

College board out of touch?

OCC trustee candidates share alienation critique

By MICHAEL MATUSZEWSKI
The Oakland Community College Board of Trustees is out of touch with the rest of the college, say a number of trustee candidates, including one of the incumbents.

Five of the seven remaining candidates—Dennis Rogers of Troy, Lila Johnson of Huntington Woods, Sandra L. Ritter of Pontiac, Marilyn T. Levinson of West Bloomfield and John Bowker of Bloomfield Hills—fielded questions from OCC's Faculty Association last week at the Orchard Ridge campus in Farmington Hills.

Two candidates, Robert L. Newton of Orchard Lake and Peter V. Tenuola of Pontiac, did not attend but sent written statements. Mary Pamela Ryan of Birmingham dropped out of the race.

FOUR OF THE candidates spoke of the need to improve the board's relationship with the faculty, adminis-



LILA JOHNSON
trators, staff and students.

"In the past, there have been strained relationships, but we've always tried to overcome them," said Rogers, an incumbent appointee seeking his first electoral bid for a six-year term.

"We've placed groups on the agenda I don't know. We might have to recruit persons to come to our board meetings," he said.

Rogers also criticized the board for not sending representatives to OCC functions. He suggested that at least one board member attend each college function.

John Bowker, an administrator at Wayne County Community College, also took a swipe at the board's "sit back and wait" stance.

"You can't say you don't hear. Don't sit back and wait for people to come to you," he said. "If I wanted information, I'd go out into the college community and get it."

"Too many decisions are made in a vacuum. As a result, many of those decisions may be embarrassing," Bowker said.

THE BOARD IS NOT guaranteeing a free flow of information, said Mrs. Levinson, who said she is running so she can make her complaints vocal.

"The board's duty is to set policy and they can't do it unless they're provided with the information to set that policy," she said.

Mrs. Johnson, who has been a board member since 1964, defended the board and its information-gathering mechanism.

"The mechanism's already in place. There are a large number of people involved in the program-planning budget. Student government gets the opportunity to speak at every meeting. They also have a chance to plan their own budget," she said.



SANDRA RITTER

Mrs. Johnson also pointed to the college's five bargaining units and curriculum planning units as well as a number of other committees "set up to funnel information for the college community to the board."

MRS. RITTER, a fiery schoolteacher in the Detroit Public Schools, roundly criticized the board throughout the 2½-hour meeting.



MARILYN LEVINSON



DENNIS ROGERS

She said the college community should make the policies—not the board. The faculty and staff should be the liaison between the community and the board, she said.

"Instead," Mrs. Ritter said, "if you're not happy with a policy, you have to be in an organization to have your voice heard."

"We have to remember, the educators are the professionals and we must follow what they have to say."

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Solar tax credit passes House vote

The state House of Representatives recently passed a bill to provide tax credits for the purchase of solar, wind, and water energy conversion devices. The credit will expire in 1983.

The bill is now before the Senate Finance Committee.

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Sex abounds on kids' TV favorites

A Michigan State University study of television content and children's viewing habits confirms what many parents already believe: their kids' favorite shows include plenty of sex.

In a typical viewing week, a child will see intimate sexual acts, both implied and explicit, 30 to 40 times. The child will also see up to 50 instances of alcohol usage during the week, say the researchers.

Funded by the U.S. Office of Child Development, the MSU study of "Substance Use and Sexual Intimacy on Commercial Television" was directed by Dr. Bradley Greenberg, professor and chairman of communication at MSU and graduate student Carlos F. Fernandez-Collado.

Results of the MSU content analysis of 1976-77 prime time and Saturday morning dramatic TV series found that:

• The prime time period (9-11 p.m.)

presented intimate sexual behavior most frequently, at a rate of 2.7 incidents per hour.

• Intercourse between unmarrieds was found seven times as often as intercourse between husband and wife, across all shows.

• Alcohol consumption during prime time was depicted nearly 3½ times per hour, a rate twice that of the family hour (8-9 p.m.).

• Saturday morning shows depicted no intimate sex behavior or alcohol consumption.

"Perhaps the most striking finding is the amount of alcohol use in crime shows, by four incidents per hour," say the researchers. In action-adventure, continuing stories and family drama shows, alcohol incidents occurred more than 2.5 times per hour. Situation comedies had less than 1.5 incidents per hour.

A survey of 300 fourth, sixth, and eighth graders was included in the research to identify favorite shows of youngsters. The kids' favorite shows were mostly in prime time. Saturday morning shows accounted for just a small portion of their viewing week, the researchers found.

High on the favorites list were crime shows and situation comedies which depicted heterosexual intercourse at a rate of two occurrences per hour.

"Sex on television has become an increasing concern of social critics. For every letter received by the networks complaining of violence, more than 20 letters are received that deal with sex content," the researchers point out.

"There is growing public concern," they report, "about the regularity with which these behaviors are presented. The basis for these concerns is in their potential impact on young viewers."

OU offers course for future balloonists

Training necessary to qualify as a hot air balloon pilot will be offered by the Oakland University Division of Continuing Education in a non-degree course to be held Saturdays, beginning June 17.

The course, preparation for taking the Federal Aviation Administration written exam, will be conducted by a licensed commercial balloon flight instructor from 9 a.m. to noon, Saturdays, for 10 weeks. The complete the-

ory of aerostation will be covered, including balloon terminology, meteorology, FAA regulations, and navigation. Tuition is \$70.

To be licensed by the FAA, an examination in ground training as well as flight training must be passed successfully.

For details about the course and to register, call the continuing education office, 377-3120.

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