

Holly gets county ally in bucking prison

By Tim Richard
staff writer

Residents of rural Holly Township are persuading the Oakland County Board of Commissioners to join them in blocking a state prison site in the northwestern corner of the county.

The board's general government committee Monday joined Holly officials in opposing placement of a new state prison on the former Adelphi Academy property on a 5-3 vote.

Three committee Democrats voted no, arguing the county

shouldn't be helping one community at the possible expense of others.

"We're not winning any friends and we're making a world of enemies on something we have no control over," said Commissioner Dennis Aaron, D-Oak Park.

"I'm not against Holly," added Commissioner Lillian Jaffe Oaks, D-Southfield, "but other communities have the same problem."

Favoring the resolution were Republicans Donald Bishop of Rochester, Roy Rowland of Rochester Hills, Robert Page of Birmingham, Donald Jensen of Birmingham and Chairman Richard Skarritt of Milford.

THE RESOLUTION called attention to the Oakland board's 1986 position favoring county property adjacent to the jail in Pontiac as a better site.

Vickie Stouten, Holly resident representing Citizens for Appropriate Prison Sites, said the site being eyed by the state Department of Corrections violated the state's own criteria.

It was the second time in a week that Holly residents sought county officials' help in blocking construction of a standard 550-bed prison there.

"A social experiment... Soviet

bureaucracy," an angry Holly Supervisor Wilbur Swarbut said of the state Department of Corrections prison plan.

The state's choice of Holly apparently is wired, County Executive Daniel T. Murphy said after last week's County Board of Commissioners meeting, although no official announcement has come from Lansing.

THE STATE is examining several rural sites for a regional prison. The Holly site is northeast of Fish Lake and Academy roads in the former Adelphi Academy.

Murphy has offered the state 22 acres adjoining the county jail. Oakland officials said that would save the county \$500,000 a year housing sentenced convicts awaiting transportation to a state prison where their terms will be served.

"That site (Pontiac) suits the state's criteria to a T," deputy executive Patrick Nowak said. "That's where it should be put."

PONTIAC OFFICIALS, however, oppose a prison in their area. "I, too, am a member of the NIMBY movement," said Commissioner Hubert Price, D-Pontiac. NIMBY stands for "not in my back yard."

Don Cane, representing CAPS, said the Adelphi site was bad for prisoners.

"The nearest hospital is 28 miles away. Holly has only a small volunteer fire department. There is no public transportation for visitors," Cane said.

"The intent of the regional prisons policy is to put them near the prisoners' homes. Holly generates only one-tenth of 1 percent of all prisoners

in the Oakland County Jail" and probably a smaller proportion of state prisoners, Cane said.

"Fish Lake Road needs reconstruction because there is a sharp dip," he said.

The prison would hurt Holly's efforts to be a recreation and tourism spot, Cane said.

"High-intensity lights would disturb campers at Seven Lakes State Park. There are residential developments adjacent to the site and two elementary schools nearby."

"The village of Holly has inadequate water pressure now. The sewer system would be at capacity (if the prison were built), allowing no capacity for future development."

OU collecting grants and awards

The School of Health Sciences at Oakland University has received an \$18,000 grant from the Horizons Health Systems.

OU will promote quality research in the network's three teaching hospitals: Riverside Osteopathic Hospital in Trenton, Bi-County Community Hospital in Warren and Detroit Osteopathic Hospital.

Dean Ronald Olson said the project is directed by Dr. Robert Jarski, visiting associate professor of health sciences, who supervises the research papers of 34 resident

physicians-in-training.

THE AMERICAN Heart Association of Michigan has chosen OU undergraduate Allison Henderson for a student research fellowship of \$1,538.

The competitive award is for research on steroid hormones. Henderson has been working in the lab of biologist Vladimir K. Moudgil, who said the award is "another testimonial to the excellent undergraduate

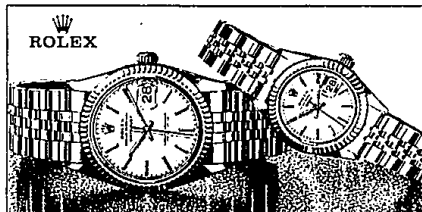
research accomplishments and activities in the biomedical sciences at OU." Henderson is a senior from Detroit.

A POLITICAL SCIENCE professor from OU has been accepted into a teaching-research seminar at

Dartmouth College.

Vincent H. Khapoya will attend the program July 17-22 on "Recent Advances in the Study of Political Leadership."

Khapoya said it will advance his research in political leadership in Africa.



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