

## College negotiations halted with Local 214

BY SANDRA ARMERBUSTER  
OAKLAND COUNTY EDITOR

Mediation between Oakland University (OU) and the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) is under way to reach accord on a new contract as the countdown begins before the start of classes Sept. 2.

AAUP members won't be in the classroom, however, if there is no contract come Tuesday, according to AAUP spokesman Ron Tracey.

Tracey said that when the faculty voted for what he called a "job action," the general sentiment was "bordering on hostility."

"The gap at this late stage is huge. Without a contract, we will not be teaching," he said.

Public employees sometimes call work stoppages a "job action" because strikes for them are illegal.

The Monday meeting with Richard Terepin was the first in this year's negotiations. He was appointed by the Michigan Employment Relations Commission.

In the meantime, said college spokesman George Cartsonis, negotiations are suspended.

Negotiations are continuing with a local of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees representing 100 custodial workers. The AFSCME contract expired July 1. Custodians are working under an extension of the old contract until a new one is proposed.

OCC Chancellor Richard Thompson said he doesn't want to use the 0.8 mill property tax for seven years approved by voters in 1995 for raises or current operations. That tax raises about \$35 million a year.

Instead Thompson and the board want to confine operations to the 0.8 mill in perpetuity approved in 1984. The 1995 millage is being used for campus renovations, technology, new programs and student aids.

The college enrolls about 25,000 students on its Orchard Ridge, Southfield-Royal Oak, Highland Lakes and Auburn Hills campuses.

The faculty contract extends through 1999. Other units with contracts are public safety officers and operating engineers.

## Fellowship funds study of technology

Remember the scientist in Britain last February who cloned a lamb by replacing the genetic material of a sheep's egg with DNA from an adult sheep? Oakland University undergraduates are using the same basic cloning technology in an advanced biology program. It's a rare opportunity, especially for university sophomores.

"The students are in the two-year Howard Hughes Fellowship Program in Biological Communication. Oakland University is one of 49 out of 1,200 eligible American universities that the Howard Hughes Medical Institute chose to fund, based on its undergraduate education."

OU is the only public university in Michigan to receive this 1996 award. "The award is to encourage a university in some direction to enhance their undergraduate education," said Virinder Moudgil, director, Howard Hughes program, and chair, Department of Biological Sciences at OU. "In our effort, the student benefits from many faculty on campus who are experts in disciplines relating to biological communication, be they experts in chemistry, physics or biology."

The program begins in the summer with an eight-week seminar consisting of three sections.

Students attend morning lectures to prepare them for afternoon laboratory experiments or field trips, said Judette Haddad, lab coordinator of the program and OU special lecturer in biological sciences.

"The technology the students have learned in this program is state-of-the-art by any yardstick in the world," Moudgil said. "It's highly unusual for a sophomore to actually be cloning to see how cancer cells grow and which molecules in the cancer cells stop or promote their growth."

## Math, science teachers hold confab

The Detroit Area Council of Teachers of Mathematics and the Metropolitan Detroit Science Teachers Association will present their 57th Annual Mathematics and Science Fall Conference on Saturday, Oct. 11. The conference will be held at Plymouth-Canton High School, four miles west of I-275 and one mile south of Ann Arbor Road from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Purpose of the conference is to promote quality education through effective instructional methods and professional development. Master teachers will present sessions and workshops involving stu-

dent assessment, hands-on investigation and discoveries incorporating technology, cooperative learning and national and state curriculum standards.

More than 75 companies will exhibit the latest in textbooks, technology, multi-media, manipulatives and equipment for both math and science.

The conference is open to anyone interested in education from kindergarten through grade 12. On site registration is \$25 for adults and \$20 for full time students, and it begins at 8 a.m.

## Mediator meets with OU, faculty

At the outset of bargaining, said OU media relations director Ted Montgomery. The appointment was a routine measure.

Mediation means that Terepin will try to bring about a settlement by "power of persuasion," said OU Vice Provost Bill Connellan. The AAUP requested the help of a mediator this year, although his help could have been asked for by either or both sides.

Second step in the process, if necessary, would be fact-finding. During that process, Terepin would offer his conclusions. Unlike binding arbitration, neither side would be obliged to accept his findings.

While the previous contract with the AAUP expired Aug. 15, both sides have agreed to extend the contract on a day-to-day basis.

"Both sides are working hard to work out a reasonable settlement," Connellan said.

Connellan said the goal is a three-year pact, and that both economic and non-economic issues remain on the table. "The timing (of negotiations) is nor-

mal," he added. Negotiations began in late May to early June, he said.

Union spokesman Tracey said that OU is offering the professors a net decrease in the first year of the contract, since it is asking for a cut in health care benefits and a wage reduction for those faculty members who teach during the summer semester. Most professors don't teach during the summer.

Currently, OU professors who teach during the summer earn wages that rank in the middle of Michigan's 15 public universities, according to Tracey. "The cut would put us at the bottom," he said. And this is despite a 5 percent increase in state aid and a 3.9 percent increase in tuition, for about a 4.5 percent average revenue increase.

"Total compensation actually decreases. All summer long they haven't changed their position. The bargaining team is very disappointed; it baffles the bargaining team."

OU, according to Tracey, is offering less than a one percent wage increase.

Connellan's experience includes leading negotiations with the AAUP from 1982 to 1994 and "every time we had a mediator," Connellan said. Now, as vice provost, the OU bargaining team reports to him. Any tentative pact reached would have to be approved by the OU Board of Trustees and by the AAUP general membership.

The AAUP has gone on strike four times, the last being in 1994 before its most recent contract was reached.

Heading up negotiations for the university is Cathy Rush, and for the AAUP is Jeff Brieger. Brieger.

Meanwhile, registration continues from 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. through Thursday, Aug. 28, with late registration available from 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, Sept. 3-15.

## County offers new-parents class series

The Oakland County Health Division will offer a series of six Expectant Parent Classes, beginning on Thursday, Sept. 18, at Avondale School District Administration Building, 260 South Squirrel Road, Auburn Hills 48326.

Classes will be held from 7-9 p.m. and will be taught by public health nurses. There is a \$25 charge for the series, and pre-registration is required since enrollment is limited.

Topics will include maternal physical changes, good nutrition, growth and development of the fetus and the baby, labor and delivery, infant care and parenting.

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