CC millage: Tuition costs to stay put if passed

This is the third installment of answers to reeders' questions about Oakland Community Oblesses March 16 one-mill property tax proposal.

Q. How can I vote by absentee voter (AV) ballot?

A. AV ballots applications are available now, both from your local school district and the collegations are the ballot must be returned to your local school district, not the college. Or you can go to your localings. Or you can go to your loyour local school district, not the college. Or you can go to your lo-cal school district's elections off-

cai senool district a elections offce and vote there.

By law you may vote by AV ballot if (1) you expect to be absent
from the community during poll
hours March 16, (2) you are physically unable to attend the polls,
(3) your religious beliefs forbid
activity that day, (4) you are an
exposinted election precinct inspector in another precinct, (5)
you are age 60 or older, or (6) you
are confined to jail, swalting arriginment or trial.

Q. What will happen to tultion If the one-mill request
passos?

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A. Historically, tuition and fees have been a growing part of the budget — 21 percent in 1974-5 to nearly 38 percent currently. In fact, board dissatisfaction over the need to raise tuition helped fuel the millage request.

The board and administration have promised to hold the line on tuition for at least five years if the March 16 proposal is passed.

Q. The pool on the Orchard Ridge Campus that is much used by the public is shut down. When will it be repaired?

A. The pool was drained a few weeks ago after continual leaks were found. Any repair will be a major cost for which budget moncy is unavailable in the current budget.

were found. Any repair win to major cost for which budget money is unavailable in the current budget.

"This illustrates a major point: OCC has neglected maintenance of facilities over the years because we've expanded educational programs," says a college spokesman. "Now we need to restore 25 to 30-year-old facilities. We had done some repairs by issuing bonds, but we've reached the end of that source of revenue.

source of revenue.
"College facilities are open 12

months of the year, 18 hours a day and seven days a week. They take more wear and tear than K-12 fa-cilities."

cilities."

To repeat from an earlier answer: The \$29 million in revenue
from each of the first two year
will be devoted about half to major maintenance and half to new
quipment and technology. In the
five following years, the new revenue will be used one-third for
maintenance and two-thirds for

muse will be dead distributed for new programs.

Q. What percentage of our high school graduates go on to OCC each year? What propor-tion come back in the summer from other colleges to take courses at OCC?

A. Public high schools in Oak-land County last year graduated 9,420 autoents of whom 2,109 en-rolled at OCC — 22.4 percent.

The caller was from Novi, which graduated 244, of whom 49 enrolled at OCC, or 201 percent. Highest was Pontiac Central at 42.2 percent. West Bloomfield slas was near the top — 311 grad-uates, 85 enrolled at OCC, or 27.3 percent.

percent.

Many high school graduates en-roll in four-year universities, drop-out and then enroll at OCC, Still

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others go away to a university and take a summer course at OCC. The college is researching a further report at our request.

Q. Why are OCC tax dollars being used for remedial programs? Why not send those who are deficient back to the high school they came from?

A. Good question. There are several answers.

New students take ASSET, a series of sill assessments. Counsolors help them plan their consistence and suggest remedial work when necessary. OCC's remedial work when necessary. OCC's remedial work have a thrust different from high school remedial work.

A student might be able to do college work in English and social studies but may not be up to date in math. It would be inconvention for the student to take most course on campus and then drive to a high school for the math work.

Many students enroll at OCC

work.

Many students enroll at OCC
20 or 30 years after leaving high
school. Their high school may be
in another county, another state
— or even shut down. And it lint
the high school's fault that math
has been advanced so remarkably.

Community Library, 32737 W. 12 Mile, Farmington Hills.

Rowe is a professor of environmen-tal systems technology at Oakland Community College. The meeting is open to the public.

Some older students need to learn keyboarding for computer classes. For them, it's better to learn in an environment close to where they'll take their advanced

classes.
Q. Why shouldn't businesses
pay for the Business & Professional Institute?

sional Institute?

A. Many companies pay to send employees to OCC for a few weeks—for example, foremen with shop skills learning supervision skills. The company pays for their instruction and puts them up in seas hotels.

struction and puts them up in area hotels.

Some businesses have donated equipment — for example, the "virtual reality" design comput-ers that don't require construc-tion of a prototype. You've read about that in our news columns. The BPI staff has secured state grants to help cover job training costs.

Costa.

BPI is housed in a cramped, old house and has a staff of four — a director and three coordinators. "It's terriby understaffed," says the college spokesman. OCC would like to house BPI in large, more businesslike quarters, exwould like to house BPI in larger, more businesslike quarters, ex-pand the staff and attach class-

rooms to the training.

The short answer is that business tuitions, gifts and state grants cover incremental costs of teaching but don't cover everythms.

thing.
Q. Has OCC tried using partitime faculty with expertise rather than full-time professors?

rather than full-time profes-sors?

A. Yes, says Chancellor Patay Calkins. "In 1965 we had 320 full-time faculty, in 1972 we had 304; in 1905 we have 209 full-time fac-ulty. We have a high proportion of adjunct faculty. — 500 per semes-ter. Now that's efficiency.
"In 1972 we had 41 administra-tors. Today we have 44 (with sev-eral times as many students)." Calkins and OCC has gone as-fer as it can hiring adjunct faculty, and needs to add more full-time, perticularly in programs where instructors abould keep affice hours and adviss students about cores.

careers.
Tim Richard will try to get answers on all general interest ques-tions about the OCC election. Us-ing Touch-Tone, call (313) 983-2047 ext. 1881.

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Debra Rowe will discuss possible health risks from electromagnetic fields related to cellular towers and antennas at a meeting of the Council of Homeowner Associations of Farm-ington Hills at 7 p.m. Tuesday, ington Hills at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 14, at the Hills branch of the

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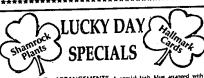
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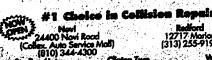
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