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# The Oakland Post

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January 11, 1988

Oakland University, Rochester, MI

## Sub-zero temperatures arrive with new semester

By BOB MC MURRAY  
Staff Writer

The coldest weather this winter put the university to its first test of the new semester.

Temperatures last week averaged 15 to 20 degrees lower than the normal 31 degrees for this time of year, according to the National Weather Service in Detroit.

Last Monday was the warmest with a midday high of 29 degrees. Temperatures dropped to a low of 3 below by Tuesday.

Calls to Public Safety for assistance with stalled cars greatly increased with the inclement weather, said Richard Leonard, director of Public Safety.

"We've had about 18 calls a day for the past few days," said Leonard. The past three months Public Safety received about five calls daily.

Leonard said it is better to call for assistance than risk injury during severe weather.

Temperatures in the residence halls were easier to cope with. West Vandenberg Hall resident Jim Westrick had no complaints. "As for the heat, the building may be a bit too warm. The cold weather has made it comfortable. Last semester there were a lot of comments about the building being warm," he said.

Westrick said he keeps the vent on his room radiator closed to regulate the heat.

"I walk to class a bit faster," he said, "and I'm glad I don't have any classes in Varner (Hall)."

Frank Draveski, director of plant operations at campus facilities, said the heating system has been adjusted for the cold weather. "Right now we're running our large boiler, nothing unusual though. With four boilers, we've got plenty of capacity," he said.

Working outside wasn't easy, but carpenter Harless Donelow, who is working on the library construction, said he doesn't mind the cold.

"It's mind over matter. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter," he said.

Workers may take a break more often in

cold weather, depending on the type of work they are doing, Donelow said.

He said there was no need to wear bulky clothes if dressed in several comfortable layers.

Carol Linington, health service coordinator at Graham Health Center, said there was one person who had an allergic reaction to the severe cold. No cases of frostbite were reported.

"We've had the normal number of people coming in with colds and sore throats," said Linington.

The Weather Service is expecting milder weather this week. Today's high is expected to be near 20 degrees, with a low of 10. Tuesday will be warmer with a high near 30.



The Oakland Post / Art Stephenson  
Asia Russell Jr. battles the cold on campus last week covered up.

## Student adjusts to new heart

By WENDY WENDLAND  
Editor in chief

Four months ago 21-year-old Matt McMahon, a business major and Van Wagoner resident, started having chest pains.

He knew he had heart problems.

Two years earlier he discovered he had an irregular heartbeat, with one in every 12 beats off.

He had a hereditary muscle problem. "Some muscle fibers are messed up but none of the doctors said muscle problems caused my heart problem," he said.

McMahon said two years before he was born a 15-year-old brother died and heart failure was suspected.

BUT FOUR MONTHS AGO all of this should have been behind him. He was on medication that was supposed to take care of everything, including chest pains.

In September he went to Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit. He was in and out for most of the month trying to juggle classes with everything else.

By October he dropped out of school and spent nearly the whole month in the hospital undergoing tests.

The test results showed he had congestive heart failure. He was told he needed a heart transplant.

"It's strange (when I was told I needed a heart transplant)... it was just like something else was going to be done medically — big deal... I really wasn't worried," said McMahon, a Royal Oak resident.

In October the former Area Hall Council member's name was put on the state list of people needing a new heart. He was fifth on the list.

MC MAHON SAID he was given a beeper and told to carry it with him at all times. When a heart was located, the hospital would call him at home, and if he wasn't there he'd be beeped.

It was Sunday evening, Nov. 2, one week after being put on the list, that McMahon received his call.

"They told me they had found a potential donor and to stay where I was," said McMahon of the conversation.

The heart was in Saginaw. One hour after his initial call he was called back and told to come to the hospital.

"It seemed like I had to wait an incredibly long time (in the hospital)," he said. "I remember them giving me a shot, and I fell asleep... I woke up a day and a half later with four IVs in me and wires all over the walls."

See HEART page 3



The Oakland Post / Eric Kurtycz

An Auburn Hills firefighter works to put out the blaze at the Kresge Library construction site Jan. 7. There were no injuries in the fire, which started when construction workers used straw instead of a propane tank in thawing the frozen equipment tracks, according to one worker.

## Fire behind library destroys construction equipment

By FLORI ROSENBERG  
Features Editor

Improper procedure in a fire meant to thaw equipment tracks on the construction site behind Kresge Library last Thursday resulted in the destruction of a backhoe, a machine used to dig trenches and lay pipes.

No one was injured in the fire, which started at 1:20 p.m. and

lasted 30 minutes, according to Public Safety.

Auburn Hills Fire Department responded to the call with one truck.

ABOUT 100 PEOPLE were evacuated from the library as a precaution, according to Janice Norton, library technician.

Robert Haskin, one of the workers at the site, said the 1979

backhoe was totalled. It is worth \$150,000 new.

Haskin said although frozen equipment tracks are a common construction problem in cold weather, a 20-pound propane tank is normally used to thaw the ground. The workers did not have a tank, he said.

See FIRE page 3

## MEA president lives education around the clock

### Government needs to redo priorities, trustee says

Editor's note: This is the seventh in a series of articles profiling the university's eight board of trustees members.

By CATHERINE KAZA  
News Editor

Unlike other board members, Larry Chunovich has had a direct link with higher education for more than 20 years.

The president of the Michigan Education Association since 1983, he said he works 14 to 16 hour days six or seven days a week. Several of them are spent traveling to other schools across the state, visiting faculty and administration.

Chunovich estimates that he has personally met 60,000 of MEA's 103,000 members.

CHUNOVICH, 45, became a trustee last year. Born in Detroit, he attended Central Michigan and Wayne State Universities.

After becoming MEA president, Chunovich took a leave of absence from Southfield Schools, where he was a math teacher for 19 years.

MEA represents classroom teachers and school employees at 19 community colleges and 6 four-year institutions. These include Central Michigan University, Saginaw Valley State University, Lake Superior State University, the University of Detroit, Ferris State University and the administrative-professionals at Michigan State University.

The American Association of University Professors represents Oakland.

MEA IS BOTH a union and professional association. The group recently celebrated its 135th anniversary, although it was not until 1965 that MEA became a union, according to Chunovich. "Sometimes it is a

fine line" between being a union and professional association, he said.

Since becoming MEA's president, Chunovich has worked to strengthen the organization's communication and political involvement. It is important MEA become more politically involved, he said.

He has added political action committee staff to lobby for MEA. "Now that you've got something to hold your feet to the fire," local people can be more effective, he said.

WITHOUT MORE MONEY from the government, though, lobbying won't be enough. The government has to "redo priorities," Chunovich said.

The mission of the Reagan administration has been to "dismantle the department of education," according to Chunovich. While defense spending has increased dramatically,

## College dean accepts job in California

By CATHERINE KAZA  
News Editor

Brian Copenhaver is leaving the university at the end of July after seven years as dean of the college of arts and sciences.

Copenhaver is joining the University of California at Riverside as dean of the college of humanities and social sciences.

"I leave Oakland with very mixed feelings," said Copenhaver.

He said his decision to leave "isn't about Oakland as an organization," but about his career as an administrator and historian. "It's an excellent university—and it's California," he said, noting that Riverside has doctoral programs in every department.

RIVERSIDE ALSO has the "same number of faculty, half the students and twice the budget," he said.

Faculty and administrators generally expressed disappointment about Copenhaver's departure. Faculty were informed of the move by a memo he sent at the end of December.

"I was surprised," said Richard Brooks, associate philosophy professor. "I thought he'd be around longer." Brooks has taught at the university for more than 22 years.

Peter Bertocci, anthropology professor, said that "humanities benefited a great deal from his (Copenhaver's) tenure. He said Copenhaver's leaving was "good for him, bad for us."

"I'll be sorry to lose him," said

Provost Keith Kleckner.

He said a search committee for a new dean, consisting of 8-12 faculty members, most from the College of Arts and Sciences, will be appointed within the next few days.

An acting dean will also be appointed, within the next few weeks, Kleckner said.

The national search will take at least a year. Kleckner said there would probably be anywhere from 40-80 candidates for the position. After the search committee evaluates credentials, five to six candidates come to the campus for interviews. The field is then narrowed to 3.

THE COMMITTEE will make a recommendation to Kleckner, who then will discuss it with the president. The final decision is made by the board of trustees.

The search committee does not look for an administrator in a certain field, but rather someone who has a "broad vision," Kleckner said.

"Discipline is not a primary factor" in the selection, he said. Brooks said the college "needs a dean that will stand up" for the humanities.

DURING HIS TERM, Copenhaver said the main accomplishments of the college have been centralizing academic values, creating general education requirements, developing a planning process and building stronger relationships with local industries.

See DEAN page 3



The Oakland Post / Art Stephenson

Board member Larry Chunovich has been the president of the Michigan Education Association since 1983.

money for education has diminished during Reagan's tenure, he said. "We feel an attack on education."

Chunovich called Bennett's recent "back-to-basics" proposal for high schoolers an "elitist pro-

gram." THE PROPOSAL requirements include four years of literature; three years of social studies, math and science and two years of a foreign language.

See CHUNOVICH page 3



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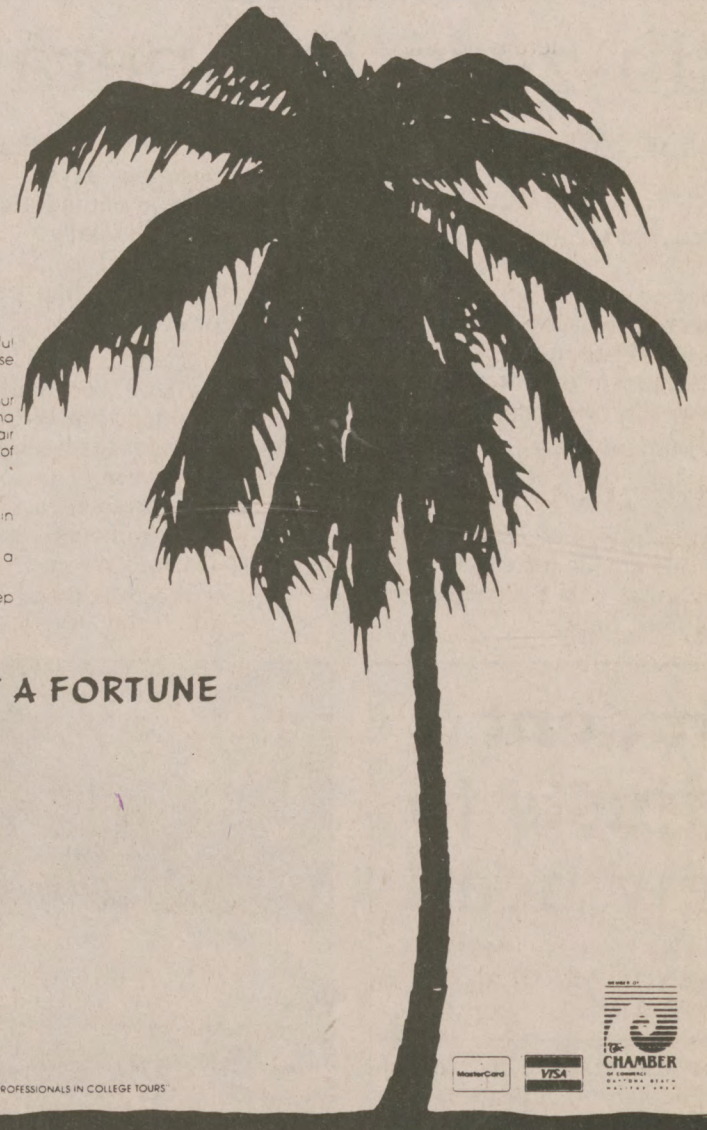
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