

the Interior

*FIRE DESTROYS WICKES ANNEX
*COLLEGE EMPLOYEES
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For Saginaw Valley State College employees. Published by the Office of Information Services. Call 790-4054 with news items.

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AFTERMATH OF A FIRE

By now the fire that destroyed SVSC's Wickes Annex is an all too familiar story. College employees who worked in the modular complex learned about the loss through late night or early morning phone calls last Thursday. Other employees, students and area residents were informed through news broadcasts and stories or personal eyewitness.

To recap events to the extent they are known, the fire was first observed around midnight Wednesday, April 24. Among the first to spot the flames was Mark Moleski, SVSC senior education/English major. Because electrical power had been interrupted at about 5:30 p.m. Wednesday when lightning damaged a transformer serving campus, the only operable phones were pay phones located in Wickes and Doan. Moleski reported the fire from a Doan Center phone.

With the alarm sounded, Moleski and fellow students Mike Lage and Frank Foley returned to the Annex area to try to contain the flames. They used a fire hose located in Wickes Hall to spray water on the flames, but it was soon apparent that the fire was moving much too rapidly to be controlled by their efforts. Kochville Fire Department arrived on the scene in a few minutes, but were equally unsuccessful in dousing the flames. The best that could be done was to prevent damage to nearby buildings.

Lage and Foley both suffered the effects of smoke inhalation as they tried to protect the I.F. 2 construction site. Foley was treated on location; Lage was taken to a local hospital and released after treatment. There were no other reported injuries connected with the fire.

The state fire marshall has been at the scene since early Thursday, conducting an investigation into the cause of the fire. As of Monday, April 29, cause for the conflagration was still undetermined. Value of the buildings and contents were estimated at \$380,000, exclusive of personal property, consumable office supplies, etc.

SVSC President Jack Ryder and other top college administrators spent most of Wednesday night at the scene, along with several physical plant personnel. Department directors were called during the night, and in turn contacted staff members, asking them to report to the college theatre in the morning. There Dr. Ryder briefly recapped events surrounding the fire and outlined plans for coping with the emergency.

Some 43 full-time administrative and professional staff people had offices in the Annex. Departmental units included the President's Office, Admissions, Scholarships and Financial Aid, Information Services, the Business and Industrial Development Institute, Institutional Research and Planning, the SVSC Foundation, Sponsored Programs, Alumni and College Relations, Scheduling, and offices of the Vice President for Academic Affairs and the Vice President for Administration and Business Affairs. A number of student employees also worked in the Annex, and the central switchboard was housed there.

Ryder instructed supervisors to meet with their employees in Doan Center, where tables were set up as makeshift offices. "Talk first about how to set up and take care of immediate problems. Think about the long range also; about what we need for the future. But the first task is to restore services, particularly to students."

Ryder said it would require "tremendous dedication, commitment, cooperation and patience if we are going to be able to do this in an effective way. We are going to put things back together and make things go. I know we can do it."

In the days that have followed, the restoration process has begun. Necessary supplies and equipment are being ordered, and temporary quarters are being assigned for personnel. Many will face at least one more move before I.F. 2 construction and Wickes Hall renovation are completed so they can occupy permanent locations.

At present, the following office assignments will be in effect:

President's Office - Dorm, G-5
Vice President, Academic - Dorm, G-4
Vice President, Business - Dorm, G-6
Admissions Office - 3rd Floor Wickes
Alumni, Development - Dorm, G-3
BIDI - Dorm, G-8
Information Services - Dorm, G-2 & 3
Inst. Research & Planning - Dorm, G-9
Scheduling - '68 Bldg., w/Conference Bureau
Scholar. & Financial Aids - 3rd Flr. Wickes
Sponsored Programs - Continuing Ed area
SVSC Foundation - Dorm, G-7

Phone extensions, when service is connected, will be the same as assigned to each office prior to the fire.

Many of you will have questions about work that was in progress involving offices lost in the fire. While there seems to have been an amazing amount of productivity in the days just preceding the fire ("Remember the []report []letter []brochure []handbook []press release []grant application you asked me to do? It had just been completed and was on my desk the night of the fire!"), campus personnel who are waiting for any of the above items are advised to call to determine the exact status of work. It probably will be necessary to replace data and materials supplied to any of the Annex offices for recent work.

Also, any meetings or appointments with Annex personnel should be reconfirmed. Appointment calendars no longer exist for most offices.

However, be reassured that some records were not threatened by the fire. Most student records, including new admissions and financial aid information for fall

semester, are stored on the college main-frame computer. The alumni office also is linked to the central computer and will be able to access information as soon as a replacement terminal is secured. The only students records that might be lost are some very recent applications for admission that had not been logged into the computer prior to Wednesday evening. According to admissions personnel, data entry was completed through mid-April.

In addition, some records are being salvaged from certain areas of the Annex. While a great deal of sifting and sorting must take place to determine exactly what is available, at this point it appears that some financial aid files survived, as well as a significant amount of materials from the admissions area. Documents also are being recovered from the Foundation and sponsored programs areas, as well as occasional files from other parts of the Annex.

The most complete losses appear to have been in the central areas, including Dr. Yien's office and the information services area. Among the materials lost were all file photos and negatives, as well as all photographic equipment. When replacement equipment has arrived, campus personnel will be contacted to make appointments for directory photos.

As often is the case during emergencies, there were examples of cooperation and sharing from many individuals and organizations eager to assist. At the Thursday morning assembly, Vice President Woodcock spoke of the "outpouring of support" from the community. Included were offers of assistance from Central Michigan University, from members of SVSC Board of Control and Board of Fellows, and from the Triskelions. Delta College sent a delegation of people to offer help and encouragement through the crisis.

And of course numerous people on campus have given aid and comfort. (Who can forget John Curry's impromptu stand-up routine in the best "Music Man" tradition -- "You say the only joy you've found lately is in your dishwashing detergent bottle?" Or fresh-baked cookies his staff provided for the 'homeless' crews gathered in Doan?) Nola Carvey graciously loaned use of her office and computer to produce one more issue of the 'Interior.' The list is long. We thank you all for your support, and ask your patience in future weeks.

CENTER FOR ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS RESEARCH
RELEASES RESULTS OF WAGE & BENEFIT SURVEY

Results of a survey of the wage and benefit packages received by tri-county workers have been released by SVSC's Center for Economic and Business Research. The survey was conducted by SVSC and the University of Michigan with support from the Private Industry Council of the Saginaw, Bay and Midland Job Training Consortium and from Economic Development Offices of Saginaw, Bay and Midland counties.

Dr. Hong Y. Park, professor of economics, who coordinated the survey, said that 200 companies were selected from over 4,000 tri-county firms to accurately reflect the local wage and benefit picture. "Although 96 companies responded to the survey, the most useful wage and benefit information was contained in 66 responses," Park said.

"The firms responding to the survey cover various sizes and industries. Therefore the results should reflect the true wage and benefit picture in the tri-county as a region."

Data were collected for both hourly and salaried employees. The information for hourly employees was further divided into classifications for "non-exempt" (covered by a collective bargaining agreement) and "exempt" (not covered by a collective bargaining agreement) categories. Respondents also were asked if any of the firm's salaried employees were members of collective bargaining units.

Based on survey data, the average hourly wage rate for unionized employees in Bay, Midland and Saginaw counties is \$7.38. Since fringe benefits average 29.7 percent of the hourly worker's base pay in the tri-counties, average gross earnings per hour are \$9.57. "The national average gross earnings per hour are \$8.33," Park said.

Tri-county hourly workers also fared well when hourly manufacturing employee rates were compared. The average hourly rate in this area is \$8.28, with gross earnings of \$10.43 per hour. This compares with a national average for manufacturing employees of \$9.17 per hour including benefits.

Park does not see the local hourly wage and benefit rates as an impediment to attracting business and industry to the Saginaw Valley. "Although the wage level

is slightly higher than the national average, the average gross earnings for the smaller firms are only \$6.48 per hour. The unemployment rate here is far above the national average," he said. "Therefore, prospective firms should have no difficulties in obtaining workers by paying the national average wage.

"The hourly wage rate for non-exempt (employees reported on the survey) ranged from \$3.35 to \$16.28. The large variation in wage levels and higher unemployment in the region should be positive factors for the prospective business firms. The perception that the tri-county area is a higher wage region is not correct. Prospective firms should be encouraged by the survey results."

Other findings of the survey showed average pay increases for hourly workers of 7.3 percent in 1983, 5.6 percent in 1984, and 4.7 percent this year. Corresponding figures for salaried employees are 8.1 percent in 1983, 6.4 percent in 1984 and 4.4 percent in 1985. Fringe benefits added an average of 26.6 percent to salaried workers' compensation packages.

Most tri-county employees can look forward to receiving new Year's Day, Memorial Day, the Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas as paid holidays. The average number of holidays observed by companies surveyed was nine days.

The survey was conducted, Park said, because business firms need various kinds of information to make location decisions. "The quality and wage levels of the labor forces are deemed to be very important for business firms. This survey is an attempt to provide vital information for existing and prospective firms to use in reaching decisions."

For more information about the survey, contact Park at ext. 4084.

COLLEGE VEHICLES FOR SALE

Four used vehicles are being offered for sale by the college. They are being sold on a bid basis, with bids due to the purchasing office by 2:00 p.m. on May 14. Available are a 1973 Buick Century, a 1975 Chevrolet truck 4X4, a 1977 Olds Delta 88, and a 1980 Pontiac Bonneville. For more information or bid forms, contact Dale Irish at extension 4101.

20TH ANNUAL COMMENCEMENT MAY 3 AND 4

The Commencement committee, chaired by Dr. Gary Davis, is completing final arrangements for this weekend's graduation ceremonies. Although some materials were lost in the fire, all have been or will be replaced in time for Friday's program.

The schools of Business and Management; Science, Engineering and Technology; and Nursing and Allied Health Sciences will graduate at 8:00 p.m. on Friday, May 3. The ceremonies for the schools of Arts and Behavioral Sciences, and Education will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 4. Guest tickets have been available at the campus activities offices since April 2 and should be picked up immediately if they are not already in your possession.

According to bookstore manager Betty Wineland, some academic regalia has not been picked up. It will be available in the bookstore during the week, but you are advised to check for bookstore open hours by calling extension 4277. All academic regalia should be returned immediately following the Commencement ceremonies. On Friday evening the box office on the south side of the lobby of the athletic center will be open for this purpose. Those participating in Saturday's Commencement are asked to return their regalia to the Bookstore, which will be open between 3:30 and 4:00 p.m. that day.

Faculty and staff are asked to meet upstairs in the gymnasium at 7:30 p.m. on Friday and 1:00 p.m. on Saturday to line up for the processional. Following each Commencement ceremony, there will be receptions for participating schools in Doan Center.

During the two ceremonies, degrees will be conferred on 1984/85 graduates, with 533 eligible to receive diplomas. Degrees earned include 66 Master of Arts in Teaching, 14 Master of Business Administration, 34 Bachelor of Social Work, 131 Bachelor of Arts, 128 Bachelor of Business Administration, 41 Bachelor of Science in Nursing, and 119 Bachelor of Science. Also included in the ceremonies will be presentation of honorary degrees. Other awards to be presented are the Distinguished Alumni Award and the Landee Award for excellence in Teaching.

PRC MEMBERS SOUGHT

Volunteers are being sought for service on the Planning Resource Council, an 11-member group that serves as the steering committee for the College's planning activities. Appointments to the PRC will be made by President Ryder in early June. They will include one dean, two faculty members, one A/P staff member and one student who will serve two-year terms beginning July 1, 1985.

The new appointees will join the Director of Institutional Research and Planning, who serves as ex-officio chairperson, and five members whose terms continue until June 30, 1986. Continuing members are: Dr. William Elliott, professor of business law and finance; Mr. James Finzel, director of computer services; Ms. Linda Kammer, student; Dr. Crystal Lange, dean of nursing and allied health sciences; and Mrs. Nellie Monroe, associate professor of social work.

The PRC will recommend to the Executive Committee the theme or focus of the 1985-86 planning activities, the specific questions to be directed to the faculty and staff, and the schedule that planning units, deans and vice presidents will follow in preparing and submitting their plans for the four years beginning July 1, 1987. The council also will draft the annual statement of planning assumptions and, toward the end of the year, assist the Executive Committee in reviewing the plans that have been submitted.

Those interested in more information about the council may call Dr. Dickey's office at ext. 4298. The President's Office is receiving names of persons willing to serve on the PRC.

EVENTWATCH

May 3-4 ... COMMENCEMENT
May 3 ... Board of Control meeting
May 3 ... VFS Film, "Kwaidan"
May 6 ... Summer Semester classes begin