

# OCC revs up Smith Theatre

## Orchard Ridge offerings are 'eclectic'

By Tim Richard  
staff writer

The Smith Theatre this year will begin turning Orchard Ridge Campus into a hub of cultural activity. The offerings, in campus President Daniel Jaksen's word, are "eclectic" — children's shows, light opera, distinguished speakers, dance, choral, jazz band and classical music.

"Last year, while we didn't close up, we pulled back to reassess that operation. We had a minimal program."

"We matched activities with revenues. We wanted the operation to carry itself," Jaksen told the OCC Board of Trustees last week.

THE SMITH is a 400-seat auditorium on OCC's largest and most traditional campus on Orchard Ridge Road near I-696 in Farmington Hills. Named for Wallace Smith, professor of communication arts and technology, the theater is in a fine arts building opened in 1982.

Jaksen credited a committee led by Jamie Mason, coordinator of theater operations, and academic dean Paul Batt, which began work 1½ years ago to promote arts on the campus.

"The work isn't complete, but we moved in that direction," Jaksen said in an interview.

OCC, through its Business and Professional Institute, trains many employees under contract with their corporations. In one case, the company bought out an entire evening's

performance of "Oliver," held over from the summer arts program.

THE BOX office at 471-7700 not only takes ticket orders, but has a brochure listing offerings through June. Weekday hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Groups, students and senior citizens are eligible for discounts.

Among the offerings:  
• Children's series (all tickets \$3) — Oregon Mime Troupe, magician Tom Plunkard, "Dance American Style" with the Harbinger Dance Company, recording artists Gemini. The Harbinger is OCC's resident professional dance troupe.

• Light opera — "Pirate of Penzance" by Gilbert and Sullivan, "Oh Coward" (with optional dinner), and a potpourri called "Give My Re-

gards to Broadway," all with the Light Opera of Michigan.

• Distinguished speaker series (free) — state Rep. Maxine Berman, a GM executive and author-politician Hanna Romney already have been featured.

• Detroit-Metro Holistic Health Association series — this evening at 7:30, tickets \$5, Barbara Bowers on "The Human Aura."

• Harbinger Dance Company in concert Nov. 20 and 21, optional dinner on the 21st.

• OCC Choral — student group, free, Dec. 15 and April 26.

• OCC Jazz Band — area professionals, Dec. 17, April 21 and June 16.

• Detroit Chamber Winds — professional group, March 4.

• "An Evening with Mark Twain," actor Jack Graham, April 15-16, optional dinner.

# New OU budget up 5.55 percent

Oakland University's 1987-1988 general fund operating budget is \$25.5 million, an increase of 5.55 percent over 1986-1987.

Robert J. McGarry, vice president for finance and administration, said the figure represents "a tight, no-growth budget for the university."

The budget was approved recently by the Board of Trustees.

The budget is based on 9,600 fiscal-year-equated students, down 100 FYES from the 1986-1987 budget.

FYES is determined by taking the total credits delivered at the undergraduate and graduate levels and di-

viding by the average per student credit load, as determined by the state.

Sources for the total \$25.1 million in revenue are:

• \$31.6 million state appropriation

• \$18.9 million in tuition and stu-

dent fees.

• \$950,000 in indirect cost recovery from administering faculty grants.

• \$754,000 miscellaneous.

The deficit will be made up by dipping into an unencumbered surplus of \$1.4 million from fiscal 1986-1987.

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# Student testing bill is popular with senators

By Tim Richard  
staff writer

Suburban lawmakers mostly liked a state Senate-passed bill to require high school competency tests in English, math and science.

"Every other country in the world has a system of examining students," said Sen. Jack Faxon, D-Farmington Hills, operator of the private Lycee International school.

Faxon won grudging approval of his amendment to permit the State Board of Education to offer (but not require) arts tests, too.

"It adds a touch of class. I would like to think young people aren't going to be just computer literate and artistically ignorant," he said.

AGAINST STIFF opposition from some Democratic senators, the upper chamber Tuesday gave 23-9 approval of the testing bill sponsored by Sen. Nick Smith, R-Hillsdale County. It goes to the House.

Although Smith disliked Faxon's arts amendment, he stoutly defended the bill's purpose, which was advocated by the so-called Harden Commission report on educational quality.

"We want a high school diploma to mean something," Smith said. The bill would allow a special state stamp on the high school diplomas of those who passed the tests, although passing the tests wouldn't be a graduation requirement.

Voting yes were Doug Cruce, R-Troy, Faxon, Robert Goake, R-Northville, and Rudy Nichols, R-Waterford.

Opposed was George Hart, D-Dearborn. Absent were William Faust, D-Westland, and Richard Fessler, R-Commerce.

"THIS PUTS pressure on the school districts," said Sen. William Sederburg, R-East Lansing, a Ph.D. who once served on the State Board of Education.

Sederburg told of Spartan Oil Co. having to test high school graduates seeking cashier jobs because so many applicants didn't know how to make change for a \$20 bill.

"It's not the role of universities and employers to be in remedial education," added Sen. John Schwarz, R-Battle Creek.

Sen. Dan DeGraw, R-Port Huron, said the tests could show school districts where remedial work is needed.

BUT SEN. JACKIE Vaughn III, D-Detroit, detected discrimination against blacks in state-written tests.

"You're testing simply the culture," Vaughn said. "Income — that's what you're measuring."

"It's like the right to vote. First you had to own property. Then you had to pass a competency test on reading the Constitution" in order to register, said Vaughn, recalling the southern voter tests of the pre-1960s which were used to deny blacks the chance to register.

Sen. Lana Pollack, D-Ann Arbor, said the tests were "misdirected," expensive and unnecessary. "I've been in the classroom. After a day, I can tell you which students are below standard."

# Red Cross teaches first aid, health

The American Red Cross regional office in Bloomfield Hills will teach courses on health and first aid during November. It's located at 2388 Franklin Road, and registration information is available at 334-3575.

Courses, dates and fees are:

• Vital Signs II — blood pressures, counseling and treatment for high blood pressure; \$5.20; from 7-10 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 10.

• CPR (cardio-pulmonary resuscitation) — \$15.60; from 6-10 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday, Nov. 3 and 5; from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesdays, Nov. 11 and 18; from 9 a.m. Saturdays, Nov. 14 and 21.

• First aid — \$15.65; from 9-5 Saturday, Nov. 7; from 9-5 Thursday, Nov. 12; and 6-10 p.m. Thursdays, Nov. 12 and 19.

• Multimedia first aid instructor training — 9-4 Fridays, Nov. 13 and 20.

# Young joins court panel

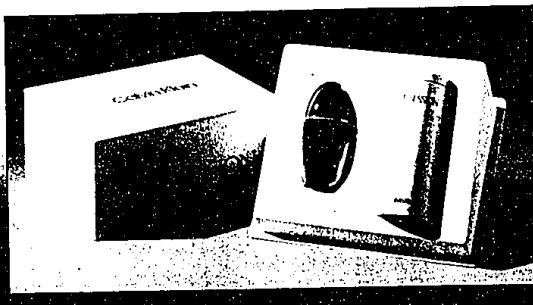
Joan E. Young, Circuit Court administrator in Oakland County, has been named to the Michigan Supreme Court's Task Force on Gender Issues in the Courts. She was appointed by Chief Justice Dorothy Comstock Riley.

The task force was recommended by the Citizens' Commission to Improve the Michigan Courts, a blue

ribbon panel. It will review ways the law is applied that have a negative effect on women.

Young has been court administrator since 1982. The Birmingham resident co-founded the Women's Bar Association of Oakland County in 1976 and was first woman president of the Michigan Association of Circuit Court Administrators (1984-86).

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