

Astroturf land meets a drought

A COUPLE of Sundays ago the folks at the Newman Center next to Schoolcraft College in Livonia were all excited. It looked as if it were going to rain.

I really can't remember when I've seen so much gloe over the possibility of rain on a Sunday. Even a few months ago the word drought was something that happened in long ago or far away places.

The dust bowls of the 1930s — that was long ago. Farmers in the south-east pocket of our nation with crops dying on the vine — that was far away.

THIS YEAR, in this place, the story has changed.

If anything becomes clear from out burned out lawns, our low water pressure and our parched petunias, it is that we are forever dependent on the environment. This is a truth known at the deepest level to the natives who inhabited this continent before we discovered it.

It also has been, and continues to be, written into the hearts of those who make their living directly from the land, those who grow the food we eat.

The same truth, however, has gradually escaped the consciousness of an Astroturf society. As we have become more enamored with the marvels of technology, we have become equally forgetful of our impact on the environment.

As one of my neighbors remarked, "Who needs rain when we have hoses?" I wish he had been speaking in jest, but he wasn't.

A NUMBER of years ago, Joni Mitchell sang of paving paradise and

perspectives



Rev. Robert Schaden

putting up a parking lot. That isn't by way of condemning the builders of parking lots, but we do need to become more aware of our impact on the earth on which our grandchildren will set their feet, the air they will breathe and the water they will give to their children.

It has been said that man, the so-called intelligent species on this planet is the only species which has contributed to the destruction of that planet.

It has become easy for us to disregard our little bit of pollution. Just another few gallons of toxic waste are looked upon in legal terms while the long term effect is passed over.

There have been droughts in the past and there will be more in the future.

What really needs fixing is the level of our awareness of the interconnection between ourselves and our world.

Such cannot be only the concern of Carl Sagan or a handful of folks known as environmentalists.

The fact is we are all dependent on the environment. It is equally true that most of what we do affects its course and its quality.

If this dry summer can raise that awareness even a little bit, then perhaps the drought of '88 can be considered a blessing.



William Alexander
English instructor



Fioretta Cunegin
nursing



Robert Higgins
psychology



William Samples
counselor

4 OCC faculty called outstanding

Four members of the Oakland Community College faculty have been chosen by their campus peers as "outstanding faculty for 1988."

They are William Alexander of Royal Oak, English instructor at the

Orchard Ridge Campus; Fioretta Cunegin of Pontiac, nursing faculty member at the Highland Lakes Campus; Robert Higgins of Pontiac, psychology instructor at the Auburn Hills Campus; and William Samples

of Royal Oak, a counselor at the Southeast Campus in Royal Oak.

Alexander has been a member of the Orchard Ridge staff since January 1970 and teaches composition and Early American literature. He earned a bachelor of arts degree from Wayne State University and a master of arts from Michigan State University.

Cunegin, a member of the Highland Lakes nursing faculty since September 1966, received a nursing diploma from St. Phillip Hospital School of Nursing in Richmond, Va.,

and received bachelor's and master's degrees from Wayne State.

Higgins teaches psychology classes such as a survey of exceptional children; with his wife Diane, he teaches marriage and the family. He has been a member of the Auburn Hills faculty since September 1965.

An OCC counselor since September 1965, Samples has also taught world civilization classes part time during his 20 years with the college. Samples is a graduate of Wayne State where he earned bachelor's and master's degrees.

OU director to work in India

Venkat N. Reddy, director of the Oakland University Eye Research Institute, has been asked by the United Nations to share his expertise with specific research sites in India this fall.

Reddy will lecture, conduct workshops, and assess the present state of eye research in India and present an evaluation and recommendations.

In addition, he will visit the Sarojini Devi Eye Hospital where OU has a collaborative research arrangement with funding through the National Eye Institute.

The OU director has been asked previously to visit India but has had to decline because of time and work load.

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