

# Court to deny redistricting appeal, MSU prof predicts

The U.S. Supreme Court will likely refuse to review a Michigan Democratic Party appeal of a new apportionment plan for legislative districts, according to a Michigan State University political scientist.

Harold Spaeth, who is also a practicing attorney, also predicted that if the court does decide to hear the appeal, it will not vote to overturn the redistricting plan.

Spaeth is known for the consistent accuracy of his computerized predictions of U.S. Supreme Court decisions. This forecast, however, was made without use of a computer. His analysis comes on the heels of the Michigan Supreme Court's approval of its own reapportionment plan which the Democrats consider unconstitutional.

After the Michigan Supreme Court's decision, the Democrats were expected to appeal for a review before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Spaeth says the U.S. Supreme Court will not likely hear the appeal because there are other reapportionment cases from other states on the court agenda and the court is poised to adjourn until Oct. 1.

"Even if the Supreme Court does hear the case," says Spaeth, "on the basis of how it has resolved these cases before, I don't think it is sympathetic to contentions of malapportionment. There have been 31 such cases decided during the history of the Burger court and only 15 appeals of this kind have been upheld."



Student David Chester works on a puzzle in a project called "Extend Your Mathematical World."

# Gifted kids get taste of college life

By Suzie Rollins Singer  
staff writer

Saturday morning students on Oakland Community College's Farmington Hills campus are much younger and a lot shorter than the traditional variety.

Their average age is 12 and none of them have finished high school.

But they flock to the campus on the hill — 250 strong — ready to learn foreign languages, cartooning, acting, dance, electronics, astronomy, song writing, calligraphy, clowning and computer science.

They're all on hand for the college's enrichment short courses and classes designed for the academically gifted and talented.

"We have a tremendous resource here," said Sylvia Burtrum, admissions director. "It's a natural place for education for the community."

SUMMER SESSION courses are under way, Burtrum said, but students are encouraged to peruse the catalogue for fall offerings.

The young student's program is Burtrum's brainchild, born three years ago. It was designed after area school counselors and parents phoned ideas to her.

"I found there was a great need for these types of classes. I talked to high school counselors and we came up with course ideas," she said.

"I tried to pick subjects that were challenging and creative. Like 'build your own radio,'" Burtrum added.

The program began with 125 students and has grown through the years. Bulletins promoting the program can be found in Oakland schools and many libraries. They are also available by mail by calling 476-9400, Ext. 277 or 226.

"The college said I could offer whatever I wanted as long as it didn't cost the college money," she said.

The course description suggests the ages of enrollment for each class.

"Parents usually call me when their child doesn't fall in the category so we make an evaluation. But it's amazing, most of the courses are self-selective," she said.

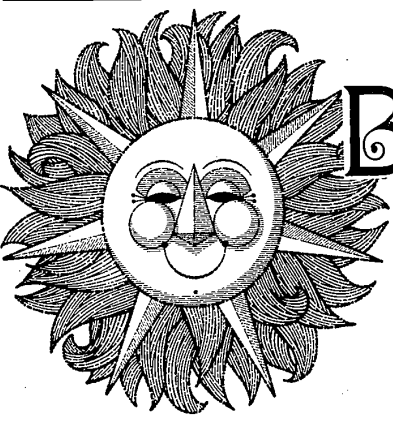
Regular faculty members teach the courses, which run six weeks in the spring and summer and six to 10 weeks in the fall and winter. Usually 10-15 students are in each class, except for computer science which is slightly larger because of the great demand, Burtrum explained.

"There's no homework, no tests, just fun learning," she said.

Requests for gifted and talented programs began popping up during the past few years as the demand rose, Burtrum noted.



Youngsters in the beginning theater program at OCC practice their movements.



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