

# THE OAKLAND SAIL

Oakland University, Rochester, MI, Vol. VI, No. 16, December 9, 1980

## Board to reveal choice

# It's Champagne

By Gail DeGeorge  
Editor-in-Chief

Joseph Champagne, vice-chancellor of the University of Houston, is the Board of Trustees' choice for OU's next president according to well-placed sources.

His appointment will be officially voted on by the Board at a special open meeting called

for 5 p.m. today. Champagne was considered a strong candidate quite early in the selection process, edging close to Frederick Obear, OU's provost and the only inside candidate remaining in the final stages of the year-long selection process.

The Board met Saturday in a special closed session to further deliberate on the final three

candidates: Champagne, Obear and Dieter Haenicke, dean of the College of Humanities at Ohio State University.

CHAMPAGNE confirmed in a telephone interview that he was being recommended by the Selection Committee — a committee of the whole Board — for OU's presidency, but that the Board still would have to formally act on the recommendation.

Champagne said that despite the differences in size between UH, with its four campuses and 41,000 students, and OU, with its 12,000 enrollment, he doesn't anticipate many problems in the transition.

"The problems are similar — faculty concerns, student concerns, whatever — whether you have a large number or a small number (of students) it doesn't really matter," he said.

Some of UH's branch campuses are very much like

OU, Champagne said, operating in a suburban setting — although the main UH campus has more than 40 doctorate programs. "But many of the problems are the same, whether it is Rochester, Michigan and its metroplex area, or Houston."

Top in Champagne's list of priorities is strengthening OU's financial position in spite of Michigan's poor economic conditions. "I've analyzed as closely as I can OU's budget," said Champagne, who acknowledged the need for further information and study, "but while things are tight and going to get tighter, the financial base is strong enough to absorb shock."

"THE THING that I will probably devote my immediate attention to is in the area of budgeting, funding from the state and development from the community," Champagne added.

"The best approach would be to assume a zero funding increase," Champagne said. Although conceding that tuition "is going to have to go up," he noted that OU would not be alone among Michigan colleges in hiking its tuition rates. Some students who would otherwise attend other schools will attend OU. Care must be taken not to raise tuition past the point that students can absorb it, he said. "When you're raising tuition, you don't want to raise tuition so much that it's prohibitive."

University development, where the surrounding community begins to invest in the institution, will help offset some of the decline in state funding, he said. But developing this resource means "you're not hiring a fundraiser — it's a total posture, it's something the university invests in."

(See CHAMPAGNE, page 2)

## Matthews 'happy' and 'relieved' his IPing days are almost over

By Gail DeGeorge  
Editor-in-Chief

"IPing has not been an easy task in this tight economy with its budget cuts and tuition hikes," said Interim President George Matthews, who welcomes the appointment of a new president with "relief."

Matthews, who was appointed more than a year ago to serve as interim president until the Board of Trustees completed its presidential search will continue to serve until Joseph Champagne takes office. That process could take from a month to a couple of months, Matthews said as the new president winds up operations in his current position.

Although his job as OU's interim president was both challenging and interesting, Matthews

said, "I'm happy to give it to a new person."

"IT'S BEEN A difficult year, probably the worst possible year to take on the presidency," he said. The tight fiscal situation inhibits a sense of doing any creative or innovative programs, he added, saying that he tried to keep the perception that OU was stagnating at bay.

***"It's been a difficult year, probably the worst possible year to take on the presidency."***

**George Matthews**

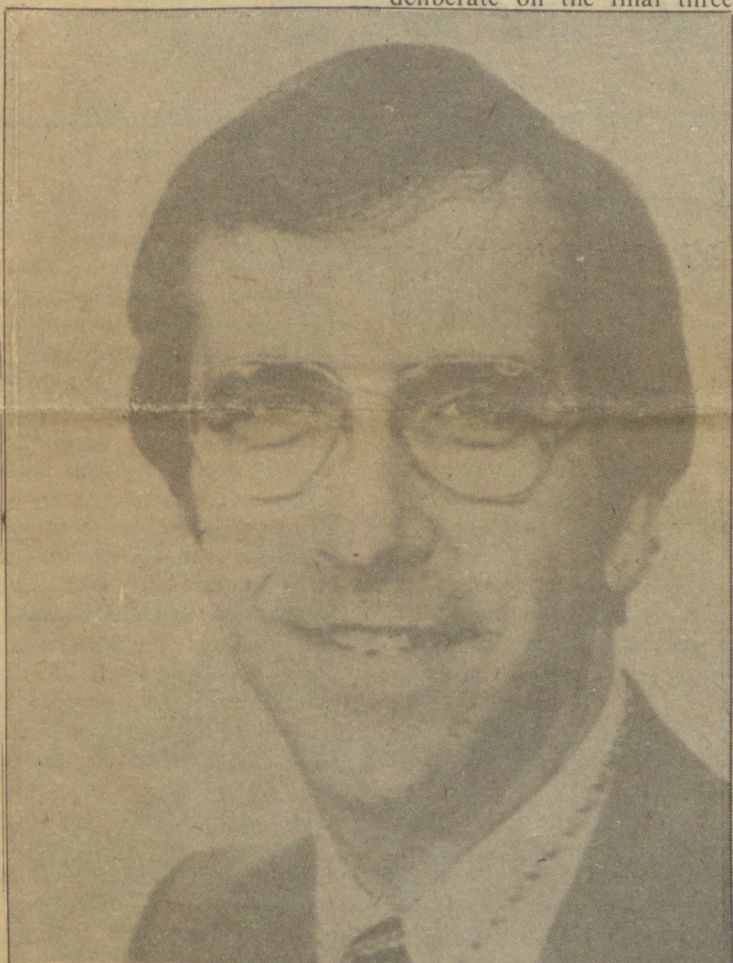
But OU's new president will not find a bright financial picture in Michigan even next year, Matthews maintains. The university's budget and financial position will "unquestionably" be the main concern of the new president.

"I know by almost 100 percent that next year will be almost as bad," he said. Preparation on the 1981-82 budget has already begun, and it is anticipated that OU will receive no increase in state funding over the current allocation, which is about \$2 million less than last year's appropriation.

"I don't know what the new president will say (about the budget preparation)," said Matthews, but his recommendation to the new top officer is not to anticipate any new monies from the state.

A CANDIDATE coming in from out of state into OU's presidency will take a while to adjust to the financial difficulties of Michigan, Matthews said. "I don't say he won't be able to do it, but it would take some time."

OU has support in the state legislature, he said, which helps the university's position. "We (See MATTHEWS, page 3)



Joseph Champagne  
On his way in...

## Future left unclear for Provost Obear

OU is gaining a new president — but is losing a provost and academic vice-president.

Although Frederick Obear, who according to sources was a close second in the Board's choice for OU's presidency, would neither confirm nor deny that he was not selected for the position, he did say that he would serve as academic vice president only for the transition period should an outside candidate be picked for the presidency.

Obear said he hadn't thought about seeking a position elsewhere, or what his plans would be. He intends to turn in his resignation to the new president, which is a customary action, but is not a gesture "to be reappointed to another term," he said.

"I view the position as a key one in the administration and the new president needs the flexibility to choose (those positions)," Obear said.

Obear was considered as one of the final candidates for the presidency at California State University-Fresno last year.

Whatever the outcome of the Board's decision, Obear said, the president chosen would receive his support. All the candidates were quite well-qualified to lead the university, he said, and hoped the university community would rally behind the Board's selection.



George Matthews  
...on his way out



# EDITORIAL

## Welcome Champagne

We would like to extend our warmest congratulations to Dr. Joseph Champagne for his selection as president of Oakland University. It is an exceptional man indeed who could have survived the year-long selection process and emerge the winner from among the 300 candidates who initially applied for the position.

The actions brought by the Michigan Attorney General against OU's Board of Trustees this semester have no doubt impeded the Board's progress in selecting a new president, and caused discomfort, possibly acute embarrassment, to the finalists in OU's presidential race. But at no time were these actions, brought on in part by a complaint filed by *The Oakland Sail* with the Attorney General's Office intended to embarrass the candidates.

IT IS unfortunate that they were caught in the tug-of-war between the Board and those members of the university who believed the Board was depriving them of the right to know about the man who will take the helm of this university next semester.

The Michigan economy has plummeted sharply over the past few months. OU is facing a smaller appropriation from the state this year than it received last year. It has an \$8.5 million facility which may remain closed unless the governor approves funds for its operation. The Board has hiked tuition twice in the short span of six months. For the first time in its history, the university has capped enrollment.

Such dire circumstances require a man of exceptional capability. Such dire circumstances require that the selection of this man not be left to a small core of university officials who made their decision without public scrutiny.

We wish Dr. Champagne the very best in his new position. We trust he will steer the university on a stable course in the stormy economic waters to come. And we trust the Board has made a wise decision — for it alone will bear the responsibility for the actions the man it has selected takes.

## Board's actions tricky, raise legal questions

The wait is over, the suspense shattered. Approval of OU's new president remains a formality, but the legal questions concerning the Board's selection process appear much more complex.

Although the Board officials will maintain otherwise, essentially, the trustees are confirming a decision at today's 'open meeting' that was actually made on Saturday. In its guise as the Selection Committee, the Board met in closed session Saturday to further consider the qualifications of the three final candidates for OU's presidency.

But in the end, the Selection Committee, composed of the whole Board, is making a recommendation to itself — clearly a situation that illustrates the 'sham' referred to by the Attorney General in an opinion issued earlier this year.

BY CHANGING HATS, the quick-change artists known as the trustees were able to switch back and forth from Selection Committee members to Board members with the greatest of ease. The Board will maintain that it did not, in fact, select a candidate at Saturday's closed session — they merely decided that the qualifications of two of the candidates no longer merited consideration.

Tricky, eh? We grudgingly admit that the Board has shown marvelous ingenuity in evading portions of Michigan's Open Meetings Act.

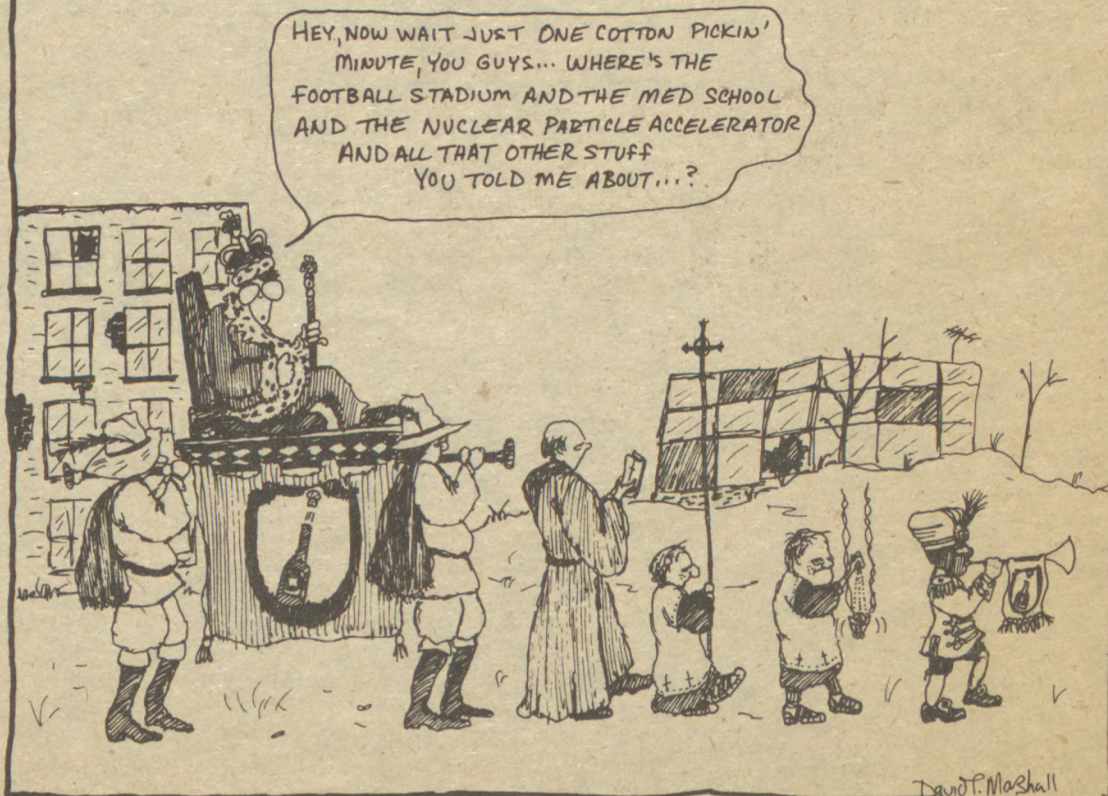
Many members of the Board have demonstrated their agility at dodging questions — and sometimes even the law. They've shown how easy it is to be "King of the Castle." — unfortunately, their games have not always worked for them.

This past week, the Board tried to take a last shot at playing "dodge 'em," by waiting until the last minute to name its choice for the position of university president. It waited until the week of final exams when most professors and students would be too busy to voice their opinion about the decision.

They waited until the final issue of the *Sail* had been published for the semester to avoid any on-campus criticism of its presidential choice or process. It waited until the last possible minute to name a president to avoid too much embarrassment by the fact that now that it has named him, it can't do anything with him because of Judge Gilbert's restraining order which prevents it from inaugurating him.

OU may have its new president, but there remains many legal questions that need untangling in the process of selecting him.

## THE NEW KING GOES FORTH AMONGST HIS PEOPLE...



## Champagne

(continued from page 1)

Champagne, who in an earlier interview related his experience in working with the Texas state legislature on several committees, believes that this experience will help. "I feel very strongly that external leadership is needed (at OU)." The president will have to go out to the community and to the legislature and communicate the worth and value of OU's programs, he said.

OU HAS A fine national reputation, Champagne said, which is part of the reason it attracted so many initial candidates — well over 280. "OU has an outstanding national reputation because you've held to the core of the arts, humanities and sciences, while adding on professional programs." But unlike many colleges, OU has "withstood the pressure to over-professionalize," he said.

The move from Texas to Michigan is not an obstacle to his taking the presidency at OU, Champagne said. He was born and raised in Connecticut,

and although his wife, Emily, is a native Texan, Champagne said she is excited about the chance to live in another part of the country.

Champagne joined the UH in 1966 as assistant professor of behavioral management science, a department within the UH College of Business Administration. After receiving a promotion in 1968 to associate professor, he moved to the UH Center for Human Resources, until he resigned in 1971 to serve as the founding president of the Houston Community College system.

His experience in the community college system will serve him well at OU, Champagne said. "The thing that it did (serving as president) for me is to make me understand the role of community colleges in higher education and the good relationship that can exist (between universities and community colleges). Things can be done cooperatively, and there's a lot of areas, especially in Michigan right now where

economy is tight, where consolidation and sharing of tight resources can take place."

THE community college system grew to an enrollment of 18,000 students in 80 instructional sites during his term as president. Champagne returned to the University of Houston in 1973 to his former position, and was elevated to full professor in the Department of Organizational Behavior and Management.

He was promoted to the position of Coordinator of Extended Academic and Public Services programs for the UH system in 1976. Champagne holds a PhD in industrial psychology from Purdue University, an M.A. in experimental psychology from Fordham University and the A.B. degree in philosophy from St. Mary's University.

He is a licensed and certified psychologist, and has served as a consultant to several private and public organizations including the Houston Independent School Board, Georgia State Department of Education, San Antonio Concentrated Employment Program and the Greater Houston Community College Commission.

## Thanks

I would like to extend my personal thanks to the staff members of the Oakland Sail who gave up many hours during the finals week to help in the production of this special edition. Also special thanks to David Marshall for the editorial cartoon.

—Gail DeGeorge

## The Oakland Sail

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Ritu Sehgal  
Managing Editor

Elise D'Haene  
Entertainment Editor

Cynthia Harrison  
Advertising Manager  
Design Manager

Gail DeGeorge  
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Photographers: Brian Brooks, Bob Knoska, Kevin Kropp, Norm Malek, Duane Martin, Scott Osborne, Tom Primeau, Lea Wood.

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# Inauguration stalled 30 days for Champagne

By Ritu Sehgal  
Managing Editor  
and  
Mary Ellen Burke  
Staff Writer

OU's newly chosen president, Joseph Champagne, will have at least a 30-day wait before being inaugurated into office, according to the terms of a temporary restraining order handed down by Oakland County Circuit Court Judge Alice Gilbert on Nov. 17.

The order, which goes into effect the day a president is named, is the result of a suit filed against OU's Board of Trustees by the Michigan Attorney General. The suit charges them with eight separate violations of the state's Open Meetings Act.

The act states that public bodies may hold closed sessions to review the specific content of applications of a candidate for a public position, if the candidate requests confidentiality. However, it adds that interviews with all such candidates must be held in a meeting open to the public, if there is a quorum of the members present.

State Attorney Debra Devine has charged that the Board specifically violated the spirit of the act by interviewing 11 presidential candidates at Metro Airport's Host International Hotel in two closed sessions last month. At those interviews, Board members had divided themselves into two groups and held interviews in separate

rooms in order to avoid having a quorum, Devine has charged. A minimum of five board members are needed to constitute a quorum of the OU Board. According to statements made by two *Oakland Sail* reporters, a quorum was present on at least one of the days during which the candidates were interviewed. Candidates were shuttled from one room to the other so that the groups in each room could interview them.

IN A subsequent closed session, the Board cut the list of candidates from 11 to four. The Attorney General was denied a request for a preliminary injunction against the Board on two occasions. However, Judge Gilbert issued the 30 day restraining order last month and remanded the question of the violation of the act to a later date when a declaratory judgement will be issued giving an interpretation of the Open Meetings Act and how it applies to the OU Presidential Selection Committee.

An opinion issued by the Attorney General in September about a similar presidential selection process used by Eastern Michigan University maintains that public bodies cannot avoid the law by dividing themselves into "sham" committees of less than a quorum.

The university recently filed for a summary judgement claiming that the issue surrounding the violation of the Open Meetings Act is moot because two judges have refused to issue an injunction. The summary judgement will decide whether the case will go before a judge or be dismissed.

University Counsel James Howlett said the lawsuit "won't make any difference (in the naming of a president)." Howlett, who interpreted the Open Meetings Act before the Board began its selection process, has maintained that the Board is within its legal rights to continue holding closed sessions.

CHAMPAGNE, the newly named president, is not worried about the 30 day order. "I'm not really concerned about it," he said. "I have gotten advice that it really is not that great of a concern." Champagne added

that it would take him at least 30 days to 60 days to make the transition from Texas to Michigan.

Sources are predicting, however, that it could take as long as three months before Champagne can take office. And if the suit against the Board's selection process is found illegal by the courts, the Attorney General has the power to invalidate the Board's decision. The Board, however, could reaffirm Champagne's appointment in an open meeting after the invalidation.

## Selection process: the Board's odyssey

Naming Joseph Champagne as the new president of OU signifies the end of the year-long wait for a new top administrator to replace former president Donald O'Dowd.

Following his resignation, the Board adopted a procedure and criteria to select a new president, and embarked on its lengthy odyssey in its role as the Selection Committee.

THE BOARD adopted its selection guidelines last September, announcing that its advisory committees, composed of representatives

September brought the beginning of classes, and a renewed haste on the part of the Board to meet the tentative Dec. 1 deadline it had set for itself in naming a new president. With the members of the five advisory groups easily accessible (the Board had approved the addition of a fifth advisory group representing academic deans during the summer months), the search process accelerated.

Approximately 20 names were still being considered by the beginning of October, but through a series of meetings, and judging by recommendations of advisory committee members, this number was pared down to 11 by mid-October.

A two-day interview session between trustees, advisory committee members and the 11 candidates was scheduled for the weekend of Oct. 17 and 18 at the Host International Hotel at Metropolitan Airport.

During this paring process, a new opinion on the Open Meetings Act was issued by the state Attorney General's office, based on a presidential search process used by Eastern Michigan University in 1979. Professor Edward Heubel, professor, political science, questioned the Board's process in light of the new opinion issued by the Attorney General's office at the President's Colloquium held Oct. 1.

LATER, HE and the *Oakland Sail* filed complaints separately with the Oakland County Prosecutor's office regarding the Board's process.

In addition, the *Sail* contacted the state Attorney General's office regarding the closed interview session. The office investigated, tried to compromise with university officials, and when that failed, filed suit against OU's Board, charging violation of the Open Meetings Act.

At a preliminary hearing held last last month, Judge Alice Gilbert denied a restraining order, and allowed the Board to conduct its interviews with the final three candidates: Champagne, O'bear and Haenicke.

And the rest, now, is history.

## Matthews

(continued from page 1)

have friends in Lansing, and the political machinery is pretty well oiled, which gives me some cheer," Matthews said.

Funding for public universities in Michigan will have to come increasingly from the private sector, he forecasted, predicting that fundraising will "almost certainly be one of the highest priorities of the new president. We have simply got to make a concerted effort (in this area)," he said.

OU will be able to draw on its growing alumni for part of this private support, Matthews added. The 20-year cultivation of friends of OU also will help, he said, "if the new president can muster it correctly."

Matthews, who coined the phrase "IPing" during his

speech at the President's Colloquium in October, has said that the major problem in serving as interim president is the lack of a set term, which prevents long-term planning.

"IN VIEW OF this indefiniteness, an IP should not try to commit the university to a course of action (for which he will not have) responsibility," he said at the colloquium. "But when (the indefiniteness) stretches to a year or more it becomes a frustration."

Matthews served as vice-provost before taking the interim presidency, and said his future plans depend partly on the wishes of the new president. "My intention is to get out of administration and return to (being) a professor in the history department," he said, once his service as IP is over.

## Presidential Selection Criteria

Almost 13 months ago, the four advisory committees to the main Presidential Selection Committee submitted a list of what they felt were the future needs of the university.

From that list and various other suggestions and recommendations made by the remainder of the university community, the Selection Committee has developed the characteristics that it would be looking for as it embarked on what was to be a year-long, nationwide search for a new president.

According to Selection Committee chairman David B. Lewis, the committee has followed closely the following list of criteria in its search, which will culminate tonight in the naming of Joseph Champagne as OU's new president.

**A president should have demonstrated an understanding of and commitment to the nature and mission of a university.**

- By a record of meaningful participation in the promotion of programs of (higher) education.

- By a history of pursuit of excellence, practiced with an awareness of realistic limitations.

- By broad and deep training in an academic discipline or learned profession.

- By service in increasingly responsible positions in institutions of higher education.

**A president should have shown sensitivity to the needs of a heterogeneous institutional community.**

- By a record of cooperative leadership in multi-faceted organizations.

- By a history of affirmative action in relation to varied constituencies.

- By having demonstrated skill in assigning appropriate priorities.

- By having shown awareness of and responsiveness not only to the intellectual but also the emotional and aesthetic climate of the institutions and of the clientele served.

**A president should have shown effectiveness in dealing with the communities beyond the confines of the home institution.**

- By a record of skillful interaction with federal, state, and local agencies.

- By a history of mobilizing resources of the private sector in behalf of the institutions.

- By having projected successfully the image of the institution to a variety of publics.

- By having succeeded in meeting community needs without compromising institutional priorities.

**A president should have demonstrated effective managerial skills.**

- By successful administrative experience in complex organizational settings.

- By a record of selecting talented administrators and using their skills to the fullest.

- By having demonstrated success in establishing fiscal priorities consonant with institutional objective.

- By having had success in collective bargaining situations.



Laszlo Hetenyi

from faculty, students, alumni and administrative professionals, would aid in the selection process.

One month later, the Board announced its choices for the position of OU's interim presidency and Selection Committee Executive Secretary: George Matthews, vice provost, and Laszlo Hetenyi, dean of the School of Performing Arts, respectively.

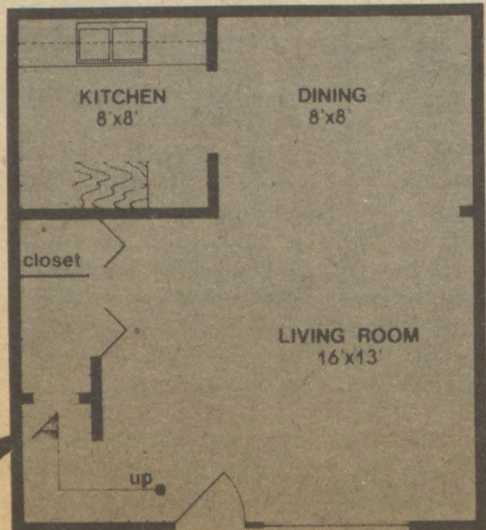
Meanwhile, the position of OU's presidency was advertised in various higher education journals, and the list of potential candidates swelled to almost 300 names by the beginning of February.

The Board began its almost monthly series of closed meetings at that time, cloaking these sessions under a provision in the Open Meetings Act that allows a public body to hold closed sessions if the candidates for public office request confidentiality. It has now been admitted by the Board that not all of the initial candidates requested confidentiality. How the Board handled the dossiers of those who did not, which should have been discussed at an open meeting, has never been made clear.



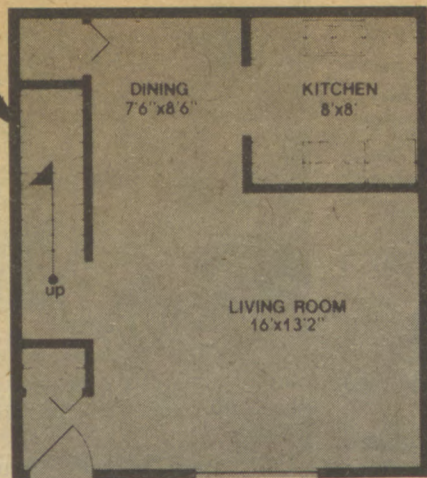
# How a poly-sci major and a phys-ed minor can live the stunning contemporary life, 5 minutes from Oakland University.

SEMESTER  
LEASES!



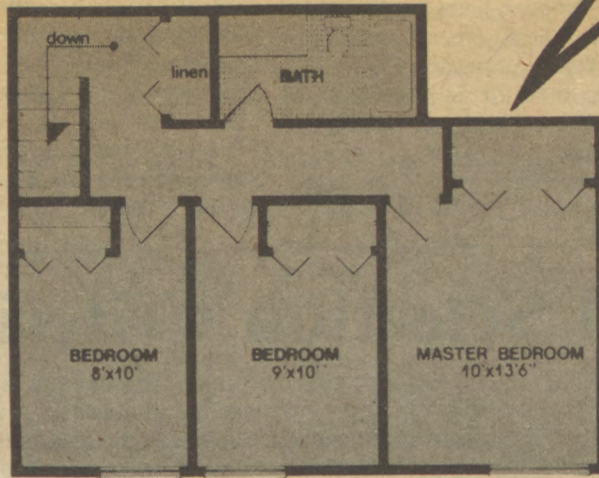
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