

Trustees regroup to save construction plans

By TIM RICHARD

Stung by their fourth straight millage loss at the polls, Schoolcraft College trustees will hold a special meeting April 4 to see if they can salvage state funding for a major construction project.

Voters on Monday gave only 42 percent support to a proposal to raise the property tax rate one mill (\$1 per \$1,000 of state equalized valuation) for five years.

Unofficial totals showed 3,029 in favor and 4,252 against. All five K-12 districts in the college district were opposed. The total turnout of 7,281, about 8 percent, was a record low.

"OUR CULINARY arts funding is in danger," said college President C. Nelson Grote after the results were in.

The board of trustees' highest priority

was to use about \$800,000 of the nearly \$12 million which the levy would have produced in five years for a culinary arts addition to the Waterman Campus Center.

Against Gov. William Milliken's advice, the Michigan Legislature last year appropriated \$750,000 for the culinary arts addition. Schoolcraft stands to lose those state funds unless it can come up with its matching share — which Grote said it can't possibly do from existing revenues.

"Our credibility and my own credibility with the legislators are endangered," Grote said.

He recalled that Senate Democratic Leader William Faust, D-Westland, and former senator (now U.S. Rep.) Carl Pursell, R-Plymouth, "went to bat for us" to win the state appropriation after Milliken's budget had eliminated it.

"This practically eliminates our ask-

ing the state for any more matching money," Grote said of the millage loss.

AT THE APRIL 4 meeting, the administration will likely recommend a modified proposal to be placed on the June 11 general school ballot in order to salvage the culinary arts project.

Going to the June 11 ballot, however, means Schoolcraft's request will have to compete for voter attention against proposals the K-12 districts are likely to place there.

Monday's election marked the first time in eight years a Schoolcraft question has been on the ballot alone, with no competing K-12 district questions.

The millage loss throws a monkey wrench into the community college's \$11 million budget plans for fall and raises the likelihood of faculty-staff layoffs.

"We now have a \$350,000 revenue shortfall in the 1979-80 budget," Grote

said. "We had already removed two small allocations for major maintenance and equipment (about \$350,000), assuming the millage would pass. So you now have a \$700,000 shortfall."

Will it mean program cuts?

"I don't know," he answered. "It'll certainly mean some layoffs."

THE SMALL VOTER turnout was intended. Schoolcraft board leaders Paul Y. Kadish and Harry Greenleaf, chairman and vice-chairman respectively, sought no media coverage, did no advertising and made a telephone center the key to their strategy.

Volunteers contacted former students and known "friends of the college" by phone and followed up with direct mail to stimulate only favorable voters. A special election was sought so that Schoolcraft's proposal could have the voters' undivided attention.

The voter turnout was smaller than the Oct. 24, 1961 election that created the community college. Some 5,295 persons in four districts turned out, compared to 7,281 in five districts

Monday.

Here is the are the yes and no votes by district (with the percentage yes following in parentheses):

Clarenceville — 91-102 (47.3).

Garden City — 362-519 (41.1).

Livonia — 1,783-2,680 (39.9).

Northville — 293-379 (43.6).

Novi — 1-4 (109). Only a small corner

of the Novi School District is in the

Schoolcraft College district.

Plymouth-Canton — 499-572 (46.6).

Clarenceville's percentage of yes

votes was about the same as in the 1977

millage election. Northville's dropped

from 52 percent majority. Livonia

fell to last place after giving a 46.6 per-

cent vote in 1977.

But Garden City turned out a 7 per-

cent higher yes vote, and Plymouth-

Canton support was about 5 percent

higher than two years ago.

WHY DID the millage lose when sur-

vey results last year showed citizens

had a strongly favorable impression of

Schoolcraft College's academic and

cultural programs? Some speculations

and their sources:

• Inflation, rising property valuations and proximity of the election to the time when people are paying both property and income taxes (administration).

• Lack of help from the faculty (a trustee). While the Faculty Forum, bargaining agent for some 300 instructors, endorsed the millage, few individual faculty members actually worked on the campaign. "They didn't even send a letter to their members," said the trustee.

• The weather (college polling consultant). It wasn't bad enough, compared to Sunday's snowstorm, to discourage the strongly motivated "no" voters but blustery enough to discourage the "yes" voters.

• The shaky American economy and fuel price increases (a student activist).

• The faculty and secretaries strike of October 1978 (anonymous political observer). A broad feeling of ill-will is a political fact of life after any teacher strike, and it lasts a full year to two years.

Dameron death case stirs judicial rift

Oakland County Probate Judge Barry Grant will be asked to disqualify himself April 3 from hearing a negligent homicide case against David West, 17, of West Bloomfield.

The closed juvenile court case stems from the death of Douglas Dameron, 54, of West Bloomfield in an automobile crash April 25, 1978.

Oakland County Prosecutor L. Brooks Patterson is charging Grant with "the appearance of impropriety" because he was seen talking to Circuit Court Judge Alice Gilbert.

Mrs. Gilbert's son, Greg Greenblatt, 17, is refusing to testify as a witness to the accident. Dameron was killed in a head-on crash on Middlebelt Road, north of Walnut Lake Road in West Bloomfield.

West allegedly drove over the center line, hitting Dameron's car. Three teenagers and West were injured in the incident.

"The trial is an insult, a fiasco," says Dameron's widow, Shirley.

The case, postponed several times already, has had three different prosecutors. Patterson also charges Grant disallowed the testimony of his chief assistant Richard Thompson saw him talking with Mrs. Gilbert.

GRANT WAS OUT of town last week. Mrs. Gilbert will not comment on the case.

Greenblatt was reportedly driving behind West. Police believe he was in-

involved but have been unable to prove it.

Noel Gage, husband of Oakland County Circuit Court Judge Hilda Gage, is Greenblatt's attorney.

Greenblatt has refused to testify on grounds of self-incrimination unless prosecutors grant him immunity from prosecution. Patterson has refused the request.

Art class planned

Ever wonder why the Mona Lisa isn't smiling? Or who painted those intricate motifs that adorn mummy casings?

If you want to make those trips to the art museum more meaningful, the Farmington Community Center will offer a broad art history survey course beginning Thursday, April 12.

The eight-week class will be taught by William Bostick, retired administrator from the Detroit Institute of Arts and a former drawing teacher at Wayne State University.

The survey will cover 5,000 years of western art in paintings, drawings and architecture. It begins with Egypt and Persia, touches the Renaissance and Rococo periods, and finishes with art in the modern world.

Two visits to the DIA are included in the course schedule.

"The class is based on my knowledge of art and my experience at the

Mrs. Dameron says she saw Mrs. Gilbert go into Grant's office last October after the trial had begun.

"Of course, I don't know what they talked about, but the case was postponed until after the election. Those judges stick together," said Mrs. Dameron.

Mrs. Gilbert ran unsuccessfully for a state supreme court position.

museum," Bostick said.

The sessions will run from 1 to 3 p.m. and include:

• April 12 Painting techniques, explanation of sculpture, printmaking techniques and art terms.

• April 26 History of Writing and The Book — cradle of western painting.

• May 3 The Ancient World — Egypt, Persia, Greece, Etruria and Rome.

• May 10 The Age of Faith Byzantine, Medieval and Gothic Art.

• May 17 Renaissance, Baroque and Rococo Art.

• May 18 Lunch at Scarab Club and museum visit.

• May 24 The modern world: art of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

• May 25 Museum visit and lunch at the Scarab Club.

The course costs \$40. For registration information, call 477-8404.

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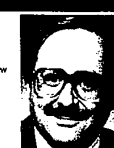
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