

## OCC seeking sponsors, entries for golf benefit

The Oakland Community College Foundation is soliciting sponsors and participants for its second annual golf outing fund-raiser.

Last year's event raised \$10,000 that went into endowment funds to provide scholarships to OCC students. Golf outing organizer Chuck Yeramian said he hopes to raise more this year. For more information, call Yeramian at 540-1852. The format is a four-person

scramble at West Bloomfield's Walnut Lake Road. The fee of \$150 includes lunch, golf cart, drinks, dinner and prizes. Dinner only is \$75.

Tee off times will begin at 12:45 p.m. Friday, Aug. 20.

Drawings will be conducted to give away three golf vacations. A raffle will be held for airline tickets. The first person to get a hole-in-one will win a German car from Erhard BMW.

BY GREG KOWALSKI  
STAFF WRITER

A man who tried to hire a hit man to kill Oakland County Circuit Judge David Breck of Birmingham was convicted of soliciting to commit murder.

Haroldas Manetas, also known as Bobby the Greek, was convicted last week following a jury trial before Judge Alexander Puples. The jury deliberated for two hours before returning the guilty verdict.

Breck, 62, testified over three days at the trial about an earlier trial he presided over involving Manetas that reportedly led to the death plot.

In that first trial, Manetas was convicted as a repeat drug offender for possessing between 250 and 650 grams of cocaine. Manetas was arrested in June 1989 after he held his girlfriend against her will at his Southfield apartment overnight.

She testified against him and was given a new identity by authorities. Breck said an attempt was made to kill the woman. When Manetas was found guilty, Breck could have sentenced him to 20 years but because Manetas was a repeat offender, Breck had the discretion to double the sentence.

It was that 40-year sentence that angered Manetas and led to the death threat, said Breck. "He was a bad hombre," Breck said. Prior to his arrest, Manetas

was a reputed drug dealer. Police confiscated a diamond watch, two cars, including a Jaguar, and gold jewelry at the time of his arrest.

The plot to kill Breck surfaced in January 1992, while Manetas was serving his sentence at Jackson State Prison.

Manetas attempted to hire a man he thought was a drug dealer. The man was actually an undercover police officer.

According to police, Manetas offered to pay \$5,000 up front and \$45,000 when Breck was dead.

Manetas maintained that he was entrapped by police and did not plan to kill Breck. The conspiracy trial was delayed three times for various reasons before last week's conviction.

Breck said he took the threat very seriously, and had close — at

one point around-the-clock — police protection, including being escorted by plainclothes officers outside the court room. For a time, police also guarded his Birmingham house.

"They really cooperated," Breck said about the various police agencies that were involved, including the Michigan State Police, FBI, Birmingham police and Oakland County Sheriff's Department and the Oakland County prosecutor's office.

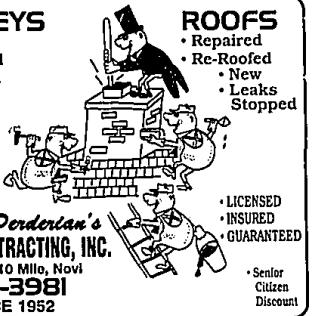
"I was concerned," Breck said.

"I'm glad it came out the way it did."

Breck said he had never been threatened before during his 11 years as an Oakland County judge and two years as 48th District Court judge prior to that.

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## Man convicted in plot to kill judge

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