

New departments for OCC's Auburn Hills

By TIM RICHARD

By fall of 1981, the business science and art departments will have a new home on the Auburn Hills campus of Oakland Community College.

And the college, in the words of Trustee David Hackett, will "make it exceptionally clear" that contractors and subcontractors are paying more than lip service to "equal opportunity" employment standards.

Trustees last week spent only a few minutes discussing the building and a full hour on minority hiring as they awarded a \$2.25 million general contract to F.H. Martin Construction Co. of St. Clair Shores.

Martin was lowest of 13 bidders. Its price was \$294,000 over the budgeted amount. But Soeren Gozmannian, director of physical facilities, said sufficient money is available in the building and sites fund. Equipment will come from a separate budget.

"THESE ARE the last two programs on campus to have their own building," said Marion K. Rice, provost of the Au-

burn Hills campus, near I-75 and M-59 in Pontiac Township.

Business science had been in the old vocational technical building. In its new quarters, Gozmannian said, it will have two typing rooms, one machine room, a transcription and word processing room and three general purpose classrooms.

Art has been in a barracks on the former Nike missile site which OCC acquired in 1984. Gozmannian said the new building will give art two drawing and craft rooms, a wood shop, a jewelry studio, a machine shop, a sculpting studio and a ceramics studio.

Dr. Rice said, "We will be able to expand our art enrollment and have better quality. Our art program is geared to a technical campus."

THE NEW building will be connected by passageways to buildings C, D and E. OCC could have cut the construction price by \$112,000 by eliminating them, but Gozmannian recommended they be retained.

With business science and art moving into their own quarters, Dr. Rice said, OCC will renovate the vocational-technical building.

"We have added a diesel lab, and we will modernize the rest of the build-

ing," said Dr. Rice. "We will add a microprocessing lab."

The motion to award the contract passed easily, 6-0. Retiring Trustee Gordon Henderson was out of town on business and missed what would have been his last meeting.

THE BOARD voted 4-2 for Hackett's amendment to ask for minority hiring information from the contractor and subcontractors.

When Gozmannian said the contractor signs a statement that it is an equal opportunity employer, Hackett replied, "Anybody can sign a statement. I'd like to know if what they say is true. . . . What I have in mind is getting them to put down in black and white how many blacks, Chicanos and so forth they have. It's fine to have objectives."

He was supported by Vice Chairman Earl Anderson, who said, "I'm being told more and more that when they say they have a number of blacks and so forth, it isn't true. We, spending taxpayers' money, ought to be sure what they say is true."

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State trails country in retail trade

IN OTHER Auburn Hills' business, OCC trustees voted to spend just under \$10,000 with Wright Tool Co. for tool sets for the diesel lab.

With 46 percent federal funding, the money will buy a 17-ton master hydraulic pulper set and three master

drive sets with cabinet.

"The hydraulic pulper set consists of 26 basic pieces of of bearing pullers with pumps, hoses and 56 accessories," said David Sturges, director of purchasing and auxiliary services.

"The drive master set consists of 238 pieces including sockets, wrenches and cabinet."

In what may come as no surprise to Michigan residents, the state ranks first in new car registrations per capita — and most of those cars are American made.

But while residents may buy a lot of new cars, the overall gain in retail trade lags behind the rest of the nation, according to David I. Verway, a research professor in the Graduate

School of Business Administration at Michigan State University.

Statistics compiled by the Census of Retail Trade show that the state's retail trade grew by 55 percent between 1972 and 1977, lagging behind the national average of 58 percent. That puts Michigan 12th from the bottom if the states are ranked from the biggest increases to the least increases.



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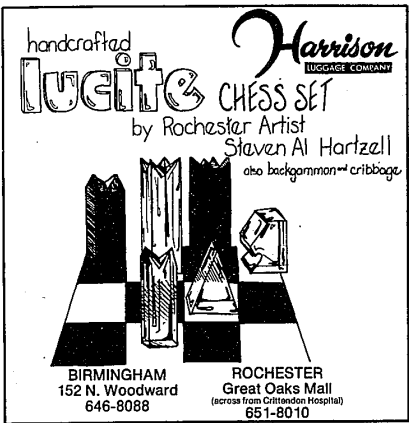
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