

# The Oakland Observer

STUDENT PUBLICATION FOR MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY OAKLAND

VOL. 1—NO. 7

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1960

Rochester, Michigan



Books, books and more books are examined by student assistant Tom Hickman and librarian assistant Mary Ann Pung. The carton is one of the 248 which contain approximately 12,000 volumes. They were bought from a bookstore in New York for about a dollar a piece.

Observer Photo by Fred Vest

## Concert Series Open To MSUO Students

By Lauree Webb

MSUO students are fortunate in having at their disposal so many entertainment opportunities. Not only are they able to take advantage of local presentations in Rochester and Pontiac but are also invited to take part in MSU's lecture-concert series. The list of famous visitors to the University Auditorium has included such notables as Montovani's string orchestra and American poet Carl Sandburg.

Friday, January 29 found the Auditorium sold out for a special appearance of the Moscow State Symphony Orchestra conducted by Konstantin Ivanov, holder of the title, "People's Artist of the U.S.S.R.". Rarely leaving its home base of the Great Hall of the Moscow Conservatory, the group is currently making a seven week tour of the United States under the cultural exchange agreement with the Soviet Union.

The Tchaikovsky program included the composer's Symphony No. 5 in E Minor, Capriccio Italian, Concerto in D Major for cello and orchestra and others. Highlights of the program were solos by Daniel Shafraan, cellist, and by violinist Valerii Klimov who won first prize for violinists in the 1958 Tchaikovsky Competition in which Van Cliburn won first prize for pianists.

The orchestra has had a close association with such composers as Prokofieff, Shostakovich, Khachaturian, Kabelevsky, and Miaskovsky and has introduced many of their major works. It has also introduced to Russian audiences such American composers as Samuel Barber, Aaron Copland, George Gershwin and Roy Harris.

Following its first appearance in New York, Variety reported the performance: "Soviet Union's first orchestral export to the U.S. generated musical electricity and excitement in Brooklyn. Whether or not one agrees with the interpretation, these Russian musicians have the gift of stirring large audiences to stormy ovations and demonstrations of enthusiasm." The orchestra was equally well received by the audience of over 9,000 at MSU's Auditorium.

The next concert at the University Auditorium in East Lansing was scheduled for Sunday, February 7 at 3:00 p.m. The program featured conductor Robert Chorale and Orchestra presented Mass in B Minor by Johann Sebastian Bach.

Wednesday, February 17 and Thursday, February 18, the Auditorium will be the scene of the Fred Waring Stereo Festival spotlighting the Pennsylvanians.

Locally, students may attend a special showing of "Figaro, The

Barber of Seville" sponsored by the Rochester Tuesday Musicale. The film of Rossini's comic opera will be in Eastman color with Milton Cross as commentator. Tito Gobbi of the Metropolitan and La Scala will star as Figaro while Irene Genna will sing Rosina. Tickets for the movie, to be shown at the Hills Theatre February 25 at 7:30 p.m., may be purchased in the Student Center for \$1.00.

Curtain time at the Oakland Theatre in Pontiac is 8:30, February 26. The Canadian Stratford Players will perform in "The Taming of the Shrew." Tickets are \$1.50 and are available in the Dean of Students' office (155).

### Wesley Group

The first campus-wide program sponsored by MSUO's Wesley Foundation will be presented February 15 at 1:00 p.m. in Room 165 of South Foundation Hall (classroom building). Guest speaker for the occasion will be Miss Jolee Fritz of the American Friends Society. Her talk will concern "CBR Weapons"—chemical, biological and radiological warfare.

In our time, war presents a constant threat to survival. This threat is made more grotesque by the increasing possibilities of the use of such "weapons" as nerve gas, toxics, psychochemicals and nuclear power. Miss Fritz will discuss the effects of these methods as they pertain to moral and religious values. After the discussion she will be available to those who are interested in talking to her about militarism, pacifism, disarmament, Quakerism, race relations, non-violence, social issues, civil liberties or summer service projects for college students.

## MSUO Staff Votes Four-Course Curriculum

### Takes First Step Toward 4 Year Plan

By a three-to-one margin, the MSUO Senate last week voted to adopt a curriculum plan allowing a maximum of four courses per quarter. The vote was 19-6. The alternative was a three-course plan which had been outlined by the university's planners. The move was made after many weeks of study by faculty committees.

This is merely the beginning step toward the development of a full curriculum. Four courses will be considered maximum load each year.

Five courses will be considered "University courses" in that they will be conceived of as being interdepartmental in nature. One block of courses would consist of The Development of Western Institutions and Social Ideas and (tentatively named) The Social Sciences in the Contemporary World, to be offered at the sophomore level.

Rhetoric and Literature in the Western Tradition and Literature and Aesthetic Experiences in the Western Tradition would amount to the basic English offerings. The History and Philosophy of Science and General Science (for non-science students) would be considered as one block of two years' work in the natural sciences.

Foreign Studies would be a year's program at the junior level and Great Issues would be a term's course in the senior year.

It was suggested that the Western Institutions, Rhetoric and Literature, and the Natural Sciences together be regarded as an Introduction to Western Civilization. This would serve as an introduction to the Foreign Studies program.

Preliminary thinging in the Foreign Studies area suggests a series of full year courses, of which the student must select one as required for the degree, to be established. There might be one each for Russian Civilization, Chinese Asia, India Asia, the Islamic World, Sub-Saharan Africa, and Latin America.

The language and/or mathematics requirement is retained. However, students taking mathematics are urged to take a language also.

The above proposed curriculum allows for seventy-two hours of work beyond the requirements. Conceivably, there would be a 192 credit maximum for four years.

The work in the social sciences, now tentatively moved to the sophomore year, would consist of sociology, anthropology, economics, political science, and social psychology.

In the first-year Rhetoric and Literature course the student will move from the rudiments of English composition to an analysis of literary forms. This analysis will continue into the Aesthetic's course with additional emphasis on the visual, plastic and musical arts.

In the science sequence, students will study the foundations of natural sciences through historic analysis. The second year's work in this area is designed to give non-science students the experience of one, experimental science in relation to their backgrounds.

The faculty committee which presented this plan regarded it (Continued on Page 3)

### Lost and Found

Lost anything lately? If so, you should inquire at the new Lost and Found Department located in the Student Center. Mr. Edward Brown will be there Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Students are asked to turn in found articles to him.

## 'Story' Is Warm Drama Of Lovers

By Nancy Kelly  
Special Writer

Through the theme of a modern-day Romeo and Juliet, Jerome Robbins presents a warm, vivid, and urgently dramatic description of human beings searching for some meaning in a world that has presented to them the ugly face of a slum district in New York City. The "star-cross'd lovers" are a Puerto Rican girl, Maria, and a native New York youth, Tony, who fall deeply in love despite the gang wars of their respective groups. The tragedy of their plight is brought poignantly to the audience's attention, yet always with compassion and a fine, delicate sense of humanity.

With gentle humor and keen satire, the author is careful not to offend his audience by laying the burden of the ills of society too heavily upon their shoulders. One almost has the impression that at times the violence and tragedy of these gang youths is passed off rather too lightly in order to spare us any embarrassment or provocation. However the satire is exceedingly effective and the humor wonderfully infectious when the New York gang, the "Jets," sings "Gee Officer Krupke," a take-off on the over-stressed and under-effective network of programs to combat juvenile delinquency.

Bob Kole, as Tony, made an effective Romeo, but as a boy from the slums "reaching out" for something, he lacked a sense of urgency which might have enhanced his performance greatly. Liela Martin's performance as Maria was touching and beautifully expressive as a young girl at once breathlessly young and mature in the essence of true love.

Leonard Bernstein's music is infectious and inspiring as it lends something both unifying to the whole and complete in itself. The choreography, conceived and directed by Jerome Robbins is a beautiful interpretation of the story it helps to tell with dramatic and graceful movement. The settings and staging are skillfully blended so as to create an effect rather than to dominate the audience's eye.

No part of the production remained as an isolated element, but each incident worked with and added to the total effect, and like animated building blocks, constructed the play incident by incident until the total structure of the tragedy was complete and its forceful impact was felt long after the final curtain was drawn.

## 'Great Books' Offered By Con. Ed.

A 'Great Books' course will be offered by the Continuing Education department at Michigan State University Oakland, beginning February 25. The announcement was made by Lowell Eklund, director of the program.

Dr. Richard Burke, who taught the course at the University of Chicago and who is currently a Philosophy instructor at Oakland, will be in charge of the course. It will be taught for two hours every Thursday night.

The fee of \$25 will include all books. The offering of the course was prompted by columnist Sidney Harris' talk at the Birmingham Town Hall, January 14-15. According to Eklund, MSUO has had many requests for such a course since, then.

Talking to Birmingham area women, Harris chided them for being too concerned with their everyday problems and for being "shallow thinkers." He said that it was important to read the works of the world's great thinkers.

Harris, who teaches a 'Great Books' course now at University of Chicago, believes that such study will aid an individual's ability to think clearly and express himself likewise.

### Student-Faculty Discussion Group

With the co-operation and support of Dean Alexander, Mr. Fritz, and Mr. Straka, a new and important group was organized by the students. The first meeting was held Wednesday, February 5, in the lounge of the Student Center. The question, "Will there be a Third World War?" was discussed.

The purpose of the organization is to stimulate the exchange of ideas on any subject which is of interest to the students or faculty. The discussion group will be a very informal organization and there will be no formal membership. All interested students and faculty are invited to attend. Meetings will be held on Wednesday afternoons in the Student Center at one o'clock.

Both students and faculty are encouraged to place topics which they would like to have discussed in the suggestion box, which is in the Student Center. Topics may deal with current events, philosophical ideas, school problems, or any other interesting subjects.

# 'Knowledge Is Power'

Francis Bacon said "knowledge is power." If this is true, we must applaud the avowed purpose of the political party clubs on campus. As enunciated by their faculty sponsor, Dr. William E. Rhode, the clubs' purpose is to "create an active and informed electorate through speakers, debates and opportunities for personal observation of political functions."

We feel that, of the many problems which confront the intelligent and articulate American citizen, the problem of government is a particularly acute one. For instance, as the introductory course in political science attempts to point out, there are three problems which seem to indicate a complete abdication of the voter from his theoretical role in a democratic state.

We must agree with the first of these problems: that of the rural over-representation. Many times has this fact been proved statistically to our satisfaction. One of the examples which comes to mind is the fact that in California, the county of Los Angeles which has four million inhabitants has the same number of representatives as does one of the counties in the Sierras. The out-county population, we understand, is hardly 100,000 let alone four million.

This problem leads right into the next one. It appears that these out-county, over-represented areas have come to be called "safe districts." We doubt very much that the "safe" refers to a lack of radioactivity. These districts are referred to because once a politician gets in power, he inevitably is re-elected time after time. This, in itself, is not bad. The catch comes when one examines the list of committee chairmen in the House of Representatives. Since these positions are filled with men of congressional seniority, they are inevitably filled with men from these "safe" districts.

Knowing the important role which these committee chairmen play in the legislative activities of our government, is it consistent with democracy that they should represent some cows and horses, a few out-houses, and even fewer voters in comparison, say, to the four million people of the county of Los Angeles?

The third problem concerns the unassigned role of the president as "chief legislator" and the inconsistencies with representative government which are present in such a role. It has been claimed that the lack of party discipline is partly to blame for this. However, when one considers that parties are made up of people, it appears that this must be the way the people want their government run. But is it? Conceivably not. In spite of the increasing number of people who are affected by legislation every day, the percentage of voters in presidential elections has neither risen proportionately with this increasing effect of the government nor has it managed to increase in such a manner as to show that the American people are really interested in electing their leaders. The fact that 62 million people voted in the last presidential election is attractive as rebuttal to our argument, but believe us, the attraction is only external. What percentage is this of the number who could have voted but didn't bother?

Therefore, if in some small way, the political clubs on the Oakland campus can educate a few of tomorrow's voters, they will be doing a worth while job. It isn't necessary for students to declare their political preferences to join. Whether one is going to be a research scientist, an engineer, a teacher or an advertising man, it will be incumbent, upon him as an educated citizen to vote intelligently. If he doesn't, he will have no one to blame but himself.

# Forum

Thomas J. Harlan, a pre-law student at the University of Virginia, has been communicating with Dean of the Faculty, Robert Hoopes. The following is the final letter in the series, being Harlan's reply to Hoopes. In addition, there is a letter from Dr. Richard Burke of the Oakland faculty.

Dear Dean Hoopes,

I realize that you must be very busy with innumerable detail in the genesis of this fine school, and this makes you respond to my question at such a time even more valuable to me. It was so logical that I was at a loss for further thought at the moment. But I then considered the powerful source of strength that our graduates will have who had humbly and purely sought such an education. In future moments of despair, these graduates may look back upon their priceless academic estate and face the lions without fear. This thought answers the question as to how they will make a way for themselves.

Thomas J. Harlan, Jr.

high-ranking executives about this question, and they are unanimous in demanding "more" liberal education, not less.

There is a catch, however, and I think it helps to explain the feeling of Mr. Harlan and the others who agree with him. A wider perspective "can" lead to friction, if it is not accompanied by tact, tolerance, and a sense of propriety. These "diplomatic virtues" seem to me to be natural corollaries of a liberal education, but unfortunately they are sometimes lacking in otherwise-well-educated people. "These" are the because they bring forth strife rebels that society finds useless, and ill will instead of results.

Richard Burke

To the Editor:

Mr. Harlan's question is sincere and intelligent, but I think it reflects a common misunderstanding of the aim of a liberal education, and also of the demands of our society.

A liberal education produces rebels indirectly, not directly. Its immediate aim is the cultivation in the student of a wider perspective, a framework of ideas and facts large enough to "liberate" him from the bondage of his own particular background and experience. From the standpoint of this wider perspective, the people and customs he encounters may well appear false, even ridiculous (think of Erasmus' "Praise of Folly"). Such a person is of potential "rebel," to just the extent that his surroundings seem distorted or one-sided to him.

Is there a demand, as well as a need, for people like this in our society? Of course there is. Evidently Mr. Harlan has not followed the flood of reaction to William White's "The Organization Man," and other generalizations like it. Officials and employers all over the country, even in the armed forces, are begging for individuals who are not bound to accepted methods, who are not over-specialized, who can see a problem "in all its ramifications" (i.e., in wider perspective). Such a man is "imaginative"; that is, he can see alternatives, and can force their probable results. Obviously he is more valuable, no matter how high or low in the organization, than someone who can only obey or imitate. Employers know this perfectly well; after all, they are not so dumb. I have talked with

## "The Golem" and "Ninotchka" To be shown

The following is a schedule of the films to be shown for the next two weeks. The schedule for the balance of the school year will be printed in subsequent issues.

The films will be shown at 8:00 p.m. on Friday and Sunday evenings in the West lecture hall (159). Tickets for each film are 50 cents and may be purchased from Mr. Brown in the Student Center. Season tickets will be available from Mr. Fritz for those who are interested.

February 12 & 14: "The Golem" (French dialog, English subtitles). The ancient legend of the man of stone brought to life by a Rabbi. The Golem, an eight foot giant in the tradition of the Frankenstein monster, moves about under orders from the Rabbi to destroy the oppressors of the people. Harry Baur, one of the great French actors, plays the Austrian king who is determined to destroy this "thing" that is threatening his reign. His fine acting, the eerie settings and the crowd hysteria as the Golem rampages through the city, all contribute to a fascinating film.

February 19 & 21: "Ninotchka." Greta Garbo, Melvyn Douglas, Ina Claire. A Russian lady commissar forgets about the stern Soviet code when she meets a gay Frenchman and finds out what a life of laughter can be like.

# Straight From The Center

BY GEORGE FRITZ

As a follow-up to the initial article regarding your Student Center, this article will concern itself with the organizational aspect of the Student Center Council.

The purpose of SCC is to formulate policies in connection with use of the Student Center by students, singularly and in organized groups. Additionally, SCC will plan, organize and implement the program of activities which will take place in the Student Center.

The Student Center Council consists of a president, secretary, and the chairmen and committee members of five committees. The executive board of SCC will be comprised of the president, secretary and five committee chairmen. At this time SCC has not selected a president. The secretarial post is held by Marge Swaboda. Tony Hammer is chairman of the "Publicity" committee, Janet Long chairs the "Special Events" committee, Alan Higgins heads the "Social" committee, George Stillman is chairman of the "Cultural Arts" committee and Gary McDowell will be in charge of the "Tournaments" committee. Presently, the five committee heads are selecting and recruiting members to serve on their respective committees. The five committees will meet at various times during the week and the committee chairmen will bring the ideas of their groups to the executive board meetings for discussion at 4:00 p.m. on Monday afternoons. Any student desiring to learn more about the inner workings of a particular committee should feel free to contact the committee chairman and sit in on a committee meeting.

One of the most recent ideas of SCC is to have student organizations request space and facilities in the Student Center for promotional purposes, display of pertinent materials and special events through the use of a standard form. By prearranging the use of space and facilities in the building, we will be able to avoid confusion and give each group an equal opportunity to promote their individual programs. The forms, which only take a few minutes to complete, are available in the main concourse at the concessions desk.

I have noted with pleasure the increased respect that has been given to the furnishings in the Student Center. The next article will concern itself with some of the financial aspects of the operation of the Student Center.

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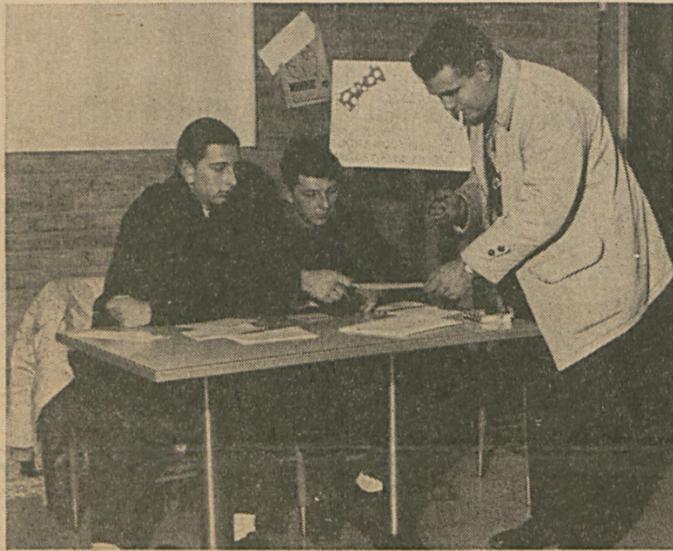


WOODWARD AVENUE AT SQUARE LAKE RD.



## Sign 'em up

Registration day is always the day to have your pen hand loosened up. In addition to the many forms that were necessary to fill out, these students signed up for memberships in MSUO's political clubs. At the Republican table (above), Jim Drummond and Bill Woods (in the foreground) sign up Ed Gehres and Floyd Miles. At the Democratic table Pat and Dave Welsch show George Stillman where to sign. Stillman was one of fifty who joined the Dems that day.



Souvenir booklets containing all of the speeches made at the Convocation for students in September, along with several excellent photographs, are available in the Book Store for fifty cents.

### Wilson in Arizona

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred G. Wilson are in their Scottsdale, Arizona winter home until the end of March.

# Nine Tons of Books Arrive For Library

Weighing nine and one-half tons and packed in 248 large boxes, approximately 12,000 books put in their appearance at Oakland recently. Destined for the library, this collection represents the inventory of the Kershner Book Store in New York.

The Argosy Book Store, also in New York, acted as agent for the transaction, which was brought about by the retirement from the book-selling business of Mr. Kershner. His store is well known throughout library circles as an excellent mail order house in the humanities field.

According to Miss Audrey North, assistant librarian, the collection is "a real find for the MSUO library because many basic titles in the fields of literature, history, philosophy, and religion are represented, and to a lesser degree economics and political science."

It is estimated that it will take at least a year to get the entire collection processed and on the shelves. Work has already started.

## Four-Course Curriculum

(Continued from Page 1)

as ample for all majors in the Social and Humanistic Sciences, for majors in Business Administration, Teacher Education, and for majors or programs in pre-Medicine, pre-Law, and so forth.

In this program each of the four courses would carry four hours of credit but would not necessarily have to meet four hours a week.

The two other plans involved much the same course material. One was a four-course maximum for science and engineering students and the other was a three-course maximum for all students. Advocates of the four-course plan held that, while the three-course program may allow an interested student to go into greater depth in any given field, some courses, such as Western Institutions, would be squeezed to a small amount of time. They said that it might take an engineering student five academic years to complete a course.

Except for the four-course idea, the above is merely a proposed curriculum presented by faculty committees to aid the entire faculty in determining the issue. The filling in, both of personnel and particular courses, is now up to the individual departments. As plans and course offerings are finalized and as appointments are approved by the MSU Board of Trustees, the news will be relayed to the student body in the Observer.

## Play Comes To Detroit

The newly-formed drama club is sponsoring a trip to Detroit's Cass Theatre, Sunday, March 6. They are going to see the play, "Look Homeward Angel!" The trip is open to all faculty members and students; if the response is large enough, special students rates are available.

"Look Homeward Angel," one of Broadway's most successful plays, is based on the famous novel by Thomas Wolfe. No other drama has met with more praise and success in the American theatre. Its prizes and awards include the theatre's two most coveted honors—the Pulitzer Prize and the New York Critics' Circle Award.

For further information, contact either Mr. William Schwab or Mary Stewart, president of the drama club. It is possible to sign up for the trip on the bulletin board in the Student Center.

# DOGMA

BY ALICE LUPKE

"The following are some controversial issues. Take a stand on one of them. You may end by being for or against or neutral, but whatever conclusion you come to you must base it on objective evidence and not on mere prejudice or hearsay. You must, in other words, know what you are talking about and talk about it in a rational, clear-headed, logical way." This was Dean Hoopes' assignment to his freshman Rhetoric section. (Because of limited space, we print only the topic Miss Lupke chose to write on.—Ed.)

A religious dogma is the same as any other kind of dogma—say, one of the dogmas held by the Communists.

Because the definition of "dogma" is the same whether it refers to a religious dogma or any other kind of dogma, I submit that while the content of the dogmas is different, the purpose is common.

Formally, the definition of "dogma" is, "That which is held as an established opinion; a definite and authoritative tenet." It is a belief held and practiced by all to whom the dogma applies.

"Dogma" can be divided into two groups: proclaimed dogma and unproclaimed dogma. Pro-

## Newspaperman Speaks Here

Norman Prady, feature writer from the Detroit Times, came to MSUO January 25 to speak to the Observer staff about news writing.

After graduating from Central high school in Detroit, he worked nights at the Detroit Times while attending school full time at Wayne State University. There he received his degree in Sociology, and continued working on the Times' staff.

His lecture included possible ways of writing a feature story, sources, and styles of columns. His advice to writers of the staff was that a writer must be confident in his own ability to write, and very well informed about, not only his present subject, but current news throughout the world.

claimed dogma is that which is stated by a voice of authority in a group. For instance, the Roman Catholic Church's dogma of the Immaculate Conception—that Mary, the Mother of God, was born without Original Sin—would be called "proclaimed dogma" because the idea has been stated by the Church as truth, and applies to all Roman Catholics.

Unproclaimed dogma, on the other hand, is that which is not formally stated, but is believed and practiced as firmly as proclaimed dogma. For example, the political parties of the United States have a proclaimed party platform at election time every four years. This is the stated course of action. The unproclaimed dogma of the parties would be, for instance, the method of soliciting members to each individual party, while not allowing people to know they are being convinced. This idea of turning people's minds toward the parties is believed and practiced by all party members, though it is not stated in the doctrine of the parties.

Dogmas are also divided into two groups different from the division of proclaimed and unproclaimed dogma. These two types of dogma are group dogma and personal dogma. Group dogma is that which is proclaimed or practiced by a group of people holding common interests. Included in group dogma are doctrines of established religions, school codes of conduct for students, and laws of the Communist party. Personal dogma, however, is the doctrine or philosophy of an individual person. It is devised by the individual and is practiced by him alone. Any standard an individual sets for himself and holds to is his personal dogma. Each person decides his own moral standards; many people hold their own religious philosophies; and most people have their own materialistic standards (e.g. vocational aspirations and daily practices such as budgets and certain types of work)—these are all facets of personal dogma.

Therefore, since all dogma, whether proclaimed or unproclaimed, group or personal, must contain both belief and practice, religious dogma, regardless of its content, is not different from other types of dogma.

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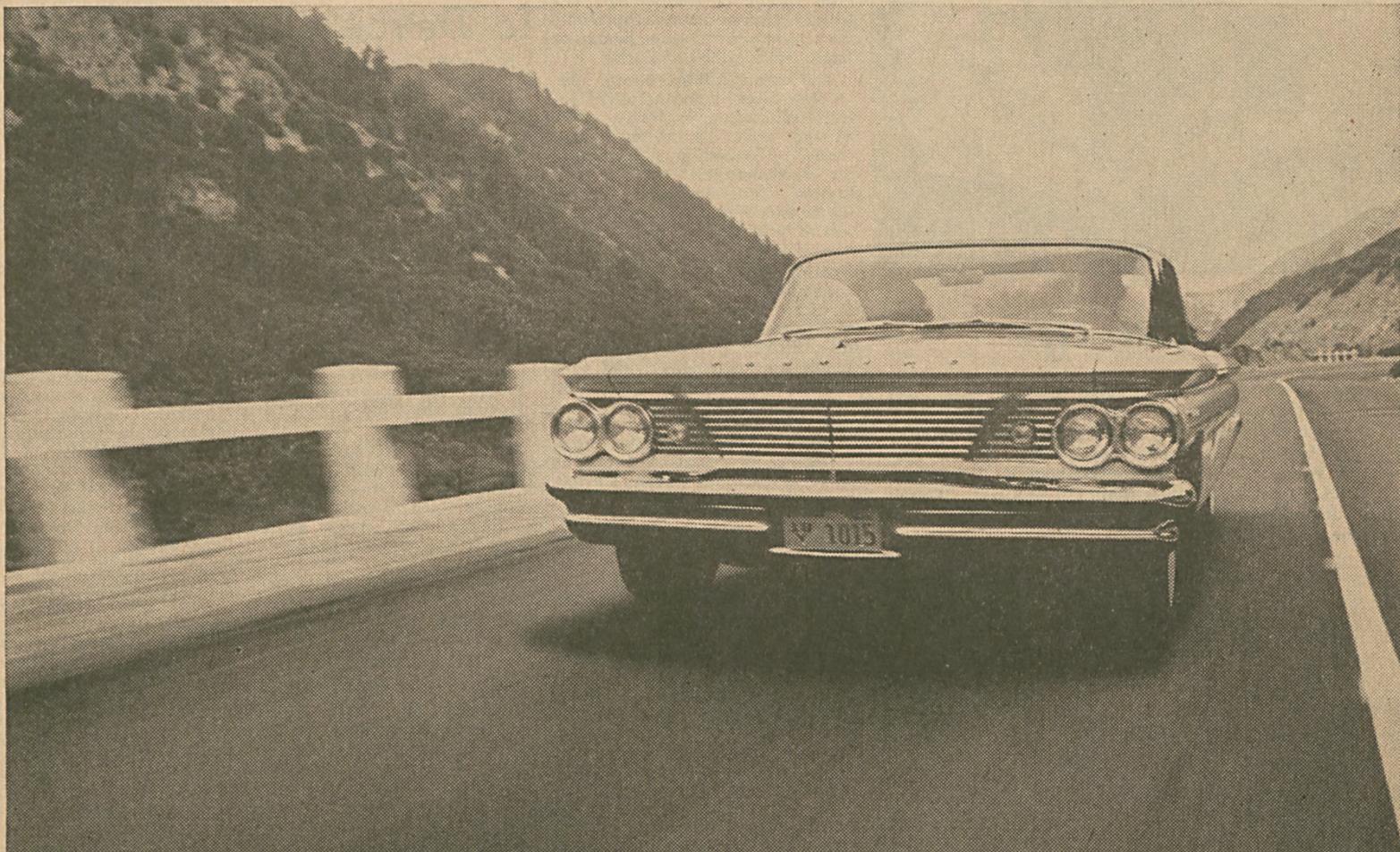
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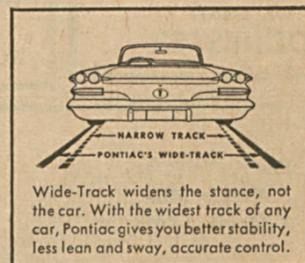
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