

Personal needs stressed in New Charter College

By STEVE BHAERMAN

"At New Charter College, an 'inner college' at Oakland University, students are attempting to relate themselves to the off-campus world through community involvement and personal development as people as well as through the more traditional textbook only courses.

New Charter (which "is not really a college, but a program," according to co-director Bob Stern) offers a number of "core" courses in place of the general study program which must be completed by all students.

Without a rigid structure, the courses are run by the students under the guidance of a group leader selected with the advice of the program faculty before each semester begins. However, discussion topics, guest speakers and reading materials are chosen by the students themselves.

"NEW CHARTER has a lot of the feel of a 'free university,'" says Stern, who describes the students who enroll in the program as "an independent type, one who knows

where he or she is going.

"Our school is a place where students' own personal needs can be met."

The faculty itself is chosen from the faculty at large. Although there is relatively little money available to pay them, and although the program curriculum is rarely the same from one term to the next, enough faculty members are committed to the program that they volunteer to teach the courses without extra pay. Former New Charter students may also offer to teach in the program, Stern says.

THIS SEMESTER the featured course is a forum called "Survival in Metropolitan Detroit." "This (course)," says forum leader Jim Graham, "is a course in how to be human in this kind of world."

Each week the survival forum covers such wide-ranging topics as prisons, education, drug abuse and the energy crisis. Speakers have included Pontiac's Judge Christopher Brown, journalist Jim Ingram, psychiatrist Edward No-

and Wilma Bledsoe, founder of Oakland Prep.

ANOTHER GROUP is compiling a "people's Yellow Pages," a list of community resources in the area.

A third group is involved in a "creative expression workshop" as a method "to integrate our own culture with other cultures," according to Stern. An offshoot of this workshop is a small experimental theater group which has performed children's plays as part of a parks and recreational program in the Detroit area. An experimental theater festival is scheduled Feb. 22-24 in Ann Arbor when the Oakland group will perform with eight others from around the country.

The field study term "allows students time away from home, after which they can come back with a greater knowledge of themselves in the context of the world," explains New Charter secretary Joan Schwing.

"If it weren't for New Charter College," says student Gary Mach, "I wouldn't have my head together."



JOSEPH T. GIBBONS has been named for the 11th time to be parade marshal for Farmington's Memorial Day observance. Gibbons, a Southfield resident and World War II veteran, has been a VFW member since 1958 and is a past commander. He still seeks four assistants.

WSU sets reunion for Friday night

The university of the future will be the topic of Wayne State University President George E. Gullen Jr.'s at the annual reunion of WSU alumni from Southfield, Oak Park and Farmington on Friday, March 15.

This year's all-class dinner reunion, the second annual, will begin at 7 p.m. in the Town and Country Club, 3033 Southfield Road, Southfield. In addition to the address by Gullen, the first WSU alumnus to head the urban university, the program will

include a short film on present campus development narrated by Paul E. Andrews, alumni director.

Chairman of the dinner is Herschel P. Fink, of Southfield, secretary of the WSU Alumni Association board of directors.

Dinner reservations can be made by calling reservation chairman Mrs. Doris Dworkin at 356-8170, or by mail to her at 2233 Avon, Southfield. The cost of the dinner is \$8.35 a person.

Brodhead will seek congressional seat

WILLIAM M. BRODHEAD

State Rep. William M. Brodhead (D-Detroit) will seek the Democratic nomination for the 17th Congressional District seat currently held by U.S. Rep. Martha Griffiths (D-Farmington).

Mrs. Griffiths recently announced she will not seek reelection to the seat. The district includes northwest Detroit, Redford Township, Farmington, Farmington Hills and Southfield.

Brodhead, 32, was elected to the State House in 1970 as the first Democrat elected from his district and was reelected in 1972. He is chairman of the House committee on city government and is a member of the committees on judiciary and labor.

Prior to his election, Brodhead was an attorney for the Detroit Dept. of Street Railways (DSR). He is a graduate of Wayne State University and the University of Michigan Law School.

"For two decades Martha Griffiths has served us admirably in Washington," Brodhead said announcing his

candidacy. "As a member of the House Ways and Means Committee, she has been one of the most influential forces in Congress. She will be deeply missed by all of us."

"The most important role that I perform as a legislator is listening to the suggestions and comments of my constituents and proposing and working for legislation to meet their needs," he continued. "As a congressman, I will continue my efforts to genuinely represent the interests of all citizens - not special interest groups."

Critical of present federal government policies, Brodhead said, "One only has to look at inflation, fuel shortages, and skyrocketing prices to see the disastrous effects of current economic policies."

"As workers are laid off in increasingly large numbers, as the fixed incomes of retirees dwindle - and as new Watergate-related scandals are revealed, we see more clearly the need to put government in order and focus our attention on the needs and problems of the average citizen."

Couple fights police—wins

A Southfield couple has proved you can fight the police department and win.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bednarsh, 22105 Irvane Lane, recently were awarded a \$70,000 settlement in a lawsuit filed against the Oak Park Police Department four and one-half years ago in Oakland County Circuit Court. Mrs. Bednarsh maintains the large settlement sets a precedent in the county.

Bednarsh, a jeweler, was arrested nearly five years ago by Oak Park police for conspiracy to commit armed robbery. Charges were

dropped. Mrs. Bednarsh claimed her husband was ill when he was taken into custody and he was ignored by police officers.

The lawsuit charges Oak Park police with neglect of duty. Mrs. Bednarsh said the case was dragged out because of frequent postponements and her husband's hospitalization.

The couple was represented by Southfield attorney Jeffrey Shulman. The judgment was awarded by Oakland County Circuit Judge Farrell Roberts.

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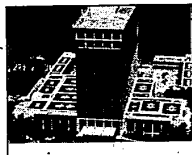
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