

Architect Portman to speak at LIT

John Portman, the architect of Detroit's Renaissance Center and a man dedicated to revitalizing the downtowns of America's great cities, will make a special presentation at Lawrence Institute of Technology on Thursday, April 23.

Portman will appear as part of LIT's School of Architecture's Architecture Series. His presentation, "The Architect as Developer," will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the architecture auditorium on the College's Southfield campus, 21000 W. 10 Mile Road near Northwest

Highway. The Architecture series is open to the public, and there is no charge.

A graduate of the Georgia Institute of Technology, Portman also attended the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis. He worked for several architectural firms before opening his own office in 1953 and is currently a principal in John Portman & Associates in Atlanta. In addition to Detroit's Renaissance Center, Portman's projects have included: the Peachtree Center in Atlanta, the Los Angeles Bonaventure Hotel,

the Times Square Hotel in New York City, the Fort Worth National Bank Building, the Atlanta Merchandise Mart, the Brussels International Trade Mart and the Marina Center in Singapore.

Portman has won the AIA Medal for innovations in hotel design, the Elsie de Wolfe Award from the American Society of Interior Designers, the Atlanta Civic Commission Award as well as many other awards for excellence in architectural and community projects. In addition, he has been given

the rank of officer in the Royal Belgian Order of the Crown by the King of Belgium and was named to the Royal Order of Knights of Dannebrog by the Queen of Denmark.

In honor of his appearance at LIT, Portman has funded a special scholarship for the college's architecture students. The first Portman Scholarship will be given for the 1981-82 academic year. Application deadline is on or before June 1. For further information, contact the School of Architecture at 356-0200.

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117 teachers face possible layoffs

Some 117 teachers face layoff in the Walled Lake School District.

The school board approved issuing lay-off notices at a recent meeting.

The action comes after the board's March 18 decision to notify nine administrators that their contracts are being reconsidered for non-renewal in

the 1981-82 school year.

Superintendent Don Sheldon said issuing layoff notices to the teachers is a precautionary measure that can be rescinded if economic conditions improve.

He referred to the June 8 election when voters will be asked to renew four mills for operations.

If the renewal is approved, most of the teachers who received pink slips will be recalled, Sheldon said.

If the four-mill renewal is approved, the district faces a projected deficit of approximately \$1.7 million. If it is rejected, the projected deficit could soar to an estimated \$4.2 million.

Sheldon said that approval of Gov. William Milliken's tax proposal on the May 19 ballot could cost the district an estimated \$1.5 million in revenues.

The state aid bill currently before the legislature would mean an additional loss of \$400,000 in revenues, Sheldon added.

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