

Civic Searchlight backs Proposal A

The Civic Searchlight voters guide on Proposal A, to increase sales and use taxes from four to six percent and limit property taxes, recommends a Yes vote after examination by its committee.

According to a release from the non-partisan organization, the committee heard presentations from the governor's office supporting the proposal, which will be voted on March 15, and from a legislative leader, who supports the backup alternative plan.

"School finance reform in Michigan is long overdue," according to the release. "The committee is of the opinion that on balance it would be in the public interest and in the best interest of public school funding in Michigan to support Proposal A."

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Packard makes travel request

By RALPH R. ECHTINAW
STAFF WRITER

Oakland University President Sandra Packard has requested that the university pay for her husband's travel expenses when he accompanies her to an annual convention.

Packard made the request at a recent meeting of the university's Finance and Personnel Committee. The board of trustees will consider the request April 7.

Paul Bissonnette, OU's vice president of finance and administration, said Martin Packard would accompany his wife at university expense just once a year to the annual meeting of the American Association of

State Colleges and Universities, where certain workshops and seminars are specifically intended for the spouses of university presidents.

The cost of paying Martin Packard's expenses, Bissonnette said, would be \$1,000 to \$3,000, depending on the destination.

The money would be taken from Sandra Packard's \$16,000 annual expense account.

Packard has never expended her entire travel expense account since coming to Oakland University in 1992.

Bissonnette said that in fiscal 1993 (July 1, 1992 to June 30, 1993), Packard spent \$4,700 of her expense account. The balance does not roll over into the

next fiscal year.

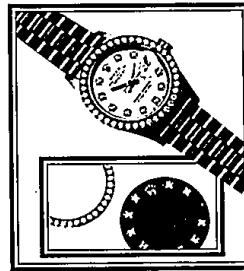
Packard's annual salary is \$138,000. The university's annual budget is \$73 million.

Trustees Andrea Fischer and Larry Chunovich said they have no problem with Packard's request. "The additional expense in my mind is not that great," Fischer said.

Chunovich said that since the board of trustees is "making demands that (Packard) be at a variety of functions representing the university," it's not unreasonable to pay her spouse's travel expenses.

Trustees David Handelman and Rex Schlaybaugh Jr. did not return phone calls by press time.

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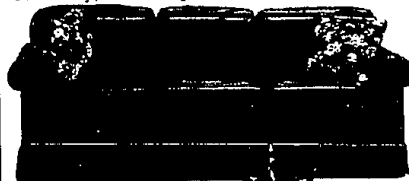
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