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PAVING TO BEGIN ON LOT "E"; NORTH "RING" ROAD MAY BE COMING

Paving, lighting and curbing projects on parking lot "E" north of Cardinal gymnasium are set to begin this week, and SVSC officials hope the project can be completed by the start of fall semester classes in September. There will be space for 484 cars on the lot when completed. Four large grass covered "islands" will be added, along with a number of deciduous trees to break up the large area covered by the lot. Underground storm sewers are already in place, and gravel which will be under the paving has been firmly packed by cars using the lot in previous years.

Saginaw Asphalt Paving Company is contractor for the project and will also construct an 8-foot-wide walk the full length of the south and west sides, as well as along part of the east end. MacMillan Electric of Saginaw will install lighting towers for the project, the electrical portion of which had earlier been awarded to Delta Electric if they could obtain a performance bond. Because Delta Electric was unsuccessful in doing so, the job went to MacMillan as second lowest bidder. Total cost for the paving, curbing and lighting is estimated to be $160,000, with paving bid of $107,500 and lighting, $52,500.

Meanwhile, a state highway department survey crew has been on campus in recent weeks to determine the location for a new north "ring" road which will connect West and East College Drives. Director of engineering services Robert Hanes says he is hopeful bids can be taken for the project early this fall and feels that construction could begin late this year if a satisfactory price is obtained.

The new road will be 24 feet wide, with an asphalt roadway and concrete curbing. One major problem is drainage on the north side of campus, which will require storm sewers to empty both to the west and east from the project.

State highway officials have been careful to stay clear of large trees in their planning, and the road will be located well to the north of Owsley Grove. Plans are to have the roadway loop to the north as it extends from West College Drive, leaving room for a future parking lot north of Wickes Hall at the present site of Wickes Annex. It will take a jog back to the south at the approximate west end of parking lot "D" and will then connect with East College Drive.

To connect the new road with Wickes Circle and parking lot "C," a section of road will be cut west of Fox Drive through the pine bosque approximately parallel with the south end of Wickes Hall. This road will then gradually curve to the north, connecting via a "T" intersection with the extension of College Drive.

"The new road will open up a whole area of the campus most people have never seen," both Hanes and president Jack M. Ryder said. "It will allow much more direct access from Bay Road or Davis Road than at present, thus reducing the amount of traffic on Pierce Road." Stakes designating the center line of the new road are already in place. The scenic route for the project is well worth a leisurely noon walk, but wear old shoes and socks to cope
with sharp edges of brush stalks which have recently been cut by the surveying crew.

HOUSING SOUGHT FOR OVERFLOW

Locating housing accommodations for 64 students still on a fall semester waiting list for residence hall rooms is the $64 question faced by SVSC officials. Dormitories are filled to capacity again this year, with additional housing requests that cannot be met by on-campus facilities.

Administrators are attempting to assist in locating nearby off-campus rooms, apartments or other suitable lodging. According to Denise Ottinger, coordinator of residential life, community response to last year's housing need has given a head start on solving the shortage this year.

"We have contacted all people who helped us last year by renting space to our students, and many are planning to assist again," she says. "They have also given us leads on additional sources."

SVSC has 496 total units in its residence halls. Of these, 479 are open for student housing requests, 9 are used by SVSC advisors and office staff, and the remaining 8 units are reserved for students with special needs. College policy limits housing assignments to 240 returning students, or approximately 50 percent of available space.

Ottinger notes that 580 housing contract requests were received by the June 12 cutoff date. Since then 32 contract releases have been granted, most to returning students who have secured other housing. Four hundred eighty-two units have been assigned, and 64 students placed on a waiting list for vacancies either on or off campus.

Thirty-seven men are included on the list, and 27 women seek living space. Ottinger hopes to find accommodations within an eight mile radius of SVSC's campus. Homes which can provide one or two meals per day are preferred, but the college offers 15 and 21 meals per week plans to students desiring campus food service.

Persons with information about off-campus housing for students are asked to contact the residential life office at ext. 4255.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE GIVES INSIGHT ON CAMPUS ISSUES

As a means of providing answers to your questions and further details on matters of interest to the general college community, the Administrative Executive Committee has expressed a willingness to discuss current issues with "Interior" readers on a regular basis. You're encouraged to submit questions to the office of information services by phone or in writing by Tuesday noon of the Wednesday preceding each "Interior" publication date. Thus questions received by Tuesday noon, July 21, will be submitted to the Executive Committee meeting on Wednesday, July 22. Those with the greatest general interest will be printed in our July 28 issue. Questions received this time include:

1) Is the 1981-82 SVSC budget really $600,000-$800,000 out of balance? Requests from vice presidents and others within the college have been compiled and analyzed against revenues expected for this fiscal year. While requests exceed revenues by more than $600,000, all requests are not granted. Work is still continuing on the budget and until it is completed, there is no balance or imbalance. Present plans are to have a final budget ready for presentation to the Board of Control at its Monday, August 10, meeting. At the present time, staff layoffs are not being contemplated in the next fiscal year.

2) Will salary adjustments for 1981-82 for the Administrative-Professional group mirror what has been agreed to with the Faculty Association? Has there, in effect, been a policy established for pay raises to this group over the next three years, in light of the faculty agreement? The contract with the Faculty Association represents a commitment for the next three years. Salary adjustments for the Administrative-Professional group are adjusted yearly, and a greater flexibility exists, based on available dollars and assessments of job performances. The percentage of increase paid from one year to the next may not be the same as the faculty's for any particular administrator or for the administrative group in whole. But over a period of years, the fluctuations will balance out. The dollars available for salaries will be distributed equitably to all groups of employees over an extended period of time.

3) What has happened, in light of the state's
economic difficulty, to the Instructional Facility No. 2 project? Nothing has been said lately about it and fairly permanent things like the deck in front of Wickes Annex have been constructed. Does this mean IF 2 is a goner? Despite the state's reduced income levels, the department of management and budget is proceeding on a number of projects already in process, such as the U of M hospital and Grand Valley's field house. Projects of that type have the highest priority for state funding as they are already being built. A second group of projects, including SVSC's IF 2, has been given the next level of priority. We are now at the final planning stage and are seeking $169,000 for preliminary drawings. Schematic drawings have been completed but are yet to be accepted by the Joint Capital Outlay Committee. There are approximately 20 projects in groups 1 and 2. A third group, numbering about 40, has a priority lower than that of IF 2.

4) Has there been an executive order sent from Lansing to reduce our present state appropriation, or is one expected early this fall? If so, how will this affect departmental budgets? At this point there has not been an executive order issued. State officials are waiting to see if Michigan's economy improves and brings a corresponding increase in revenues. The situation will remain tenuous until at least next April or May.

5) Why did it take so long last Thursday for a decision on whether to close the college early due to the power outage? Physical plant people were on campus throughout the night and had felt at the beginning of the workday that a good possibility existed for having the power back on by noon. As the day went on and more time was required to pump out the underground tunnel south of Pioneer Hall where the difficulty occurred, the time was adjusted to later in the day several times. A decision to cease operations for the day was made when it became evident that the lights would not be back on by the end of the workday. A chain of command exists within the Executive Committee to make decisions of this type, even when president Ryder or other college officials are away from the campus.

6) Why was such an elaborate "deck" constructed in front of Wickes Annex? The deck was build outside SVSC's admissions office (and future financial aid office) because that doorway is the public entrance to our admissions office and our administration building. The deck project, which has been planned all along as part of the addition to Wickes Annex, was built to create a good public image to people coming to campus for the first time and making their initial contact with SVSC through the admissions office.

7) With Christmas falling on Friday, December 25, this year, will the college be closed on the 24th and 25th and the 31st and 1st, or will it be closed from the 28th through the 1st, inclusive? This decision will be made by the Board of Control at its August meeting.

INSTALLATION UNDER WAY ON NEW COMPUTER

SVSC's new Prime 550 Model IL computer has become a reality! Installation work has been progressing since its July 1 arrival. The computer's processing unit has a memory storage capacity ten times greater than the present digital scientific Mega IV machine it replaces.

Because it can support up to 64 communication lines, the new computer will enable direct access systems to be developed across the campus for administrative and instructional uses.

BUS ROUTE CONSIDERED BETWEEN MIDLAND, CAMPUS

Because of the large number of Midland area residents who are employees or students of SVSC, consideration is being given to the possibility of establishing a bus route from Midland to the college. Whether or not the idea is feasible will depend on how many people make a commitment to participate.

Coordinating the possible project is Mrs. Cindy Conway, administrative secretary for the school of science, engineering and technology, who can be reached for details at ext. 4144.

To prove her "case" to area bus companies, she needs to know: a) How many people are interested, b) What time bracket(s) would be convenient for the trip, c) Taking into account both your cost for gas and wear and tear on your car at present, what would you
consider a reasonable price for bus service, and d) Should such a system operate throughout the year or just during fall and winter semesters?

Consideration is also being given to possible inclusion of residents from the Freeland area, as a stop could be made there en route.

PLEASE CHECK YOUR DIRECTORY INFORMATION!

Work is proceeding on the 1981-82 SVSC Faculty/Staff Directory, which will be going to press very shortly to permit early fall distribution. This year the names, titles or classifications, campus addresses and telephone numbers of all employees will be included. To make the directory more usable, your home address, telephone number and name of spouse (if applicable) will also appear this year, unless you inform information services not to do so in writing by July 31.

Please check your current listing in the directory. If your title, address or any other information has changed during this past year, we would appreciate having you contact information services now at ext. 4054. If you want us to delete your home information, make certain your written instructions reach us by the 31st. Please remember that deletions must be requested each year and do not carry over from one year to the next.

MEDIATOR SOUGHT IN CLERICAL/SECRETARY NEGOTIATIONS

A state-assigned mediator has been requested to intervene in the current contract negotiations between SVSC's secretarial/clerical union and the administration, because a number of unresolved language issues remain and the two sides have not been able to come to terms on hourly wage rates for either the 1980-81 or 1981-82 fiscal years.

Once on the scene, the mediator will meet separately with both sides and will then propose settlement terms which would not be binding on either.

Meanwhile, president Jack M. Ryder sent a letter to full-time administrative/professional staff members, service maintenance staff and public safety officers last week which explains that he expects the Board of Control to adopt an operating budget for the 1981-82 fiscal year at its August meeting. "Because of the uncertainty surrounding potential cuts in our legislative appropriation, we have not been in a position to finalize budgets or make salary adjustments as yet," the letter stated. "Salaries will remain at the 1980-81 level until the new budget is adopted. When approved, salary adjustments will be retroactive to July 1. We appreciate your patience in this matter and assure you that action will be taken as soon as possible," he said.

Ryder also indicated that health insurance premiums have increased by more than 20 percent effective July 1. As a result, he has authorized increases in the monthly health insurance 'caps' to cover the entire cost of single subscriber, two-person or full family coverage for each employee participating in those plans.

SVSC GETS ANOTHER PETERSON, MITCHELL

As SVSC continues to grow in size, the campus is encountering an increasing number of name similarities. In addition to Drs. Eric Petersen and Harold "Hal" Peterson, Dr. Gerald L. Peterson is joining the faculty as an associate professor of psychology. Meanwhile, as mentioned previously, Dr. Jon C. Mitchell will be serving as an assistant professor of music during the 1981-82 school year. So don't just send that intercampus letter to "Dr. J. Mitchell," as the mailroom won't know whether you mean Jon or dean of business and management Dr. James L. Mitchell.

PERSONNEL

ASSISTANT HEAD RESIDENT - Part-time, permanent (replacement). Pay includes room, board and tuition. Prefer some residence hall or counseling experience. Special posting made by personnel office, July 2, 1981.

SENIOR SECRETARY - RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS. Full-time, permanent. (Replacement) $4.05 per hr.

These positions will be open to members of the campus community for one week. Interested persons should contact the personnel office at ext. 4108.

SVSC is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer and is non-discriminatory in its policies and practices.