



Announcing the news at press conference: Knudsen, Varner, Ehrling and Semple.

## Music Festival Gets Oakland 'Off the Ground'

By Paul Turk  
*Observer Editor*

"We are off the ground" has become the slogan of the organizers of the new campus Meadow Brook Music Festival, slated to begin in July with a four-week concert series by the Detroit Symphony Orchestra under its new director, Sixten Ehrling.

Chancellor Varner, industrial executive Semon Knudsen and others kept returning to the phrase as the official start of the project was announced in a Feb. 13 press conference at the Detroit Athletic Club. "Off the ground," according to those using the phrase, means that "the money, the horses and the racetrack have all become available at the same time."

Knudsen, Chevrolet general manager and chairman of the project, ran the conference, calling for comment from persons involved with the Music Festival, which is to become,

eventually, a center for performing arts in general, as well as a music festival.

Speaking, in addition to Knudsen and Varner, were Ehrling, Robert Semple, symphony president, and C. Allen Harlan, University trustee.

Harlan outlined Board of Trustees approval and enthusiasm for the project, and quipped "All we want to know now is where's the music?" Harlan also announced that the Birmingham firm of O'Dell, Hewlett and Luckenbach had been selected as architects

for the orchestra shell. The new shell, to be built in the Sunset Terrace area of the campus, is expected to seat about 2,000 persons.

Ehrling endorsed the plan in his short speech when he said, "If you want proof of my enthusiasm, I did a terrible thing. I cancelled my European engagements. It doesn't mean I'm going to cancel Oakland." He, too, emphasized that the project was "off the ground" when he said "We'll start making progress this very moment."

(Continued on Page 3)

## Four Women, Eight Men Elected to Dorm Council

*Of the Observer Staff*

Dormitory Council's twelve positions were filled from 29 candidates as the elections for representatives to the newly-created council were held Friday. Four of the elected were female, eight were male.

Constitutional structure of the new Council, which is to serve as an opinion body for resident students, calls for election of three representatives from each house, and three at-large representatives.

Largest contingent in the race was in the "at large" slot, with ten candidates. Nine men and one woman entered, with the lone female, Sandra Kyle, Detroit sophomore, winning a seat.

**At-Large Winners**

Other at-large winners were Robert Surovell and Joel Levinson.

Miss Kyle and Surovell, Alexandria, Va., sophomore, were instrumental in drafting the constitution of the new organization. Levinson, a Brooklyn, N. Y. senior, is in his third semester as a member of the Student-Faculty University Council.

Three Pontiac girls were elected as Anibal representatives, in a four-candidate race. Chosen were junior Kay Cline and freshmen Diane Smith and Margaret O'Reilly.

**Fitzgerald Winners**

Nine entered the Fitzgerald race. Elected were Karl Sjolander, Troy sophomore, Kenson Siver, Hackensack, N. J. freshman, and Ed Rudolph, Cleveland, Ohio freshman.

Due to a ballot total irregularity in the Pryale House election,

large enough to affect the outcome of the race, a second vote was taken Monday. Three men and three women opposed one another in the co-ed house, with the males sweeping the boards. Elected were Harry Wirtz, Roseville sophomore, Laurence Fishtahler, Lathrup freshman, and Dan Andrews, Birmingham freshman.

The new Council convened for the first time Tuesday, in an Oakland Center meeting. Surovell, the leading vote-getter in the at-large election, was chosen as the group's chairman. A two-thirds majority is necessary for election as chairman. Surovell was opposed for the chairmanship by Levinson.

## Varner Calls All-Student Meet for Wed.

*By the Observer Staff*

Honoring a promise made to an all-student meeting in November, Chancellor Varner has called a general meeting of the student body, in the resident cafeteria at 1 p.m. Wednesday.

Varner committed himself to "at least one all-student meeting every semester" in the Nov. 20 meeting, and chose to call Wednesday's meeting to keep the promise.

When contacted, Varner said there was "No burning issue, but we ought to get together to talk over things in general."



CONSTITUTIONAL CAMPAIGN—Robert Surovell (center, on chair back) leads an all-dorm meeting last week in Anibal lounge, which ratified a constitution authorizing a dorm council for resident students. The dorm council is the first representative organization for the campus since the close of the old student government in April, 1962. With Surovell, from left, are Judy Gordon, Diane Smith, Jim Kinnebrew and the Observer's Larry Virgin.

## Announce Coffeehouse To Open

*By the Observer Staff*

Oakland's long-debated student-operated, non-stainless-steel coffeehouse, will be completed and open for business within a month, Gary Beeman, program advisor, revealed this week.

Coffee, tea, doughnuts and bagels will be served in the new establishment, to be constructed in the southwest corner of the old recreation-storage area in the OC basement. The outside doors in that corner of the building will be used to service the coffeehouse, with all ingress and egress via

the outdoor stairwell leading to the doors from ground level.

Long the victim of heated controversy, incomplete projects, and lack of student-administration coordination, the coffeehouse issue has been present on campus for two years.

**'Anti-Cinderblock Students'**

Only in the last two weeks, according to Beeman, has everything "fallen right for the anti-cinderblock wing of student leadership."

Planned hours of operation are 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Friday and Sat-

urday evenings. Additional Sunday and Wednesday hours will be added, said Beeman, if demand is strong.

The new facility will seat 40 persons. A triangular stage will be placed in one corner of the room, for occasional professional entertainment. Walls of the room will be painted black, and burlap will be used as decorative material.

**Paintings Provided**

Oakland's art department is expected to provide some paintings for exhibit.

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## Off and Running

They're off and running again. Running off at the mouth, that is. The athletic spokesmen have once again risen from the bowels of the locker room to demand freedom from study, freedom from 4 p.m. classes, and freedom from trying to find pride in the academic excellence of the University, admittedly more difficult than finding pride in 50-point basketball victories over mighty Michigan Christian Junior College. They demand intercollegiate athletics.

Yet why were intercollegiate athletics originally excluded in Oakland planning and philosophy? Because they contributed nothing to the development of the intellect, a primary goal of this institution. At the same time, intramural athletics were endorsed and encouraged as a means of release and relaxation.

Has this changed? Not at all. In the words of Robert Hoopes, professor of English, "The experience of college is supposed to get and keep students off their intellectual bottoms. I fail to see how spectator sports will contribute—except, perhaps, in the end."

Indeed, intercollegiate athletics are essentially spectator sports, providing exercise to those on the playing field and to no others. In the end, the spectator suffers.

The intramural program, which is now maturing rapidly, is in need of all available encouragement. Intramural participation is enjoyed by a much greater number of students than are the dubious benefits of intercollegiate athletics. Therefore, the time and effort of the physical education staff should be directed to fuller development of the already popular intramural program, thus providing the greatest possible physical good to the greatest number of participants.

## Beatles Won't Be Here

The Chancellor says so, University relations says so, and so do we. It's the most significant event in the history of the institution.

All we can ask is that the Detroit Symphony, in its appearances here, does not devote entire concerts to Johann Strauss waltzes or Sousa marches. We assume this potential catastrophe will be averted by the same capable management which has handled the formulation of the new Meadow Brook Music Festival.

Construction of the new orchestra shell, scheduled to begin soon, the agreement with the Detroit Symphony, and the grant from the Wilson foundation have been brought together to form the basis for a major performing arts center, which, if handled properly, can become the premier festival of its kind.

From the standpoint of University relations, it provides an enormous lever on the public media, something the University has always endorsed.

More important, from the standpoint of cultural development in an area where culture is unknown to but a few, the new arts center will provide significant alternatives to the Beatle-Sandra Dee (and predecessors and successors) outlook now prevalent. No longer will the Ford Auditorium be somewhere in East Limbo, but eminently local. Besides, parking will be cheaper here.

### Placement Office

The following corporations and school systems will interview on campus the week of Feb. 17:

Feb. 17 Flint Ink Corp.  
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Feb. 19 Clarkston, Mich., schools  
Feb. 20 J. L. Hudson Co.  
Feb. 20 Garden City, Mich. schools  
Pomona, Calif., schools  
Feb. 21 Towson, Maryland schools

## Letters to the Editor Athletics Again

To the Editor

With the attrition of nearly 100 students at the end of the fall semester there has been considerable talk of intercollegiate athletics for Oakland. If intercollegiate athletics were instituted only for the purpose of curbing the attrition rate, it would be, we feel, detrimental to the athletic program and, consequently, to the University. We think, however, that a program of intercollegiate athletics can stand on its own merits.

An informal poll of students revealed that student opinion has changed considerably since last summer, and this is what prompted us to re-introduce the idea of adopting intercollegiate athletics.

Several students were still opposed to intercollegiate athletics. Their main reasons were as follows:

1. Dislike for high-pressure athletics and its consequences (lowering of admissions standards for athletes, preferential scheduling, etc.)
2. The idea of athletic scholarships which deprive other deserving students of scholarships.
3. The expense involved in supporting such a program. Many feel the money could be put to "wiser" use.
4. Some feel "school spirit" does not belong on the college campus.
5. Some students feel we aren't ready, that we would have losing teams which would hurt morale.

6. The amount of time involved for those participating.

7. Some feel that a program would not alleviate attrition.

Those of us who are in favor of intercollegiate athletics give the following reasons, not necessarily in order of importance:

1. To curb the attrition rate.
2. Help admissions. Many extremely qualified students never consider Oakland because we have no intercollegiate athletics.
3. "Institutional Identification," a focal point which Oakland lacks.
4. It would add considerably to the social life of this currently apathetic campus.
5. We have checked figures and an intercollegiate athletic program would cost approximately the same as the chorus and the theatre guild.
6. It would give those students athletically inclined an outlet.
7. We agree that a certain amount of time is involved. However, this is true of all extra-curricular activities.
8. Richard Robinson, assistant director of physical education, has made a study and finds that there are 45 colleges within 200 miles of Oakland which have intercollegiate athletic programs. This would eliminate many overnight trips and therefore, make the athletic budget considerably lower.
9. Help bring commuters and dorm students together.
10. We feel, and this is perhaps where our strongest feeling is, that the University is being

hypocritical in its present policy. We say this because, while Oakland prides itself on its academic program (and rightfully so), it gives support to other extra-curricular activities, and denies support to an intercollegiate athletic program. Hence, if these other activities are permitted and supported, we see no reason why the policy should not hold true for athletics as well.

Because of the preceding reasons for and against, we suggest the following modest proposal:

That Oakland adopt a program of intercollegiate athletics for a trial period of three years with the following stipulations:

1. That this policy be thoroughly studied at the end of the three-year period.
  2. That there be no football.
  3. That there be no athletic scholarships or preferential treatment for athletes.
  4. That intramural sports continue to be strongly supported.
- We hope that our proposal would be given full consideration by the Faculty Senate and administration. There are probably other factors, both for and against, which would come out in discussion.

Students for ICA  
Dave Lewis  
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# Music Festival

(Continued from Page 1)

Financial impetus for the program came from the Lula Wilson Fund, which provided a grant of \$35,000 for construction of the shell, and \$20,000 in maintenance for each of the next two years. Norman Weston, National Bank of Detroit trust officer, made official announcement of the bequest at the conference.

Robert Semple, president of the Symphony Board, announced the board's unanimous endorsement of the project as "a wonderful addition. We are looking forward to Meadow Brook as our summer home."

With Varner at the podium, a series of slides were shown, covering the facility in architect's drawings, existing campus buildings, and written messages. Part of the Chancellor's presentation included a denunciation of rock'n'roll music. He cited as potential for the project the fact that more money was spent on classical records in 1963 than for World Series tickets in the last 40 years.

The last words in the slide presentation were "We are off the ground."

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# Heubel Chosen For Staebler Campaign Staff

By the Observer Staff

Edward Heubel, associate professor of political science and chairman of Oakland's political science department, has been selected as a member of the State-Local Government Relations "task force" of the gubernatorial campaign organization of Neil Staebler.

Announcement of the appointment Monday morning included Heubel among other Michigan citizens serving on 12 "task forces" in the Staebler campaign. Purpose of the committees is to research and formulate opinions and predictions on state issues.

Entered Primary

Staebler, Ann Arbor businessman, is currently Michigan congressman-at-large, and has entered the Democratic primary for the gubernatorial nomination.

According to Staebler, "The Democratic campaign will be one of substance — and not slogans."

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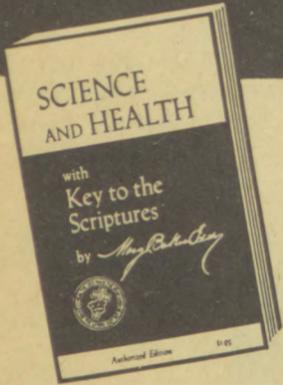
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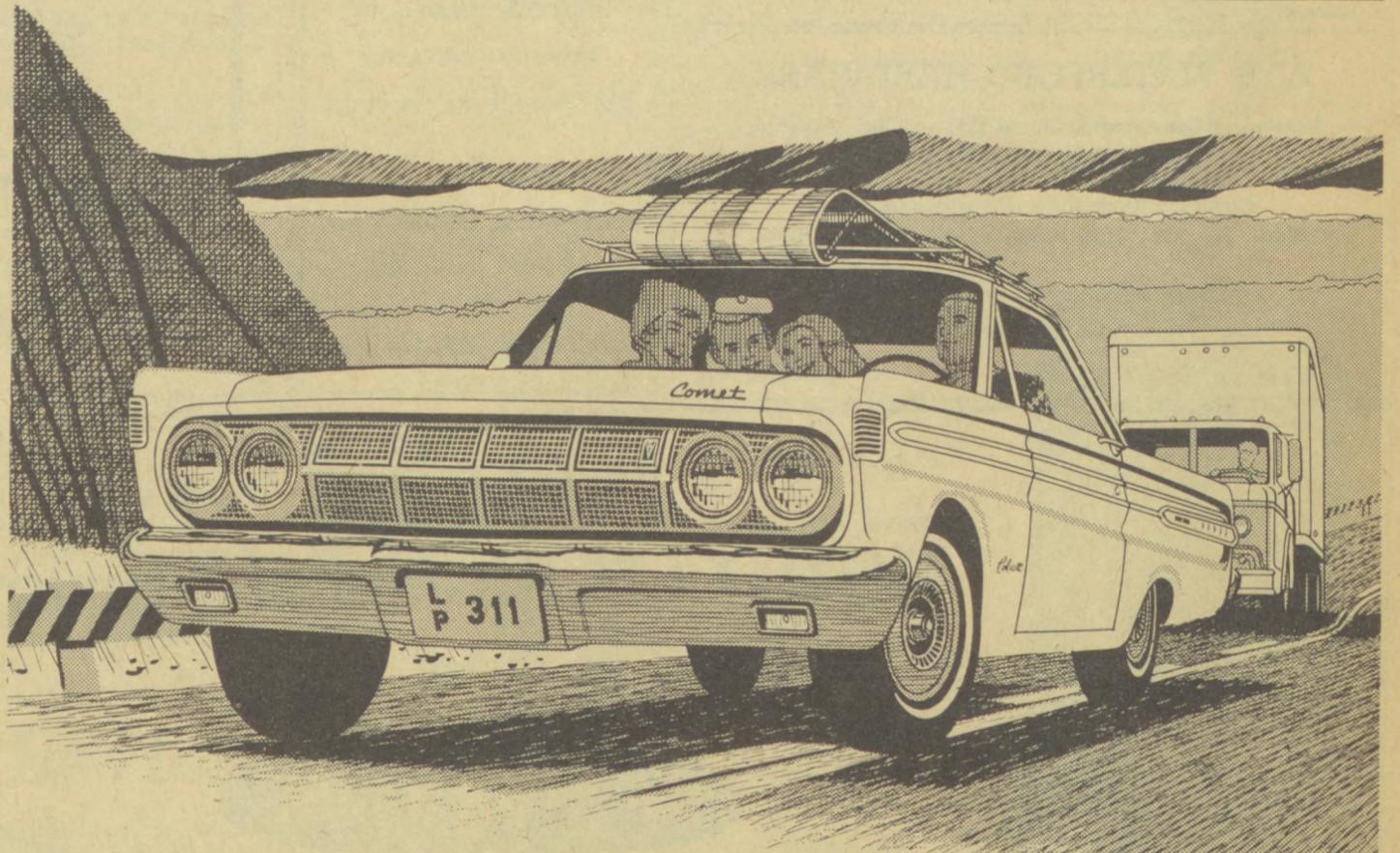
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