

Last Friday over 800 students turned out in a massive demonstration to "Keep Woody Varner at Oakland". Led by a small band of activists, the throng composed largely of what is commonly termed the apathetic majority, marched from the Oakland Center through South Foundation Hall and the science building and then to a gathering place in front of Wilson Hall. There the demonstrators, joined by 200 others awaited Varner's return from East Lansing, where the board of Trustees has been meeting all morning. In a tremendous anticlimax, Varner announced that he was not presently on the list of candidates and had repeatedly expressed his desire to stay at Oakland.

Momentum for the demonstration began Thursday night when John Springfield reported to the student dele-

gation of the Assembly of the College of Arts and Sciences that he had heard that Varner was being pressured to accept the post of MSU President. Springfield was at first unsure if a massive move would be wise, but the plans for a demonstration quickly grew along with a petition drive in the dorms. In a midnight visit to Varner's home, Springfield and several other students presented some of the petitions to Varner and expressed the students' desire to keep him at Oakland.

The next morning Varner went to Lansing and the students began gathering in front of the OC. The primary concern of the leaders of the demonstration was to keep Varner's name off the list of candidates, since it was believed that were Varner's name to be submitted, the board would most likely

vote in favor of his appointment. Varner's speech before the rally left most people believing that Varner had successfully avoided the

Board's pressure, but informed sources report that there is still a strong possibility of his name being

submitted, and if he is asked to take the job he would most likely have to accept it.

WHY?



EDITORIALS

Publication Referendum

The week of October 1 through 8 students will be asked to vote on the continuation of the publication fee, \$1.50 of which is used to support this newspaper. It would be expected that the Observer would mount an extensive campaign to save the fee and its income, but a more serious look at the nature of college newspapers leads us to take the opposite stand. We do not believe that a newspaper should be a house organ for a university administration, nor should it be the weekly chronicle of student activities. Many students may not like our newspaper. We don't really care, but if you don't like it you shouldn't have to pay for it either. The present plan forces students to pay for a paper which they may find disgusting, offensive, and contradictory to their view of the world; we take the position that students should be free to choose their newspapers.

The semesterly collection of the publication fee places further burdens both on the university and this paper. The university is responsible for the collection and disbursement of the fee and is thus legally responsible for everything which is printed in the Observer. What this means is simply that there can never be a truly independent student press as long as the university is collecting the fee and administering the finances of the newspaper. In the interests of free choice and an independent student press, vote 'no' on the publications fee referendum.

Discrimination Charged

A few weeks ago my friends and I experienced an old social dilemma which we think you should know about. Six of us, two girls, four guys, walked into Ted Restaurant in Bloomfield Hills about 9:00 on a Sunday evening. (The guys: two beards, two mustaches, medium long hair). The hostess, attired in conventional dress and conventional bleached blonde hair greeted us with a "There is a two dollar minimum you know". "Even for the coffee shop?" I inquired. "Yes," she says. Well, I told her she was decidedly lying and we left, bemused. In the parking lot was a Bloomfield Hills police officer so Joey asked him if Ted's could legally refuse us service. "Well, it's their place," he says. "What about the Civil Rights Act?" we ask. "Well, that's only for color and creed."

Getting hungrier by the minute we split to a gas station and called Ted's to inquire about their minimum. "Yes, we have a minimum of one dollar," they told us. So ten minutes later we were back at Ted's again greeting the same lovely hostess. "Oh you're the ones that called," she says. Poor dear, her last hope was that one of us would be shoeless. So she checked out our feet, but alas we were all wearing shoes like good little boys and girls. So she seats us, but doing so she says loudly enough for the whole restaurant, "I hope you're all wearing shoes." This was the ultimate slap-in-the-face, so Joey bursts out, equally loud, "Do you ask all your customers if they're wearing shoes?" Dignified as hell, she says yes.

We thought we should let the manager know about the quality of his help, but he wasn't too cool either. He told us to shut up and eat or get out. Cute, huh? The waitress was so very nice that we ended up leaving her a \$2.00 tip, in spite . . . But we have vowed that that's the last bread of ours that Ted's of Bloomfield Hills will ever see. We think all respectable citizens of this community who believe, as we do, in the Michigan Civil Rights Act, not to mention human dignity should follow our example and BOYCOTT TED'S OF BLOOMFIELD HILLS.

Respectfully, Bob & Carol Weiner Lenny Fritz
Ruth Louisell Joe Sniderman Zoey Cantor

LAST CHANCE

Ascendent '69

Wed., Thurs., Fri. Oct. 1, 2, 3

11-2

OBSERVER OFFICE



Reform Leader Speaks

by Sue Lyn Weaver

"We need, not just a change in political structure, but a change in values."

-Ira Magaziner, on "Cultural revolution."

On the surface, the man is calling for a hard-nosed attack on existing political format in schools, and he has some excellent ideas proved in practice for making this a reality. But the basic end of these attacks and reforms is a better, more responsible way of life for the student. One of the things he emphasized a good deal was "Student corporations"--services run entirely by and for the students, such as laundry and food. These are illegal on this campus. Perhaps this should be changed. But the point is this: That students know what they want and need. The thesis is that they should be able to facilitate reforms themselves. The goal is a more human university with fewer hang-ups and less hassle, and a clearer way towards education. My question is: Is it worth expending all the effort here?

Magaziner's tactics call for an overall, long-range goal with a little emphasis as possible on "side issues," such as open house and food contracts. He feels this method, exerting constant and well-planned influence on students, will insure maximum constant support finally resulting in attainment of the goal. Any "extras" picked up are accidental.

Thus, the first step to be taken would be firing up the "active students"--presumably those who went to hear him, or came around to talk to him Monday night. They could then go out and agitate the student body. With constant effort they might get some response. So might a man trying to float a beached whale.

The majority of students here don't care. Oakland U. is growing rapidly, with all the resultant pangs: good professors leaving, sections overflowing and closing (how many of you got screwed up at registration?), numbers and computer cards multiplying. The people on campus become professional "aginnners"--the school is out to get them, and they the school, and all they're going to do is sit and complain while the administration rolls on.

We might start a drive to keep Oakland small. Try to perpetuate the image of a close-knit, human campus with an intellectual outlook and an optimistic (god!) attitude. Try to make ourselves an autonomous campus. Try to organize student power. How large is Majority Caucus, after that first meeting? And, on the way, we might pick up things like 12 hour or 24 hour open house, dorm contracts without food included, lower parking fees, lower prices in general.

Then again, we might produce nothing but several very tired, very bitter, very self-centered "student revolutionaries", ex-"true believers". Or even another Ira Magaziner--a brilliant young man who have gone the route, deciding at the end of each year that the previous year's effort has been wasted, still trying to spread optimism and a few bits of concrete knowledge. Still alive, perhaps a success, through his own personal merits that happened to stand out and shine against the test, stating wearily, "I don't know why I did it all."

Student apathy is a strange altar on which to be sacrificed for the god of freedom.

Huber Again

By Michael Hitchcock

Senator Huber laid it all on the line at the Troy Democratic Club on September 18. The Senator's concern with the public display of the male sex organ, originally brought to our attention when Lee Elbinger revealed his, played an important role in Huber's Thursday performance, attended by about 20 liberals and seven representatives of the Oakland University press. After discussing the publication in the Argus of an article concerning a sculptor of penises and a prize winning phallic statue at the state Fair, the Senator whipped it out. A picture of the prize winner that is, one which he carries next to his heart and shows to everyone at every possible occasion, maybe its only his meager version of letting it all hang out.

All power to the people is Huber's favorite slogan: it has something to do with taxes and senior citizens. Unfortunately I was forced to conclude from the senator's other remarks that students and factory workers are not people. Of course, like any good liberal, he left the issue of people's power and minority rights more confused than ever. The people should have the power to do as they will toward me and you but they'd better not mess with Bob Huber. If the people decide to chuck it all and have a good revolution, they are not using their power according to the democratic structures that the good senator, his colleagues (at the constitutional convention, 1789), and anyone knows that all power to the people means the majority who doesn't like the electoral procedures enough to vote doesn't count anyway. Apathetic, (or even angry) people don't count. Maybe only politicians and senior citizens count as people.

Huber still hasn't given up on turning OU into a police state. According to the Senator, "We shouldn't tolerate on campus, a man typified by Chancellor Varner." Why? Because Varner is permissive to the extreme of allowing students to go naked on state property. Huber sees

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Student March and Varner Regime

By Davis Catton

The demonstration last Friday, complete with its signs and placards, long hair, beards, field jackets, Blowin in the Wind--the whole works--was indeed a tribute to Chancellor Varner. But it signified a tribute of a kind entirely different from that intended by most of the demonstrators: a tribute to the masterful political skill with which Woody Varner has controlled and co-opted radical dissent at this university. It was all there--all the symbols of the new left, of the radical release of youthful energies bent on fundamental change--all there to pay subconscious tribute to the man, who more than any other administrator, has been responsible for diverting radical energies into the safety of approved, sanctioned, liberal-committee channels.

Many of the long-hairs were there--the great unwashed--the same people about whom Varner said at the Tenth Anniversary Convocation, "Frankly, I would like to see our students look better than some do." But that was ok, because "Rather than the occasional beard and bare feet of the autumn season and the sometimes unclean clothing, I see in this generation of young people... the brightest hope we have ever known for a just and equitable society and a world that permits

Huber

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Varner's main fault as his policy of "tolerating anything until somebody objects, and this, says the Senator, is a departure from the moral guidelines set down by the people of the state of Michigan. (People versus Jones, 1597, the human body in this case was definitely proven to be filthy, disgusting, etc.) Someone tried to point out that the policy of "tolerating anything until somebody objects" was laid down by the Supreme court in the 18th century, as the principle of non-interference by the judicial branch until someone brings a challenge to the law.

Senator Huber did point out that there are some student radical groups with legitimate demands (such as YAF), but our generation could not possibly match the achievements of his, putting a man on the moon, racism, poverty in the midst of plenty, or any of the other wonderful things that industrialists and politicians like Senator Huber have done for us.

man kind to live in peace." But as he said in this same convocation, this approval does not extend to those who would rock the boat, who would disturb the smooth functioning of the university because they believe it to be an integral part of the war machine.

For years Varner has played the game of liberal cooptation (and played it brilliantly) to the extent that the movement at Oakland is today almost non-existent. One of the secrets of the game, one of the basic tools, is the committee. Whenever there is unrest, whenever somebody's bitchin' about something, form a committee, designate "student leaders" or have them talking until they get so bogged

down in the morass of liberal reform lingo that they've forgotten what they were angry about in the first place.

This predictable, discouraging drama was played to the full in the disputes, centered around the issue of open dorms, that almost broke the campus open in the winter of '67. During that wintry semester the shit was really coming down; students were beginning to realize the nature of their situation. The Observer was being hassled because of its politics; Contuse, the student literary magazine, had been censored and its University support withdrawn; Lee Elbinger had written a play which the administration had

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Fellowships Announced

Inquiries about the Danforth Graduate Fellowships, to be awarded in March, 1970, are invited, according to Mr. Barthel, Assoc. Prof. of German, 421 Wilson Hall, the local campus representative.

The Fellowships, offered by the Danforth Foundation of St. Louis, Missouri, are open to men and women who are seniors or recent graduates of accredited colleges in the United States, who have serious interest in college teaching as a career, and who plan to study for a Ph.D. in a field common to the undergraduate college. Applicants may be single or married, must be less than thirty years of age at the time of application, and may not have undertaken any graduate or professional study beyond the baccalaureate.

Approximately 120 Fellowships will be awarded in Mar. 1970. Candidates must be nominated by Liaison Officers of their undergraduate institutions by November 1, 1969; however, inquiry should be made before Oct. 6th. The Foundation does not accept direct applications for the Fellowships.

Danforth Graduate Fellows are eligible for four years of financial assistance, with a maximum annual living stipend of \$2400 for single Fellows and \$2950 for married Fellows, plus tuition and fees. Dependency allowances are available. Financial need is not a condition for consideration.



SPORTS

by Mark Ott

Well, a team that shouldn't have, lost Sat. O.U. open the season and received its first loss again Grand Rapids. The team looks and plays better than last years, but just couldn't stop those Rapid Rapids. Even though we lost the team still looks great. It's composed of a bunch of imported fellows mainly, and they come from places where soccer is a main sport. It is thought that the team is staying up a late before the game, and this could be part of the lost opener. Good Luck in the next contest.

Cross Country

It was a double lose over the weekend for Oakland when the Cross Country team took a beaten from Albion. The meat however, was extremely fast, with a winning time

of about 22 minutes for four miles. Although we did lose, our men did look great. Now that they had a little more time to practice, they should star looking a whole lot better as the season goes on. Secret sources tell me the lose may be the result of too much sex and drink by the team the night before. Better luck at the next meet. W.D.S.

One of the most exciting sports of the year is the annual canoe race around Beer Lake. This year's race was slightly interrupted by a great spontaneous demonstration for Woody, which positively showed that Oakland is not apathetic, and does have a lot of school spirit. Any way, when the

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Dance Classes

The Student Enterprise Theatre at Oakland University will initiate their first evening classes in dance for the theatre starting September 30, 1969 and will continue for 10 weeks on Tuesday evenings from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Barn Theatre.

The instructor for this class will be Mr. Christopher Flynn who received his classical training at the American Ballet Theatre School in New York City under Igor Schezoff and Mme. Valentina Perejaslaviec, and with Robert Joffrey at the American Ballet Centre. He has also been trained in modern dance and was a member of the Dance Drama Company in New York.

October 1-8 Students will be asked to vote on the continuation of the \$2.00 student publications fee. \$1.50 of this is currently used to support the Observer. Open hearings to discuss the referendum will be held Sept. 29 and 30.

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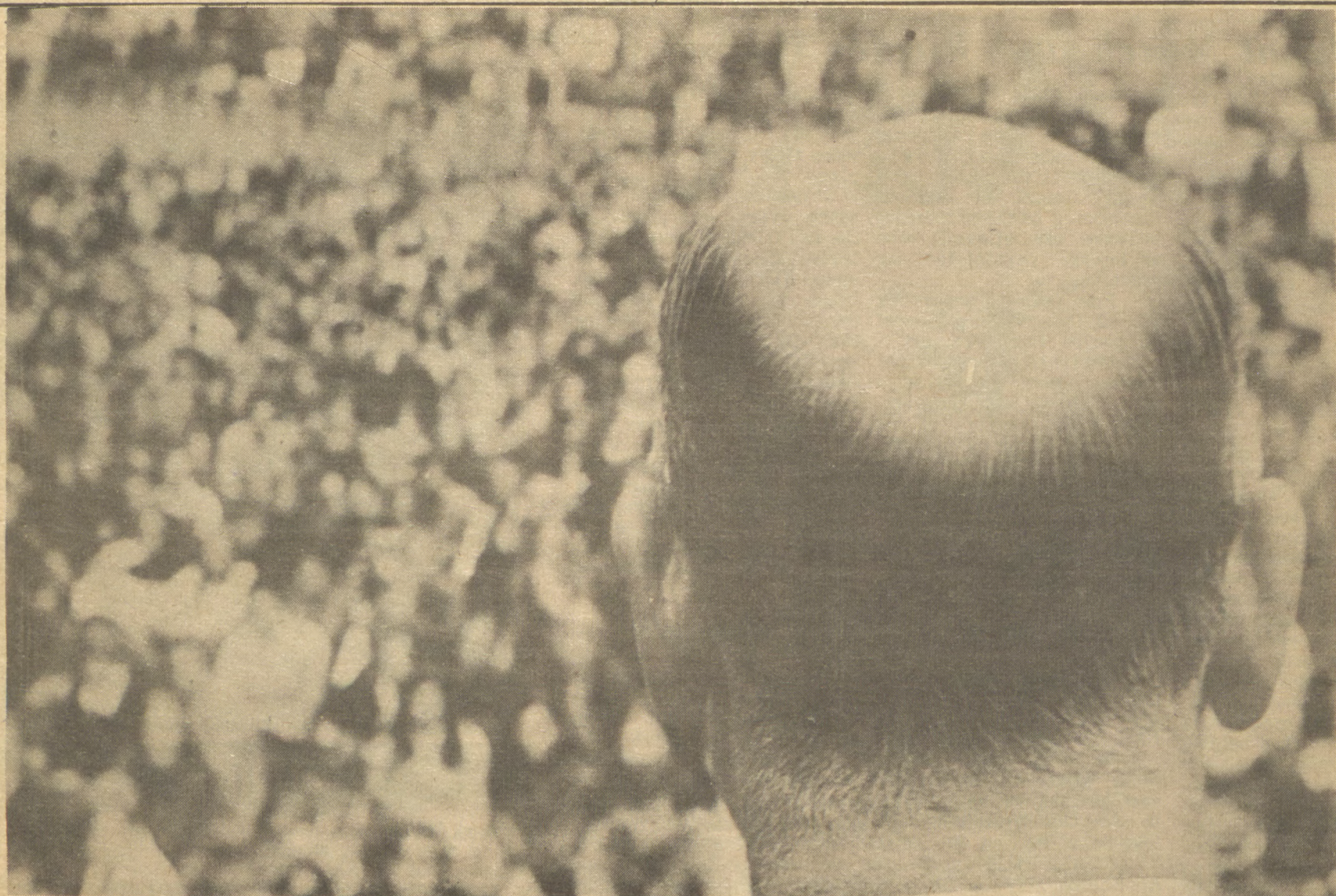
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Students Give Views on Demonstration

Reiko Kubo

I was against the demonstration because it didn't seem to serve any real purpose at all. I can't see any real reason why anyone would want to keep Woody around because he's a snake. He puts out an image of being a good pillar of liberalism and he's really screwing people behind their backs. He refuses to commit himself to anything, and when he does, it seems as if he should be classified as the conservative of the year. He's a very smart man, well, clever and sly. He knows how to pacify students so that they'll give up and think that they've got everything they wanted without really giving them anything.

Jim Russel Sophomore

I did not join in the original demonstration because I had classes in the morning. Later on in the afternoon when the Chancellor came back to the university I joined the people outside Wilson. The reason I went out there is that I have personal affection toward Varner and I did want him to stay at the university because I feel that he's done a lot for the university. Also I was afraid of what we might get if Varner left. And since I heard that Soapy Williams had been a candidate I definitely wanted to keep Varner here.

Donald Hindenach Third semester Junior

I think that Chancellor Varner is a definite asset to Oakland University. Having been here from the beginning, he has one of the

greatest interests in the well-being of Oakland. And I think it would hurt Oakland if he went away.

Tom Cohen Sophomore

I feel that Woody Varner has an interest in Oakland University students that is really unparalleled by any other president in any other school. I think the programs and the interest he has in Oakland is really great and I think he should stay for that reason. I think he's a necessary cog and I don't think the wheel will turn without that cog, at least not as smoothly as it has been.

Josh Lerner Junior

I joined in support of Varner for the very specific reason that although I disagree with many of his policies and feel that he doesn't bend enough to the student will, he has helped to shape Oakland, he cares very much for Oakland and the good of Oakland, and I think his ideas can be changed. We can work through him and I was afraid that if he became the president of MSU, placed in the situation of being given a chancellor who has no understanding of what Oakland is or what the students want, who doesn't have any way to work through the board of trustees. As Varner is reputed to be an excellent politician, I simply felt although I had no great love for Varner that it was necessary to keep a man who if he mobilized could do things for us, although he has not yet been mobilized. It's as simple as that. (When you say Varner will do what's

good for Oakland do you mean what's good for the students?)

Not now, but I think if he was made, (let's not say made aware), if we could convince him, show him how much bullshit goes on in the system, then I think he does care about Oakland and he really does want to give the students a good education. I think he would change. In other words I think he at least has the right predisposition that could be worked with. While we'd have to take our chances with a new Chancellor.

John Kelly

The whole deal with this demonstration was just compulsion people had a false idea of what was going on and just ran out into the streets yelling "Yay, Varner"; "Our chief, our hero" and all this shit and they didn't even know anything about him. Nobody gives a damn what he does anyways. There would have been just as many people there if he was getting thrown out of the college or the university as if he were being removed by the MSU selection committee. This didn't mean nothing.

(at this point Josh Lerner intervened, saying "I was also there because I hate MSU and anything against MSU I am for.")

I feel personally that Chancellor Varner is unique among many administrators on campuses today and that he is highly respected by most students who come in contact with him, or at least this has been my observation. I

think at any time at the beginning of the year you're going to get a certain, a lot of willingness, among the Freshmen in particular to get a piece of the action or whatever is going on on campus and many freshmen join, rather naively in this march for Varner. However, on the part of the upper classmen, who I think made up a good share of the people who participated in the march -- their display in this demonstration indicates a sincere reverence for Chancellor Varner, which I think is very significant and speaks well for Woody Varner and what he has done for this campus.

Steve Gayner

I participated in the demonstration because I'm a coward; I had something good and I didn't want to take a chance of having something else.

Michael Berger

I didn't participate in the recent demonstration to keep uh Woodrow Varner . . . ha ha . . . huh? Durwood? What's his name? Durwood? Is it? Durwood. Varner? Because, ha, I don't know why! Cause I don't know that much about Woody Varner to keep him here. ha-ha That's about it. I don't know if I'd really want Woody Varner here.

Abbey Schuman Freshman
I don't give a damn.
Joe Hernandez

Good morning ladies and gentlemen. My name is Joe Hernandez and I live in Vandenberg . . . supposedly. And I participated in it because . . . well I

really didn't know that much about it until I was in it, heh, and then I found out that uh, well anyways Michigan State was trying to take him away from Oakland and, by some things I heard about him, about some of his speeches, he seems to be a pretty liberal guy, concerned with the problems of the university and especially he said something about uh race, you know the races -- the problems with the race -- black and white you know. And he seems to be o.k. on that. I also think it's not right for Michigan State to try to take him away from us and I think it's about time we got the independence from Michigan State and we got our own president and our own legislative body.

Unidentified Student

I take part in the demonstration 'cause here da deal was: I really didn't know what it was, but I found out it was a pretty cool deal; was worthwhile my time. So it wasn't a waste of time; it was cool. Lay it on.

(When asked what his opinion of the demonstration was, one student queried "What demonstration?")

Freshman
What I've heard is that Varner is a bastard...and that's why I didn't participate in that and that's why I advised nobody else to either.

Jenette Gunsley

I was just walking along and observing what was going on. I haven't really been here long enough to know one way or another if I wanted him to stay

Can't, on page 5

Student Views on Demonstration Con't. from page 4

or not. I think there were quite a few of us who were just walking around here just to see what was going to happen.

Randy Parker (bum) Non-student resident

I participated in the demonstration to keep Varner here last weekend, Wheels Day, and the reason was, One, they were giving coffee, and another was that Varner--it kind of bothers me that people yell "fu*k Varner" and shit like that when he's doing something that they don't agree with, but then when he tried to leave, you know--the big fuss. Well the way I see it, he had given his resignation or something that he was out of the running two months ago as far as Michigan State was concerned. And no matter what they had done at this demonstration it really wasn't going to matter too much 'cause like if Michigan State needed a chancellor, they've got something like, how many students, forty-five thousand? and how many here? Six thousand? Seven thousand? It's absurd! They're going to get him, you know, because if they need a chancellor, they've got priority over us because just the fact that they're larger and they can put some dude in here and everyone is going to be happy, but not really because they're upset and everything, but you've got to think that they've got the numbers in comparison to us. So, my participation in this was more or less of a -- 'what-the-hell', you know. I'm an outside agitator you might say. But that's cool.

Ted Howard Junior
I participated in the demonstration because it was a lot of fun, and it's a good thing for people to get together like that. And it's not very often that the Oakland students got together like that and I think it's a good thing. It didn't really matter if Woody stayed at Oakland or not, but I don't know; I couldn't imagine anyone being any better -- just worse.

Henry Feinberg Junior
I feel Woody Varner would be better off somewhere else. Get a more reactionary Chancellor. We could work a lot better by proposing reforms and he'd be a better sounding board.

Bob Waite Sophomore
I took part in the demonstration because I felt if Varner left we might get someone else who is quite inefficient. After-all MSU is having quite a lot of trouble finding people and we might do even worse than MSU. And Varner's got a good political image. I don't know what he's done but I am kind of worried that another chancellor would not do as well as Varner has. And I was very happy to see that kind of cut through all student crosslines. There were the freaks and the straights and everyone was there.

Patricia Vollo Freshman
The reason I participated in the demonstration on Friday is really two-fold. First there is the basic psychology of losing something to a rival university, which would be Michigan State. Also, there was the alternative of who we'd get to

replace him and the prospect of who we'd get was a little bit disheartening. So the idea was, "Keep Varner here"; at least he's done more than anybody seemingly could do in the future.

Tracy Phillips Sophomore
I participated in the demonstration cause I believe Varner is a good man. I've lived up around State for quite a few years and I think it's a cruddy school. It's run very bad. I came to Oakland because I believed in the school. It's a liberal arts school. And it's a completely different kind of education. I believe in the next few years it's going to become one of the best liberal arts schools in the country. And Varner's been here all the time. I've seen some of the fighting he's done; and I've heard about it up at State. And he's been making Oakland a very good school! So I didn't want to see him go to a school like that when he didn't want to. I didn't believe he should be forced to. And if I felt the student body -- o.k. we might not have accomplished anything as far as a lot of people have said--what good did it do--well, we didn't do any harm and it made it a little more public to the people around the state that not all the student bodies around the countryside are against the administration --that there are quite a few students who do care about education and the administration.

Dena-barach Epel Freshman

I came to observe and

to be entertained.
A Mature Student

I haven't attended such a fun demonstration since we all went out to cheer Harding in '22.

These interviews conducted by Michael Hitchcock. Apologies to anyone whose name is misspelled.)

Robert Johnson

Continued from page 6

life. The poet desperately tries to escape the insane chiding of the living statue, but he finds that the windows and doors of his studio have disappeared. The statue suggests that the poet enter the full-length mirror on the studio wall. After some persuasion, the poet does enter the mirror and episode two begins. The next three episodes are no less surreal than the first.

The theme of self-destruction occurs repeatedly in *Blood of a Poet*. The film journeys into the depths of the creatively insane mind of the artist as he fluctuates between the will to live and the wish to die; one can see that if the poet indeed bleeds, the blood will most likely be on his own hands.

SPORTS

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races finally ended, after a few unscheduled dips and bombardments, the victors were known. There was Berna Freedman and Girls from Hamlin, and Art Colten and the men of the U.S.A. congratulations to the winner, and to the losers; nice try better luck next year.

Varner Con't. from page 3

been trying to suppress; and anger at the condition of dormitory life threatened to boil over. The Vandenberg House Council devised a plan to open the dorms lounge to both sexes 24 hours, only to have the plan ignored by the administration. Students in that dorm were organizing to take action to obtain the right to govern themselves and participate directly in matters relating to how they lived at Oakland.

It all came down to an open meeting in Vandenberg lounge at which Varner was invited to speak. His speech that night was one of the most brilliant political performances I have ever seen. In two hours of talking he succeeded in completely defusing the movement, promising to set up the commission on student life to look into our complaints. He admitted openly, that the commission would have no real power, that the ultimate decisions would still rest with him and the Board of Trustees, but students weren't listening to his words, only to his conciliatory, good-fellow tone. They were jumping at the chance to get involved and become "student leaders" and were heedless of their real base of power: their fellow students.

And so, two years later, students still have no real control over their own living arrangements--and the commission on student life is still talking and talking. And now, by their massive demonstration, the students have in effect given Varner a blank ticket to continue his autocratic co-optation of their efforts toward true self-government.



Robert Johnson and the Blues

Phil Boykin

The increased popularity of the blues in recent years can be viewed as the result of a general movement toward and stemming from a need to discover not only the roots of music, but of life itself. In such a contest, the blues becomes more than just the emotional outpourings of an illiterate Negro of the thirties from the Mississippi Delta.

The despicable socio-economic conditions and subsequent alienation experienced by the black people of that time brought to the plantations and ghettos the seeds of a kind of "heightened awareness" ("which to the angels looks like torment and insanity") that some of us have begun to realize.

"The blues is killin' me by the grave..."

- Robert Johnson
Preaching Blues

Robert Johnson's life parallels to an incredible degree the life of Orpheus, the mythological god of song. Orpheus was torn limb from limb by the Dionysian women after he sang his way down to Hades in a vain effort to regain his lost wife Eurydice. Johnson, who no doubt lived in a Hell of his own was dead before he reached his 21st birthday, poisoned by a jealous girlfriend.

"Once and for all, it's Orpheus when there's singing..."

- Rainer Maria Rilke
Sonnets to Orpheus
Bk. I, no. 5 (Norton)

When Orpheus sings, there is only one song.

"Standin' at the Crossroads
I tried to flag a ride,
nobody seemed to know me
everybody passed me by..."

- R. J.
Crossroads

Johnson, in his Crossroads Blues uses a metaphor well known to poets, authors, and playwrights who came before him.

"Be magic power at your senses' crossroad,
be the meaning of their strange encounter..."

- Ibid, Rilke
Bk. 2, no. 29

"At the crossing of two heartways stands no temple for Apollo..."

- Ibid, Rilke
Bk. I, no. 3

One is also reminded of the murder Edipus committed where the roads came together. An enlightened look at some other Johnson lyrics will yield similar results.

"The blues is the low-down shakin' chills,
you ain't never had a mind,
hope you never will..."

- Preaching Blues

"She's a Kindhearted Woman
she studies evil all the time,
to wish to kill me
is to have it on your mind..."

- Kindhearted Woman Blues

"The woman I love took to my best friend,
some joker got lucky,
stole her back again..."

- Come on in My Kitchen

"If I had possession over Judgement Day,

wouldn't have no lovin'
wouldn't have no right to pray..."

- If I had Possession Over Judgement Day

The importance of Robert Johnson, "King of the Delta Blues Singers", lies not only in his adeptness at the guitar (and harmonica according to his guitar teacher Son House), his incredible vocal technique, and his greatness at song writing but in Johnson as a phenomenon. He is the archetypal blues singer; the perfect example of the misused and unfortunate black man of the South who, driven to the core of his being to an infinite loneliness, found his only salvation in his music.

I) William Blake, The Marriage of Heaven and Hell



B.B., Albert King Play Blues at Eastown

by Pete Young

Blues, in the form of Albert King, B.B. King, and Savoy Brown, has invaded the Eastown Theatre. However, before any more about music is mentioned, the Eastown should be commented on. Because the Observer had not disclosed the mysterious whereabouts of its official press passes, this reporter was forced to journey to Harper and VanDyke armed with improvised credentials and a prayer. A somewhat less than official letter (minus Oakland stationary), from our fearless editor, was presented to a frantic freak at the door. Somehow, between "Who are you? Where are your credentials?" and me waving my OFFICIAL Oakland student ID under his nose, I squeezed past the security guard. Maybe the cat was too stoned to care or maybe it was my honest face that got me in. However, I am inclined to doubt either explanation; the truth is that the management at Eastown are very fine people.

The physical aspects of the building were fantastic. The lower part of the theatre is approximately the size of the ballroom floor at the Grande. For those who prefer chairs or are so stoned they can't move, the theatre houses a gigantic three tier balcony that is every bit as visually and acoustically good as the floor level.

Albert King led the night off with a few warmup instrumentals. Now Albert King is known as a wine-loving man, and it was evident that had downed his share. He was so huge that I half expected his coat to come unbuttoned and reveal about ten fifths stockied away in his vest. He closed out his first set with an exact replica of "Blues Power", found on Albert King-Live Wires Blues Power. His second set, aside from the fact that he was considerably drunker (slurring words, missing notes), was hardly distinguishable from his first.

It was hard to get into what King and his band were laying down. Not that it wasn't good

music, it was. His band (drums, organ, bass and sax) was tight and King was technically flawless. If anything, he was too perfect. There was nothing, excluding visual images, to let us know that Albert King record being played at the Eastown.

Blues is built on emotional improvisation. Unlike alto of rock, there are no patterned leads to play. Solo breaks allow the bluesman free rein to project his emotions. Albert King is limited in this respect. His style is a very repetitious, very piercing, two string lead. His chops never vary from studio to stage. It can become very monotonous and unexciting.

This is not to say that King is not a good, or even great, bluesman. You won't find a lot of criticism of King, for he is well respected in the blues idiom. Maybe we're spoiled by the available surplus of good emotional guitarists and maybe it is unjust to criticize King. It's just that with a little more spontaneous creativity Albert King would be that much better.

ter.

Then King followed with the second set. Make no mistake B.B. King is the best singer-guitarist alive. He is a performer on the highest level. Anyone who can gig 332 nights out of a year (as B.B. once did) and still sustain a high level of excellence, deserves every positive superlative ever attached to an artist. The quality of his showmanship, his vocals, his guitar playing, never falters, never fails to excite. I've seen King perform the same show many times, and he has moved me every time.

His sound hasn't changed much over the past ten or fifteen years. The compact brass voice is still there to compliment his rich tones, the bass still knocks out simple patterns, Sonny Freeman (12 years with B.B.) still provides the beat, the organ still fills any holes in the rhythm section, and B.B.'s favorite girl, Lucille, still clings affectionately to his side.

The rapport this man has with his guitar is amazing.

He plays with such sensitivity that I'm sure he sleeps with his axe nestled close to him. Friday night Lucille was particularly responsive. Everything that was inside of B.B. came out with a clarity, speed, and accuracy that made me reappraise my own opinion of King's mechanical abilities. I knew he was great, but not that great. I am convinced that modern day rock-blues guitar belongs to B.B. King--every note has stamped on it: Property of B.B. King. Use with Loving Care.

Control could be used as a one word definition of a King

show. His control of his band, his guitar, and himself, leads to his control of the audience. Like the girl who claimed to have experienced a sexual climax at the sound of Eric Clapton's guitar, Lucille can have the same effect on an entire audience. With his band playing mounting crescendos, B.B. grabs a shrill note and takes the

Can't, on Page 7

Limerick Contest Winner

A very nice girl is Deb Tuck who _____
she _____ all the _____
_____ in the _____
and then _____

-E.E. Cummings

The subject of next weeks limerick contest is Mr. Gerulattis. Winner will receive one joint Mexican grass imported before the crackdown.

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B.B., Albert King at Eastown Con't. from Page 6

crowd somewhere. This is where Albert King is weak. He builds nice runs, and he plays blue clichés. But he just doesn't have the power to take you anywhere. You don't have to be drunk or stoned to appreciate B. B. King. He'll pick you up and take you with him and when he's done he just doesn't leave you there, he brings you back. If this seems all very vague, take a tip from "Uncle Russ" and "get some culture"—see B.B. live.

Savoy Brown, an English musical offspring of the King Family, was the next group on stage. Somehow this band has gotten a "blues group" label. This type is probably a result of their albums. In the studio Savoy Brown plays a good imitation blues. The notes and beats are blue, but the feeling is just not there. Blues, as does rock, implies a certain culture. To be a believable bluesman one has to live within the blues culture. Savoy Brown be-

longs in neither a blues or rock classification, which makes them sort of musical nomads.

Extremely loud, the individual playing was lost in a clutter of bass and drums. Their best number was "Train to Nowhere". They played it softer in an effort to imitate the record and it came off. But the majority of

the material was overbearing with whatever good work there was being lost in the drone.

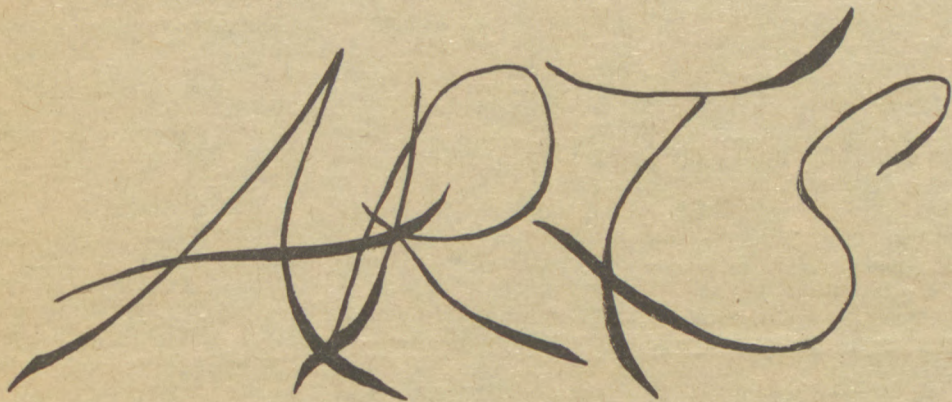
The one bright spot of the group is lead guitarist Kim Simmonds, who ala Albert King, uses a Gibson Y shaped guitar. He is imaginative, has good knowledge of the fretboard, and has a good grasp of blues technique. Actually, he is the whole group. With enough wattage (a large Marshall, a large Traynor) to blow out more than a few ears, he throws his frail body around the stage—not really upstaging the rest of the group—just making sure he

is heard. Coupled with the rough vocals of the lead singer, he almost pulls it off singlehandedly... almost.

Their immense popularity in Detroit is not hard to understand. In the town that bred the MC5 and the Stooges, energy is a welcome trait. In essence, Savoy Brown is a very good high energy band. Perhaps they will find a home under the "energy" label.

I regret the brevity that is necessary in a review of this type. In the future each band should be reviewed in a separate article. There is so much that could have been said, should have been said, that the total product comes on without much real depth.

However, these short reviews are commonplace in rock periodicals and maybe reader and writer (writer by condensing material, reader by learning rock jargon) can—ugh—"get down" together.



*Further on up the line
by Martin Wolf*

*Though told I was included
I became confused
Over which character I resembled*

*(We must have the wrong map, she said
no road leads to here*

*and though I could have answered her
I did not*

*Not knowing whether it was my own heart
I gave her
Or someone else's*

two can have fun . . .

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PHENOMENA

September 26-7:30 pm, Cinema Guild presents "Vali the Witch of Positano", 201 DH. 8 and 10 pm, University Film Series presents "Far from the Madding Crowd", 190 Science.

September 27-10 am, Soccer, University of Michigan, here. 2 pm, Cross Country, Olivet, University of Detroit, University of Toledo, here. 8 pm, University Film Series pre-

sents "Far from the Madding Crowd", 201 DH.

September 28-8 pm, University Film Series presents "Far from the Madding Crowd", 201 DH.

October 1-3:30 and 7:30 pm, Cinema Guild presents "Breathless", 201 DH.

SMACK: THE PIG'S DRUG

by Fleck (From The Fifth Estate)

"It's my wife

It's my life

Cause the needle to my vein

Leads to a center in my head

And then I'm better off than dead

Cause when the smack begins to flow

I really don't care any more

About all the Jim-Jims in this town

And all the politicians makin' crazy sounds

And thank God that I'm not aware

And thank God that I just don't care

-Velvet Underground, Heroin

Heroin shooters aren't going to read or even see this article. Even if they do, the content will not register.

For along with most of their world, it's just a piece of blue junk haze rarely penetrated by anything except a skag-filled works ready to feed the persistent junk-hunger that will never be fully quieted.

Addict--it's a nasty word, but the Movement is becoming more familiar with it every day. A part of our now-thriving alternative culture is based on drugs--marijuana, LSD mescaline, peyote, the amphetamines, barbituates; more potent mixtures of cannabis derivatives, cocaine, DET, DMT, MDA, LBJ, and host of other synthesized hallucinogens related to either mescaline and/or amphetamines in composition.

And smack; skag, shit, horse, hard stuff, heroin, all those tags mean the same thing. It's a highly refined and purified extract of opium from Asian poppies, smuggled into French labs, sneaked into U.S. and Mexican ports, drastically cut with sugar, talcum powder, soap powder, epsom salts, or anything else white and powdery.

Then it's sold down by the pound, to ounce, (or spoon) to nickle and dime cap street sales. About 5,000% profit down the line.

But wasn't our culture and political movement supposed to stand for everything opposed to rip-off profits and doing business with a market that has been created to buy at any price?

You'll never find any freaks crawling the walls for any of the above mentioned hallucinogens. You'll rarely find long-hairs sitting in one room for days on end high on those hallucinogens, not caring whether the world disappears.

Not at all.

The non-opiates, non-amphetamines, and non-barbituates all serve to expand and sensitize one's awareness and bring the world in on a brighter and fuller wavelength opening up the heart and mind to sharing our precious gifts of nature and mankind.

But smack is just the opposite--a rip-off racket. According to both the British Journal of Addiction and Dr. Paul Lowinger of Lafayette Clinic, it usually takes only a week or two of shooting every day or every other day to become hooked, physically dependent on skag in order to function in social relationships.

Soon, friends become unimportant. The only thing that matters is whether or not the smack is in your vein on time.

As William Burroughs puts it, in his preface to Naked Lunch

"In the words of total need: Wouldn't you?" Yes, you would. You would lie, cheat, inform on your friends, steal, do anything to satisfy total need... A rabid dog cannot choose but bite."

You do this because the source of supply isn't some familiar long-haired dealer who will lay out sample tastes, like most do with weed, acid, etc. The contact is a business man, who is part of what Burroughs calls 'The Junk Pyramid.'

"The pyramid of junk, one level eating the level below (it is no accident that junk higher-ups are always fat and the addict in the street is always thin) right up to the top or tops since there are many junk pyramids feeding on the peoples of the world and all built on basic principles of monopoly: 1) Never give anything away for nothing. 2) Never give more than you have to give (always catch the buyer hungry and always make him wait. 3) Always take everything back if you possibly can.

So that's where heroin, and synthetic junk are at.

But why write about something every high school counselor raves over in modern living class? Because there's recently been a subtle shift in available dope and the drug perspective of our culture is changing.

Last week the N.Y. Times carried a long piece explaining a crash program undertaken by the U.S. Government involving everyone from NASA to the local police designed to wipe out the use of marijuana and LSD.

Torpedo boats, planes, ultra-new electronic sensors, more agents, chemicals, (which have not been tested for human reactions) for spraying on growing cannabis which induce nausea and harsher penalties are all part of the new package legislation.

There was a brief mention that efforts will be extended to crack down on heroin traffic, but no such meticulous measures were outlined such as the ones aimed at grass smokers.

The ruling class would like nothing better than to see our growing revolutionary energies drained or wiped out and has been trying unsuccessfully for some time to stop the cannabis comradery.

For once someone who smokes grass and realizes that he's a felon, he begins to question the entire legal system of this society. Grass doesn't create addicts, almost 99% of the time it starts people thinking and finding out more about his brothers and sisters who share weed.

So if the weed supply is wiped out, that leaves smack and speed (we'll deal with the latter in future issues) with which to get high, effectively delivering pot-heads into the hands of the junk industry.

So we're right back into the clutches of the slimiest part of a society whose values we rejected. The business is run by the Mafia, plain and simple.

That's a fraternal organization often composed of fine upstanding citizens. Like the substantiated rumor of a \$40,000 a day heroin deal running out of an Ann Arbor garage, with a lawyer acting as banker. Nice, clean business - no muss, no balky customers to hype, lots of profit.

Go back over the last few issues of Scope magazine and read up on suspected Mafia ties running all through our city government. Then mentally compare the number of smack busts you've read or heard about in the last month to the amount of marijuana users apprehended.

Get the picture?

It starts to fit together when you consider the downward spread of revolutionary (or radical or hippy or whatever) cultural influence into the high and junior high schools. The kids there are exposed to drugs from under and above ground media but often lack the caution or discretion found in more traditionally raised college students and older folks, or, in discarding the usual bullshit thrown them by the straight media they chuck out any same drug advice contained therein.

It's not uncommon these days to hear of suburban kids shooting peanut butter or orange juice, "just to find out what happens." Now, with a nice gullible market like that, how long before the smack racket sniffs out this market.

Of course, the next door neighbor who controls it won't dirty his hands. A pusher 3 or 4 levels down will make deals, and also get busted if things go awry.

Neat arrangement.

The political implications of smack's appearance in our midst are very clear. The Man is out to get us--if not with the familiar gun or a club, then quietly through a 7 1/2 gauge needle.

Crackdown

The Federal government has launched an all out campaign to stop the flow of drugs across the Mexican border. Operation Intercept went into operation Sunday, using radar planes, ships and a large force of customs inspectors to search all traffic crossing the border from Mexico into the US.

The program will be continued for an indefinite period. The objective of the program is to reduce the volume of narcotics, marijuana and dangerous drugs which are smuggled into the United States from Mexico, thus cutting down the supply available to addicts and users in this country, said an announcement from Treasury Secretary David Kennedy and Attorney General John Mitchell. It is estimated that 80% of marijuana consumed in this country comes from Mexico.

A test was conducted for operation intercept at the border across from Tijuana, Mexico, south of San Diego. It tied up traffic for four hours and created a 3 1/2 mile jam of automobiles waiting for inspection before they were permitted into the U.S.

The surveillance that went into operation Sunday was expected to create an even worse problem for tourists, workers who must cross the border, and persons who go into Mexico for bullfights, racing, or other entertainment. Within an hour after the operation went into effect at the Tijuana crossing, cars were backed up for blocks and honking furiously. All 16 customs and immigration lanes were being used, but instead of searching one car out of 20, the inspectors halted every car.

The government had previously announced that it planned a crackdown on marijuana, with the possibility of spraying the crop with a nausea inducing chemical. The Nixon administration has also indicated it favors stricter penalties for marijuana sales.

Secret Message

Theosophical study group meets 7:45 p.m. every Sunday at 1159 Dudley, Pontiac to discuss the rationale of reincarnation, karma, psychic phenomena, and related subjects. For info call 334-8917. All are welcome.

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