How OCC campuses look to handicappers

ACH CAMPUS of Oakland
Community College is due
for a set of electronic door
openers now that administrators are seeing them from a physically handicapped person's point of
view.

irators are ex-mercial person's point of view.

"My hands are a little sore, but I made it," said Dan Jaksen, president of the hilly Orchard Ridge Campus in Farmington Hills, after spending 11% hours in a wheelchair Tuesday.

"This campus is reasonably accommending but you know what takes to get Time. The time it takes to get Time. The time it takes to get Time. The time it takes to get a proposed to the plan further ahead — alternate routes.

"That hadn't entered my mind. It's sensitizing. You appreciate more what a handleapped person goes through," said Jaksen, president of OCC's largest campus for a year.

"THIS CAMPUS is much more hilly (than others). There are five less on this campus — equivalent the second of the s



Even a one-inch bump at the door requires extra effort from a handicapper, as Orchard Ridge president Dan Jaksen learned in his wheelchair tour.

Group's goal: chemical-free dorm room law

But telephone calls to dormitory housing officials found differences in enforcement.

Other questions on the application gave students the opportunity to choose a "quiet" floor or a room-mate who prefers rock to the clas-sics.

sics.
"But there appears to be no easy way in which the student may request a roommate, or even a floor or suite in which there is no use of drugs or alcohol," the letter said. "Those who, by choice or necessity, prefer to live in an environment free of chemicals do not have the simple rights of non-smokers."

STATE REPS. David Honigman, R-West Bloomfield, Judith Miller, R-Birmingham, David M. Gubow, D-Huntington Woods, and state Sen. Richard Fessler, R-West Bloomfield, are all slated to attend the meeting, according to Friedman.

"It's all been positive in terms of the concept," the judge said. "Every-one has a slightly different idea of how it should be handled."

now it should be handled."

He also has solicited the support of the Michigan Licensed Beverage Dealers, telling them, "It's a good issue for you. Alcoholism is a disease, and as a disease, you can support such legislation."

They said they would take it up with their board, Friedman said.

THE MEETING is targeted for "Government Day" of Michigan Week, which features heightened celebrations in many communities because this is the state's sesquicen-

because this is the state's sequence-tennial.

"What better way to celebrate
Government Day' of Michigan Week
than by launching an effort to sup-port those young people who have
chosen to live without using chemi-cial?" said Lorna McEwen, public relations spokeswoman for Maple-

A move is on for a state law guaranteeing every Michigan col-lege student the right to share dor-mitory quarters with others who prefer not to use alcohol or illegal drugs, as well as tobacco. It would also require that anoro-priate sheets.

usus, as well as tobacco.

It would also require that appropriate alcohol and drug information be provided for all entering freshmen and for all dormitory resident advisers. State legislators and university of-

ficials have been invited to attend a meeting at Henry Ford Hospital's Maplegrove substance abuse centers at 4 p.m. Monday.

ONE PROPONENT, Judge Bernard Friedman of the 48th District Court, has contacted both Republican and Democratic lawmakers. He hopes it will become a bipartisan, statewide effort.

"Adults and teens are working together in communities throughout Michigan to create an atmosphere in which the 'in' thing to be is free of all themicals," a letter to legislators and college presidents said.

"Many high schools are making

"Many high schools are making special efforts to identify and find help for young people in trouble with drugs and/or alcohol.

"But what happens to the recover-ing young person who goes off to the college dormitory? What choices does the teen have who has made that decision to be free of all chemi-cals?"

THE LETTER is signed by Fricaman, Dr. Michael F. Boyle, medical
director of chemical dependency
programs at Maplegrove, and Judith
Doner Berne, editor of the Birmingham/Bloomfield and West Bloomfield Eccentric newspapers.
Friedman researched housing applications of the state's public universities and private colleges. Most
gave students the choice of a smoking or non-smoking roommate.

And he appeared to be right.

EACH CAMPUS president toured his/her own campus. Chancellor R. Stephen Nicholson visited the South-field building, where many health programs are taught.

Casenhiser arranged five wheel-chairs (whose use was donated by Wright and Frilippis) to be at each campus for a day the entire week. Monday they were at Highland Lakes, Tuesday at Orchard Ridge, Wednesday at Southfield, Thursday at Auburn Hills and Friday at Royal Oak.

"We will also be asking them to fill out questionnaires to find out what kinds of problems or barriers they may have experienced," Casenhiser Sald. THE SENSITIZING experience was the idea of George Casenhiser, a quadriplegic since his neck was injured 14 years ago. He has been OCC's special needs advocate since 1985 under a federal grant.

He persuaded administrators,

deans, faculty and management to tour their campuses in wheelchairs as part of Handicappers Awareness Week.

"The purpose of the event is to give staff members an awareness of some of the problems that the handicapped encounter," Casenhiser said.
"No matter who you are, there are always stumbling blocks."
And he amend to be a light

And he appeared to be right.

Caseniner said.

HERE ARE Jaksen's oral notes on the Orchard Ridge Campus:

• Double sets of doors were a problem. The most-used buildings need electronic doors — M Building, which contains the conscience of the student Ratios and the building bat contains the student Ratioscolon. Prices at the doors were senething.

• Areas where concrete was raised or lowered during the course of Michigan's winter weather were difficult.

Sylvia Berggruen, health services and special needs coordinator at OCC's Orchard Ridge Campus, guided president Dan Jaksen (lott) and Charles Yeramian, dean of student services, as they toured the 147-acre campus by

wheelchair Tuesday. Afterwards she had them fill out a survey, which asked, "if you could, what would you do to improve your campus for the handicapper population?"



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