## Labor relations, next chancellor big issues in OCC race

BY MIKE MALOTT HOMETOWN NEWS SERVICE

Howertown News Senvice

Labor relations, efficient use of
tax dollars and who the next
chancellor will be after the current one retires have all emerged
as leading issues in the race for
Oakhand Community College
Board of Trustees.

Two seasts are up for election
this year, in the annual school
elections Monday, June 10. Six
candidates including the two
incumbents, have filled to run.
Both seats are for six year terms
which begin July 1, 2002 and
expire in 2008.

the charge. Couture worked at OCC for 32 years, mainly in the business office at the Royal Oak campus.

Couture blames the board for

sultants to improve on the sys-tem. Abraham said the board and administration should be going through the original con-tract to make sure the vendor-had delivered the system as promised, and at the price prom-ised. And she served for a time as the president of the union representing clorical workers. Although she retired, she decided to run for office saying she still has more to contribute. She said she was asked to run by her former promised, and at the price promised.

Incumbents responded that a recent audit showed the project is proceeding on par with other data processing projects of this magnitude. While there have been some additional costs, they were the result of unanticipated software needs.

Abraham said he was motivated to run for the OCC board because of his support for higher education and wanting to take his public service "to the next level."

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more to contribute. She said she was asked to run by her former coworkers.

Ritter initially got involved in OCC after seeing how the school programs helped her husband, Dennis Ritter, by preparing him for a good career. Ritter counts as her top accomplishments that the college has kept pace with the growth of the county, and provided students with quality educational programs while keep tuition very affordable.

An educator with Waterford schools, serving first as a teacher then as an administrator. Ritter tetrierd recently. Finding that she missed the job, Ritter took a position at the start of the current school year as the principal of a charter school in Burton, near Flint.

Towar says the board's highest

Couture blames the board for failing to settle an outstanding contract with administrative employees. She believes the contract has been unsettled because sitting board members don't want that bargaining group to be represented by the union which employees have solected, the Teamsters. Incumbents denied the charge. near Fint.
Towar says the board's highest priority in the coming term will be the hiring of a new chancellor, since Richard Thompson has already announced his retirement later this year.
Towar said the selection of the next chancellor will be important

because that person will set the tone for the school in the future. She said she had no strong feelings about whether that person should come from inside or outside the school, but she said the search should include all "stake-nolders" in the college, from the board and administration to students and employees.

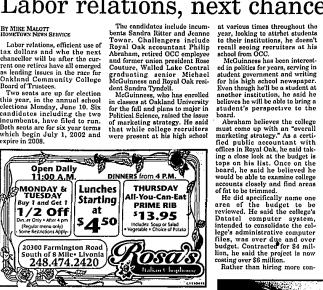
Towar has been involved in the college more than 18 years through work with the OCC Foundation, which raises money for primarily for scholarships. Towar said she was motivated to run for the board because it provides educational opportunities to many students who wouldn't be able to attend a four-year college.

Tradell did not participate in

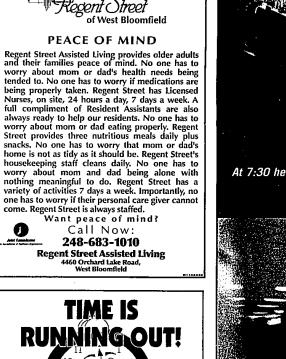
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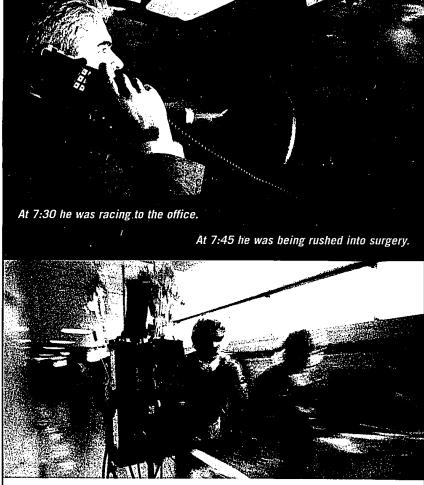
Tyndell did not participate in the Observer & Eccentric interview process. She declined because she believes Towar has a conflict of interest, serving as both a member of the OCC board and being employed as Vice President of Editorial of the Home Town Communications Network.

Towar responded that she does not have any control over the day-to-day content of the news-paper, nor does she control its editorial or endorsement process.









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