

# Joint venture

## OCC to sport new athletic facility

BY RALPH R. ECHTINAW  
STAFF WRITER

The Auburn Hills campus of Oakland Community College is on its way to becoming the recreation capital of higher learning in the lower peninsula.

If all goes well, the campus on Featherstone just west of Adams will sprout an athletic facility complete with indoor Olympic-size pool, racquetball courts, track, tennis courts, soccer fields and a baseball diamond, thanks to the North Oakland YMCA and the city of Auburn Hills.

OCC trustees voted unanimously Nov. 18 to permit college officials to sign an agreement with the YMCA to build a \$10-million, 50,000-square-foot athletic facility. The indoor pool would be the

project's first phase.

The YMCA would pay the full cost of the facility, while OCC has committed to provide the real estate, about five acres behind the Criminal Justice Center.

Then in a separate deal, yet to be consummated, the city of Auburn Hills would use state recreation grant money to build tennis courts, soccer fields, a track and baseball diamond adjacent to the YMCA building. This would give a single OCC campus a better athletic facility than neighboring Oakland University.

Auburn Hills campus President Richard Saunders said, "This is a community venture to a large extent. Everybody benefits."

The 1,200 members of the North Oakland YMCA would have their first pool since 1984, and OCC could introduce or augment a host of courses that require water. The college would be permitted to use the pool 30 percent of the time, probably for classes in emergency medical technology, hydrotherapy and swimming.

The YMCA would own the building for 35 years, after which OCC would get it. The Y then has guaranteed access for an additional 10 years.

All the Y has to do now is raise \$3.5 million, the estimated cost of phase one. YMCA Executive Director Larry Scramlin said a consultant will soon be hired to judge the Y's chances of raising that

kind of money. The OCC board gave the Y until next September to report back one way or another. Scramlin said they'll have an answer before then.

OCC trustees were wary about jumping into this deal, but heard about a similar arrangement at Bay de Noc Community College in Escanaba. "It worked very well for them," Saunders said. "Our agreement is much more comprehensive than theirs, but the concept is the same."

Unlike the Detroit Metro YMCA, which operates 13 centers in this area, North Oakland YMCA has nothing but a Rochester office, two full-time staff members and some sports programs for kids.

## OU chorus sings for Yuletide concert

The Oakland University Community Chorus invites the public to join in its 31st Annual Yuletide Concert at 8 p.m., Dec. 3, in Varner Recital Hall on campus.

Director John Dawaras will lead the 100-mixed voice choir in a festive program: "Born Today!"

(Sweetie); two motets by Aleotti; "Cannon Nona Toni" (Gabriel); with double brass, choir and organ; Psalm 150 (Schutz), with double chorus, double brass and organ; and "Touo-Louro-Louro" (Saholy), concluding with "Gloria" (Poulenc).

The chorus' traditional yuletide

songfest with the audience will close the program.

For information about tickets,

\$8 (\$6 for seniors and non-OU students, \$3 for OU students), call (313) 370-3013.

## OCC talk focus is on violence

The Womencenter on the Orchard Ridge Campus of Oakland Community College presents the fourth in a series of forums focusing on violence against women.


Titled "Pornography: Sex Discrimination vs. Free Speech," the presentation begins at 7:30 p.m.

in room J-309 on Tuesday, December 7.

For more information on this program or other services offered by the campus' Womencenter call 471-7602.

The Orchard Ridge Campus is at 27055 Orchard Lake Road.

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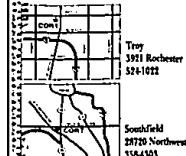
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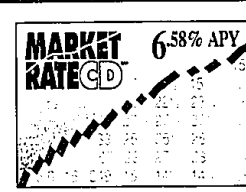
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