

For Saginaw Valley State College Employees.
Published by the Office of Information Services.
Call 790-4054 with news items.

FEBRUARY 16, 1982

IN THIS ISSUE...

- ...President Optimistic About Cuts
- ...Michigan Filmmakers Series Readied
- ...Tax Law Changes to be Explored

RYDER LISTS CHALLENGES, ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN "STATE OF THE COLLEGE" TALK

Saying that Governor Milliken's proposal to delay SVSC's July-September state appropriation check "could be a lot worse," president Jack M. Ryder told the college community Friday that he is optimistic about SVSC's future. Although the delay, if implemented, would cost us about \$60,000 in lost interest earnings over the time involved, the president pointed out that Milliken could have implemented another three percent or \$221,000 cut or more without a promise to give the money back.

"The governor's position is that higher education has taken the brunt of past cuts and next year there should be a higher budget. Thus he is recommending to the legislature an average 11.5 percent increase next year and 11.7 percent for us. I'd rather be cut from an 11.7 percent increase than to lose three percent from our present allocation," he noted.

The president predicted a strong likelihood that we will get the delayed money back while losing some interest income and also said he wouldn't be surprised if the legislature adds one to two percent more for SVSC than Milliken has recommended. However, he felt the 11 to 13 percent appropriation increase will not hold and that a final outcome of five to ten percent more would be likely. Hence, SVSC will not plan the full 11.7 percent increase in the budget, "but if the economy turns around, we could get the full amount back."

After a three percent cut in September 1981 lopped off \$190,000 from SVSC's allocation

at the end of the state's fiscal year, another three percent executive order in early October took another \$221,000. "We took the position internally that there might be an additional three percent cut, and that's why the Board of Control agreed to authorize a planned deficit of up to \$255,000 for a short period of time," Ryder noted. "Part of this deficit was to cover the October executive order, with part for the expected second cut which the Governor has now replaced with his plan to delay our fourth quarter payment at the end of the current state fiscal year." He indicated the college will make every effort to control and hold back on expenditures to minimize the amount of deficit but assured his audience that SVSC will be able to continue issuing paychecks normally and that no layoffs or other staff cutbacks will need to happen.

While fiscal constraints force us to look at priorities and prepare us to make the good times coming ahead even more productive, Ryder noted that significant accomplishments have been made during the past year. These include:

1. A one percent enrollment increase last fall and again this winter, marking the 17th straight year that winter enrollment has set a record.
2. Development of the Valley Library Consortium has been completed very recently, so that it will be possible in the future for all libraries in the Valley to put their resources into the computer here on campus for availability to others.
3. Important progress has been made in the development of the Business and Industrial Development Institute. A May 14-15 entrepreneurial forum, the first to be initiated by a college, will be held here. A large windmill currently under construction behind the public safety building will use wind energy for production of

nitrogen fertilizer and is being developed under a federal department of energy grant.

4. SVSC's writing laboratory, operating under the aegis of the English faculty and supported by the SVSC Foundation, is assisting students to improve language skills.

5. The Prime 550 computer is now operational and the college plans to enhance computing efforts further through a major upgrading in educational computing during the next stage.

6. The college has enjoyed an expanded international dimension. Four students are coming here from Shikoku Women's University next summer and we will be sending at least three there. An exchange faculty member is also expected in economics this fall from Kyung Hee University of Korea.

7. Programs in music have displayed exceptional quality and participation. Outstanding performances have led to increased attendance.

8. Student government is functioning well and the campus activities program has been expanded. Our athletic teams have been competitive and are compiling outstanding records. Both the men's and women's basketball teams have a very good chance of going on to the NAIA national tournaments.

9. The state recently approved SVSC's preliminary plans for Instructional Facility #2 and authorized the planning process to move ahead with contributed funds. This positive step will enable us to move up in priority when state building funds again become available.

10. The state highway department expects to complete the north ring road connecting east and west college drives this summer and will be taking bids this spring.

11. The Strosacker Foundation recently contributed \$275,000 in Dow stock to support the continued maintenance and development of Pioneer Hall of engineering and technology.

12. The annual fund recorded a 23 percent increase despite Michigan's very bad economy this past year. Contributions rose from \$95,000 to \$113,000; just five years ago, there was no annual fund at all. Total contributions to the foundation were \$878,000, including a major gift to the fine arts building project which now has accumulated \$750,000 in gifts.

13. Through foundation support, faculty research and development grants were increased

from \$10,000 to \$16,000 with no change anticipated this year.

14. A comprehensive Affirmative Action plan has been reviewed by the administration and expected to be considered by the Board of Control in March.

15. Up to this point, the budget has been in balance and there have been no layoffs of faculty, staff or administration due to economic constraints. Salary and benefits increased substantially in all sectors this year. Prudent planning and budgeting since 1978 has led to our present positive position.

16. We're now in the second year of our long-range planning process which has been very revealing and very positive regarding the making of decisions. All college units are being included this year.

17. In outlining our planning assumptions for 1982-83, we weren't optimistic and while we have thought a lot about factors like retrenchment, we are not putting anything down on paper. "It is not wise to publicly deal with possible things that may never happen," he suggested. "It would destroy your confidence in being here if you were told your department was the first to go. It's not necessary, desirable, logical or reasonable for this institution where it is located to make cutbacks. SVSC is critical to the economic development of the Saginaw Valley and don't let anyone say it's not."

Among challenges ahead, Ryder said he is "fed up" with hearing politicians making "stupid comments" about closing this or other state colleges. "I won't sit back and take those irresponsible statements anymore. This area has to have this institution and the college is more important than any of us," he felt.

Another challenge is to continue to strive for a modest enrollment increase. Ryder said he is assuming a tuition and fees hike in the area of 10 percent for this fall. Because public colleges are coming close to pricing themselves out of the market, SVSC is establishing a deferred tuition payment plan this fall. Because we don't have adequate administrative resources, a private firm will be used for this purpose. The plan, which allows students to defray costs over a longer period of time, will cost them about \$40 each.

Another challenge is the March 25-27 North Central Association focus visit. "I can't

tell you how important this visit is at this time. We should put our best foot forward but not do anything dishonest. We are making progress and are actually requesting an additional two years to be added to the accreditation process," Ryder said.

Another challenge is to conserve energy for cost savings purposes. A number of suggestions have already been placed into effect and employees should make every effort to save where ever possible. Along with this, Ryder urged the campus to consider means of increasing productivity over a short period of time. "The underlying philosophy in this institution is to maintain and hold on to our existing faculty and staff as much as possible through this period. We're not as well developed in services areas as most other colleges, so we don't have the luxury of being able to cut things. Possibly we can live better than other schools because we had enough trauma with our layoffs of 1978. It's important that we hold on to our good people."

Ryder said a recent decision by the foundation board to add a prospect researcher and a secretary will help us meet the challenge of increased activity in fund raising. "This is the time to be ready so that when the economy comes around, we can tap in resources and keep moving forward," he felt.

Ryder also considers it very important to maintain the quality of our programs and efforts. "I've never heard a good thing about big classes. They're not positive for the students. We should do those things which continue to maintain quality, provided they are also cost effective." He noted that the general education curriculum committee is still working and he hopes to receive their recommendations in March. In addition, planning for the construction of apartments is proceeding ahead and the developers are presently searching out financing.

The biggest challenge, according to Ryder, is to change the Reagan approach to financial aid for students. Pell grants are expected to drop by 40 percent this next year, coupled with a 30 percent decline in the college work-study program. Plans are to eliminate the SEOG program and state incentive grants, along with the federal student loan program. "It appears the president's objective is to reduce college enrollments around the nation, or at least he feels that states should be

able to pick up aid programs overnight at the same time the economy is low and students can't find jobs." He warned against decreasing access of students to higher education and urged that support be increased rather than cut. Here in Michigan, he suggested that there should be no cuts in public higher education when the state is spending \$37 million on private education.

In a question-answer session which followed, Ryder warned that cuts to higher education represent a move in the wrong direction to solve economic problems. "Even if we have a strong military, we will lose the economic war if we exclude higher education as a priority," he said. SVSC has an important relationship to the economic development of the area, including spending \$12 million a year in income from students and state support on salaries and services. Involvement by members of the college community in the life of the area around us is important to what's happening here culturally. "Studies have shown that colleges have a very important economic impact on the area they serve. While we've been held up by a lack of facilities and two major economic downturns, we've grown and will continue to do so. SVSC will be here when we all die and will continue to play a very positive role for the future of this area," he predicted.

CREATIVE FILM SERIES COMING HERE

Thanks to a grant from the Michigan Council for the Arts, area film buffs will learn that Hollywood does not have a monopoly on making first-rate films. The Valley Film Society has scheduled four evenings with independent filmmakers who will present their latest work and answer questions about it.

All showings are free and open to the public. Membership in the Valley Film Society is not required to attend the screenings, set for 8:00 p.m. in Wickes lecture hall on February 26, March 26, April 23 and April 30.

The series begins and ends with Michigan-based filmmakers. On Friday, February 26, Connie Bosley will bring the Detroit Film Project to Saginaw. A selection of films from Detroit filmmakers, including animation, narrative, experimental and documentary films, will be shown. Highlights include David Fry's "Turkey," (vegetarian documentary), Robert Handley and Susan Marx's "Carole Morisseau and the Detroit City Dance Company"

(documentary) and Leni Sinclair's "Kick Out the Jams" (a live performance of the legendary MC-5 rock band).

On Friday, March 26, Amy Greenfield is the guest artist. Ms. Greenfield is a New York-based dancer and filmmaker who makes holograms -- three dimensional images that appear to move when the viewer or display moves -- films, and videotapes. Trained in dance at Radcliffe College and the Martha Graham Studio, she concentrates on films that fuse dance and cinema. She has given one-woman shows at such places as the Museum of Modern Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art and Hayward Gallery in London. Her work received good reviews in the "Soho Weekly News," the "Pittsburgh Post-Gazette," the "Village Voice" and "Dance Magazine." "Filmmakers Monthly" says of her, "An original talent is at work."

On Friday, April 23, the Pittsburgh Filmmakers, Incorporated will show a selection of their recent work, closing out a tour which takes them to such cities as Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Chicago. Featured on the program will be films which have won awards at the Ann Arbor Film Festival and the New York Filmmakers Exposition.

Closing the series on Friday, April 30, Richard Brauer will present his work. Brauer is based in Traverse City, Michigan. He has shot many TV commercials, and some are included in the screening. But Brauer's true love is the Great Lakes and the ships that sail their waters. He will show his "Great Lakes Schooners: Early Shipping on the Great Lakes," using underwater sequences of shipwrecks which he shot in the Manitou Passage off the coast of Leland.

In cooperation with the SVSC student activities office, the Valley Film Society is dedicated to bringing to the area international films and American classics. These films are not usually available in commercial theaters or on television. For more information, contact Dr. Tom Hearn at ext. 4332.

ACROSS CAMPUS--

--Spring break will be Monday, March 1 - Friday, March 5, and the Doan Center cafeteria will be closed during that time. The snack bar will be open March 1-5 from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., to provide luncheon service for staff members who will be on campus

during the break.

--Vice president for academic affairs Dr. Robert Yien will conduct a meeting to explain the new spring/summer schedule for 1982 on Thursday, February 25, at 1:00 p.m. Set for Wickes lecture hall, the meeting is open to any member of the SVSC community who has questions about schedule details and how they will affect departmental operations. SVSC student government is sponsoring the event.

--The SVSC Jazz Ensemble will put a touch of gold in its next concert. They'll be featuring "golden oldies" at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, February 22, when they perform in the SVSC theatre. Seats are \$2 general admission or \$1.50 for students and senior citizens. For ticket information, please call the fine arts office at ext. 4159.

--Bookstore manager Betty Wineland reminds all SVSC faculty that spring/summer book request forms were distributed last week. If for any reason you did not receive a copy, please call the bookstore at ext. 4277.

--Dr. Anna Dadlez, director of SVSC's Polish Institute, notes that community based classes in "Polish Language and Culture" are finding wide acceptance this winter. Our guest professor from the University of Poznan, Dr. Cezary Mendelius, is teaching the series, and has successful groups established in the Thumb and in Bay City. Approximately 50 students are meeting in Kinde on Monday evenings through cooperation with St. Mary's and St. Edward's churches. On Thursday evenings Dr. Mendelius conducts classes at McGregor junior high school in Bay City.

--The Saginaw County Scholarship Pageant is looking for young ladies between the ages of 17 and 26 who are interested in competing for scholarships and the opportunity to enter the Miss Michigan contest. The local competition will be held at Saginaw's First Congregational Church on Saturday, February 20. Entrants will be judged on talent, interview and appearance. If you know of an SVSC student who might be qualified, please have her contact Denise Ottinger at ext. 4255 for contest rules and entry forms.

--IRA's, SRA's and the new tax law will be discussed for the entire SVSC community next Monday, Feb. 22 from 2:30-3:30 p.m. in Doan Center. Speaking will be professors John Clinkenbeard, Sam Sarkar and Wayne Mackie.