

What's coming up in OCC flap

Keeping up to date in the Oakland Community College political flap?

Oct. 2 — Circuit Judge Robert Anderson denied a permanent injunction and dissolved a temporary restraining order against trustees Sandra Ritter of Waterford and Judith Wiser of West Bloomfield. This enables the dissident bloc of five to begin moving to dump board chair Janice Simmons, of Pontiac, who filed the suit, and Chancellor Patay Calkins, whom it wants to fire.

Oct. 9 — At a special board meeting starting at 7 p.m., Chancellor Calkins is due to list her progress in achieving her goals — in effect, her state of the college address and her defense. Board meets in the George A. Bee Administrative Center, 2540 Opyke, Bloomfield Hills.

Oct. 12 — The Oakland Election Commission is scheduled

to meet in Chief Probate Judge Joan Young's Pontiac courtroom to approve the wording of a petition to recall the five dissidents — Ritter, Wiser, Douglas Wakefield, Pamela Davis and Carol Crew. Leaders are former trustees Richard Blomde and George Mosher. The election commission includes Young, Clerk Lynn Allen and Treasurer C. Hugh Dobany.

If the form is approved, the recall drive will have 90 days to collect more than 100,000 signatures asking for a recall election.

Oct. 16 — At the regular board meeting, 7 p.m. in the Bee Center, the board is due to make its annual performance evaluation of the chancellor. She is permitted to ask for closed doors under the Open Meetings Act but probably will insist on an open hearing. This will be the 5-2 majority's chance to say publicly what it

dislikes and why, after OCC's first successful millage request in 30 years, it wants to dump Calkins.

Sticking point: Calkins' contract has 21 months to run. If she quits or is fired for cause, she's just plain out. But if she's fired without cause, she may sue. Will the board majority vote to pay off some \$200,000 on her contract, as the University of Michigan did when it fired football coach Gary Moeller?

OMA lawsuits — No date has been set in Circuit Judge Jessica Cooper's Pontiac courtroom for a pair of consolidated lawsuits under the Open Meetings Act. Trustee Anne Scott of Royal Oak filed the first suit against the five dissidents, charging they met secretly to decide that Calkins must go. The other five responded, charging Simmons and Scott with attempting to block their majority efforts.

Tranchida, in police statement, says he loves, misses Biggar

BY MARGARET O'BRIEN
STAFF WRITER

Kenneth Ray Tranchida said in his statement to police that he grew to love Tina Biggar — whom he first knew as "Crystal," the woman he paid \$170 to have sex with through a local escort service — and never intended to kill her.

"I still love her. I look up in the sky and ask God to take good care of her. I miss her," Tranchida told Southfield police during an investigative interview Sept. 26 in the death of Biggar, a Farmington Hills resident, adding that he was sorry for what happened. "I would switch places with her in a heartbeat."

Tranchida will appear in court for a preliminary examination at 9:30 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 12, before 46th District Judge Bryan

Levy. There, the prosecution will have to disclose evidence supporting its charge of first-degree murder.

Tranchida will remain in custody until the examination.

Tranchida's attorney, Michael Modelski, released copies of his statements Monday and said he believes the first-degree murder charge authorized by Oakland County Prosecutor Richard Thompson was inappropriate. Modelski said Tranchida's statements and a poem found in Biggar's car show that he was in love with the 23-year-old Oakland University psychology graduate student and never planned to kill her.

In his statement to Southfield police, Tranchida told the story of what happened when Biggar came to the room he rented in a house on Shilwaukee Street at 9 a.m. Aug. 23 — the day police believe Biggar died:

"We were in the bedroom. She was upset that she had all these bills. Not enough income coming in. I grabbed her by the shoulders and that's when she went backward," Tranchida told police the morning he was arrested.

"She hit her head on the safe that I have in my bedroom. She fell to the floor. I picked her up and I laid her on my bed, shaking her, trying to wake her up," he said, adding that he tried using a wet washcloth to wake her up but soon realized after 15 minutes or so that she was dead.

"I realized that she hurt herself more than I ever realized. She was turning white ... then I realized she had died," Tranchida said. "Then I panicked 'cause I didn't know what to do."

In his statement, he said that after a few hours of panicking and walking around his house at 27013 Shilwaukee, he decided to

put Biggar's body in the trunk of her car and drove to his aunt's former house on West Nine Mile, where he dumped the body behind a fence in the back yard.

He said he first met Biggar at Hogen's restaurant, where they talked for 10 minutes and she gave him the phone number of an escort service and told him she was Crystal.

Tranchida said that he paid \$170 each time he wanted to have sex with Biggar, who told OU psychology faculty that she was conducting research on prostitutes and AIDS.

Modelski said Tranchida grew to love Biggar and points to a poem written on an envelope found in Biggar's car as a sign.

"Dearest Tina — My heart is yours for you to keep. Your love will lift me off my feet. You came to me, your love so willing. I know it's worth all the waiting. — Love Ken. XXXXXX," was written on the envelope.

Assistant Oakland County Prosecutor Donna Pendegast said the statements Modelski released only told half the story and said that there is evidence to show that "Tranchida had a deliberate plan and took deliberate action."

Assistant Prosecutor Gary Tunia alluded to other statements in which Tranchida reportedly told police that he killed her "to put her out of her misery" because she was complaining about her financial woes.

Modelski said Tuesday that he released what he had at the time.

"The prosecution has been dribbling out the evidence piecemeal," he said, adding that he had received a copy of a statement from a subsequent police interview with Tranchida after a court hearing Monday.

"It says something to the effect of when you love someone so much and you can't do anything for them you have to put them out of their misery," Modelski said.

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