

OU accepts grants for Squabble jeopardizes scout riding camp

By Sherry Kahan
staff writer

Oakland University received grants and gifts totalling more than a million dollars between mid-July and Sept. 9. Trustees voted then to accept a total \$1.07 million, including \$920,000 in research and other support for various departments, schools and colleges.

Biggest source was the U.S. Department of Education, which provided nearly \$500,000 for Project Upward Bound, special services programs and a teacher corps program aimed at curbing disruptive behavior in schools.

Other major recipients and projects included:
Venkat Reddy, a Bloomfield Hills resident who received more \$100,000 in two grants to study aspects of the human eye.

Y.Y. Hung of Rochester and Joseph Hovanessian of Farmington, both of the engineering school, who received \$80,000 for a new camera and laser device for use in non-destructive highway structure testing.

D.K. Pradhan of Auburn Heights, a computer fault tolerancing expert who received about \$50,000 from the Air Force.

Edison shelves repairs

Detroit Edison Co. will discontinue small appliance repair Nov. 1.

The utility has repaired small appliances for a fee for the past eight years, since discontinuing an earlier policy of making such repairs without charge, except for the cost of parts.

Edison said last week it was discontinuing the service because repair fees are often the same and sometimes more than the cost of replacement. Only 19,000 small appliance repairs were made in 1980 for the utility's 1.5 million customers.

Notice of the new policy will come in September bills.

Major appliance repair will be continued for such devices as water heaters, ranges, dryers and commercial cooking equipment.

Girl Scouts who regularly saddle up at the John F. Ivory Riding Ranch in Commerce Lake may have to call "Whoa!" to the experience.

The Michigan Metro Girl Scout Council, which includes in its jurisdiction troops in Livonia, Westland, Redford and Garden City, has sent to the owner of the stable, the John F. Ivory Storage Co., a new contract asking that company pay liability insurance for some 5,500 girls who ride there each year.

The move could mean the end of the program, since Ivory has indicated it is not willing to pick up a tab that has been paid by the Girl Scout Council for the 19 years the riding has been going on.

However, a member of the council who asked not to be identified indicated the matter probably would be up for further consideration at a meeting of the council tonight.

"This is an internal affair that has been blown all out of proportion," the council member said. "The prospect that the horses may have to be left in the stable has stirred up strong comment from scouting lead-

ers and parents in this area. They support the program and do not want to see it discontinued.

Marge Tolley of Livonia, a voluntary aide in the riding program, said it had been proposed that rates be raised to cover the insurance but that this suggestion had been turned down.

CONSTANCE VANCEA, director of business and finance for the Metro

Council, said she is unwilling to discuss the contract because she has not heard from the Ivory company about its response to the contract.

"I am not going to discuss the terms of the agreement," she said. "Frankly I am running a business here. Until he responds I can't say what is in the agreement."

Ms. Vancea also said she had not heard the suggestion that the rates be

raised to cover insurance.

John F. Ivory III, vice president of the company, stated that the company verbally informed the Girl Scout Council last week that it is unwilling to assume insurance costs. He did not reveal the amount.

He said he felt Ivory's contribution already is "substantial."

"Our feeling is that the only ones who will be hurt if the program closes down

are the kids," he said. "It's been a nice program for many years. I don't think the council realizes how important the program is."

Mrs. Tolley said no one knows when and why the council decided to discontinue the insurance payments.

"It can't be the expense," she said. "We're willing to turn around and raise money ourselves."

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION: IT'S TIME TO DEFINE OUR TERMS

As recently as fifteen years ago the word "ecology" brought nothing but a blank look to the faces of most Americans, and the majority of us thought of "environment" as the neighborhood and family life we grew up in. How times do change. Today, the concept of environmental protection is as much a part of our lives as lead-free gasoline and non-aerosol sprays.

But despite the progress we've made in understanding what ecology and environment are all about, the companion term — "protection" — has proved to be about as easy to define as "pornography" — that is, it depends on who's looking.

But the situation isn't funny, because one of the lessons we've all learned about protecting the environment is that it's a very expensive job. And when regulatory agencies persist in formulating conflicting, confusing, and capricious sets of rules to be followed, the cost of the job mounts even higher — needlessly so.

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Is that "protection"? Or is that "waste"?

There are also occasions when environmental concern serves as a smoke screen to mask other, quite different intentions. Our Palisades nuclear plant is a case in point. Shortly before the plant was completed a group of intervenors initiated legal action to force us to equip Palisades with cooling towers or not run the plant — despite the fact that no evidence demonstrated a need for the towers. We were left between a rock and a hard place. We could install costly, unneeded cooling towers; or we could fight

a long, even more costly legal battle. We installed the towers... and today, as then, studies show that they are not needed.

Is that "protection"? Or is it "obstructionism"?

There is an obvious cure for these problems created by vague and unrealistic environmental regulations — clarify the rules and apply them sensibly, making sure that one million dollars' worth of protection doesn't cost us — and you — ten million dollars to achieve.

We've all learned what "ecology" and "environment" mean. We're going to have to decide what "protection" means — and how much of it we can afford.

John D. Selby
John D. Selby
Chairman



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