



Profanity fouls OCC station

By Casey Hans
staff writer

Staff and students at Oakland Community College were scheduled to meet this week to discuss a weekend radio broadcast in which an on-air guest used profanity, surprising the student deejay and prompting two complaints from the community.

Meanwhile, Federal Communications Commission officials in Detroit and Washington say they have received no complaints about the broadcast from WORF-FM at the Orchard Ridge Campus and are not investigating.

The FCC regulates all broadcast communications, including those of student stations.

The broadcast in question occurred Saturday afternoon during a free-format radio segment at the studios at the Farmington Hills campus at Orchard Lake Road and I-696.

"I discontinued the program. I shut it down early," explained Eric Dickerson, a student who works as a news director, heavy metal music director and deejay at WORF and was handling studio production at the time of the Saturday afternoon incident.

Dickerson said an author was on the air live to discuss G.G. Allin, a punk rock-style musician who is known for his extreme behavior on stage, and about whom the guest was writing a book. When Allin phoned into the broadcast Saturday afternoon from a state prison facility in Adrian, he was put on the air for a live interview and began using foul language. That prompted two complaints from the community.

A PANEL comprised of three faculty members and three students are

slated to meet this week to discuss the incident and decide what, if any, action might be taken.

WORF-FM is a 10-watt-powered, student-run, alternative radio station designed to train students in the broadcasting field. It is aired on the 90.3 FM frequency and can be heard in about a two-mile radius around the Farmington Hills campus.

OCC spokesman George Cartsonis said the station does not use time delays, as would be normal at other stations. Such delays allow problems to be monitored and edited off the airwaves. "They don't have any sophisticated delay equipment," he added.

"Allin used some offensive language and afterward, the person (the guest) presented some of Allin's music," Cartsonis explained.

The musical lyrics were also considered those complaints to be obscene. But radio station logs show that disclaimers about possibly objectionable program content aired at 1:30 p.m., 2 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. Saturday. The program was taken off the air at 3:30 p.m., half an hour early.

"Put yourself in his place — here was a kid learning his craft," Cartsonis added. "I think he probably got caught unprepared and unaware."

The station continues operating as usual, with the exception of several hours Monday when the station was off the air, said OCC officials.

WORF student program director Amy Finnell said the station was aware of potential problems with the interview, but thought they had taken necessary precautions.

"They contacted us and it sounded like kind of an interesting thing. We didn't think it would become such a problem," she said. "Maybe he (Dickerson) used a little bit of poor judgment letting the music play. But

he did pull it off the air."

The story first aired on an early Saturday newscast at WXYZ Channel 7, after one of the complainants apparently tipped off that station's news department.

Dickerson has voluntarily removed himself from any work at the station until this week's hearing determines the facts. He did not use any obscene language personally, he said.

Coordinator of student activities, Jamie Mason, said he hopes to have more information and a better understanding of the situation after the facts are aired.

The station's alternative format allows the students not only to broadcast non-traditional music and programs, but to do other things as well, he said.

"They have done some really positive things," he added. For example, "they're working right now at trying to broadcast the news from Tokyo for the Japanese community."

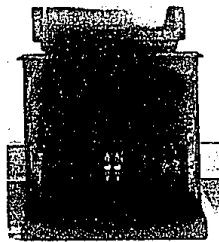


HANDY BOSTON/staff photographer

Scott Wallace, an OCC student from Bloomfield Hills, handles his regular afternoon show Monday at the student-run campus radio station WORF-FM in Farmington Hills. All student disc jockeys have taken care with their program content since a Saturday incident in which a guest used obscene language on a live interview.

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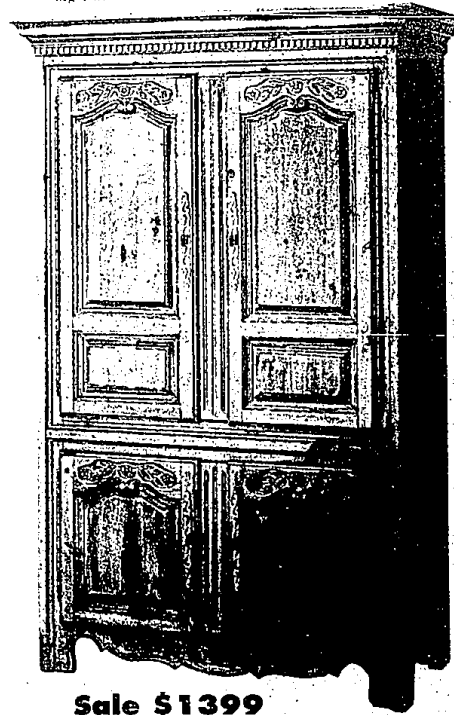
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OCC approves tuition increase

By C.L. Rugenstein
staff writer

The cost of getting a college education has gone up for students at Oakland Community College.

OCC board of trustees last week voted 5-2 to increase tuition by \$2 per credit hour. The board also voted to raise some course fees and to grant pay increases for the five college presidents, according to OCC spokesman George Cartsonis.

The tuition hikes will affect students from Oakland County and Michigan, but not foreign students or those from other states.

"That doesn't mean more revenues," Cartsonis said. "It does allow us to have a stand-pat budget."

Beginning this fall, the per credit hour cost at OCC will increase from \$35 to \$37 for students living within the district. For students living outside the district, but in Michigan, the per credit hour cost jumps from \$59 to \$61.

Tuition for students from outside the state or outside the country are not affected.

THE INCREASE was hotly contested, with trustees Judith Wiser of Southfield and David Hackett of Auburn Hills voting to reject it.

Wiser wanted to cut the budget rather than raising tuition.

But Cartsonis said the need for the \$2 per hour tuition increase was "widely understood" in order to maintain services at the five campuses.

Some trustees opposed raising course fees, but the motion passed 4

to 3. The action taken served to standardize course fees, Cartsonis said.

"Course fees ranged all over the scale," from \$2 or \$3, up to \$60 for some science courses, Cartsonis said. "This leveled them off, and lumped them into different categories."

The majority of fees fall into a \$5-10-20 range, with a \$25 graduation fee.

The late registration fee is a new wrinkle in the OCC scheme of things. Up to now, students did not have to pay a penalty for registering late. Next fall, however the late registration fee is \$50.

THE FEE for processing foreign students' applications was raised to \$120.

The 5.7 percent pay increase for all the top administrators except chancellor R. Stephen Nicholson should have been no surprise to the board, Cartsonis said. Raises, in annual increments, are written into existing contracts of all seven of the colleges' bargaining units. The other groups had already gotten a 5.5-percent raise.

Trustees voted 5-2, with Wiser and Hackett dissenting, to approve the raises.

"Eighty to 90 percent of our expense are wages," said Cartsonis. "Labor is our biggest cost."

The administrators last got a raise in 1989.

The latest pay raise puts salaries at \$87,900 for the presidents of the five OCC campuses, and \$92,600 for senior vice chancellor Anthony Jarson.

SEMOG cites waste of growth

By Tim Richard
staff writer

"There's a change of attitude" toward urban sprawl among local officials in the region, said Milton Mack, chair of the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments.

"Members communities have been reluctant to face it, but there has been a waste of resources, environmental damage and a high cost in taxes," Mack said in response to last week's SEMOG staff report. The report said public officials have lacked "the political will" to manage growth.

"Most officials looked at growth as a way to generate a larger tax base," said Mack, a Democratic Wayne County commissioner from the city of Wayne.

A TOP OAKLAND County officials agreed.

"If it (the SEMOG report) is not a self-indicting statement, what is?" asked Patrick Nowak, deputy county executive.

The 21-year-old SEMOG — composed of 140 local governments in seven counties — is supposed to be engaged in planning of transportation, community and economic development, water and air quality, solid waste and land use.

Nowak's boss, Oakland Executive Daniel T. Murphy, has taken heat from local officials the last two years for urging preservation of older communities and a slowdown of development along two-lane roads in unsewered farmlands.

An Oakland County commissioner agreed SEMOG leaders had worried little until the last year or two about sprawl.

"We've needed some of the new growth," said Marilyn Gosling, R-Bloomfield Hills. "But it takes a Lake Angelus protesting Auburn Mills (a megamall project in Auburn Hills north of Pontiac) to bring this (wetlands damage) to the attention of SEMOG and the Department of Natural Resources."

Gosling census a change in attitude among other Oakland officials.