

Enrollments Dip At OCC, S'craft

An Observer Roundup

Both Schoolcraft College and Oakland Community College felt drops in their enrollments this fall compared with the fall semester of 1971.

Schoolcraft reported a three per cent drop in enrollment and eight per cent drop in credit hours with preliminary figures in. These figures will be revised when the community services classes begin since some are being offered for institutional credit.

Oakland Community College, which has four campuses including the Orchard Ridge campus in Farmington, is down 3.7 per cent overall in students and 9.4 per cent in credit hours.

THE FIGURES are more drastic for Orchard Ridge which experienced a nine per cent enrollment decline and 18 per cent decline in credit hours for the fall. Orchard Ridge's enrollment at Orchard Ridge was balanced by increases at the college's southeast campus in Royal Oak.

Dr. James Manilla, Orchard Ridge provost, says the decline was expected and keeps the college in line with its budget projections.

In contrast, Schoolcraft is worried about the unexpected decline. Discussion of what effect the drop will have on the budget is scheduled for the board of trustees meeting tonight (Wednesday).

Because community

colleges receive state aid based on their number of full time equated students (average of the equivalent number of students taking full class loads), they are especially hurt when their enrollments and credit hours are down.

By contrast, universities get state aid based on their projected needs and don't have to return any of the state aid if they don't meet student enrollment projections.

OCC'S TOTAL number of credit hours this fall for its four campuses is 114,484, with Orchard Ridge credit hours at 51,976. The headcount at OCC is 14,034 including the 5,675 at Orchard Ridge.

In 1971, OCC had 126,305 credit hours during the fall which was down from the 1970 figure of 129,171. The headcount during the fall of 1971 and 15,001 enrolled in 1970. Orchard Ridge's enrollment dropped from 8,287 in the fall of 1971 to 5,675 this year. Credit hours were down from 63,485 in 1971 to 51,975 this fall.

Schoolcraft has a similar set of figures showing 5,845 students enrolled this fall compared to 6,817 last fall. Credit hours are down at 50,915 this fall compared to 55,649 in the fall of 1971.

An analysis of enrollment figures for this fall by Russell Bogarin, registrar at Schoolcraft, shows that the decline is due to a drop in liberal arts students.

ENROLLMENT in liberal arts students had increased steadily from 1969 to 1971 and then dropped below the 1969 level this fall.

In 1969 the number of credit hours in liberal arts for the fall semester totalled 33,407; in 1970 it was 34,437; in 1971 it was 30,078 and in 1972 it dropped to 32,553.

Enrollments in business, health and vocational-technical classes have continued to increase, including this year.

Business credit hours are up from 8,466 last fall to 8,949; health credit hours are up from 2,191 to 2,598; and vocational-technical credit hours are up from 6,914 to 7,079.

WHILE SCHOOLCRAFT will begin to consider possible cutbacks in the budget, Dr. Manilla said OCC won't have to make any cuts.

"We feel pretty much in line with our projections," he said, pointing out that the Legislature had revised the college's enrollment projections downward when figuring state aid.

In a sense, the college has already revised its budget because of the reduced projections, Dr. Manilla said.

The 5,700 students enrolled at Orchard Ridge give the campus a "little breathing room" even though it can accommodate upwards of 7,000 students, Dr. Manilla said.



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Firms Cheapen Dollar -- Nader

By KATHY MORAN

Inflation is generally blamed by the unhappy worker who complains that the buying power of his dollar is decreasing. But Ralph Nader says inflation is only a symptom of a more widespread ailment.

"Scratch a politician and he'll talk about inflation," Nader said. "But there is a whole area of forces that cheapen the dollar value that doesn't get considered."

With this prelude, Nader launched into an attack on pollution, price fixing, corporate conglomerates and other American ills which he believes can be remedied by "consumerism."



RALPH NADER

"Pollution is a massive form of silent, cumulative violence."
--Ralph Nader

AN AUDIENCE of more than 400 persons turned out Thursday to hear the consumer advocate's second talk on the Schoolcraft College campus. But those who came a second time to hear Nader talk on the announced topic of the 1972 presidential party platforms and their relation to the consumer left disappointed.

The party platforms were barely mentioned as the 38-year-old Nader elaborated on his favorite subjects and did his best to inspire his listeners to become active and aware consumers.

Politicians were recognized when Nader said that conservatives blame inflation on government spending and liberals blame the war in Vietnam.

But Nader said the consumer's dollar is chespened by more subtle things such as having automobile owners spend a total of \$1 billion annually on ornamental bumpers that serve no purpose or by large corporations who conspire to fix prices and pass unjust costs onto the consumer.

The "Seattle conspiracy" was described by Nader as an example of the consumer paying \$24 million unnecessarily because of companies fixing the price of bread. He didn't say over what period of time that the consumers were "cheated" subtly out of the \$24 million. "I've been told by attorney generals that they couldn't begin to prosecute for price fixing. It's rampant."

POLLUTION is another area where consumers are forced to spend their wages for items caused by pollution such as sickness, cleaning

ills, keeping cities clean, damage to crops and erosion. "Pollution is a massive form of silent, cumulative violence," Nader emphasized. "Unfortunately, it's not the kind of violence that provokes people to do something about it."

Because of the widespread destruction and devastation caused by pollution, Nader stressed that "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

The public is constantly dissuaded from action against polluters by waving the cost factor before them, Nader said.

"When are we going to ask how much is it going to cost NOT to clean up pollution?" Nader asked, urging his listeners to consider the long-range costs to the public in sickness and property damage.

If automobile companies would have set aside a small portion of their profits several years ago, pollution by automobiles and the companies would have been markedly reduced by now, he said.

"The cost would have been peanuts (compared to the corporations' overall profits), but look what it would have done for the country."

ONE REASON advance men in curbing pollution are slow in coming is that research in this area is "starved of modern, life-giving technology," he added.

To this cause, Nader urged the public to become aware and participate in citizen action groups. He said career goals should be revised to include "full time citizenship as a career goal" where some people could devote their time to correcting problems and

giving average citizens a voice and some power.

Students in Oregon have formed a Student Public Interest Research Group which is funded by a \$3 contribution per student in the entire state each year. This group has been able to hire its own lawyers and consultants and become a viable force in the state.

Nader said that a similar group is forming in Michigan.

SPEAKING THE same day that Ford Motor Co. announced a recall of 90,000 automobiles for a defect in the steering, Nader only briefly mentioned "unsafe automobiles."

"The automobile companies have recalled far more cars since last September than they've produced since then," he said.

Nader first became known when he investigated the Corvair and published the book "Unsafe at Any Speed," a scathing indictment of the automobile industry for producing allegedly unsafe automobiles.

During a lengthy question and answer period, Nader hit briefly on other subjects, including the impact of noise on humans such as damages to hearing, people with heart trouble and the nervous structure.

"We are so accustomed to noise that we hear silence," Nader concluded.

DB&T Pays

The board of the Detroit Bank & Trust Company has declared a quarterly dividend of 63 cents a share on the \$10 par value common capital stock of the bank. The quarterly dividend is payable on Sept. 29, to shareholders of record Sept. 8.

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