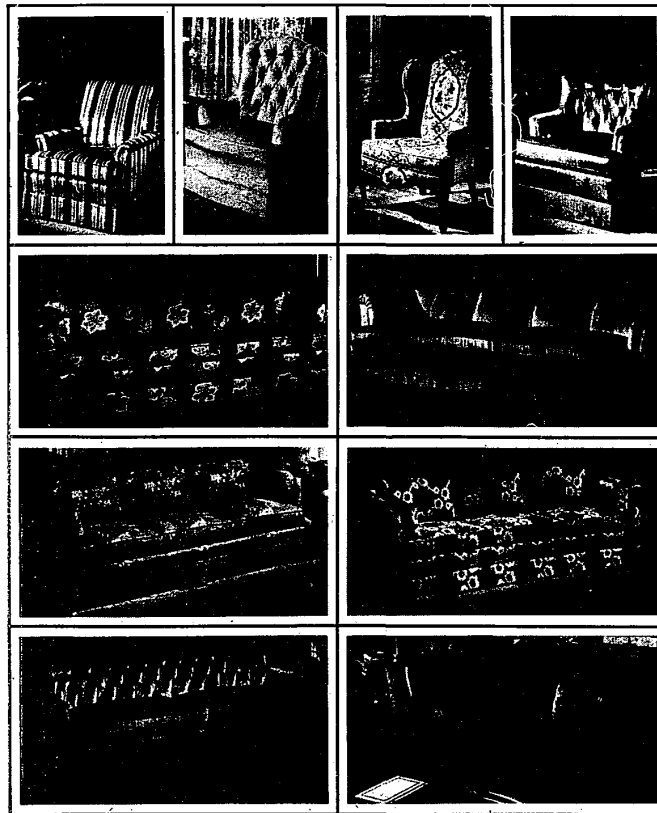
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