## Making math real is principle of

Fran Leibowitz, the sarcastic, cynical New York author who thinks cigarettes abould come lit and that the outdoors is something one should experience only while dashing from apartment building to cab, once tried to advise high school students on the subject of algebra.

Leslie Mack wouldn't want to agree with that statement, but does think that in general, algebra, math-ematics and science are taught as

theories and principles without much relationship to everyday living. As coordinator of the Principles of Technology program at Oakland Community College, Mack is trying to introduce a program to Oakland County schools that will help stu-dents apply and use abstract math and science principles in their jobs.

"WE NEED TO revamp the curriculum because we're getting all these dropouts. They're saying we're learning stuff that doesn't apply to the real world," Mack said.

To that end, 24 teachers from school districts across Oakland

County just finished a two-week course that will give them the basis to teach a class called Principles of Technology at the high school level. Mack said 42 states already are li-

Mack said 42 states arready are in-censed to teach these classes, but Michigan is not among them. Li-censes are costly and must be pro-cured from the Center for Occupa-tional Research and Development, which developed the program.

"OAKLAND COUNTY is taking a major step by training these people,"
Mack said, referring to the teachers
taking the course. Only one instructor, Chuck Gosdzinski, who teaches
at Avondale High School, will be

teaching the class this fall — largely because his school district set aside money for the program.

"They allowed funding for a high-tech program. They were listening to. the technical people coming into the area." Gosdrinski said. Those businesses were teiting Gosdrinski they needed students theroughly trained in applied — not theoretical — skills.

"This one is the only high school class of its kind in the state right now. What we need to do at this point is bring in more math and science," he added. For instance, one of his classes will combine — Gosdrinski called it "cluster" — micropro-

cressing and off-line programming for a robotics class, so students will see what goes into it, not just how it

see what goes into it, not just how it works.

Mack said the other teachers in the program won't go back empty handed. They'll be able to apply what they've learned and help students draw correlations between theory and application.

"THEY NOW HAVE the training, but now they need the supplies, and that's megabuck equipment," Mack said. Equipment, for example, may include components necessary to build a physical lab to demonstrate how math and science can be applied

to the laws of weight and motion. Mack said once implemented, Principles of Technology would be taught at the 11th or 12th grade level, in coquaction with standard classes. That way, students literally will be able to leave a calculus class, walk down. Sail and apply what there's learned.

will be able to leave a calculus class, walk down. Jall and epply what they've learn-d.

"Schools finally are going to make some major revamping changes. They're going to have to, to survive," Mack sald. "They still say the major thrust is to get a four-year degree, which is ridiculous. Students know that with the proper training, they can make as much or more with a two-year degree."

## Roll Call Report

Here's how Observer & Eccentric-area members of Congress were recorded on major roll call votes in the week ending June 2.

HOUSE

OIL SHALE CLAIMS: The department would be required to charge \$2,000 an acre for most land it could sell under the bill. With few exceptions, qualified claim holders could no longer gain title for \$2.50 an acre.

At issue is the treatment of 1,600 At issue is the treatment of 1,600 claims covering nearly 254,000 acres in Colorado, Utah and Wyoning that the government awarded under the

Mining Act of 1872. In addition to pricing acreage, the bill streamlines federal oil shale policy that has become entangled by decades of conflicting judicial, bureaucratic and legislative actions.

Supporter Nick Rahall, D-W-Va, said the bill 'seeks to halt the givea-way of valuable public lands.

Opponent Larry Craig, R-Idaho, denounced the bill as "punitive, confiscatory of citizen rights."

Area members voling yes favoring the bill were Carl Pursell, R-Plynicuth, Dennis Hertel, D-Detrolt, and Sander Levin, D-Southfield.

William Broomfield, D-Lake Orion

SENATE
MORE DRUG FUNDING: By a vote of 61 for and 29 against, the Senate tabled as attempt to increase anti-drug spending by \$1.7 billion increase anti-drug spending by \$1.7 billion in the first spending by \$1.7 billion in the first spending by \$1.7 billion.

The vote occurred during debate on a fiscal 1989 "dire emergency" supplemental appropriations bill (fill 2072) that was headed for final passage and conference with the House.

passage and com-House. Robert Byrd, D-W.Va., who voted

to table the attempt, said the Administration "is not spending the money that is already appropriated" for fighting drugs.

Sponsor Pete Wilson, R-Calif., said the \$1.7 billion is needed to keep spending commitment that Congress made last year in pessing a major drug bill.

Michigan Senators Carl Levin, D, and Donald Riegle, D, voted yes in favor of killing the bill for more drug funding.

THE PANAMA CANAL: By a vote of 31 for and 83 against, the Senate failed to table a "sense of the Senate" resolution concerning the Panama Canal and Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega, the Panamanian leader who recently volided election results that threatened his rule.

The vote conveyed Senate displeasure over the prospect of Noriega selecting the Panamanian hatton-

Challer To Barrows To

al slated to become administrator of the strategic waterway next year. Noriega will pick that official, sub-ject to United States approval, under treaties relinquishing American con-trol of the canal to Panama in 1999. The vote expressed the Senate's view that only a democratically elected government is qualified to nominate the next canal administra-tor.

tor.

Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., voted to table the resolution because it "plays into the hands of Gen. Norlega and allows him to raise nationalistic fer-

Sponsor Dan Coats, R-Ind. said his sponsor Dan Coats, R-ind. said his measure sends the message that "we stand with the Panamanian people ... against the current regime" of Noriega." Senators Riegle and Levin voted yes, opposing the resolution. MONEY FOR PRISONS: By a vote of 77 for and 18 against, the

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Senate tabled an attempt to provide your million for converting space in scor-to-be-closed millitary haves into prison facilities. The mosey was to have been transferred from a new Defense Department program to insterdiet illegal drug shipments. The vote occurred during dehate on the fiscal 1989 supplemental appropriations bill (above). At issue was whether to waive the 1974 Congressional Budget Act to permit the funds transfer. Daniel Inouye, D-Hawaii, voted to table the transfer because, he said, its would blunt congressional efforts to enlist the Pentagon in the war on drugs. Senate tabled an attempt to provide

eallst the Pennagon in the average.

Arien Specter, R-Pa, said the \$70 million would combat ordine and drugs by providing \$3,000 new prison beds.

Senator Levin voted yes in favor-of blocking the proposed transfer. Senator Riegle voted no.

## Honor society's 1st members

Students attending Oakland Community College and maintaining academic excellence were recently named charter members to the new Alpha Omleron Psi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Fraternity on the Royal Oak and Southfield campuses of the college.

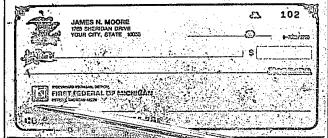
Among those named are Barbara Ashley, Renee Cuchettl, Kay Ehrke and Joan Hayes of Birmingham, Marlene Dawkins and Jacqueline Matusko of Bloomfield Hills and

Mario Gallison and Tina Plumb of West Illoomfield. New members also include Elaine Baugham, Michelle Rugenstein and Lisa Tribula of Rochester, Lisa Tartamella of Rochester Hills and Held Bickel, Cynthia Feschak, Crystal Jones, Crystal Lewis, Ellen Myers, Rhonda Rickman and Bryan Simkovits of Southfied. Marianne Mitchell of Farmington Hills was named chapter president. Membership to Phi Theta Kappa is by invitation only. Candidates

must have a grade point average of 3.5 or better and have completed at least 12 units of credit toward an as-sociate's degree.

The fraternity is the official bonor society for the American Association of Community and Junior Colleges. There are currently over 800 chapters in the United States and abroad, including Alpha Omicron XI at OCC's Orchard Ridge Campus and Alpha Omicron Kappa at Highland Lakes campus.

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