

# Those who are grieving need a sympathetic ear

THE HOLIDAYS are the most difficult times for those who have lost someone in death. To them, it often seems that all else is enjoying themselves. Those who grieve look upon others who gather as families and couples and they feel alone. They are different. Life is torn apart. The ragged edges are all they can see.

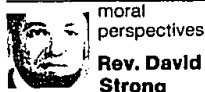
Isn't it strange that we in our culture think that the death of someone close is an unusual thing? We make it a momentary event, an interruption of the normal progression of life. Actually the loss of someone by death extends for a very long time. Grief generally continues for at least a year or two. For each person who dies, there are many who grieve. The memories of that person come to those who survive hundreds and thousands of times. We

all have and will experience this long process of grief if we have loved others.

IT IS HARD FOR me to believe that there are occasions now when a family does not even hold a funeral or memorial service. Sometimes their reasons seem rational yet they still strike me as wrong. Without grieving and remembering, we act as though we did not love and we are not human.

Death like nothing else reminds us we are vulnerable. Death like nothing else forces us to evaluate our beliefs. It pushes us to encounter the mystery of life itself. Death invites us to believe or to doubt.

A friend spoke to me recently about his experience since the death of his wife. Life for him has totally changed. A year or more after



her death he is often depressed and lonely. He is most sensitive to how members of his family and his friends relate to him. He is asking questions about his own future. He estimates his own life expectancy and then thinks about his future plans. Life is totally different. HE LOOKS OUT upon his family and friends and it appears to him that life is the same for

most of these people. His greatest needs are to have people who will listen to him and people who will touch him. Both of these needs are difficult for most in our society to fulfill. Our world values those who act and who speak effectively. We seldom honor those who listen well. Our education offers opportunities to learn how to speak. Rarely do I ever hear of training which helps us to listen. This is the very thing that many people need so much. Those who grieve need to share their story, over and over again. Those who help others through grief need to be willing to listen over and over again. Listening to those who grieve is truly a deep way of caring.

WE MAY want to rush people through their grief for two reasons. We are afraid to become

too involved with those who grieve because it reminds us that we are going to die. Who wants to hear about the death of a family member? Who wants to hear how lonely someone is? It cuts too closely into what we know is our own fate.

We rush people through grief also because we want them to get over being sad. Well-meaning people think that they can tell someone to forget their loss and cheer up. This is not natural or possible. Grief is a process that a person has to walk through step by step.

Too often those who experience loss report that their church and their friends did not help them. I often think that it isn't that they didn't care. They do not understand grief and they do not know how to respond.

## Growing vegetables for winter harvest

I have some seeds left over from my summer garden. Can I use them in window boxes during the winter?



**consumer mailbag**  
**Terry Gibb**

• Purchase extension cords with self-closing outlets to cover unused receptacles or cover unused extension cord receptacles with electrical tape or plastic safety caps, to prevent mouth contact with the electric current.

• Prayed or defective cords should be thrown away or returned to the place of purchase.

• Use the proper type of extension cord for the job — use outdoor cords with outdoor appliances.

• Avoid coiling cord during use to prevent possible overheating.

• Don't place extension cords under rugs or in other places where they may be crushed or damaged by furniture.

• Don't attach extension cords to baseboards or other surfaces with staples or nails — damaged cords are a shock hazard.

• And, most important of all, is a good family education program to instruct children not to go near plugs and outlets and not to attempt to unplug cords without parental guidance.

**EEO-TIP:** Concern Detroit's "I Am Not A Vegetarian — Meatless Main Dishes for Meatlessers" makes a great holiday gift for family and friends because it shows them you care about their health. To order send \$4.25 (includes tax and postage) to Concern Detroit, 1025 Shelby, Detroit 48226. Orders are gift-tagged and ready for giving. They also make great gifts for teachers, post man, etc.

The Consumer Mailbag answers your questions. Address mail to The Consumer Mailbag, Concern Detroit, 1025 Shelby, Detroit, Michigan, 48226.

## Park to offer yule workshop

Christmas traditions — from ornament and candlemaking, to hanging mistletoe and partaking in sing-alongs — is the topic of a Saturday workshop at the Independence Oaks County Park Nature Center Dec. 14.

Families are invited to spend the day or attend just one or two sessions. Pre-registration is required. Independence Oaks is on Sasabaw Road, 2 1/2 miles north of I-75, near Clarkson. Call 625-6473 for details.

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Together, there's so much good we can do.

## OAKLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE - FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

JUNE 30, 1985

(Published pursuant to the requirement of Sec. 143, Act 321, Public Act of 1980)

### BALANCE SHEETS

ASSETS	1985	1984	LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES	1985	1984
<b>CURRENT FUNDS</b>			<b>CURRENT FUNDS</b>		
Unrestricted Funds:			Unrestricted Funds:		
General Fund:			General Fund:		
Cash and temporary investments—Note C	\$ 10,312,640	\$ 9,812,765	Accounts payable	\$ 429,219	\$ 408,079
Property taxes receivable, less allowance of \$13,000	65,955	74,448	Accrued payroll and employee benefits	4,265,704	3,858,236
Accounts receivable, less allowance of \$10,000	122,724	112,805	Unearned student fees	294,899	258,126
Inventory	131,751	133,011	Unearned state appropriations	1,042,490	518,204
Prepaid expenses	84,371	159,265	Due to other governmental units	230,000	710,000
Due from restricted fund	84,489	407,278	Due to Plant Fund	4,409,051	4,444,164
Due from Auxiliary Activities Fund	250,441	424,529	Fund balance—Unallocated		
Total General Fund	10,511,351	10,741,152	Total General Fund	10,521,353	10,741,152
Designated Fund:			Designated Fund:		
Cash and temporary investments—Note C	335,849	336,937	Fund balance	451,590	336,937
Accounts receivable	115,741	115,741		451,590	336,937
Total Designated Fund	451,590	452,678			
Auxiliary Activities Fund:			Auxiliary Activities Fund:		
Cash and temporary investments—Note C	111,371	116,257	Accounts payable	19,116	29,739
Inventory	761,184	698,924	Due to General Fund	59,441	50,629
Total Auxiliary Activities Fund	872,555	815,181	Reserve for working capital	700,000	630,000
Total Current Unrestricted Funds	12,455,511	11,934,133	Unallocated	24,002	108,793
Restricted Fund:			Total Fund balance	785,002	736,729
Cash and temporary investments—Note C	138,269	474,439	Total Auxiliary Activities Fund	872,555	815,181
Accounts receivable	6,767	76,495	Total Current Unrestricted Funds	12,455,511	11,934,133
Due from Plant Fund	165,531	531,133			
Total Restricted Fund	310,567	682,067			
Total Current Funds	\$ 12,411,048	\$ 12,465,265			
<b>STUDENT LOAN FUND</b>			<b>STUDENT LOAN FUND</b>		
Cash and temporary investments—Note C	\$ 30,442	\$ 38,024	Fund balance:		
Student notes receivable, less allowance of \$200,000	111,729	158,502	College student loan programs:		
Deposits	1,000	1,000	Restricted	\$ 11,495	\$ 10,176
			Federal student loan programs:		
			Federal portion	109,364	160,400
			College portion	131,476	187,250
			Total fund balance	252,335	257,826
Total Student Loan Fund	\$ 143,171	\$ 197,526	Total Student Loan Fund	\$ 143,171	\$ 197,526
<b>EXPENDITURE AND SIMILAR FUNDS</b>			<b>EXPENDITURE AND SIMILAR FUNDS</b>		
Cash and temporary investments—Note C	\$ 8,655	\$ 9,274	Fund balance:		
			Unexpended Plant Funds:		
			Accounts payable	\$ 71,142	\$ 39,479
			Accounts payable on contracts	440,321	189,210
			Due to Restricted Fund	6,767	76,495
			Restricted Fund balance—Note D	2,690,780	6,331,576
			Total Unexpended Plant Funds	3,208,910	6,635,759
			Maintenance and Replacement Funds:		
			Accounts payable	39,029	30,418
			Accounts payable on contracts	336,283	
			Fund balance:		
			Designated	125,000	125,000
			Unallocated	2,084,398	2,681,033
			Total Maintenance and Replacement Funds	2,574,610	2,836,431
			Debt Service Funds:		
			Bonds payable—Note D	8,239	8,239
			Accrued interest expense	754,904	810,011
			Due to other governmental units	5,439,317	5,135,135
			Restricted Fund balance	6,394,211	6,044,233
			Total Debt Service Funds	12,696,771	11,998,618
			Physical Properties:		
			Bonds payable—Note D	54,392,000	58,824,762
			Capital lease and purchase obligations	41,155	41,155
			Fund balance	65,323,370	56,699,636
			Total Physical Properties	119,966,725	115,565,553
			Total Plant Funds	\$132,384,766	\$131,076,629
<b>AGENCY FUND</b>			<b>AGENCY FUND</b>		
Cash and temporary investments—Note C	\$ 200,422	\$ 169,473	Payroll taxes and other payroll deductions	\$ 105,078	\$ 114,435
			Due to depositors	59,344	53,023
Total Agency Fund	\$ 200,422	\$ 169,473	Total Agency Fund	\$ 200,422	\$ 169,473

### STATEMENT OF CURRENT FUNDS, REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND TRANSFERS

	Year Ended June 30, 1985					Year Ended June 30, 1984
	General Fund	Designated Fund	Auxiliary Activities Fund	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	Total Current Funds
<b>REVENUE AND OTHER CHARGES</b>						
Tuition and fees	\$12,422,902	\$ 728,974		\$14,151,876	\$ 23,315	\$14,175,191
Property taxes for current operations	14,161,745			14,161,745		14,161,745
State appropriations	10,038,263			10,038,263		10,038,263
Federal grants and contracts					2,182,011	2,182,011
State grants and contracts—Note B					460,260	460,260
Private gifts, grants and contracts—Note B					53,617	53,617
Endowment income					1,400	1,400
Investment income	1,223,234	10,799		1,242,033		1,242,033
Sales and services of auxiliary activities			83,184,648	3,184,848		3,184,848
Other sources	505,657	316,250		821,907		821,907
Decrease in restricted revenues held for future expenditures					62,807	62,807
<b>TOTAL REVENUE AND OTHER CHARGES</b>	<b>39,351,801</b>	<b>1,064,023</b>	<b>3,184,648</b>	<b>43,600,672</b>	<b>2,763,610</b>	<b>43,710,354</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES AND TRANSFERS</b>						
Instruction	20,306,605	750,400		21,057,005	633,557	21,690,562
Student financial aid	680,878	9,105		689,983	3,032,366	3,722,349
Instructional support	3,599,935			3,599,935	48,018	3,647,953
Student services	4,175,719	46,541	3,126,778	7,349,038	84,516	7,435,554
Institutional administration	3,495,667			3,495,667		3,495,667
Physical plant operations	6,576,083	20,870		6,596,953		6,596,953
Public services		108,942		108,942		108,942
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>38,855,087</b>	<b>935,858</b>	<b>3,126,778</b>	<b>42,897,723</b>	<b>3,108,474</b>	<b>46,068,137</b>
Mandatory transfers:						
College Work-Study Program	51,301			51,301		51,301
Matching grants	2,773			2,773		2,773
Other transfers:						
Scholarships	9,249	(4,667)		4,582	(4,582)	
Reduction of lease purchase obligation	16,397			16,397		16,397
Plant improvement, maintenance and replacement	250,000			250,000		250,000
Decrease in restricted revenues held for future expenditures	(259)	1,398	(1,139)			
Internally designated fund balances	(17,410)	17,410				
Student loans	(4,351)			(4,351)		(4,351)
Miscellaneous	(639)			(639)		(639)
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND TRANSFERS</b>	<b>39,207,116</b>	<b>949,350</b>	<b>3,125,639</b>	<b>42,882,115</b>	<b>3,103,810</b>	<b>45,918,924</b>
<b>REVENUE AND OTHER CHARGES OVER EXPENDITURES AND TRANSFERS</b>	<b>\$ 144,685</b>	<b>\$ 114,663</b>	<b>\$ 59,209</b>	<b>\$ 318,557</b>	<b>\$ 318,557</b>	<b>\$ 467,512</b>