

# OU board confronts private meetings

BY RALPH R. ECHTINAW  
STAFF WRITER

discuss Thursday the "philosophical" aspects of closing committee meetings to public and press.

The student, Margaret O'Brien, is also the senior editor of The Oakland Post, the OU student newspaper.

She believes that the eight-member board of trustees should hold its committee meetings where everybody can see them. And now, so does Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson, who recently resigned from the OU board.

Patterson said that the trustees have kept the meetings private since 1970 because they can be more candid with each other that way and serve the university better.

But, he added, "Why stay out there and get beat up week after week (by the media) when what goes on behind closed doors isn't that secretive?"

The current trustees, however, have opted to continue the closed committee meetings pending Thursday's discussion.

Late last year, O'Brien sparked an investigation of OU's committee meeting policy by Oakland County Prosecutor Richard Thompson.

Thompson concluded that the trustees were violating the Michigan Open Meetings Act, so the trustees made some changes to a few rules to make their closed committee meetings technically legal. O'Brien wasn't satisfied. "We still have a body, but someone threw out the evidence," she said. "Instead of dealing with the prob-

lem, they decided to get rid of the evidence."

Trustee Larry Chunovich said he prefers that the meetings remain closed because "people are more candid with each other. People are going to be more reserved in an open session. When you open things up you tend to formalize them."

Trustee David Handleman declined to discuss the meeting policy with the Observer & Eccentric. "I don't think this is the time for the press to get involved in this decision," he said. "This is a discussion that we have to have as trustees."

Trustee Andrea Fischer said she hasn't decided yet if the committee meetings should be open to the public and press.

Told that Patterson said that keeping the meetings closed makes for bad public relations, Fischer said she "did not make my decision based on PR. I'll make it based on what I think is best for the university."

OU's faculty union also opposes the board's desire for privacy in committee meetings. "The vast majority of our sister institutions welcome faculty, students and other interested observers to board committee and subcommittee meetings," union president Ron Gramer told the board in November.

# B'ham attorney gets OU vacancy

BY RALPH R. ECHTINAW  
STAFF WRITER

Birmingham resident Rex Schlaybaugh Jr. was appointed to the Oakland University Board of Trustees Thursday by an old friend of his, Gov. John Engler.

Schlaybaugh, 43, replaces Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson, who resigned his OU seat to avoid a conflict of interest between that and his county job.

Born and raised in Lansing, Schlaybaugh got a bachelor's degree from Albion College in 1971 and a law degree from the University of Detroit in 1973.

He returned to Lansing to practice law in 1974, the same year Engler came to the state capital as a young legislator.

The two men became acquainted and have stayed in contact since. Schlaybaugh, who worked in a peripheral role on Engler's 1990 campaign for governor, said Engler asked him "some months ago" if he would be interested in any university board appointments.



Rex Schlaybaugh Jr.

"I don't think his appointment of me and my interest in taking it has anything to do with anything I did in the campaign," Schlaybaugh said.

Currently a partner in the law firm of Dykema-Gossett, Schlaybaugh specializes in merger and acquisition. He said the firm doesn't handle any cases that would present a conflict of interest on the OU board.

# B'ham AAUW hosts speaker

The Birmingham Branch of the American Association of University Women will hear from the associate director of the equal opportunities program at the University of Michigan following a Wednesday noon lunch at Plum Hollow Golf Club in Southfield.

Norma Barquet, associate director of National Origin Equity at U-M, came to the United States from Cuba in 1963 after the Castro take-over. She holds a bachelor's degree in French and Spanish literature, a teaching certificate from Marygrove College

and a master's degree in Spanish and Latin American literature from the University of Iowa.

She is now working on a doctoral degree in educational and bilingual education at Wayne State University.

The luncheon is preceded by a cash bar at 11:30 a.m. and costs \$16. Guests are also welcome for just the talk at 1:15 p.m. Call 649-6161 immediately for reservations or questions.

Plum Hollow is at 21631 Lahser and Nine Mile Road.

## The Winter Sale Starts Today At Stewart-Glenn

Featuring today's classics at yesterday's prices from Pennsylvania House

Admiral's Table reg. \$1815 now \$1049

Farmhouse Table reg. \$1525 now \$849

Harvest Extension Table reg. \$1850 now \$1049

It's hard to believe how affordable Pennsylvania House furniture can be. Especially now, during the Collector's Showcase Sale, when all furniture by Pennsylvania House is at least 33% off. Every piece is made with the quality and care of a true collectible. So visit Stewart-Glenn now through February 22. And start your collection of Pennsylvania House heirlooms today.

2800 N. Woodward Ave. 332-8348  
Just South of Square Lake Rd. Open Mon. - Thurs. 11-8 p.m.  
Five Furniture Since 1937. Tues. - Wed. 10-5:30 p.m.

## \$100,000,000 SPORTS SALE AND CLEARANCE!

# EVERY SPORT! EVERY STORE!

### 20% OFF!

### 25% OFF!

### 33% OFF!

## EVEN CLEARANCE ITEMS

### 20% OFF

- SHOES (Selected Styles)
- GOLF EQUIPMENT
- TENNIS RACKETS & APPAREL
- EXERCISE ACCESSORIES
- TEAM SPORTS GEAR
- CAMPING • SWIMWEAR
- AEROBICWEAR • FLEECE
- RUSSELL ATHLETIC ACTIVEWEAR
- WINDWEAR • WARMUPS

### 25% OFF

- STEPPERS
- HOME GYMS
- TREADMILLS
- BOWLING BALLS & BOWLING BAGS
- SOCCER APPAREL
- VIDEOS • BOOKS
- TRADING CARDS
- POSTERS
- FISHING & HUNTING

### 33% OFF

- MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SKI WEAR
- RUGGED APPAREL
- DARTS & DARTBOARDS
- TEAM LICENSED APPAREL
- SKI EQUIPMENT
- CAR RACKS
- BRANDED SPORTS LUGGAGE

**HERMAN'S**  
world of sporting goods

24 Hour Ski, Bowling & Tennis Service in All Stores

MICHIGAN

- BIRMINGHAM: 10 Mile & Southfield Rds. (313) 258-8630
- FLINT: Genesee Valley Mall (313) 723-7450
- TROY: 205 John R. Road (313) 849-0450
- LANSING: Lansing Mall (517) 323-4701
- SOUTHWEST: Oak Ridge & Eureka Roads (313) 248-8815
- ANN ARBOR: Oakwood Mall (313) 862-8000
- BAGINAW SQUARE: 2092 W. Washtenaw Ave. (313) 752-9204
- WESTLAND: Westland Crossings Mall (313) 423-1900

All merchandise not at all stores. Some limited quantities. Some stock only. No refunds. Intermittent markdowns may have been taken. Sale ends through Jan. 11.

# Somerset can make your child a model student.

"In Style With Somerset" will teach your children valuable lessons in self-confidence. It's a fun, fact-filled, educational experience where both boys and girls can learn the basics of modeling, skin care, wardrobe, etiquette and lots more over six consecutive Saturdays beginning January 23rd at the Somerset Collection. Classes are available for 6- to 8-year-olds, 9- to 12-year-olds and 13- to 18-year-olds. So, send your kids to "In Style With Somerset." Going to school never looked so good!

For information on how to register, call the Somerset Collection at 643-6360 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

## SOMERSET COLLECTION

The best names at the best address.