

OCC president in critical condition

Disabled Oakland Community College (OCC) President Joe Hill suffered another stroke last weekend.

According to OCC spokesmen, Hill is in a coma and is listed in critical condition.

He has not acted as president since last August when he was felled by a heart attack and stroke. Derek N. Nunney, former vice president for academic affairs, has been named acting president.

THE LATEST stroke came on the verge of an agreement on a new contract with the college. Under the terms of that contract, according to Gordon Henderson, chairman of OCC's board of trustees and Lila Johnson, vice chairman, Hill would have resigned the presidency.

He would, however, continue with the college as a consultant and would have the option of joining OCC's faculty.

Henderson and Mrs. Johnson said they are taking a "wait and see" attitude.

"I don't think we will take any action," Henderson said. "There's no need to take any action. He's our employee on medical disability."

He continued, "We would probably do nothing until he either passes away or gets out of critical condition."



JOSEPH HILL

The board of trustees has already set the structure of a presidential search committee. All that is needed is the signal to go ahead and begin the search.

The 20-member committee includes representatives of OCC's bargaining units, the faculty, the student body and the board.

Oakland jail is object of suit

By MICHAEL MATSZEWSKI

Four men awaiting trial in the Oakland County Jail have filed suit in U.S. District Court charging that the jail violated their civil rights.

Anthony Yodley, Oscar Allen Jr., Clarence Montague and Joseph McConnell charge that the jail is overcrowded and that sheriff's deputies tamper with their mail.

The plaintiffs will ask federal Judge Phillip Pratt to certify the case as a class action suit on behalf of all the jail's prisoners.

They are asking no monetary awards.

"THE OVERCROWDING is just ridiculous," said the plaintiffs' chief attorney, Richard J. Amberg, partner in the Southfield firm of Amberg, Miller & McPherson.

"We're not asking for monetary damages," he said. "We're more interested in getting the practices declared illegal. The prisoners would rather see the jail get the money so that it can be fixed up."

The prime issue as the case takes form is overcrowding. As of March 21,

the jail housed 591 prisoners, according to an Oakland County Sheriff's Department count.

The jail is equipped to house only 465. Lt. Carl Matheny, a spokesman for Oakland County Sheriff Johannes Spreen, said the jail could handle as many as 650 prisoners on a short term basis—over a weekend, for example.

A VAST majority of the prisoners housed at the facility are not of the "short term" variety, however. According to sheriff's department statistics, of the 497 male prisoners in custody on Feb. 22, some 318 were awaiting trial and 174 were serving sentences.

Amberg contends that prisoners who are unable to raise bond and are awaiting jail are the real victims of the overcrowding.

"Face it," Amberg said, "the choice for a speedy trial in Oakland County are two—slim and none."

"You should walk through the jail. There are 10-12 men in cells made for only eight. Men are sleeping on mattresses laid on the concrete floors."

The sheriff's department agreed the

charges were not exaggerated. "We understand that we are overcrowded. We are fully aware that we have more inmates than we have space," Matheny said.

He said the sheriff's department had made numerous requests to Oakland County Executive Daniel T. Murphy and the county board of commissioners for more funds to expand the jail.

EACH REQUEST, however, has been turned down.

"I think that the executive and the board understand our situation, but the priorities are such that no date has been put on solving our problems," Matheny said.

The suit filed in federal court names Spreen, Atty. Gen. Frank Kelley, Murphy and the board of commissioners as prime defendants.

Murphy had little to say about the suit. Michael Nieman, a spokesman for the administration, said simply, "Jail suits are common. We try to stay out of them. They're always dragging us in."

THE SUIT ALSO charges that sher-



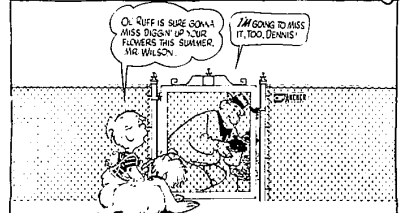
SHERIFF JOHANNES SPREEN

He sought funds

if's deputies have tampered with incoming mail.

"Granted," Amberg said, "they have the right to check the mail for contraband. But they do not have the right to destroy mail."

Matheny, speaking for the department, would not be cornered. "We have heard that it has happened, but we have not been able to prove that it has happened. I'm not going to say that it hasn't happened, though."



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WSU registration closes next week

Final registration for the spring quarter at Wayne State University will be held Monday through Thursday, March 27-30, in the Administrative Services Building, Cass and Antoinette.

Students who have previously been admitted to the university may register in alphabetical order from 8:30

a.m. to 6:30 p.m. on each of the registration days. The alphabetical order will be waived on Thursday, the last day of registration.

Further information may be obtained by calling 577-3811. Spring quarter classes will begin Monday, April 3.

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