

# New adult learning program set at OCC

The Elderhostel Adult Learning Institute will present a charter member open house at Oakland Community College this weekend.

The institute, an educational organization developed across the United States and Europe, is the latest concept in informal education for mature adults.

In conjunction with OCC's Public Professional Institute, the international Elderhostel Institute Network will hold its open house 2-4 p.m. Saturday, March 23, on the Auburn Hills campus of OCC. The campus is at 2900 Featherstone Road.

The program, which has no age limit, will introduce the institute's first offering: "The American Experience, 1941-1991."

Topics for discussion over the 14-day series of workshops beginning April 9 include politics, the family transition, films, social issues, global economics and religion.

"The program was developed to illustrate over the last 50 years how our society has made us who we are," said Mary Brosch, vice president of the institute.

"The ALI concept is unique because it gets away from the traditional 'lecture and listen' format said ALI vice president Mary Brosch. The difference between this

program and Adult Education is that participants are encouraged to interact with speakers and each other, sharing life experiences that relate to the topics under discussion."

**THE STUDENTS** are the governing body and determine the curriculum and who their instructors will be, Brosch said.

Former governor John Swainson, Louis Hyan, former director of the Birmingham Area Senior Coordinating Council, OCC faculty and others will speak during the series.

In future Adult Learning Institute Elderhostel sessions, members will determine program topics and serve as moderators.

Brosch said what makes the program unique, is there are no exams, no homework and no competition.

"The Elderhostel objective is to learn for the joy of learning rather than the attainment of credits and degrees."

The session will meet in the past House Conference Facility on the grounds of OCC's Administrative Center, 2460 Opdyke Road in Bloomfield Hills. Next fall's session will be held on the Royal Oak campus.

An enrollment fee of \$100 entitles members to attend any programs through Dec. 31. For further information, call Brosch at 540-1812.

# At the root

## Poor race relations spawn urban sprawl: SEMCOG

By Tim Richard  
staff writer

Metro Detroit's bad race relations are a major reason for urban sprawl, according to a staff report from the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments.

"Racial discrimination, educational inequalities and crime problems all merge in the older areas to make redevelopment in older cities far less attractive, despite the lower land and building costs," the report said.

SEMCOG is engaging in a year-long study of how to stop urban sprawl — a stable population that develops farmlands, leaving unused roads and utilities behind.

The study is co-chaired by Marilyn Gosling, Oakland County commissioner, from Bloomfield Hills, and E.A. Jackson Morris, su-

pervisor of Pittsfield Township in Washtenaw County.

"SPRAWL is often supported by public subsidies for roads, sewers, water lines, mortgages and tax breaks," the report said referring to past areas of study. But the new report pointed to race and poverty as core issues in the sprawl phenomenon.

Crime victims, particularly whites, will leave central cities, studies in Chicago and the Detroit areas have shown. "The more recent advent of crack cocaine trade has brought with it a sharp increase in the violent crime associated with narcotics trafficking," said the SEMCOG report.

Business has fled the old city of Detroit because of low educational levels of city residents, ease of transportation and Detroit's high tax rates — 96 mills of property

tax; 3 percent resident income tax and 5 percent on utility bills.

The number of city income tax returns in Detroit has plummeted 37 percent — from 450,000 in 1976 to 284,000 in 1985.

THE STAFF report said it will leave to SEMCOG's leaders — local elected officials from the seven-county region — which policies to pursue. But it listed "draft strategies" for discussion of curbing the influence of race, poverty and crime on urban sprawl.

Among the possibilities:

- Gun controls — such as criminal checks, a waiting period for purchase of handguns and a ban on military style weapons.
- Unrestricted access to firearms is substantially responsible for an unacceptable high level of violent crime in the region.
- Coordination of drug en-

forcement between the 200 local police departments in the region.

• At attack on poverty through improvements in job training and creation of employment opportunities.

• Improved racial relations through "celebrating racial and cultural diversity."

• Fair and open housing policies and practices, with local volunteer groups supporting state laws.

• Equity in school funding, if necessary through amending the state constitution to guarantee fair funding for each public school student.

• Quality improvements in schools.

• Integrating social services with public school services. Social services providers are seen as being too far distant from schools.

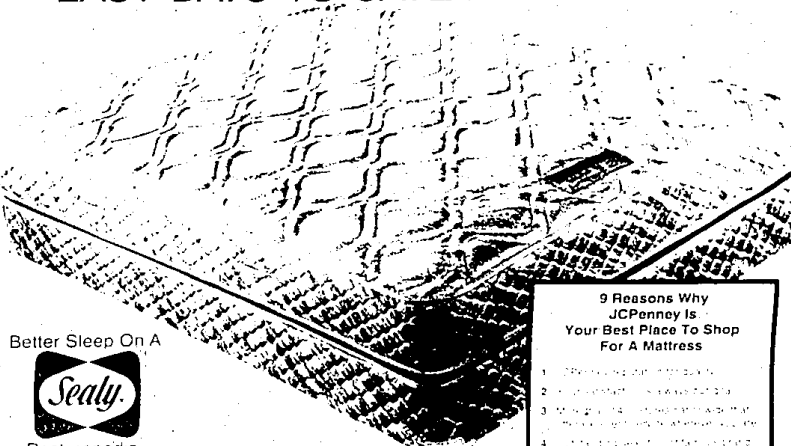
## clarification

The telephone for G.A. Design, which is producing "The Storm Is Over" poster featured in The Ob-

server & Eccentric Newspapers Street Scene section Monday, March 18, should have been 561-2530.

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