

# The Oakland Observer

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## Gardner Calls For The Forward Look

by Mike Honey

John Gardner, Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, spoke Tuesday of America's "crisis" in education to a group of Michigan educators (intermingled with Oakland students).

Gardner dealt broadly with the critical needs of the U.S. educational system, stressing that today's greatest problem is a shortage of people and money. He pointed out that institutions, like people, resist change; that in today's system of education change is urgently needed. He felt colleges especially have been guilty of failing to implement new and better methods of education.

Mr. Gardner criticized the lack of collaboration between all levels of schools as an impediment to effective education.

In regard to college-level education, Gardner called for a new emphasis on undergraduate study. He also suggested that an intermediate degree between an MA and a PhD, may be in order. The college system of departmentalization was criticized as tending to give imbalanced and therefore unrealistic views of the world.

Gardner stated the need for all educational systems to share in the common resources of society as a whole to meet growing financial burdens. What is now missing is a common access to funds for all educational institutions (this lack of access is exemplified by the financial plight of many small state colleges such as Oakland.)

That the federal government will have to take an enlarged role

in financing education is inevitable if we are to develop a good system. He stressed that what is needed now is to concentrate on the shaping of a local-state-federal relationship which will allow for the autonomy of the colleges.

To fashion this relationship the colleges must formulate the kind of system they want, decide what the realities of their needs are and where the educational system is pointing. In Gardner's words, the educational administrators of the country must be "forward-looking."

In a private interview with the Observer, the Secretary discussed the relationship between the college and the student. Mr. Gardner felt that while the system is aimed at the individual, it must also be aimed at fulfilling the needs of the society.

On this note, Mr. Gardner was asked to comment on recent student unrest on the campuses and was questioned on the role the student should play in forming his own education.

He commented that there was no easy generalization but that there seemed to be two main causes of student unrest: 1. a feeling of anonymity and depersonalization, 2. concern over the quality of undergraduate teaching.

Students must take into consideration the many factors involved in dealing with an educational system; with the realization of those factors, the Secretary said he felt the student had a perfect right to be heard in forming his own educational college environment.

## Wilson's Weekend



Mrs. Wilson, center of attraction for the entire weekend of Oct. 28-29, joins in celebrating her big night.

Friday's entertainers, The Back Porch Majority, will take the stage at 8:00 p.m.

Mrs. Wilson's Birthday Weekend, one of the few Oakland traditions, falls this year on Oct. 28 and 29. Festivities in line for the occasion include a popular folk concert Friday night, Vandenberg Hall's Dedication, hall parties Saturday, all followed by the semi-formal dance in the Vandenberg cafeteria Saturday evening.

The Birthday Weekend serves a two-fold purpose. It honors the First Lady of the University, whose birthday is Oct. 19, and it acts as a homecoming for OU's ever-increasing alumni.

### BACK PORCH MAJORITY

The weekend officially begins Friday night at 8:00 with the Back Porch Majority in concert in the IM Building. The Majority, a relatively new group in the folk-music world, has been enthusiastically feted by every one of its audiences. The group has received 68 standing ovations out of its 75 performances. Sponsored and managed by Randy Sparks, the Majority is much like the popular New Christy Minstrels. Tickets for the concert are \$2 each for students, and \$3 each for others. Tickets will be sold at the door, or may be purchased in the OC during the day for both the concert and/or the dance.

Saturday afternoon Mrs. Wilson and Chancellor Varner will officiate in the formal dedication of Vandenberg Hall.

### HOUSE PARTIES

Private house parties will begin at 8:00 p.m. Saturday. Fitzgerald House will host Anibal; Van Wagoner will host Hill; and Pryale House is invited to join Vandenberg Hall in their party;



Commuters are cordially invited to attend any of the parties. Word has it that Mrs. Wilson plans to attend each of the parties for a time.

### THE BIRTHDAY DANCE

At 9:00 the Birthday Dance will begin, with music provided by the Jack Runyon Orchestra. Tickets for the dance are \$2/

student couple, and \$3 for others.

A special discount ticket for the weekend is now on sale for \$5.50/ couple.

Another important event not to go without notice is Schultzie's birthday, Oct. 27, to be celebrated during the weekend.

Co-chairmen for the weekend, sponsored by SACC, are Mel Kozek and Sam Slepicka.

Oakland Students for a Democratic Society are sponsoring "An Experiment In Self-Education" tonight at 7:30 in the Gold Room. Lee Elbinger and Dick Kaley will discuss their New Orleans trip. There will also be a film and discussion.



Gardner departs after his helicopter ride, reputed by many to be the most exciting part of his stay at OU.