

# Students Pressuring For Seat On SC Board



CHUCK STEPIEN, a freshman at Schoolcraft Community College, shows a sheet of petitions "demanding" an advisory seat on the college board of trustees. About 1,000 signatures have been gathered. (Observer photo by Dennis L. Pajot)

By DENNIS L. PAJOT

Student pressure failed to gain an advisory seat on the Schoolcraft Community College Board of Trustees in March, so they've learned a lesson.

They plan to try again this month with vastly increased pressure and some more sophisticated selling techniques.

A petition being circulated on campus has already garnered signatures of 1,000 students, "We... demand an advisory seat..."

Ten on-campus student organizations have endorsed the goal.

AN APPEAL to the public is being considered.

The Student Senate proposes to buy newspaper advertising space to ask voters to pressure reluctant college trustees.

Some senators aren't in favor of this and may scuttle the idea, however. They drafted another idea that urged the senate president to write a letter to the editor.

Meanwhile, the senate is researching minutes of trustee meetings to compile specific instances in which a direct student representative opinion could have helped the board.

And the Student Senate is employing the most popular selling technique of all having asked the board members to a coffee hour prior to a scheduled study session this week.

Reason for desiring a board seat is "to gain greater communication between the students and the trustees."

tin are at-large trustees from Livonia and Dr. Geake is an at-large trustee from Northville.

Five votes are required to pass the proposal.

STUDENT CAMPAIGN leader is Dennis McCarthy, Student Senate president whose term will expire this month. His name is also on the forefront of Student Senator Tom Winkler.

Several other prominent student senators include Ron Foley, who first expressed the students' desire unofficially in December as a trial balloon; Mark McQuentin, an outspoken debater; and Paul McQuake, who started the petition campaign.

Official kickoff of the students' battle came when McCarthy wrote to the board in February and voiced the senate's "recommendation" that a seat be granted.

A Livonia woman of liberal political views added support with a letter stating, "It would help in establishing a closer rapport between the two groups."

During that meeting another Democrat, State Senate candidate Paul Kadish of Livonia, spoke at length in support of the students. "If nothing else, it would certainly increase confidence of the student body in the board, and increase the board's confidence in the students," he said.

TO DATE, the general public has voiced no opposition.

Following the March defeat, the students sought and gained support of the college President's Advisory Council, a group of students and administrators hand-picked by President Eric Bradner.

Dr. Bradner told Observer

She indicated she did so somewhat reluctantly, telling the students, "You've shown thought and sincerity (but) perhaps next time you'll give another kind of presentation... You really haven't provided any substantial backup material..."

Dr. Geake was asked why he fought the proposal. "If a student is seated, it's entirely unreasonable not to seat other special interest groups," the trustee said. "Eventually the board will be unable to function."

"You have not begun to suggest that the college would be improved if I am frankly afraid of what the results would be."

TRUSTEE OLDENBURG

also questioned "setting a precedent." What about the faculty and other campus groups? he asked.

Second replied, "The faculty and administration are employees of this college but it's something we'll have to see about. Possibly in a year or so, we'll have a faculty member on the board."

Stuart Bloom, Schoolcraft history instructor and Faculty Forum president, said the faculty is seeking a seat as part of negotiations this year. "If we were seated at the board table, we could take part without raising a ruckus," he said.

The board will also examine whether the faculty can justify having a seat on a board with which it negotiates a work contract.

## College Junket Who Spent What?

By DENNIS L. PAJOT

Five trustees and three administrators of Schoolcraft Community College spent some \$2,870 of college funds to attend the American Association of Junior College national conference in Hawaii last month.

Contrary to rumors, this total does not exceed the college budget for faculty in-service training—which is \$4,000.

Part of the misconception resulted from advance payment by the college to the conference planning committee, which did exceed \$5,000.

About \$1,516 of this has already been reimbursed to the college by three who made the trip. Three others are expected to make similar reimbursements totaling about \$1,600, these reimbursements are for spouses' travel expenses are:

- Mrs. Moehle—none, traveled alone.
- Trustee LaRue—\$672.75, paid.
- Trustee Oldenburg—reimbursement due.
- Trustee Mutnick—reimbursement due.

Trustee Martin—none, traveled alone.

Dr. Bradner—\$800.63, paid.

Dr. Keene—\$421.18, paid.

Dean Stenger—reimbursement due.

AS OF EARLY this week, the college had paid a total of \$6,031 for the trip and received reimbursements for \$1,516, for a balance paid of \$4,470.

Other tactics have been largely dependence on shotgun appeals, zealous "we want" statements and lately unveiled threats.

They've threatened mass packing of trustees' meetings, student petition campaigns and an appeal to the voters.

"You've lit a fuse only you can put out," Student Senator Mark McQuentin said angrily.

THE STUDENTS apparently have to change the stance of just two board members.

Target votes have to be Vice Chairman Paul Mutnick, Trustees Dr. Robert Geake, Clark Oldenburg and Dr. George Martin, who voted against their cause, and Trustee James Boswell, who had boycotted the meeting.

Board Chairman Mrs. Jane Moehle and Trustees William Secord and John LaRue voted in their favor in March.

Mrs. Moehle represents the Plymouth School District; Secord, Northville; Mutnick, Clareneville; Oldenburg, Garden City; and Boswell, Livonia. LaRue and Dr. Mar-

ARGUMENTS USED up to the March defeat were:

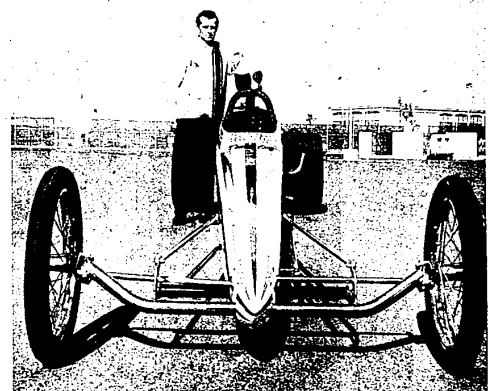
1. Student tuition payments comprise one-quarter of the college operating budget.
2. Other colleges in this state have seated a student representative as an advisor.
3. Some out-state colleges, unhindered by state laws prohibiting it, have seated a student as a voting board member.

Expenses of Trustee Mutnick and Martin are considered covered by the advance payment, except for about \$100 each which will be claimed for meals and in-Hawaii transportation. The advance payment covered air travel, registration and rooms for all only.

Island tours planned by the conference committee were paid for separately by those attending, according to a college business office spokesman.

Administrator's basic costs were higher than trustees' because administrators traveled by separate planes, rather than on a group charter flight as did the trustees, it was explained.

Dr. Bradner, who stayed in Hawaii six days after the conference, paid expenses of that period for himself and his wife, and took six days vacation time.



DUANE ONG and his radical, rear-engine dragster, capable of speeds up to 225 miles an hour, will visit American Hardware at Eight Mile and Merriman, Livonia, Saturday, April 4, from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., weather permitting.

## Steelhead Opener May Heat Lines

LANSING

The Department of Natural Resources fishing information "hot line" in Lansing, which drew "lukewarm" interest all winter long, is expected to start buzzing again with numerous calls from anglers as Michigan's early hook-and-line season on steelhead approaches.

The season, also covering brown trout and salmon in a number of specially designated Great Lakes streams, gets underway April 4.

For fishermen seeking word on the season's early prospects, the DNR's working number to dial is still 517-573-6900.

That service line, which last year received upwards of 75 calls on peak days, will provide live reports on where the fishing action is from Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

## Smelt Run Starting

"The smelt are running!" That familiar cry can be heard all across Michigan this month as the tiny but tasty fishy attracts crowds of devotees to Great Lakes streams.

The season opened in some counties April 2. Other areas will have openers through April 16. Most people wait until they get a "tip" from someone near their favorite stream before heading out to the shallows at night with nets.

Peak runs are expected between April 15 and May 1. The season closes after the first week of May.

The Southern Michigan section in general extends from April 7 through May 9. Southern Lake Huron and Lake St. Clair streams become legal forages April 10 through May 14.

Southern Lake Michigan and Grand Traverse Bay and Antrim County are available April 2 through May 2.

On Dean's List

Janette LaForest, a 1969 graduate of Clareneville High School, has been named to the dean's list at Albion College where she recently completed the first semester of her freshman year. Based on her academic achievements she has been invited to join Alpha Lambda Delta, honorary society for freshman women. She is the daughter of Mrs. Irene LaForest, 18899 Lathers, Livonia.

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