

# OCC student rep bids for board post

By PAT MURPHY  
STAFF REPORTER

Her tenure on the Board of Trustees at Oakland Community College must have been an experience for Rochelle J. Heyniger.

She wants to do it again. This time, however, the 39-year-old Rochester Hills resident wants to be a full-fledged member of the board, rather than a student representative.

Heyniger has scheduled a high-profile kickoff for her bid to be elected to the OCC board. The \$60 per head fund raiser is scheduled for next Friday (Jan. 9) at Rochester Elks Lodge 2225.

Among the people supporting Heyniger is Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson, who sent tickets to some of his friends and associates, inviting

them to the fund-raiser.

Patterson is the honorary chair of Heyniger's campaign committee, according to campaign manager Joan Cyman.



Heyniger

"When she was considering a bid for the OCC board, Rochelle made an appointment to see Mr. Patterson," said Cyman. "He was very supportive, and agreed to be the honorary chair."

Patterson was unavailable this week to comment on his involvement in the OCC race.

The executive was very visible in 1995, however, when Patsy Calkins — despite public support from the executive — was

fired out as OCC chancellor.

Patterson had spoken highly of her efforts on behalf of high-tech educational opportunities for nontraditional students — those who work primarily and attend college part time to enhance career opportunities.

Heyniger was on vacation this week and unavailable for comment.

But Cyman said Heyniger's experience as a student representative influenced her decision to run for the OCC board.

"I know she was very upset when trustees voted to raise tuition. She felt they should have spent less time squabbling and more time keeping costs down."

Heyniger, who has attended OCC on a part time basis for six years, was appointed as the student representative on the board

by OCC chancellor Richard Thompson, who selected her from several nominees. She was the fourth OCC student to serve on the board as a representative of the student body of nearly 30,000 students.

As student representative, Heyniger was a nonvoting member of the board, although she attended board meetings regularly. Her one-year term expired this month.

The nonpartisan OCC election — June 5 this year — usually doesn't attract much attention, as indicated by traditionally low

voter turnout. The top vote-getter in the 1996 election, for example, garnered 10,034 votes in a county wide race.

In this year's election, three incumbents — Anne Scott of Royal Oak, Judith Wiser of West Bloomfield and Jan Simmons of Rochester Hills — are up for re-election. None of those incumbents have formally announced their plans, but each is expected to seek re-election and there will likely be other candidates.

As a candidate for the OCC board, Heyniger has unique qualifications, according to her

campaign manager, including six years as a part-time student when she was on the dean's list.

"She's a nontraditional student at a nontraditional college," said Cyman, referring to Heyniger's role as wife, mother and student. "She ran her own business (a beauty salon)."

She will bring a fresh view to the OCC board, promises Cyman, state chair of the Michigan Young Republicans.

Heyniger and her husband Gary have been married for 12 years. They have two children.

## Drug case exam to resume Jan. 16

A hearing of charges against two men accused of drug dealing will be resumed on Jan. 16 in Rochester District Court.

During the preliminary examination of Joseph Puertas, 70, and codefendant James Talley, 36, in the Rochester court Monday, prosecutors tried to portray them as shrewd dealers, capable of amassing the \$1.7 million in cash seized in a Dec. 17 raid of the MegaBowl bowling establishment in Orion Township and other sites.

Prosecutors say Puertas is the retired owner of the MegaBowl.

Puertas is charged with multiple counts of delivering or conspiring to deliver between 50 and 225 grams of cocaine. Talley is charged with multiple counts of delivering or conspiring to deliver less than 50 grams of cocaine.

The initial hearing session — which took more than five hours before Judge James P. Sheehy — was adjourned to Jan. 16 when at least two police officers are expected to testify.

Those witnesses are impor-

tant, according to prosecutor David Gercyca, because their testimony is intended to corroborate the main prosecution witness, Joseph P. Sweeney, 43, who said he bought cocaine from Puertas or Talley at the bowling establishment on six different occasions between Aug. 19 and Nov. 18.

He usually paid \$300 for each one-fourth ounce of cocaine, Sweeney testified, after which he went directly to investigators to turn the narcotics over to them.

Sweeney also testified that he had been addicted to narcotics for almost 15 years, with a habit that cost as much as \$100 a day. During much of that time, he was also a police informant, Sweeney said. He had been convicted of two prior felonies.

Sweeney said he wanted to be an informant after the Oakland County Narcotics Enforcement Team (NET) raided his brother's Oakland County home in early August. Sweeney, who was present at the time, said his brother was charged, but he was not.

He became a NET informant,

Sweeney testified, "to keep his brother from going to prison" and for the money — about \$3,000, according to police records. Receipts presented in court showed he was paid that amount by police.

He was searched by police prior to going into the bowling alley to make the buys, Sweeney testified. He said he followed police instructions in buying the cocaine.

The defense attorneys challenged his story.

William Mitchell III represents Talley, a MegaBowl employee, and Richard Lustig, represents Puertas.

Under cross examination, Sweeney said he was not wired so investigators could hear and record the transactions.

He also said he made six buys when he was alone, but sales were refused when he was accompanied by a police officer in plain clothes.

Puertas and Talley, who both have prior drug convictions, face a mandatory life in prison with no chance of parole, if convicted.

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