Student paper sues OU police to gain access to rape report

Censorship is the main issue in a lawsuit to be filed in Oakland County Circuit Court next week by the Oakland University students newspaper against the university police for violating the Michigan Freedom of Informations

lating the Michigan Freedom of In-formation act.

Jane Briggs-Bunting, a faculty member and newspaper adviser who's also an attorney specializing in media law, it siling the sult for denying information to the universi-ty's Oakland Post newspaper about an alleged rape on campus last ments.

an alleged rape on campus last month.

"It's drafted, we're going (with the suit,) period." Briggs-Bunting said.

"What we're trying to prove when we go to court is we have the right hat Information and it's our decision (whether or not) to priot it — not the university's decision to censor us in any way at all."

The rape occured May 10, but was not reported until May 30 because the student was too frightened, according to a press release from the OU public safety department. The IP-year-old woman said her assallant was waiting in her car after she returned to the northwest parking lot near North and South Foundation halls after a night class about 10 halls after a night class, about 10

p.m. She told police the man forced her to drive to the south central end of campus, where she said he raped her. She also said she thought she'd left the car locked.

"WE DID NOT request the name of the person, it's standard policy not to use the name — we even said the could block it out," Briggs-Bunting said. "But we have the right to all hat information."

Citing the Buckley Amendment, also known as the Parnity Education Rights and Privacy Act that infor-

Public can hear parks plan

Oakland County voters have a chance to reduce their property taxes this year.

On the Aug. 7 ballot is a proposal to continue the quarter mill levy for Oakland County Parks for 10 years. A second proposal asks for a half mill for one year for development of Orion Oaks County Park.

The second of three public meetings on the proposals is set for 7-8:30

Oakland County Parks Sports Camp will begin Monday.

Sports Camp will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday at Waterford Oaks County Park.

Children ages 8-14 can take ad-vantage of eight, one-week sessions through Aug. 10. The cost is \$65 per child and \$57 for each additional

Activities include soccer, football, softball, field hockey, volleyball, tennis, bicycle motocross and swimming at the wave pool.

A Friday field trip includes boat-

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child and \$57 f child in a family.

County sports camp begins

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p.m. Tuesday, June 19 at Glen Oaks Golf Course in Farmington Hills. Renewal of the quarter mill re-quest will cost the owner of a \$90,000 home \$11.25 per year. The half mill proposal, if passed, will cost the same homeowner \$22.50 for the year.

cost the same homeowher seemed the year.
Glen Oaks Golf Course is on 13
Mile Road between Middlebelt and
Orchard Lake roads. For more information, call 858-0906.

ing, fishing, nature activities and a cookout.

ing, fishing, nature activities and nocokout.

Transportation will be provided by Oakland County Parks and Recreation's Mobile Recreation Department. Pick-up sites are scheduled at designated recreation departments will be between 8 and 9:15 a.m. Return times are 3:45 to 5 pm.

Participants should bring a brown bag Junch Monday through Thursday.

Waterford Oaks Park is on Watkins Lake Road, between Scott Lake and Pontiac Lake roads. For more information, call 8:88-4945.

mailon about students is private, OU's public safety department with-held the report from the Oakland Post student newspaper.

"It's university policy not to release (that information) and that it's protected by the Buckley Amendment to protect students," said Public Safety Director Richard Leonard. It does not mean the university is withholding information that a crime has been committed." Briggs-Bunting said that legally the information is open to the public—anyone can ask to see the police—anyone can ask to see the police—The community has the right to know, to protect itself, to be aware. She said the only information they got about the crime was a press recase from university spokesman Jim Llewellyn to local media—and they got that from another newspaper.

Llewellyn said he also didn't see a

per.
Litwellyn said he also didn't see a police report, that the information was given to him in a phone call by Public Safety director Richard

eonard.

Post staffers and Briggs-Bunting contend the amendment refers to student academic records only, and there's a specific clause in the amendment excluding campus crime

records.
Post editor-in-chief Margaret O'Brien's June 11 editorial dealt with the issue of concealing campus crime and the Buckley Amendment.

She noted part of the amendment that specifically excludes records "of a law enforcement unit of an educational agency or institution which are maintained apart from the educational records."

Briggs-Bunting sald the Post staff has had an ongoing problem with getting information from the campus police.

"They're against any disclosures at all — if a student gets a parking ticket, is injured in an accident on campus, or even stubs a toe on the sidewalk."

STUDENT JOHNNALISTS have

STUDENT JOURNALISTS have begun carrying Freedom of Information requests with them, "all typed out," when they go to check the campus police logs, she said.

O'Brien's editorial called for the campus police to "stop treating eampus crime as a blemish on their image," and to make information available so students could protect themselves.

able so students couts process accuselves.

The university police are deputized by the Oakland County Sherili's department but are a separate organization, with felony and misdemeanor arrest powers.

"They have their own interpretation (of the Buckley Amendment)—my legal oplinon is that... they're misinterpreting, and we're to the point where it think newspapers have got to fight to get information they have a right to," said Briggs-Buning.

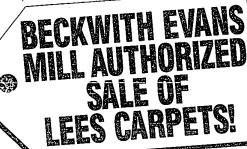
STUDENT JOURNALISTS have

County chamber holds mixer

The Oakland County Chamber of Complimentary hors d'euvres and Cominer from 339-730 pm. Thosday, no frage for chamber members, June 19, at Mountain Jack's, 2262 310 for non-members. For reservatives and complimentary to the complex of the complex



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