

Pain in the glass?

Manufacturer will replace OU's falling panels

A Toledo glass manufacturer announced Tuesday it will replace all of the 494 reflective glass panes in Oakland University's new \$9.5 million all-glass classroom building at no cost to the state of Michigan or the university.

More than 60 of the panes have shattered, buckled and fallen since last March from Jan and Don O'Dowd Hall. The 4-by-6-foot panes cost about \$1,200 each to manufacture and install.

"Due to the continued high incidence of breakage of spandrel glass in the original order manufactured for this project, Libby-Owens-Ford, the supplier of the glass, is remanufacturing the entire original order and arranging for replacement in the building at no expense to the state of Michigan or the university," said James Outhout, attorney for Libby-Owens, in a prepared statement.

O'Dowd Hall is owned by the State Bonding Authority and will be leased by Oakland University.

"We're delighted this thing is not going to end up in a court case," said James Llewellyn, OU's news director. The university, he said, had to reschedule 10 fall semester classes into other buildings because the panes continued to break.

Outhout said he doesn't know what caused the panes to shatter, buckle, then drop out.

He said the problem was a manufacturing fault that has been eliminated. He said he believes it was isolated to the panes manufactured for Oakland University.

Mike Reiser, regional manager of Libby-Owens, couldn't be reached Tuesday for an explanation of the manufacturing problem.

Libby-Owens has until Jan. 26 to replace the 494 panes, Llewellyn said.

The five-story O'Dowd Hall is named after Donald D. O'Dowd, the university's first and immediate past president, and his wife. O'Dowd is now executive vice-chancellor at the State University of New York in Albany.



Panels from the glass facade of Jan and Don O'Dowd Hall at Oakland University have been popping out of place. All 494 panes will be replaced by the manufacturer at no cost to the school or state. (Photos by David Frank)

AAA will issue Visa cards

The Automobile Club of Michigan will offer its members a new, free AAA/Visa credit card beginning in September.

"The card will be welcomed wherever a Visa card is accepted and members will have the special convenience of using the AAA/Visa card for payments of insurance premiums, AAA membership dues, airline tickets and no-fee travelers checks up to the cardholder's available credit limit," stated Robert M. Savage, AAA/Visa card program manager.

"Unlike most banks which are charging an annual fee, the AAA/Visa card will be available without a yearly charge," Savage explained.

Additional services offered by the AAA/Visa card include personal check cashing and a special Credit Card feature which offers complete protection,

even for the first \$50, against unauthorized charges if the card is lost or stolen.

THE CREDIT CARD feature also provides for a loan of emergency funds and airline ticketing when a member's card is lost or stolen.

"Adding the AAA/Visa card to our list of more than 50 services helps make an Auto Club membership even more valuable than it has been in the past," Savage said.

During the initial enrollment period, the card will be available only to Auto Club members receiving the September mail offer. Issuance is subject to credit approval by Citizens Commercial and Savings Bank of Flint, the participating bank.

Starting in 1981, an open enrollment period will be available to those members not receiving the mailing or who join the Auto Club after the mailing.

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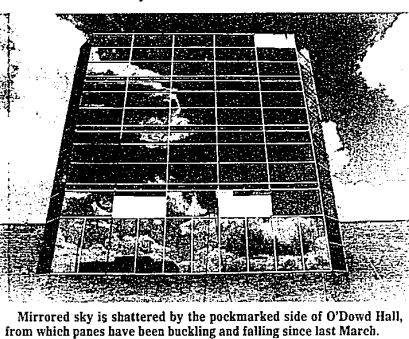
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Mirrored sky is shattered by the pockmarked side of O'Dowd Hall, from which panes have been buckling and falling since last March.

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