

# OU OKs plan to build new rec/athletic center

By RALPH R. ECHTIDIAN  
STAFF WRITER

Oakland University trustees have approved a plan to build a new recreation/athletic center.

Tentative plans are for construction to be completed in the spring of 1996, at which time students will begin paying a fee to pay off the building.

To finance construction, trustees authorized the sale of \$37 million in bonds.

In a survey of 1,051 OU students conducted by Braliford Associates, about 60 percent indicated they are willing to pay \$65 to \$120 per semester for a recreation center.

Activities the students indicated they would prefer more than any others are the use of weight machines, exercise machines and free weights.

The least popular activities are squash, handball, badminton, dancing and indoor soccer.

**'It would serve as a major public relations move for the university.'**

Michael Simon  
Student Congress president

The university is considering two options.

One is to build a 204,000-square-foot building on top of a softball field near the apartments where married students live.

The second option is to remodel the existing Lepley Sports Center and put up a new building beside it. Either site would include a 350-seat convention center.

The 74,000-square-foot Lepley is the smallest athletic building in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, serving

13,000 students and 10 athletic teams. It was built in 1982 when OU enrolled just 1,200 students.

Although OU has no trouble attracting or retaining students, university officials say a first-class recreation building is an important part of attracting and retaining students.

"It enriches the experience of the students once they're here," said vice president of student affairs Mary Beth Snyder.

"I don't think it's ever going to be the primary reason a student chooses Oakland over another university," Snyder said. "(But) it will lead to some students choosing us over other campuses."

Student Congress president Michael Simon favors the construction.

"It would serve as a major public relations move for the university," he said. "It would greatly enhance student life on this campus. It would increase pride."

## Forums to look at issues of aging

Michigan delegates to the 1995 White House Conference on Aging in May in Washington, D.C., will benefit, in part, from perceptions and information shared with them next month in Livonia.

The Office of Services to the Aging will sponsor four forums to develop policy recommendations on various issues of concern to the state's older adults. Those policy recommendations will then be shared by the Michigan delegation at the national conference May 1-5.

The Livonia forum will be on "Economic/Financial Security" and will be 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Nov. 15 in Kresge Hall at Madonna University, 36000 Schoolcraft at Levan in Livonia.

A forum on caregiving will be held Nov. 10 in Escanaba, another on productive aging on Nov. 17 at Grand Valley State, and one on health and long-term care on Dec. 8 in Gaylord.

Wednesday is the deadline to register for the forum at Madonna. For information on registering call Shirley Bentzen at 517-373-8765.

## It's a jewel: OU gets ceremonial mace

Oakland University President Sandra Packard and her husband, Martin, have paid for the construction of a ceremonial mace to be used in graduation ceremonies.

The mace was built by Rochester Jeweler and OU alumni Paul Haig. It is 30 inches long and weighs eight pounds.

There is a black obelisk disk bearing the likeness of a yellow sail mounted on an oak handle with sterling silver ribbon trim.

The project was organized and overseen by three faculty and staff members.

Research on design possibilities and background on the role of the mace from medieval times, from warfare to ceremony, was performed by Priscilla Hildum, assistant to the vice president for academic affairs, Stuart Dorsey of the OU instrument shop and Richard Rozek, a faculty member in health sciences.

## Leader Dogs for Blind sets fund-raiser

The Leader Dogs for the Blind organization is having a fund-raiser party 7-9:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 2, at Great Oaks Mall in Rochester.

Tickets are \$25, \$50, or \$75.

Wine and hors d'oeuvres will be served.

Future leader dog puppies will be displayed.

There will be entertainment, a magic show and a silent auction.

For additional data, call 651-9011.

Great Oaks Mall is on Walton Boulevard at Livonia.



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