

Strike Aftermath: Austerity At S'craft

By DENNIS L. PAOT

Legality of the faculty strike that delayed opening of Schoolcraft Community College four weeks apparently will go unchallenged.

College trustees show no intent to seek recourse for damages. The possibility wasn't mentioned Wednesday night in the first regular board meeting since strike settlement.

A state attorney general's interpretation of the state law granting collective bargaining power to public service employees, including teachers, is that strikes that prevent services are illegal.

ONE TRUSTEE, however, showed concern about the financial impact of the new contract on the college's budget.

Trustee William Secord, Northville School District representative, began early in the meeting to argue that the economic terms require an austerity program.

At the end of the meeting he sought a board directive to implement a formal austerity program. But it failed when opposed by Trustees John LaRue, Clark Oldenburg and Dr. Robert Geake.

Secord, who alone cast a "no" vote when the trustees ratified the faculty contract, was joined by Chairman Janie Moehle and Vice Chairman Paul Mutnick in seeking the formal austerity. Trustee Dr. George Martin departed from the meeting before this issue was raised.

Instead, the board directed the administration to use "unusually stringent judgment" on future expenditures.

SECORD prefaced his move with a statement in which he said, "The faculty and the board have agreed (to a package) that places the college in a serious financial situation ... that could very well set Schoolcraft back many years ...

"We can only hope that we can meet obligations ... The faculty has forced Schoolcraft College into a very unsound financial position."

He noted, also, that three

current board members may not be on the board when the full impact is felt in the 1971-72 school year, the second of the two-year faculty contract. He pointed out that Mrs. Moehle, Oldenburg and James Bowwell are serving terms that expire in June 1971.

"WE HERE ON the board in 1972 must answer to any consequences," said Secord, who is the board treasurer. Mrs. Moehle commented, "I don't think there's any doubt but what we're in a very serious situation financially."

"We can't float anymore bonds for the next two years. I think we have no choice but an austerity program, frankly." She also said, in a moment of exasperation, "I think it's a little late now, when you certainly should have known this when we voted for the financial program of the contract."

This statement followed a discussion of Secord's points, in which Trustees Geake and Oldenburg urged that the board wait until a scheduled report of the financial situation next month.

Estimated new expense to the district over the next two years of the faculty contract is \$500,000 — or one-fifth of the current 1970-71 operating budget. A contingency reserve in this year's budget of \$270,157 is expected to cover the first year cost.

Madonna Dean's List Announced

Nine Madonna College students residing in Observerland merited scholastic honors for excellence in studies in the 1969-1970 academic year. Honors were awarded at a Convocation last week.

Receiving first honors on the dean's list for a grade point average of 3.5 or more were Anny Lyons of 8937 Louisiana, Livonia; Jessie Long of 36901 Rayburn, Livonia; Clara Seelye of 8452 Liberty, Westland; Cheri Karbon of 22825 Maple, Farmington; Karen Ureleba of 8902 Mercedes, Redford Township.

Second awards for a grade point average of 3.25 or better were merited by Geraldine Mikulski, of 19997 Alexander, Livonia; Angelina White, of 8227 August, Westland; Barbara Smith, of 30934 Barton, Garden City; and Jacquelyn Borowski of 26427 Cathedral, Redford Township.

Ann Lyons and Cheri Karbon were also given the Lumen Award pin for outstanding service to the college. Jacquelyn Borowski was awarded a one-year renewal of the Mother DeSales scholarship, which she received last year.

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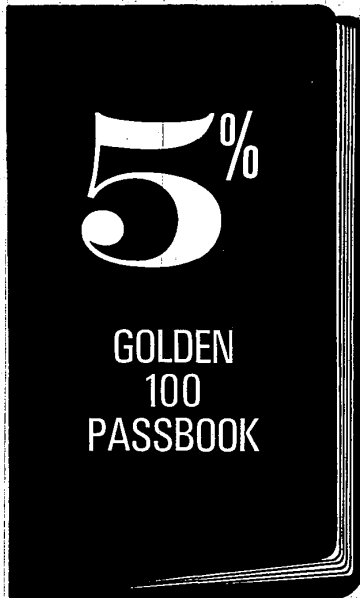
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