

OCC enrollment rising

By Tim Richeard
staff writer

Led by a pair of computer courses, Oakland Community College's enrollment has risen another 5 percent this semester, according to President Robert F. Roelofs.

"Most other schools I've heard from are flat except Schoolcraft, where they've had a 3 percent increase," Roelofs told the board of trustees last week.

"It's less than the 7.5 to 8 percent increases we've had. But, remember, we're at a higher base (number of students) now."

Focus:HOPE walk Sunday

Nutrition for mothers and babies as well as elderly poor will be provided as a result of the 13th annual Focus:HOPE civil and human rights celebration.

A demonstration of those who share ideals on racial justice and civil rights, the Walk for Justice will be at 2 p.m. Sunday. Co-chairmen Don Haney and Neal Shine will lead the procession from the Michigan State Fairgrounds 10 miles down Woodward Avenue to Hart Plaza.

Focus:HOPE director the Rev. William T. Cunningham said, "It is both a demonstration of dissatisfaction with the way things are and a sign of our intention to change them. Sponsor pledges help Focus:HOPE finance programs to provide food, jobs, and racial equality in education and housing."

At 1 p.m., a pre-walk rally at the Fairgrounds will feature entertainers Orletha Barnes, Barbara Bredius, Phil Marcus Esser and Josh White, Jr.

Community colleges tend to be counter-cyclical to the economy — their enrollments rising in bad times and declining when jobs are plentiful.

OCC's four campuses enrolled 28,000 individuals and about 15,000 full-time-equated students, the president said.

SOME 400 students signed up for the new Computer Aided Design — CAD, in high-tech jargon. "We're off and running with a big bang," said Roelofs.

"Sixteen sections are going, including one on Sunday. Oddly enough, the afternoon sections didn't fill and had to be cancelled," he said, speculating that many students already have drafting jobs.

MUSICAL GROUPS entertaining at Hart Plaza are the Wayne State Jazz Band, the Sun Messengers, and Barnes, Bredius, Esser and White. Refreshments will be provided and walkers will be free to stay and enjoy the festivities.

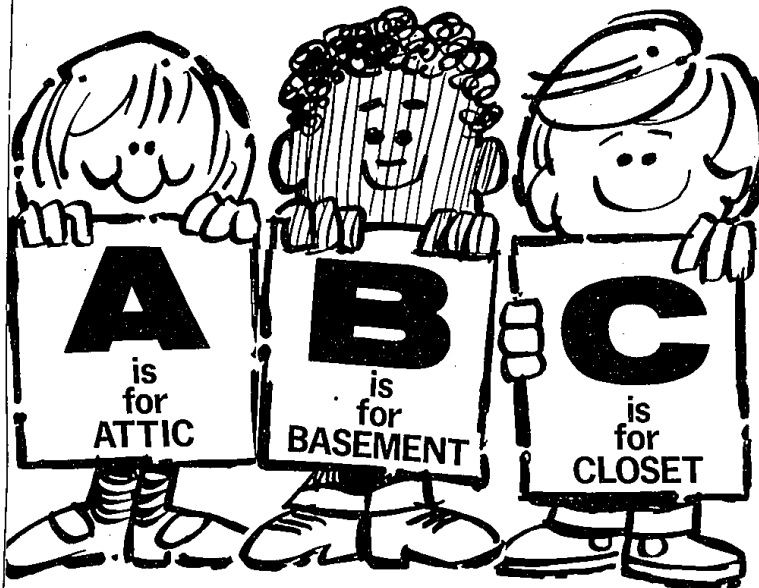
Established in 1968, Focus:HOPE is a civil and human rights organization of 22,000 people.

This year, its Food Prescription Program will expand to serve 72,000 mothers and babies in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties. In those counties, Focus:HOPE now provides nutritious food for more than 4,000 elderly poor through a pilot program.

Industry Mall and the Machinist Training Institute have gotten jobs for more than 300 people.

Individuals, families and groups who want to join in the Walk for Justice can obtain sponsor forms or more information from Focus:HOPE, 1355 Oakland Blvd., Detroit 48238 or call 883-7440.

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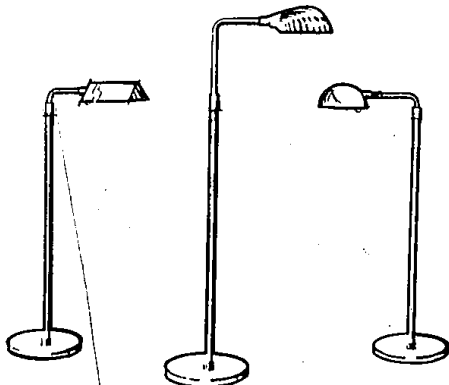
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