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25 cents

Campus to get new gateway

Face-lift means SFH Fishbowl, canopy are history

BY ANN ZANIEWSKI
EDITOR IN CHIEF

South Foundation Hall's signature student lounge, known as the Fishbowl, and the canopy linking the North and South Foundation halls will be removed in order to make the soon to be renovated Oakland Center a more visible, pronounced campus gateway.

The project, which adds an additional \$350,000 to the \$8 million OC expansion budget, was approved by the Board of Trustees at its Oct. 2 meeting.

"The Fishbowl is old, it was built a

long time ago, and it looks like an early 60s bus station," said Rusty Postlewaite, Associate Vice President of Facilities Management. "It's probably a good idea to get rid of that (the canopy) because it's pretty unsightly."

Postlewaite said the Fishbowl will eventually be replaced by a vestibule about half its size, but work on the project will not begin until late spring or early summer when there are fewer students taking classes.

Although the canopy and Fishbowl removal will not begin for another few months, fences will be set up today to

block travel between the OC's southwest entrance and the foundation halls.

"I asked a lot of students for their opinions, and students seem to be for it (Fishbowl removal) because we are getting a new one," said Student Liaison to the BOT Rhonda Hanna, junior. "With the canopy removed, it will be much more aesthetically pleasing."

Other students, including senior David Pilarski, are not as optimistic about the construction.

"That's kind of disappointing they're taking it away. It's the only safe haven for students when they're smoking," he

said.

Junior Leanne Domsic walks from NFH to SFH three times a week, and she agreed that the canopy provides a welcome shelter from unpredictable Michigan weather.

"I like it (the canopy) because you can go from one building to the next in the rain," she said. "I don't think they should make any changes ... it's nice because you don't have to walk into class looking like a snowman or completely drenched."

Domsic said one of her concerns is that the construction may impact the amount

of time it will take students to navigate through one of the school's busiest areas.

"There's gonna be big time traffic," she said. "You're gonna find a lot of students late."

The OC expansion includes the addition of a 400-set dining area, 24-hour cyber café and large multi-purpose room. A ground breaking ceremony will be held this Friday at 4:30 p.m., and the addition is scheduled to open by fall, 2003.

A rockin' good time



Dan McDuffee/The Oakland Post

The band Jive Dharma performs during lunch time yesterday between North Foundation Hall and the OC. The Financial Management Association sponsored the event.

OU loses popular teacher, mentor

Rhetoric professor's presence described as 'irreplaceable'

BY JENNIFER J. DECKER
& ANN ZANIEWSKI
THE OAKLAND POST

When Dr. Wilma Garcia first came to OU 26 years ago, she immediately developed a reputation as a student advocate and selfless leader. Her passion for helping students succeed was so strong it eventually became her trademark.

A professor emerita of Rhetoric, Dr. Garcia died last Thursday, Oct. 3 in Detroit Receiving Hospital from complications from abdominal surgery. She was 69.

Dr. Garcia began teaching at the university in 1976 and served as a special lecturer until 1986 when she was promoted to Associate Professor of Rhetoric. She also taught classes in English and women's studies. She was instrumental in developing the writing program at the Academic Skills Center, where she remained even after her term as Rhetoric program liaison ended.

"She helped train writers and worked with us to make sure the kind of training we provided was appropriate for the course," said Academic Skills Center Director Lynn Hockenberger. "Even when she wasn't being compensated, she was always very involved."

In addition, Dr. Garcia was an instructor for Project Upward Bound, a Learning Skills writing tutor and an active participant in the University Senate, Human Relations Committee and the Non-Traditional Students Association.

"She was very proud," said Dr. Garcia's daughter, Marta Garcia-Carr. "She loved working at OU. She adored working with students. She was an open book and wouldn't keep a secret. She was about pur-



Courtesy of the Garcia family

Dr. Wilma Garcia

suing dreams."

Divorced in 1969, Dr. Garcia went on welfare to support her eight children. As a single parent and non-traditional student, she earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in English at OU. She later earned her Ph.D. in English from Wayne State.

Despite a busy schedule, Garcia never lost sight of her goals.

"One thing that tickled us is she always got As," said Garcia-Carr.

Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Virinder Moudgil said Dr. Garcia had interests in folklore and 1930s popular music. He noted her readings in American literature were broad and deep, and she was an African-American literature, science fiction and mythology expert.

"Wilma was famous for her mesmerizing teaching style and her ability to create an instant rapport with students or any other

Please see GARCIA on A2

Wordsmiths to hold two-day conference

BY DAN AGAUS
SPECIAL TO THE OAKLAND POST

Writers' block is a frustration that many students experience. On Oct. 18-19, however, students may get the chance to smash through.

OU will be holding the 41st Annual Writers' Conference next Friday and Saturday. The conference will take place in the OC and adjacent buildings and will be sponsored by the College of Arts and Sciences and

Detroit Women Writers (DWW).

According to Conference Director Gloria Boddy, who has been the director for the last five years and indirectly involved for 20 years, the conference will have plenty of activities.

During the two days, there will be 11 different workshops, eight categories for professional manuscript readings and a choice of 32 presentations covering all aspects of writing and genres.

Leading the workshops and deliver-

ing the presentations are agents, editors and professional writers, who will focus on the practicality of publishing.

"They will put more emphasis on a real world and business aspect of writing," Boddy said. "Agents and editors will come in and show what it takes to get published."

DWW members will also be active leaders at the conference. The organization consists of professional writers, both men and women, who encourage

Please see CONFERENCE on A2

Quorum, momentum lost during OUSC meeting

BY GAYLE ISSA
MANAGING EDITOR

Lack of a quorum ended discussion during the Oct. 7 OU Student Congress meeting. The legitimacy of the discussion that was in progress when the quorum was lost is being contested.

Several legislators were absent from the Oct. 7 meeting. Momentum gradually diminished as other legislators departed early, dropping the number of present and voting legislators to under the 50 percent plus one majority needed to conduct business.

Director for the Center for Student Activities and Leadership Development Jean Ann Miller said, "There are individuals who are cut and dry and want things dealt with

quickly," in reference to the legislators who made motions to end discussions.

"Maybe the meeting wasn't as passionate or as focused so people decided to leave. The honeymoon period is over. We're getting more into the meat of the academics and closer to tests and papers. There may be frustration in terms of topics talked about or how they are talked about."

Miller said that possibly a reason a quorum was not maintained was because Vice President Michelle Jamian, senior, was absent. Jamian conducts the meetings but in her absence that responsibility fell on newly appointed steering chair Jenn Evans, senior.

Legislator Zvonko Blazevski, senior, said, "I think it looks bad for Student Congress that we were unable to

maintain quorum in the middle of fall semester. I think the legislators have a commitment to be on Congress and that means staying until the meeting is done."

He said that legislators who left early without valid reasons such as a 6:30 p.m. class were "irresponsible." The meeting ended at 5:45 p.m.

OUSC President Brian Tomina, senior, said he was not concerned about the outcome of the meeting. He added it was too long and members of Congress have other responsibilities.

When Legislator Michael Ginger, junior, left he was the only one questioned by the president. Tomina said he wanted to ensure Ginger was "practicing what he preaches" because he is a veteran who is concerned with

Please see OUSC on A4

BY ANN ZANIEWSKI
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Meadow Brook Hall suffered significant financial losses during the 2001/2002 fiscal year, ending the period \$571,095 in the red.

Vice President for Finance and Administration Lynne Schaefer said each auxiliary has a reserve fund, and MBH's deficit was covered by its own reserve.

"It didn't effect anyone else but us," MBH Interim Director Sally Victor stressed to *The Oakland Post*.

Victor presented MBH's budget and budget projections at the Oct. 2 Board of Trustees meeting. Along with the approval of the Hall's 2002/2003 projected budget and conditional 2003/2004 and 2004/2005 budgets, the Board moved to give MBH a \$315,000 loan to be paid back at a 5 percent interest rate over a two-year period.

The loan will help cover the cost of hiring additional personnel, the purchase of more tables and chairs and facility upgrades.

The university's nine other auxiliaries that closed their books at the end of June presented their budgets to the board in

September.

Victor attributed the loss to a reduction in the number of Christmas parties booked at the Hall last year.

"We had a lot of cancellations after Sept. 11," she said. "Last year, an incredible amount of corporations cancelled their Christmas parties and donated their money to the Sept. 11 Fund."

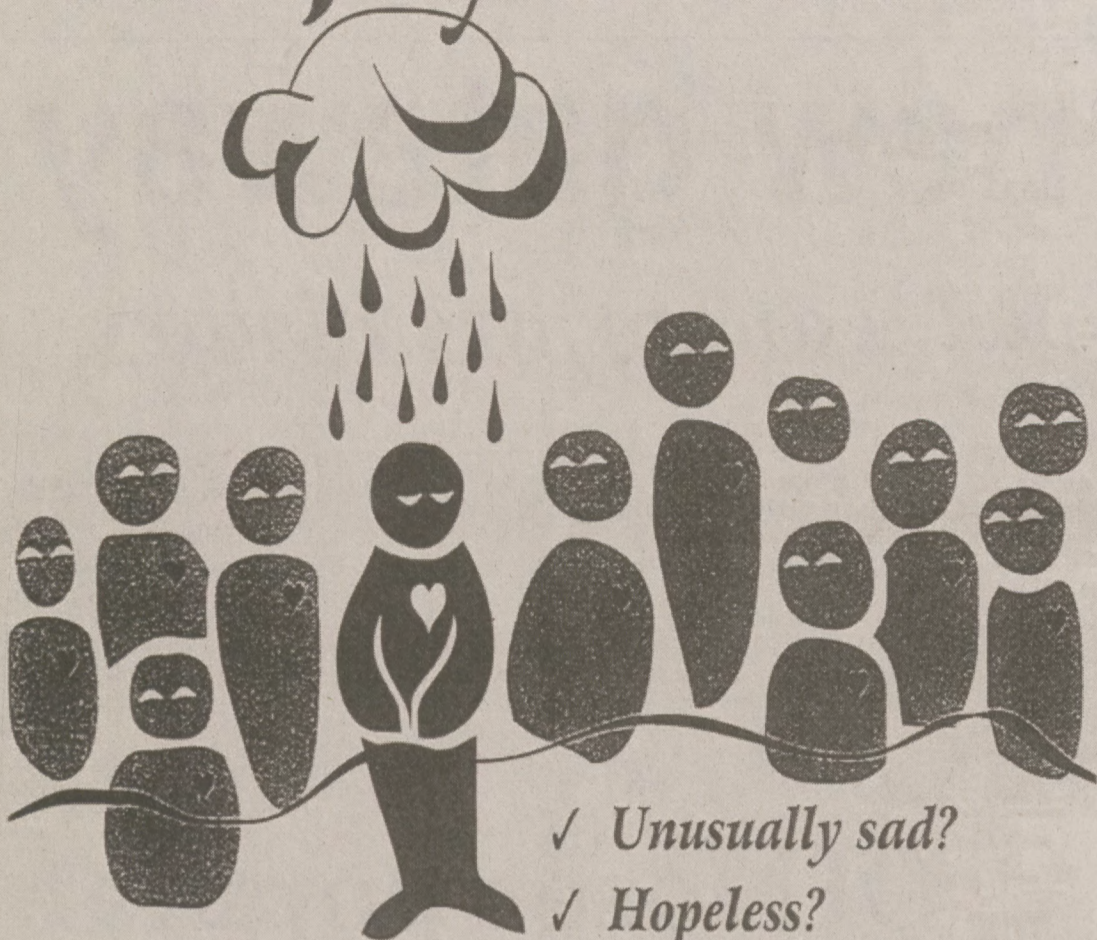
Victor outlined some of the hall's plans to recover from its deficit.

"We are hiring a half-time development officer ... purely dedicated to contributed income for Meadow Brook Hall ... (they're going to be) aggressively going after funds for a facility like ours," she said at the BOT meeting.

She added that an aggressive niche marketing plan is in place to target corporate business customers, weddings, group tours and schools groups. While prices for facility rental have not changed for OU community members, corporate pricing has increased.

Assistant News Editor Jennifer J. Decker contributed to this article.

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GARCIA

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group of people," Moudgil said. "Wilma will be missed by her colleagues and an army of alumni who came under her spell."

"She will be remembered as a role model for academic achievement and the art of teaching. She meant courage, determination, knowledge and will power to most who knew her and left an everlasting impression of deep-rooted professionalism," he said.

Dr. Garcia's colleagues described her as being down-to-earth, witty and deeply caring.

"She was just an irreplaceable presence," Professor of English Robert Eberwein said. "To be in her presence and see her with students, you could feel the love and vice versa. There was nobody like her."

Rhetoric, Communication and Journalism administrative secretary Carolyn Stevens remembers Dr. Garcia's dry sense of humor

and her ability to touch people in a special way.

"Wilma and I were very close," Stevens said. "My husband's not healthy and she said, 'Don't worry, I got the best prayer group going.' She always said, 'You're a good person.' What you saw is what you got from Wilma. She taught because she loved it."

Assistant Professor of English Gladys Cardiff said Dr. Garcia made an impression on her even before they met.

"When I first came here three years ago as a visiting professor to teach ethnic literature and other subjects, I already had something waiting in my mailbox," Cardiff said. "It was an ethnic anthology, a welcome and offer to look at her (past) syllabi. It was such an act of generosity. When I did finally meet her, it was like we were friends."

Alumna Sarah Lewis had Dr.

Garcia's RHT 320 class in 1999. "She always gave her unconditional love and believed in everyone. She taught students others couldn't get to," she said. "She's going to be missed."

Dr. Garcia is survived by her eight children, Lorraine, Sally Anne, Catherine, John, Marta, Joseph, Rachel and William, 18 grandchildren and one great grandchild.

A memorial service was held Monday in Troy. An on campus memorial is planned for later this month by the Department of Rhetoric, Communication and Journalism.

Memorial donations can be sent to Senior Programs Community Services of Oakland, 345 E. Nine Mile, Ferndale, MI 48820.

Assistant Sports Editor Randy Dudek contributed to this article.

CONFERENCE

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creative writing throughout the community, said DWW President Cathleen Hagan.

Hagan testifies to the importance of DWW at the conference.

"Definitely the number one reason (to attend the conference) is that when we did the statistics, we learned that more published writers come to the conference than non-published," Hagan said. "It's a great opportunity to hook up with other people."

OU writers may also hope to hook up with Marge Piercy, who will be the keynote speaker.

Piercy is a Detroit native who has published 35 books and is the recipient of several honorary Doctor of letters degrees.

According to English Department Chairperson Bruce Mann, she will also be doing a public reading at 4 p.m. Oct. 18 in the OC. The event is sponsored by the English Department.

Junior Darlene Stark is one student who plans to attend the conference. She is looking for support and ideas from other writers.

"I want to hear what other people are doing," Stark said. "What works, what doesn't? What gets published, what doesn't? I want to learn new kinds of writing."

Writing and Reading Assistance Program (WRAP) Liaison Sarah Lewis has attended many different writing conferences. She likes to seek out an unfamiliar author at each one to help her discover new books to read.

"The biggest thing (a conference can provide) is emotional support and knowing someone who is published goes through the writers' block, uncertainty and rejection," Lewis said. "It really helps knowing people experience those things and

think the way you do."

Whether a WRAP Liaison, a professional writer or a novice, this conference is open to anyone.

Hagan said that in a past conference she had noticed a woman who had barely started to write in a journal.

"There is something for anyone," Boddy said. "From the beginner just getting started to the near professional looking for a way to redirect his work. This is the best regional writing conference around."

Students can register at www.oakland.edu/contin-ed/writersconf/. The deadline is Oct. 11. The cost of the Friday one-day retreat and Saturday's conference is \$95 each. Lunch can be purchased Saturday for an additional \$10. Friday's hands-on writing workshop is \$55.

The Oakland Post is looking for student representatives to serve on its board of directors. For more information, email briggsbu@oakland.edu

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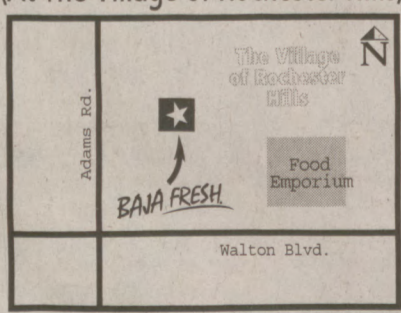
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