

# Candidates Examine OCC's Future, Failings

Seven candidates are seeking voter approval June 8 for two positions on the board of trustees of Oakland Community College.

Local voters will select two of the seven for six-year terms on the OCC board of trustees. Candidates are: Earl Anderson; Ray Genick; Charles Holmes; Eugene Johnson; Alexander Klotter; David Loper; and David Preston.

The incumbents seeking re-election are Anderson, a labor relations representative from Madison Heights, and David Preston, a Birmingham attorney.

Among the challengers are two public school superintendents: Klotter of Hamtramck Public Schools and former acting state superintendent of public instruction; and Johnson, of Bloomfield Hills Public Schools.

Backgrounds of the other challengers are: Holmes, deputy director of the Oakland County Commission on Economic Opportunity; Genick of Huntington Woods, associate director of credit programs for Wayne State University; and Loper, a fashion designer from Pontiac.

As a service to our readers, Observer Newspapers contacted the seven candidates to obtain their views on four questions.

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**SUBJECTS CANDIDATES**

were queried on were:

• Do you agree with the North Central Association (NCA) accrediting report that the OCC central office organization is improper and is stifling satellite campus administration and faculty?

• Do you agree with the OCC policy of admitting as many non-Oakland County students as possible or would you rather see a high residency quota?

• Do you believe the OCC experience in these days of campus unrest has been in the public's best interests?

• Do you believe OCC policy and administration are fostering the proper type of curriculum and educational procedure?

**ALL CANDIDATES** except one agreed non-residency admissions for the OCC campuses are proper at this time because there are not enough residents enrolling to fill the classrooms.

But in the future, the six agreed, admission policy will have to be re-evaluated when resident enrollments reach par with the number of vacancies with priority being given Oakland County residents.

Holmes, the one exception, said he would definitely limit non-resident registrations because OCC must address itself to its service area. Many county residents are unable to attend college away from home, he said, while some are unfamiliar with the opportunity available.

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Another area of agreement was that there are no serious problems with students at any of the OCC campuses.

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**A QUESTION WHICH** did result in division of opinion, however, was if greater autonomy should be given the separate campuses or if a strong, central administrative organization should continue.

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The college has not been accredited by NCA partly because its internal campuses enjoy too little freedom with the central administration holding tight reins.

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Colleges are unaccustomed to addressing themselves to this new population making up the fabric of the campus," he said. Holmes said administrators and faculty members have an important role in development of the college, but it is not a role they have exclusively.

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Loper agreed with the NCA report that the central office stifles campus administration and faculty. He said the NCA was accurate in pinpointing the central office "as a major weakness" in the college's structure and function.

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**BUT KLOTTER**, Hamtramck superintendent of schools, disagrees with the NCA report. "Since the institution is relatively new and still in its early stages of development," he said, "it is necessary to develop and operate from a strong central administrative and management base."

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"As the institution matures and levels off to a reasonably stable student population and program, it is then possible to delegate more responsibility for management to the lower levels of administration."

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**GENICK FEELS** the total college should receive accreditation at the same time.

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"It is difficult to accredit one campus and not another, even though this is done."

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"In a multi-campus approach, there will always be a certain error of improper organization and stifling of administration and faculty."

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**ANSWERING THE** last question, Anderson said during his tenure as trustee he has pushed hard for expansion of

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technical and vocational programs.

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"I think it is extremely important that these course offerings be broadened so that we can service those great numbers of students who will not go on for liberal arts degrees but rather seek skills that they can obtain in one or two-year programs which will enable them to obtain satisfying and remunerative employment and thus become self-reliant, productive citizens in the community."

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Loper said there are three constituencies of the college which should share in decision making on curriculum: students, faculty and administration.

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"The first of these groups is badly under-represented in the policy making and administration of OCC," he said, adding "this imbalance in representation must be corrected quickly."

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**KLOTTER SAID** there appears to be too great a departure at OCC from the traditional forms of instruction. There is a need for modernization in curriculum, Klotter cautions, but "in a developmental environment so that faculty and students understand the procedures and objectives."

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Genick says he believes OCC is fashioning various cognitive approaches to teaching and learning by varying the basic ingredients in the educational formula to meet the challenges of a community college.

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Preston believes OCC has evolved a good blend of traditional classroom give-and-take and more progressive teaching methods.

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"This mixture is in recognition that all courses and all students are not best taught by the same method."

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Johnson, Bloomfield Hills superintendent of schools, says the college must be strengthened to bring about North Central accreditation.

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"A strengthening of board policy giving the administration and the staff opportunity to develop guidelines for strong college organization is an important factor for future growth and development."

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Johnson said special emphasis should be given for "additional programs for students interested in terminal education as well as additional programs for students wishing to go beyond the two years of community college work."

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Holmes pointed out OCC has a three pronged responsibility: to provide training for students wishing to transfer to four year colleges; general and terminal education for students wanting enrichment through two years beyond high school; and vocational and technical training.

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"However, the college has been misdirected, almost entirely, in attempting to meet this three pronged policy."

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"The college can meet the three different needs by assessing and involving the community, the faculty and the students to develop curriculum and procedure."

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**Sex Studies Urged**

Continued from Page 1A

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"And Anaheim has had a successful sex education program," he added.

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If you're interested in overstimulating our children, then you'll reach your goal," said Duke. He mentioned statistics shown in Michigan the highest number of illegitimate births occur in Genesee County.

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"Well, there are three types of liars - the liar, the damned liar and statistics," interrupted Dr. Fred Isaac, subcommittee member.

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Duke felt that children are getting sex information unnecessarily soon. "They will mature too fast," he said.

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"But let's have our children prepared for the maturity which will be taking place," mentioned Rev. Kaltreider.

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**DURING THE** year of study, task group members interviewed high school students about the implementation of sex education.

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"Students told me their parents would think we're bad if they asked certain questions," explained Mrs. Bette Hubrecht, task group member.

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Mrs. Hubrecht said children have no place to go to get true, unemotional answers to their questions.

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"But the school is unemotional," she added.

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"You're undermining the communication between parent and child if you start sex education in kindergarten," said Duke. "I thought sports were supposed to channel excess energy away from sex."

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**TASK GROUP MEMBERS** assured Duke physical sex education wouldn't be the only area taught.

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"We can't compartmentalize human sexuality into physical psychological or emotional parts," said Rev. Stewart.

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"It's the whole person that's important."

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In this situation, the teacher has an option to deal with the question or not.

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Remember, it's your responsibility as parents to state your objections," pointed out task group member Ralph MacKenzie.

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**THE SCHOOL BOARD** is developing a complaint process for parents, he explained.

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The human sexuality report, which is the last of three FLE studies, will now be turned over for consideration to the Board of Education where approval is expected.

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"This does not necessarily mean the dissolution of the FLE committee," said Rev. Kaltreider.

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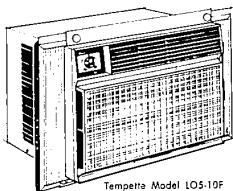
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