

Ask Trustees For Meeting On Firing Of Instructors

6 Schoolcraft Dismissals Irk Students

Expressing a belief that the quality of education may be endangered at Schoolcraft College because of the firing of six probationary instructors, representatives of the student body have asked the Board of Trustees for an audience to express their views and to receive a public hearing of reasons for the dismissals.

The Board of Trustees was informed at last Wednesday's meeting by President Dr. Eric Bradner that the administration had decided not to renew contracts for six instructors -- all in the probationary period of employment.

The six instructors were not identified, in keeping with an administration policy that such information is an individual matter and an invasion of privacy unless permission is specifically granted.

Schoolcraft College has a policy of placing new teachers on two years probation. At the end of that time the administration, presumably with the advice of department heads, determines whether the teacher will receive a tenure contract or be dismissed for failure to pass successfully the probationary requirements.

The college contract with the

faculty forum, representative of the faculty in bargaining, also provides that notice of a dismissal must be given 30 days before the end of the college term.

THUS, PRESIDENT Bradner, in announcing the dismissals to the Trustees, was in effect serving notice 94 days in advance. The teachers were notified the following day by registered mail of the administration's decision.

But representatives of the student body have a different feeling about the firings. Six

representatives attended a closed meeting of the Faculty Forum Friday afternoon and were told that the six teachers were stunned and amazed at the action.

The six were invited to the meeting after a much larger delegation requested it be allowed to hear the teachers' side of the case. The Forum leaders agreed to a total of six.

Meanwhile, the others started circulating petitions asking that the students receive a voice in the valuation of the qualifications of instructors at the

institution and quickly had more than 200 signatures.

All of this came to light Saturday morning when Earl Menary, of Livonia, a full-time day student, called The Observer and asked for a meeting to discuss the situation.

"We feel there is more to the firing of these teachers than appears on the surface," said Menary. "We believe these dismissals will endanger the future quality of teaching at Schoolcraft College since such actions as this may tend to keep qualified instructors from making applications for teaching jobs."

THE OBSERVER quickly agreed to a meeting and suggested that perhaps some members of the Board of Trustees be invited to attend and listen to the students.

Board Chairman Harold Fischer and Vice Chairman Mrs. Jane Moehle attended.

The student delegation included members from the Student Senate, College Newspaper The Commuter, College Yearbook Henry and other organizations -- none attended as the

designated representative of any campus organization.

Menary pointed out that it was the contention of the group that department heads had not been consulted in advance of the firings, evaluation of teachers had been delayed and that the six dismissed had no knowledge of whether their work was satisfactory or not until the dismissal letters were received.

"It is our information," he said as spokesman, "that the evaluations were originally set for Jan. 10 and then were delayed until later. In this instance, later is taken to mean until the time of the dismissals."

"It is the feeling of this group that these actions will tend to lower the quality of education at the college. Who is going to take a job at an institution where apparently teachers can be fired for speaking up and are in fear of intimidation?"

Campus Up \$736,000 OCC Trustees Learn Building Costs Soar

Farmington campus facilities of Oakland Community College will cost almost three-quarters of a million dollars more than originally estimated, a surprised Board of Trustees has learned on the heels of boosting the local provost's salary to \$32,000.

The educational institution which lies between Orchard Lake and Farmington Rds., south of I-96, is known as OCC's Orchard Ridge campus, and building expenditures now have been pegged at approximately \$15.5 million by Bruce King, director of new facilities.

This represents an increase of \$736,000 -- or 8.7 per cent over the price cited by the architectural firm, Perkins and Will, of Chicago, Ill., when the bids were taken.

at a cost of \$16,762, also is in the offing.

Plays would be presented by members of the Court Theatre, a Detroit semi-professional repertory group. If trustees grant the appropriation as recommended, they were told that there are no other plans for summer theatre in the metropolitan area.

Given definite approval was cooperative arrangement with Farmington public schools so that the latter may use OCC facilities to offer high school data processing courses next year.

Northwestern suburban cities will get \$1.5 million as their first chunk of the \$21.3 million in extra highway money raised by the new state Good Roads package.

More than 300 cities will share in the statewide distribution.

The new money is added to the \$49.7 million in 1967 and the total will jump to an estimated \$59.5 million in 1968 and to \$71.1 million in 1969.

THE COUNTY SHARE, totaling \$96.8 million in 1967, will increase to an estimated \$105.4 million in 1968 and to \$120.8 million in 1969.

Under the act, the state share which was \$129.9 million in 1967 will go to \$142.3 million in 1968 and to \$162.4 million in 1969.

The extra road money was made possible by an increase in the gasoline tax this year and the boost in the weight (taxicab license plate fees) which will go into effect in November.

Livonia will get the biggest share of the money, \$165,427 in 1967, rising to \$715,187 in 1968 and to \$842,534 the next year.

ALTHOUGH the pace of construction permitted classes to open at Orchard Ridge last fall, full completion is months away. It is one of three OCC campuses now in operation. The others are in Pontiac and Waterford Townships. The college's administrative center is in Bloomfield Hills.

Dr. Richard E. Wilson, provost of Orchard Ridge, is one of five top OCC administrators whose salaries will be increased July 1.

At that time, his salary will jump from \$15,000 to \$21,000 per year as will those of his provost counterparts who are heads of the two other campuses.

Meanwhile, Dr. John E. Tirrell, OCC president, has been raised \$5,000 to \$20,000 per year, and Dr. Ervin L. Harlach, who has been promoted from vice-president of campus administration to executive vice-president, will jump from \$23,000 to \$27,000.

THE TRUSTEES this week heard details of three other matters pertinent to the college's Farmington campus, one of them a revelation that Orchard Ridge may be the site of an eventual \$800,000 Naval Reserve Training Center.

Dr. Tirrell has recommended that four acres near Farmington Rd. be leased to the Navy for construction of the facility to replace those which the Navy plans to close in Dearborn and Pontiac.

Legal details of the project still are pending, and to date the Navy has not made the necessary appropriation, trustees were told. Once granted a lease, the Navy would have five years to start construction.

An experimental pilot summer theatre project from the Orchard Ridge amphitheatre, to be conducted in July and August

JUSTICE THEODORE SOURIS (right), of the Michigan Supreme Court, chats informally with some of the planners of the 19th District Democrats' issues seminar Saturday at Schoolcraft College. From left: Robert Rowlson, seminar chairman John McDonald and Mrs. Rowlson. (Story on Page 9B.)

James Del Rio and David Holmes, Democratic representatives from Detroit, verbally jostled in the House over management of the Detroit antipoverty program and over what one said was an attack on his wife by the other. Del Rio, who heads a House committee investigating Detroit's Total Action Against Poverty Program, said a U.S. Senate report showed Mrs. Holmes and another woman "gave preferential treatment to friends of theirs" in recommending area residents for TAP jobs. Holmes replied, "I resent and consider it a personal insult to the integrity of my family when an individual attacks my wife because of her dedication in helping the people and the community in which I live."

ANDREW RANDO from Muskegon has offered his heart for someone else's benefit but with one catch. Citing the recent loss of his distributing business, his wife's departure and his suffering from an auto accident, he said his heart would go for a cool million dollars. Rando said his heart is healthy.

CHRYSLER CORPORATION'S 1967 sales reached an all-time high while its earnings tallied as third best for any year. Preliminary net earnings were \$200.4 million (3.35 a share) for the year, subject to final audit, compared with \$189.2 million (\$4.16 a share) in 1966. Sales totaled \$6.2 billion in 1967 almost 10 per cent higher than the \$5.6 billion in 1966.

DETROIT POSTMASTER Edward L. Baker said that because of the public's acceptance of zip code use, the Christmas rush was "one of the smoothest in post office history. Problems? Sure, they will be with us always, but the public's realization that the codes are here to stay and it is the best assurance of speedy mail delivery helped us immensely through the holidays."

BIRMINGHAM TEACHERS have ratified a wage contract for the 1967-68 school year. Teachers in the school district were ordered back to their schools by court injunction Sept. 15. They have been teaching under that injunction since.

DR. DONALD L. WHITE, assistant psychiatric director in the Oakland Health program, has announced his resignation saying he was quitting to take a post in Tucson, Ariz. White is the second leading figure in the program to step down -- on Jan. 2, Dr. Robert E. Walden, director of county programs, quit after a long controversy.

Two construction workers were seriously injured Monday in a Farmington Township explosion when one lit a portable heater at the bottom of a hole in which they were working and it blew up in their faces.

Township police records attribute the explosion to a gas leak.

Meanwhile, in Botsford General Hospital are William R. Bullock, 32, of Wayne, and William L. Lane, 30, of 28920 List, Farmington.

Bullock is suffering from burns and facial cuts, while Lane suffered a broken leg plus internal and back injuries. They were employed on a construction project near 14 Mile and Farmington Rds.

Owners of nearby residences reported to township police numerous broken windows as a by-product of the explosion.

SAULT STE. MARIE -- The International Bridge Authority reported it recorded record annual traffic and revenue again in 1967.

James E. Brophy of Grosse Pointe, authority chairman, said 761,828 vehicles crossed the bridge during the year, a 3.6 per cent increase over 1966. Revenues totaled \$911,426, a 6.2 per cent increase.

The bridge has recorded steady annual gains in traffic and revenue since it was opened in October, 1962. This is the first time revenues have exceeded \$900,000 and the second time traffic has exceeded 700,000.

Suburbs To Share New Tax

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OBSERVER

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REVIEW STATE CENTRAL MEETING PLANS. Wayne II Republican District Chairman, E. O. Weber (left), and State Republican Vice-Chairman Wm. McLaughlin finalize arrangements for the upcoming Republican State Central Committee meeting to be held in the Mayflower Hotel in Plymouth on January 27. The general meeting on Saturday afternoon is open to all area Republicans. Plans for the Wayne II Lincoln Day Dinner on Feb. 8 were also discussed.

1968 MICHIGAN AUTO PLATES NOW on SALE

WONDERLAND CIVIC ROOM

(NEAR PACKER'S)

PLYMOUTH ROAD

BANK
FEDERAL'S
WARD'S
ROBINSON
PACKER'S
BRANCH OFFICE
MICHIGAN
SECRETARY OF STATE
JAMES M. HARE SECRETARY OF STATE

OPEN MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY 9:30 TO 5:30
SATURDAYS 10 TO 6 p.m.

