

OAKLAND JOURNAL

Oakland Journal is a roundup of Oakland County news and notes collected from government, school, civic, community and neighborhood sources. Please write: Oakland Journal, c/o Oakland County editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009. Our fax number is (248) 644-1314.

ACCESS AWARDS
The Oakland County Cable Communications Corporation will host its 13th annual Access Ability Awards, honoring the best in local public access programming, 7 p.m. at the main auditorium of Oakland Community College's Royal Oak campus.

HEALTHY BABIES
Hoops for Help, a basketball-themed March of Dimes fundraiser, is being held 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Friday, April 17 in front of the Oakland County Friend of the Court building, 230 Elizabeth Lake Road, Pontiac. Participants raise money by shooting baskets. Friend of the Court employees are sponsoring the event. For more information, call (248) 858-1048.

LAW DAY
The Oakland County Bar Association is sponsoring Meet The Lawyer, a program dispensing free one-on-one legal advice, noon to 6 p.m. Sunday, May 3 at Tel-12 Mall, Southfield. The event is part of the 11th annual Oakland County Law Fair, to be held that day at the mall, for more information on Meet the Lawyer, call Shirley Robertson, (248) 334-3400, for more advice of the law fair, call 46th District Court Judge Stephen Cooper's office, (248) 354-9377.

LAW EXAM
A free LSAT preparation program, including a practice test, is being offered 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 25 at Oakland University through the OU College of Arts and Sciences. LSAT scores commonly help determine admission to law school programs. To register, or for more information, call (248) 370-3125.

MANAGEMENT EXAM
A five-week Saturday workshop for students planning to take the Graduate Management Admission Test is being offered beginning April 18 at Oakland University. The workshops are sponsored by the OU college of Arts and Sciences. Admission is \$295. To register, or for more information, call (248) 370-3125.

GRAD SCHOOL EXAM
Students preparing for the Graduate Record Examination are invited to attend a workshop series sponsored by the Oakland University College of Arts and Sciences. A seven-week Tuesday-through-Saturday series is scheduled for Birmingham Seaholm High School, beginning April 21, a five-week Saturday series begins April 25 at Oakland University's main campus. Cost for either workshop series is \$295. To register, or for more information, call (248) 370-3125.

CAMP EVENT
A benefit concert featuring the musical trio "Me, Him and Her" is scheduled for May 3 at First United Methodist church, royal Oak. The event will raise contributions for Camp RainBear, a first-of-its-kind Michigan camp for children with HIV and AIDS. For more information, call Loisann Arnold (248) 486-3872 or Kate Wade at (248) 649-7337.

ARMY BAND
The Salvation Army Chicago Staff Band will perform in concert 7 p.m. Saturday, April 18 at the First Church of the Nazarene, Northville. The 36-piece band has performed throughout the world. Tickets are \$4 for adults, \$2 for students. To order tickets, or for more information, call the Salvation Army of Farmington Hills, (248) 477-1153.

WALSH REGISTRATION
Registration for summer classes has begun at Walsh College. Students can register for classes at campuses in Troy, Novi, Clinton township and Port Huron. Summer classes run May 16 to July 27. Walsh offers degree programs in accounting, computer systems, finance, management and marketing. For more information, call (248) 689-8282.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY
Oakland County 4-H Clubs are joining with Habitat for Humanity to raise money to construct houses in the Pontiac area. 4-H youngsters will build Lego houses to call attention to the Habitat for Humanity program. They seek sponsors to help them acquire Lego materials. For additional information, call (248) 858-0889.

MENTORS PLUS
Mentors Plus, a program of Oakland County Youth Assistance, seeks positive adult role models for youngsters 5-16. A training and orientation session is scheduled for 9 a.m. Saturday, April 18 at the Oakland County Courthouse, 1200 North Telegraph, Pontiac. Additional information is available by calling (248) 858-0041.

SCHOOL AUCTION
The parents club of Our Lady of Refuge School, Orchard Lake, is sponsoring a circus-themed auction fund-raiser 6:30 p.m. Saturday, April 25 at the Orchard Lake St. Mary's campus. Admission is \$35. Proceeds will be used to finance a school science lab, to reserve tickets, or for more information, call (248) 932-3237.

OCC chief: Accreditation report contains challenges, no surprises

By TIM RICHARD
STAFF WRITER

Chancellor Richard Thompson and Oakland Community College leaders are elated at two things in the college's North Central Association accreditation report. First, the 12-member visiting team intends to recommend a 10-year accreditation for OCC. "It's the maximum length of accreditation," Thompson said after the team had departed April 8.

"It indicates we have been certified to be of sufficient integrity and soundness to give students courses that will transfer anywhere. It's like the Good Housekeeping seal of approval or an unqualified auditor's opinion."

Linda Foskett (the OCC business teacher who coordinated OCC's North Central presentation) is giggling. "Thompson said, adding credit for Karen Robinson and Christian North, hoern of the Highland Lakes Campus English faculty for editing OCC's self-study. A member of the visiting team told him it was "the most brutally honest report he had ever seen."

In the United States, government doesn't accredit colleges. Instead, six regional agencies, funded by dues and fees, fill that role. North Central, founded in 1895 and based in Chicago, covers 19 states.

Second source of OCC's happiness is that there were virtually no surprises. Areas where OCC knew it had problems were the same areas where the North Central team cited "concerns."

The closest thing to a surprise was when Arthur DeCabant, team chair and president of Scotsdale Community College

in Arizona, expressed concern that "student development and leadership opportunities are severely limited."

Said Thompson: "I don't know exactly what that means. I guess I'll have to wait and read their written report," due in a month or so. "We do have a goal of resuscitating student government."

Other North Central concerns, he said, are being worked on. For example:

■ Class cancellations for one-year, non-degree programs. "We know it was an issue," Thompson said. Of 90 programs, a half-dozen have very small enrollments, leading to cancellations. He will have recommendations soon for dropping six programs.

■ Planning. "They're not convinced we have run out the complete steps of a conventional planning process. The planning council hadn't completed its homework. It's a fair statement. Next year, our planning will precede our budgeting."

■ Assessment of student outcomes. "It means that all learning activities have measured and recorded outcomes and then feedback. We haven't perfected the feedback. Most faculty instinctively know how well they're doing, but that's not acceptable any more. We have to document it."

Many close to the college feared that political dissent in the board of trustees would hurt OCC's ratings. Instead, the North Central team praised trustees for hiring a consultant to teach them how to work as a team, calling it one of OCC's "strengths."



Richard Thompson

PUBLIC AUCTION
April 18 & 19 9:00 A.M.
Michigan State Fairgrounds
Detroit, MI
(Preview Thurs April 17 from Noon til 6 PM.)
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• (All Major Brands)
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DATE	LOCATION	SPEAKER
4/14	Fairlane (Lower level)-Conf. Rm. 1 & 2	Dr. Levine (6:30 p.m.)
4/15	Troy-2nd floor-Ophthalmology waiting area	Dr. Rolain

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