

College mingles religion, education

Nestled on 28 acres in Farmington Hills' north end, the Detroit Bible College began its first semester in a new location with a bit of quiet fanfare last month.

Faculty and staff walked seven miles in thanksgiving for their new campus. Money wasn't the object of the walk. It was a campus-wide thank you to God.

It represented the type of spirit and togetherness administrators want to cultivate on the small interdenominational campus.

"As the students said later on, it (the walk) was neat," said Gene Williams, vice-president of development. "I began to feel the pebbles in my shoes, though, toward the end," he laughed.

Humor and religion walk hand in hand with discipline at the 33-year-old school which enrolls about 310 students.

With a slightly increasing student population, the Detroit Bible College

gave up its Detroit location on Meyers two years ago for an interim home in a vacated Southfield school.

"We were hand-locked and couldn't expand as we can now," said Williams.

The school picked Farmington Hills (38700 W. 12 Mile) for their new location because it was within easy reach of several expressways.

WHILE THE campuses first building was under construction, the school played fast and loose with time and weather.

Banking on finishing construction according to schedule in spite of the hard winter, school officials signed a lease in Southfield that terminated when the new building was due to be completed.

"God must have known the deadlines," Williams said.

The school's 30,000 square foot building houses the library, administration offices, chapel and classrooms. The

\$14 million building is the first step in an eight year plan to add a library building to house the school's 48,000 volumes, a gym, and a dormitory for about 100 students.

While most of the students are commuters, those that aren't from the area live in college rented homes under the guidance of an upper classman.

The college offers a four year degree to students who want to enter a church related occupation.

The college's goal is to build strength in today's church, according to Williams, and provide leaders for the future.

The college tries to attract students who decide to make a special commitment to Christ, Williams said, and will abide by the school's rules.

Beginning with its admissions application, the college puts its position on the line.

PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS are

asked if they smoke, attend dances, use non-medicinal drugs, attend movies or drink alcoholic beverages. If they indulge in any of the above, they must explain why.

"We ask people to use discretion in a Christian lifestyle," Williams said.

"Movies are a ticklish question. We ask students to refrain from them while they're here."

The college insists that students notify administrators of engagements and marriages. To refuse means dismissal with readmission considered the following semester.

Public announcements of engagements aren't allowed during the school year until after May.

Williams admits the Bible College's lifestyle isn't for everyone. Each applicant is interviewed to see if they can live up to the school's expectations.

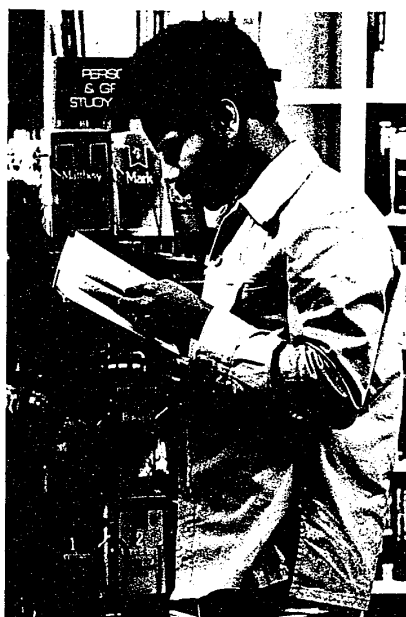
MOST OF THE STUDENTS are from Baptist, Community Church or Independent Bible Church backgrounds. A few are Presbyterian or come from independent Bible groups such as "Fishermen's Net."

There is an influx of dropouts during the first few years. Some leave to enter secular schools. Others leave to raise money to continue their education.

A few attend the school for two years to receive a grounding in Bible studies before studying for a job, according to Williams.

But others leave, he said, because their grades aren't up to snuff.

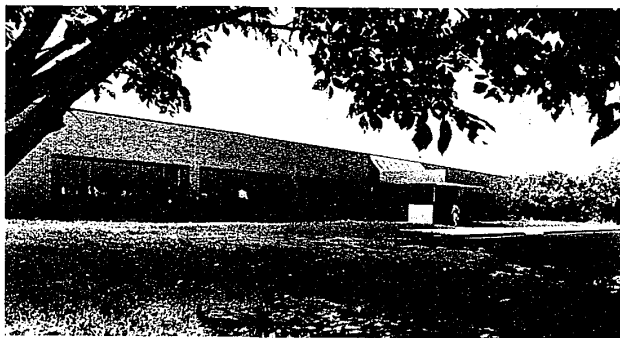
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Chuck Middleton browses in the school's book store.



Debby May practices with the school's choral group in the chapel.



The campus at Twelve Mile in Farmington Hills erect a library and a gym along with dormitory consists of one building now. The college plans to space, within eight years.

THE INSIDE * ANGLE

IT'S A LITTLE early for reruns but Inside Angles notes that the Farmington Jaycees are at it again. Their garage sale on Sept. 23 was such a success they've decided to do it again. On Sept. 30, bargain hunters who missed the first sale in the downtown Farmington Center will be able to get a second glance. For \$1, sellers will be able to display their goods while buyers can browse for free. To participate as a seller, simply show up at the location with your merchandise during sale hours, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. For more information, call Terry Sever at 478-1851.

THE RETINITIS PIGMENTOSA Foundation of Michigan is having its first pot luck luncheon on Oct. 15. The luncheon will be at the Farmington Hills Library, 3237 West Twelve Mile, Farmington Hills, beginning at 1:15 p.m. Please make reservations with Marion Whiteside at 549-2650 by Oct. 8. Retinitis Pigmentosa is a genetic disease in which the retina gradually deteriorates. Tunnel vision is caused by this deterioration.

CELEBRATING the 38th birthday of Dominican High School will be alumni, faculty and parents. This is the event of the year at the high school. The auction, dinner and dance will begin at 5:30 p.m. with a silent auction. An oral auction will begin at 7:30 p.m. From 9 p.m.-1 a.m., dinner and dancing will occupy the revelers. The open bar will be available from 5 p.m.-midnight. The event will be Nov. 4 at the Hillcrest Country Club, 50 South Grosbeck Highway, Mt. Clemens. Admission is by ticket only. Tickets are \$55 per couple or \$17.50 for singles. For more information and reservations, please call Dominican High School at 882-8500.

KICKING OFF a new activity is the Jewish Community Center. Children in grades three to eight may join the program at the Ten Mile Center, 15110 West Ten Mile in Oak Park on Sundays, beginning at 3 p.m. Oct. 8. There will be a minimal fee of \$5 per person.

IMMUNIZATION TIME is here again. The Oakland County Health Division in cooperation with McDonald's Restaurants is sponsoring a free immunization clinic, on Saturday 9 a.m.-10 p.m. at the Oakland County Health Division, 27725 Greenfield, in Southfield. Children must bring a parent or legal guardian and any previous immunization records. The shots are free and no appointment is necessary. There will be clothes, soft drinks and surprises for the children. For more information, call 424-7000.

OLDER CITIZENS and people over 26-

years-old with diabetes, heart, lung or kidney diseases can get a free flu shot, courtesy of the Oakland County Division of Health.

This year, the division will be giving a three-in-one vaccine that protects against A-Texas, A-Russian and B-Hong Kong virus strains. As with any drug, the possibility of reactions exists in some instances. People receiving flu vaccine have had allergic reactions. People with known allergy to eggs should receive vaccine only under special medical supervision. People with fever should delay getting vaccinated until the fever is gone.

The program isn't part of a state or national effort. The immunization is free but a donation may be given at the site. A voluntary consent form has been prepared and there will be a chance to ask questions before signing.

The clinic will be at the Holy Spirit Lutheran Church, 4800 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield on Oct. 3 from 1-3 p.m. For additional information, call the Oakland County Health Division, 424-7000.

FAMILY LIFE CAN BE FUN. That's the word from Family Life Today. Throughout October and November, Fred and Jill Renich, authors and speakers will give seminars on "Harmony in the Home." On Oct. 4, Mrs. Renich will give her teaching series for women at Bloomfield Hills Baptist Church. On Oct. 12 Renich will teach a class for men and Mrs. Renich will teach one for women at Northwest Church in Farmington Hills.

The concluding sessions of Nov. 9 and 10 in the evening and all day Nov. 11 will be a joint seminar on home harmony.

During the two months, Renich will teach a class in Christian leadership for men on Saturday mornings. Call 478-5699 for details.

WHERE'S MONROVIA and what's Kru? These questions will be answered by Nancy Lightfoot at 7 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 1 in the Orchard United Methodist Church, 30450 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills. She will show slides and tell about her work as a United Methodist missionary to Liberia. She is a linguist in Monrovia. She serves in the Kru literacy program which involves linguistic analysis, preparation of teaching materials, teaching and literature production.

DEADLINES

Material submitted for the Inside Angle, 2217 West Nine Mile, Southfield, 48034, should include the name and phone number of the sender and should be typed if possible. Items should be received at least one week before publication and photographs can't be used. All materials become the property of the Farmington Observer but any laughs will be open to the community.

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