

Regional Affairs



CONDUCTING HIS LAST commencement ceremonies as president of Schoolcraft College, retiring Dr. Eric Bradner, speaks to 250 graduating students, their families and friends. The exercises were the first to be held in the college's new gymnasium. Bishop Thomas Gumberton (third left) gave the commencement address. The college also awarded its first honorary associate in arts degrees to board trustees Paul Mutnick, L. Clarke Oldenburg, and Chairman Jane Moehle. The trustees are charter members of the college and have served in their offices since its founding 10 years ago.

Petition Deadline July 27 For SC Hopefuls

By KATHY MORAN
Judge Roland Olzak of Wayne County Circuit Court has given Schoolcraft College the green light for an at-large election of five trustees to be held on Sept. 13.

Unless the State Legislature takes action which would upset the at-large election, filing petitions will be due by 4 p.m. on July 27, the election will be Sept. 13, and the new trustees will take office Oct. 4.

TWO BILLS relating to the election are now pending in the State Legislature and would take precedence over the judge's decision if passed prior to the election.

One bill, proposed by State Sen. Carl Pursell (R-Plymouth), would call for essentially the same plan but would add one trustee to the board and could change the election date to November of 1972 if an amendment is retained. The bill passed the Senate with the amendment last week with only one opposing vote.

The other bill is sponsored

by State Rep. Marvin Stempien (D-Livonia) and would give the college the option of having at-large or single-member district elections.

The college would decide which plan to follow by a vote of the college trustees and the community college appointment commission.

So far, no action has been taken on Stempien's bill, which is pending on the floor of the House.

AFTER A NEARLY 45-minute debate on Friday between Stempien, acting as the intervening plaintiff, and Edward Draugelis, the college attorney, Judge Olzak decided in favor of the at-large election and made only one revision of the college's proposal.

The trustees had asked for a ninth trustee seat to break tie votes. Olzak kept the board at eight members to make it in keeping with the founding statutes.

When the college was founded, the statutes provided for a trustee representative from each school district and three at-large trustees. The school districts of Livonia,

Clarenceville, Plymouth, Northville, and Garden City each currently have one representative on the eight-member board.

Stempien, who had earlier been granted the right to intervene in the case, led the opposition to the trustees' proposed plan after no representatives of the New Democratic Coalition of Livonia showed up to contest it.

The NDCL had filed the suit against the college to force reapportionment of the district. NDC Chairman Neil deStigter had said earlier that the NDC would contest the plan.

Roger Craig, NDC lawyer, did not appear in court and Draugelis said that Craig had called him and agreed to an at-large election on Friday morning.

STEMPIEN ASKED the judge to order the current trustees to make a "good faith" attempt at sub-districting the college area before considering an at-large election. He contended that census figures were available to district the area.

However, the figures that Stempien brought to court were only for census tracts and not for smaller block areas that would be necessary for redistricting.

"The first duty of the defendant district is to make a genuine effort to carry out the clear intention of the statutory language for election of five members from single-member districts and three members at-large," Stempien said. "There has been no good faith attempt to comply to the single-member statute."

DRAUGELIS countered by calling the districting approach "an archaic method of electing trustees" for this area, saying it would become a system of gerrymandering just to satisfy the requirement.

He told the court that the trustees represent the entire district after their election, and they had concluded that an "at-large election was the only way that made sense."

"I think the board acted in a politically responsible manner," Draugelis said. "They have made a good faith and reasonable effort."

"There may be a better plan, there may be a worse one, but this is the one the board agreed upon," he said, stressing that Craig had agreed to it.

STEMPIEN WON in his objection to increasing the number of trustees to nine, contending that this was the Legislature's responsibility — not the court's.

Olzak stressed that he hoped the Legislature would take action on the matter, but in the meantime, an at-large election would satisfy the constitutional requirement of "one-man, one-vote."

He added that the court did not have the resources to make a decision on a districting plan.

"I want to make it crystal clear," Olzak said, "I am not indicating my preference for either plan. I am only acting as I can most effectively."

He referred to his action as a "stop-gap" that will keep the people from being disenfranchised for any longer than possible.



U.S. PROBATION OFFICER James Nugent (left) watches as three participants in the Volunteer Probation Officers Training Program are presented certificates by Livonia Mayor Edward McNamara, second left. Receiving certificates are (from left) Angeline White, of Westland; James Warner, of Livonia; and Willard Faszewski, of Livonia.

153 New Grads To Help Courts

Certificates were awarded recently to 153 persons who completed the Volunteer Probation Officers Training Program co-sponsored by Madonna College and Schoolcraft College.

Mayor Edward McNamara of Livonia presented the certificates to the participants, who were introduced by Sister M. Andretta, director of the program at Madonna.

Sister M. Danatha, president of Madonna, and Frederick Stefanski representing Schoolcraft and a co-director of the program, officiated.

THE PROGRAM was funded under a federal grant. It prepared the participants to supplement professional probationary officers in rehabilitating youthful offenders in northwest Wayne and southwest Oakland counties.

It began in the fall with a seven-week instruction period and was followed by a six-month practicum. In the second phase, the trainees observed professional probation officers and counseled young probationers while under supervision.

The volunteers will now work with probationers assigned to them by the court.

Of the graduates, 100 were from Livonia, 14 from Westland, eight from Redford Township, four from Garden City, three from Farmington, two from Plymouth and one from Southfield. The balance were from neighboring communities.

SC Senate Supports Districting

The Student Senate of Schoolcraft College voted to support a district election plan for college trustees rather than an at-large plan at a meeting on Thursday.

The students resolved "to support in principle that the election of the board of trustees by one-man-one-vote, by districts rather than at-large and further to support the holding of elections as they are now in June rather than November elections."

After hearing talks by Jeaneane Havstad, a member of the New Democratic Coalition of Livonia, Russell Bogarin, assistant dean of student affairs, and Patrick Newman, director of student activities, the Senate decided that district elections would be in the best interest of the Schoolcraft students.

A spokesman for the Senate said that they decided a board elected from districts would be more responsive to individuals and student groups and that the smaller communities would be overpowered by larger communities in at-large elections.

Oakland Invited Into Rouge Study

By W.W. EDGAR

Oakland County officials have been asked to join with Wayne County to fight the war on pollution in the entire Rouge River Basin — but there's a catch to the invitation.

The catch is a matter of \$15,000 to help defray the costs of a six month study to determine the source of the pollution and the causes of trouble.

"I figure the study, which is vitally necessary," Henry Herrick, Wayne County drain commissioner, stated, "will cost about \$35,000. There's no sense in conducting the study only to Eight Mile Road (Wayne County limits) so I have asked Oakland to join with us and share the expense."

THE DRAIN COMMISSION won approval of Wayne County's portion of \$20,000 and now is waiting to hear from Oakland, where the plan has been taken under advisement by the drain committee to determine the

feasibility of the entire plan. "We haven't bothered with Washtenaw County," Herrick said, "because there is so little of it in the Rouge Valley."

Herrick also explained that he has contacted the state agricultural commission for the right to go ahead and is certain he'll get approval for the study of flood and pollution control.

"WE'RE WORKING on a three-phase program," the drain commissioner emphasized.

The first will be the annual cleanup, with the help of the Jaycees and other volunteer organizations interested in the improvement of our environment. We have been given \$10,000 to help pay the cost of this activity.

The second phase will be the projected study — if Oakland County comes through. (He didn't mention what was planned if Oakland County objected).

The third phase will be the installation of a mammoth interceptor from the Detroit

River up to Oakland County. This would have lateral lines to take care of the Middle Rouge Basin and the Lower Rouge area."

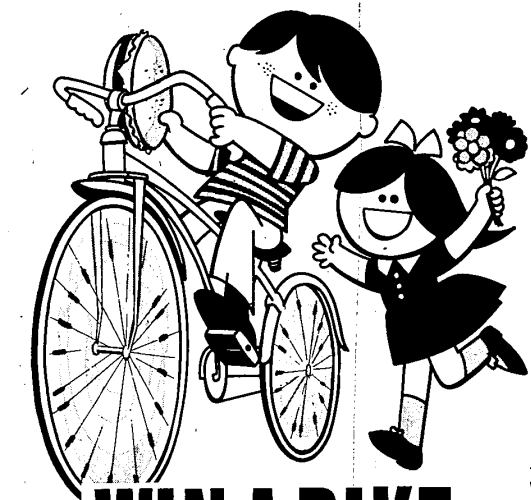
Herrick said this idea of building the huge interceptor has been discussed for some time and that it seems like the most logical solution.

He stated that he was working with the Army Corps of Engineers, officials of the Pollution Abatement Program and the Water Development group.

"THIS is certain to be costly," he said, "I have mentioned the figure of \$250 million. With rising prices, it may go much higher than that."

Asked if there were a definite route for the proposed interceptor, he said nothing definite could be done until the study is completed.

"When we find the source and the cause of the pollution, we then can determine the route. Chances are that it will go the 20 miles up the main stream along Telegraph.



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