

# OU seminar focus: Panel eases church school rules write on computers

The growing use of computers in teaching writing will be discussed and demonstrated in a May 28-30 Meadow Brook conference at Oakland University.

OU and community college faculty from Michigan and neighboring states will attend the program for lectures, panels, and hands-on workshops and demonstrations.

The conference on "Computers in Teaching Writing" will be held in Meadow Brook Hall near Rochester under the coordination of Helen J. Schwartz and Joan G. Rosen of the OU Department of English. Registration information is available by calling OU at 370-2250.

ROBERT T. EBERWEIN, department of English chair, said, "This timely conference draws together leading experts in composition who are engaged in determining and assessing the usefulness of computer-assisted instruction in writing."

Featured speakers include:

- Lillian Bridwell-Bowles of the University of Minnesota, "Evaluation of Computers and Word Processing in Composition Programs."

- Col. Hugh Burns, United States Air Force Human Resources Laboratory, "Artificial Intelligence in Writing."

- Christine Neuwirth, Carnegie-Mellon University, "Research on Word Processing and Computer Hardware."

- Dawn Rodriguez, Colorado State University, "Style Checkers: Use and Evaluation."

- Helen Schwartz, who will provide the conference overview and participate in panel sessions and an IBM lab demonstration.

Additional presentations will be made by faculty from Cornell University, Michigan State University, the University of Michigan, Western Michigan University, Wayne State University, UM-Flint, Macomb County Community College, and Lansing Community College.

THE CONFERENCE is an outgrowth of the university's continuing emphasis on the teaching of writing. Schwartz and Rosen have published and lectured nationally on writing and on the use of computers in teaching writing.

Ron Sudol, rhetoric, is a conference panel member and author of "Textfiles: A Rhetoric for Word Processing" published in January of 1987. The book details the use of word processing in freshman composition, an area in which OU is a pioneer.

AP — A bill to relax state regulation of religious schools is on its way to the full Michigan Senate despite being opposed by its own sponsor, who wanted an even more lenient measure.

Approved on a 3-2 vote in committee last week, the bill would let church schools decide each year whether they are to meet state Department of Education standards and, if not, what other rules they must follow.

The original bill would have been more lenient and eased rules for parents who teach their children at home, too. But the measure approved by the panel would apply only to religious schools, not home schools.

#### UNDER THE measure:

- Any school that declares itself free of state supervision would still have to provide testing of pupils in the second, fourth, seventh and 10th grades.

- Teachers would have to be qualified — to have a bachelor's degree with a teaching permit or be certified by the state, for example.

- Parents would have to furnish the names and address of the non-regulated church schools to which they were sending their children. But there is some flexibility as to where the public record could be kept: the Department of Education, the intermediate school district or to a private agency, organization, legislator or attorney.

- Church schools would be required to ensure their students test

in the 34th percentile of all students and, if not, would have three years to reach that level. It would be a violation of the law if that level wasn't attained in three years.

VOTING FOR the bill in the Senate Education Committee were Chairman John Schwarz, R-Battle Creek, and Sens. Chris Dingell, D-Southgate, and Vernon Ehlers, R-Grand Rapids.

Opposed were Sen. Harmon Crop-

sey, R-Deerfield, the bill's sponsor, and Jerome Hart, D-Saginaw.

Cropsey said the bill made things "tougher for church schools than present law." But Ehlers said it isn't all that strict.

"We're giving a maximum amount of options without intruding," Ehlers said. "I'm willing to vote to get the bill out of committee to test sentiment in the Senate."

Cropsey's original bill attracted a demonstration in March at the Cap-

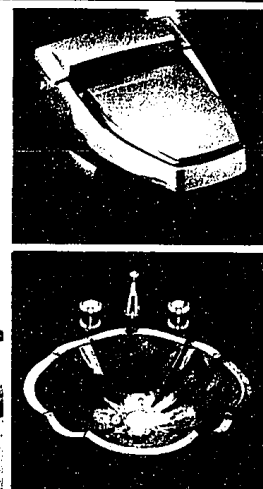
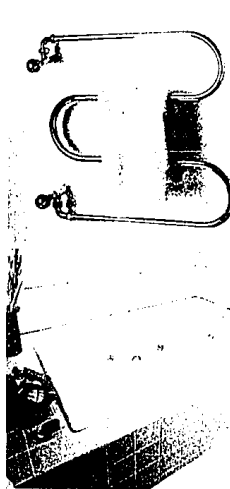
itol, where about 10,000 demonstrators — one of the largest rallies in years — showed their support.

Schwarz said there is little public support to cut religious schools "totally adrift" from state regulation. But he added, "I don't think the state has any interest in closing these schools. . . . The Department of Education did not have to make the concessions they made."

He said about 30,000 Michigan children may be affected by the bill.

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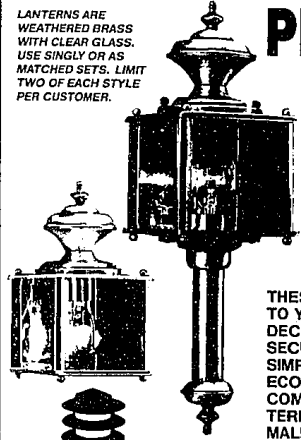
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