

Meadow Brook ticket

Brass Ring guarantees \$200,000 to OU

By Pat Murphy
staff writer

Oakland University will get a minimum of \$200,000 annually under the terms of an agreement tentatively approved by the Board of Trustees to privatize the Meadow Brook Music Festival.

That agreement — with Brass Ring Productions and Olympia Arenas Inc. — stipulates the university will get \$200,000 or 5 percent of ticket sales, whichever is larger, according to OU acting president John De Carlo.

The agreement was unanimously approved last Wednesday, 5 to 0. Two trustees, David Handelman and

James A. Sharp Jr., were absent and one, Andrea L. Fischer of Birmingham, abstained.

Fischer said she did not vote on the matter because her law firm, Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone in Detroit represents Olympia Arenas and Mike Illich who heads up the group in addition to owning the Detroit Red Wings.

"Our firm represents Olympia and Mr. Illich on some tax matters," said Fischer. "And I have personally represented the firm on occasion."

Fischer said she made that relationship public knowledge months ago when OU first started soliciting negotiations with various promoters. "I never got involved in negotia-

tions," she said.

OU DECIDED to consider a private operator for the popular summer attraction after the festival accumulated more than \$1 million in debt.

"We looked for ways to continue having the university run the festival," said trustee Phyllis Law Goggan. "But it just wasn't possible."

"We couldn't have money from the academic mission of the university diverted to running a theater festival."

Goggan emphasized, however, the festival would maintain its high level of quality. "I even disagreed with the term 'privatization,'" she said, "because the university still retains so much control over program-

ing."

De Carlo and Fischer were also emphatic about the festival retaining its reputation for quality. "Very little will change," said De Carlo. "One amenity that will be ended, however, is the past practice of patrons being able to bring their own alcoholic beverage to enjoy with the program."

Patrons will still be able to bring their own food, said James Lites, executive vice president of Olympia, who said promoters want to maintain the festival's "unique relaxed atmosphere."

But if the promoters obtain a liquor license, as planned, its terms will not permit unlicensed alcohol on the premises, he said.

Pregnant women need support

Oakland Family Services is in need of volunteers to work with chemically dependent pregnant women and their families. Volunteers are needed to provide

emotional support during pregnancy as well as delivery.

For more information call Valerie Bates, 838-7766, Ext. 273.

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Camp fair set for March 8

The Third Annual Super Summers for Kids — designed to help parents select a summer program for their youngsters — will be from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, March 8 at the Bloomfield Hills Middle School, 4200 Quarton Road, Bloomfield Hills.

Super Summer, a camp and activities fair, is sponsored by the Merrill-Palmer Institute, the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers and Metro Parent to help parents and youngsters meet with representatives from local and national summer programs to determine the best program for their needs and objectives.

Additional information is available at 577-5244.

Planting trees in your area

Global Releaf of Michigan will hold an open meeting from 7-9 p.m. Monday at the Oakland County Commissioners Auditorium to explain how you and your organization can be more involved in urban wildlife and neighborhood tree plantings.

A general overview of past and future planting projects, along with tree and site selections, and urban wildlife plantings.

The auditorium is in the Oakland County complex, 1209 Telegraph Road, Pontiac. For more information, call Sandy at 1-800-642-7353.

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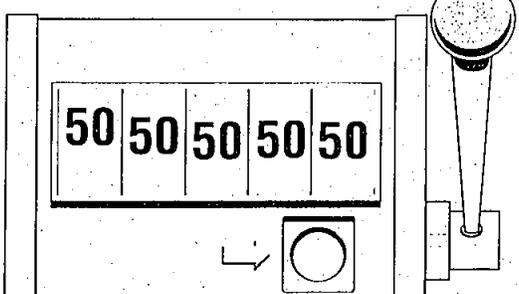
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