

# 400 OCC employees ask to keep Roelofs

By Kathy Parrish  
staff writer

A majority of Oakland Community College employees urged the board of trustees to extend President Robert F. Roelofs' contract. In a petition presented to the board Thursday, 400 employees asked the seven elected trustees to reconsider their Jan. 17 vote to retire the president June 30. Six hundred people

are employed at OCC's four campuses and administration center. Trustees politely thanked the staffers, but didn't act on the request. Board chairwoman Suzanne K. Reynolds said the petitions may be considered at tonight's meeting. "It will very likely be on the agenda," she said. "UNDER PRESIDENT Roelofs' leadership, Oakland Community College has maintained

fiscal integrity, high employee morale, and is functioning in an excellent and efficient manner," said the petition, presented by OCC Academic Senate chairman Steven Claypoole. "In the light of declining enrollments, and state and local fiscal readjustment, Mr. Roelofs would provide the necessary and smooth transition in leadership for this outstanding institution. "We believe that the institution would be

better served by this process, rather than the appointment of an interim president." AFTER MONTHS of tension between Roelofs and four board members, the trustees Jan. 17 turned down the 66-year-old president's request to put in another year. They also rejected a six-month extension of his \$75,000-a-year contract. Faculty representatives have expressed concern over the rift, which Roelofs charges is based more on personality differences than the job he's done. He contends the board majority wants him to "fawn" over them. Declining to outline their grievances against him, the four-member majority will say only that they've tried unsuccessfully to work with him. Opposed to Roelofs' staying are trustees Earl Anderson, Madison Heights; David W. Hackett, Rochester Hills; Margaret A. McTavish, Birmingham; and Reynolds of West Bloomfield. In favor of giving the president another year are trustees Edward Pappas, Farmington Hills; vice chairman Sandra L. Ritter, Waterford; and Douglas Wakefield, Southfield.

PRESENTING THE petition to the trustees, Claypoole said it represents a "grass roots" effort. The 400 names were gathered by a day and a half from workers in all college departments. At a meeting last Wednesday on OCC's Dr. Richard Ridge campus in Farmington Hills, Academic Senate members voted unanimously to petition the board for the extension. The 60-member group makes recommendations to the college president. During the school's last presidential search, the Academic Senate recommended OCC hire an "administrator-manager" like Roelofs to head the school. "OVER THE PAST week, there has been great concern among the ranks regarding the action at last week's board meeting," Claypoole told the trustees. "I think there has been great concern within the ranks of employees regarding your action, and a sadness that there is an impasse," he added. "We are greatly concerned and hope you will entertain the petition. We await your response."

# Blanchard plan to upgrade river fishing includes Huron, Clinton

By Tim Richard  
staff writer

More fishing on the Huron, Clinton and other southern Michigan rivers is a major goal of Gov. James J. Blanchard, along with halting any possible diversion of Great Lakes water. Blanchard set an overall goal of improving fishing activity on southern Michigan rivers by 10 percent or more for the next decade, to provide an additional 2.4 million angler days for Michigan's rivers. His State of the State address, delivered to the Michigan Legislature last week, also called for development of boating access facilities.

Because of low-cost senior citizens hunting and fishing licenses, Blanchard said, the state Fish and Game Fund faces a \$5 million deficit by next year. He supported reimbursement of the Fish and Game Fund from the general fund.

BLANCHARD GOT high marks from state Sen. Patrick McCollough, D-Deerborn, for his stand on the Great Lakes. "The governor supported my package (of bills) on a comprehensive Great Lakes water management plan," said McCollough, a third-term senator whose district includes Garden City. "My package calls for 1) a comprehensive plan, which the courts say we must have to stop diversion, and 2) changing the membership of the Great Lakes Commission from a commercial body to a more legal and advocacy body."

Blanchard supported a one-year ban on any water diversion, said he would appoint a Great Lakes program chief within the Department of Natural Resources and called for a single statewide water management plan.

EMEAC, BASED in Birmingham, said a day before Blanchard's speech that it is "adamantly opposed to harmful diversions of water out of the Great Lakes." EMEAC staff attorney Elizabeth Harris urged Blanchard to support the draft Great

Lakes Charter as "a critical step toward preventing widespread potential water conflicts within the Great Lakes basin."

Blanchard's message agreed. "Attacking the Great Lakes basin's water quality problems will... require a coordinated effort spanning state and provincial boundaries. A framework exists under the 1978 U.S.-Canada Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, which is scheduled for review in the next two years."

"The Great Lakes states, however, must become much more aggressive in identifying and responding to the basin's water quality problems. While the Great Lakes states have an interest in cleaning up, they are limited by the structure of the U.S.-Canada agreement, which is negotiated by the federal government with states playing an advisory role only."

Blanchard cited two ways he would seek a greater role for states: "I will urge the Council of Great Lakes Governors to develop a consensus on changes which should be incorporated in renegotiation of the U.S.-Canada agreement in 1986. "I also will call for a summit meeting of the Great Lakes governors and federal officials, including the administrator of the EPA, to insist upon a federal commitment to expand the states' role and provide cooperative federal efforts to protect Great Lakes water quality."

BESIDES THE Huron and Clinton rivers, whose headwaters are in northern Oakland counties, Blanchard singled out the Raisin, Kalamazoo, Muskegon, Grand, Saginaw and St. Joseph rivers for "enhanced fishing on southern Michigan rivers." "With the benefit of some \$2.6 million in new funds which could become available to our state under the federal Dingell-Johnson program, we can launch imaginative efforts to expand urban and inland fishing," the governor said.

As is customary in State of the State addresses, there was only a statement of goals and few details. Specific plans will come in the budget message and in detailed bills.

The Huron arises in the Proud Lake chain, where it is a designated trout stream, flows southwestward into Washtenaw County, then makes a 90-degree turn and flows southeastward to Lake Erie. Dams form such lakes as Kent and Belleville. In its lower reaches, below the Flat Rock dam, it is a salmon stream.

FOR HUNTERS, Blanchard promised to support the recommendations — due next December — of a task force studying ways to enhance wildlife and fish habitat. Without mentioning numbers, the governor said he would support expanding the number of conservation law officers. He noted that during the economic recession, the number of officers fell from 216 to 146 in a five-year period.

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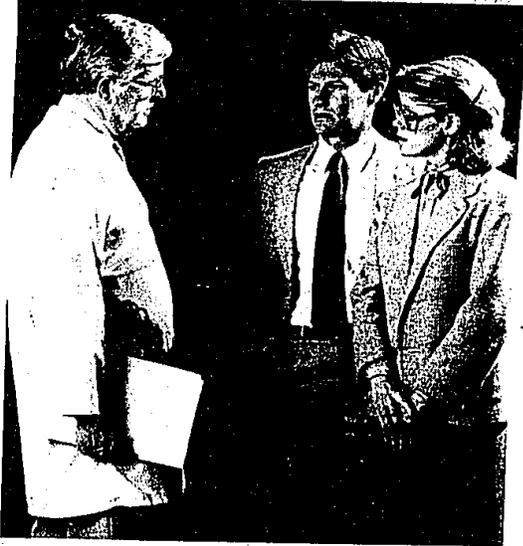
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## Big truck year

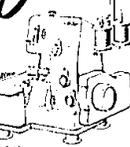
America's truck manufacturers sold 263,243 trucks in December, ending a calendar 1984 that was 30.6 percent ahead of 1983. It was the second-highest calendar year in truck sales history, according to the Motor Vehicle Manufacturers Association. Retail truck sales for the 1984 calendar year ran 3.5 million, 9.6 percent behind the 1978 record of 3.9 million units. The 10 member companies of MVMA produce more than 99 percent of the domestic motor vehicles. Members are AM General Corp., American Motors Corp., Chrysler Corp., Ford Motor Co., General Motors Corp., International Harvester Co., M.A.N. Truck & Bus Corp., PACCAR Inc., Volkswagen of America Inc., and Volvo North America Corp.

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