

# Let there be . . . OCC board OKs music pavilion

By Pat Murphy  
staff writer

Trustees at Oakland Community College believe a program at the Highland Lakes campus can virtually sing for its supper.

Actually, that should be sing for its existence.

OCC trustees Tuesday approved a summer music program, providing backers can raise the equivalent of \$40,000 in supplies and labor to build a permanent stage on the campus in Union Lake.

"I think this is an exciting program," said Trustee Richard A. Blonde, of Rochester Hills. "We're putting the 'community' back into 'community college.'"

The program, entitled "A Little Night Music," is a series of concerts on six consecutive Tuesdays featuring a variety of performing groups ranging from Dixieland to 1930s style dance orchestras.

IN ITS FIRST two summers, the program has drawn about 4,000 spectators, according to Dick Saunders, president of the Highland Lakes campus. "And its popularity is growing. This year, we expect more

than 2,500."

Until this year, the program was presented from a rented porta-stage, financed by contributions from local businessmen and residents, said Saunders.

Supporters want to change that by building a permanent rough-sawn cedar music pavilion on west side of the campus where the gentle slope provides naturally good acoustics.

"It will be like a poor man's Pine Knob," said Saunders, who insists the estimated \$40,000 needed to build the pavilion can be raised from local contributions.

The OCC board did not allocate any money for the project. It did, however, approve Saunders' plan to begin a fundraising effort to pay for

the pavilion.

"I HAVEN'T officially started the fund-raising yet," Saunders said Wednesday. "But based on the support we've received in the past, I think raising the \$40,000 in supplies and labor will be relatively easy."

"I plan to talk with the business community as well as local tradesmen," he said.

The first concert this year is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 9, when the Milford Music Ensemble will perform.

In other action Tuesday, the OCC board adopted the 1991-92 budget of \$65.5, about \$2.5 million higher than the previous year.

## Trustee recovers from surgery

Normally David Hackett, a trustee at Oakland Community College, doesn't miss many board meetings.

The Rochester Hills resident has attended his share of meetings since being appointed to the board in November, 1984 — almost a full year before OCC opened its doors for classes.

But Hackett expects to miss several meetings over the next few months because of open heart surgery. Hackett, 67, underwent a quadruple bypass on June 18 at the University of Michigan Medical Center.

"We'll miss him," said Douglas H. Wakefield, another OCC trustee from Southfield.

# OU 'Upward Bound' alums celebrate 25th anniversary

By Pat Murphy  
staff writer

Damon D. Blakemore of Southfield is looking forward to helping Oakland University celebrate the silver anniversary of Upward Bound — the program designed to help prepare youngsters, mostly poor, for college.

"If it hadn't been for Upward Bound I wouldn't be where I am," said Blakemore, who works in the owner relations department of Ford Motor Co. "It kept me off the streets . . . and motivated."

For 25 years Upward Bound at OU has been recruiting high school students — normally freshmen and sophomores — for summer sessions and twice-a-month followup classes. The students live in dormitories, attend classes and generally sample college life, according to program director Kevin R. Williams.

This year OU is expanding its program to include 25 youngsters entering the eighth grade. They, too, will sample life at OU and, hopefully, make a decision early to make something of their lives, Williams said.

Anniversary festivities begin this

weekend with a scholarship benefit dance Friday, a cookout and balloon launch Saturday and the inauguration of the Silver Anniversary Program.

THERE WILL BE an alumni weekend over July 26-28 and commencement ceremonies Aug. 4.

Blakemore said he is more than happy to participate in anniversary festivities as an alumnus as well as an organizer.

"I'm happy to be on the anniversary committee," he said. "That program worked for me, and I'm convinced it will work for others."

Like members of the current Upward Bound class (that started Sunday) Blakemore attended one of four target schools from which OU recruits. They are Pontiac Northern, Blakemore's alma mater, Pontiac Central, Ferndale and Oak Park.

"I grew up in a pretty rough neighborhood," said Blakemore. "Some of my friends and associates were killed or ended up in prison."

Blakemore classifies himself at that time as a "problem child" and didn't like school and had a few run-ins with the law before he was 16.

As he was entering ninth grade, he was introduced to Upward Bound by a school counselor.

"It really made a difference," he said. "The program demanded a commitment — to do the homework, do the classwork and stick it out."

Upward Bound also had many fun aspects, he acknowledged, like socializing and field trips, like the one to Chicago this year's graduates will take in August. "But there was work involved and discipline. I had to attend classes on Saturdays when most of my friends were sleeping or just having a good time."

BUT HE SAID the program provided the educational background needed to enroll at OU and the discipline needed to qualify for a degree in marketing. "No doubt Upward Bound changed my life," he said.

The qualifications for participating in Upward Bound are spelled out by the U.S. Department of Education that funds much of the program, said program director Williams, who graduated from the Inkster School System before enrolling at OU and graduating in 1976.

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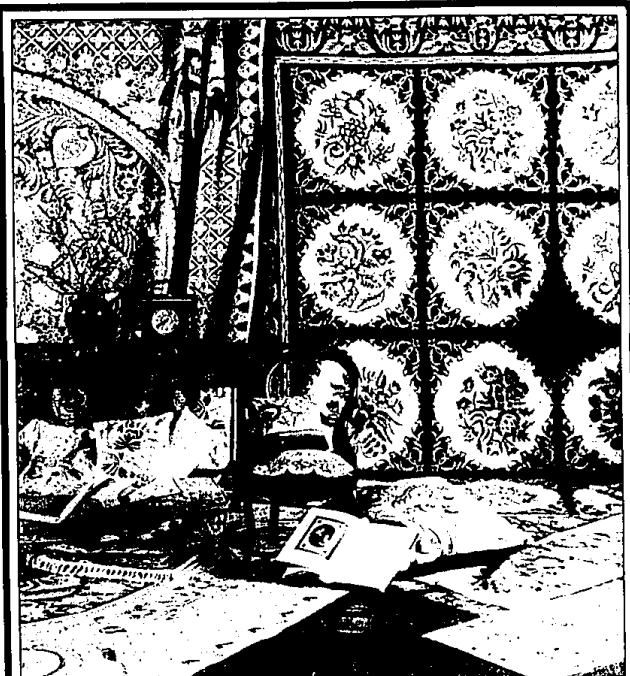
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