

The Observer

September 17, 1965

Oakland University, Rochester, Michigan

Vol. VII - No. 2

The editors felt that the article below, which appeared in the Detroit Free Press, merited reprinting in its entirety, and the Free Press has given permission to do so.

A Challenge, Not a Charge

The father of a retarded child sent us the article below. We present it to you as it came to us.

By James T. Brock

THE PRESCRIPTION that can alleviate the suffering of our nation's retarded children can't be written by any doctor, or filled by the most skilled pharmacist. It's a miracle-working medicinal. Although it's not a drug, it becomes instantly habit-forming, and the prescription must be refilled countless times throughout the child's life.

It's priceless, and yet not expensive. It can't be "taken." To be effective, it must be administered by all of us. When we do, we help ourselves as much as we help the child. It has no physical properties, no chemical formula, and is as ancient as creation. Written on a prescription pad, it might appear in its Latin form, *Caritas*, easily translated into English as Love.

"Retarded Children Can Be Helped" say the ads sponsored by the National Association For Retarded Children. And on a professional level, this is true. Research facilities, training and recreational centers are coming to the rescue of these often misunderstood waifs.

But is this professional aid, in itself, adequate? The so-called retarded child has been deprived too long of his natural birthright of human dignity and respect, a situation that cries to heaven not for vengeance, but correction.

Daily he climbs foothills of toleration, and mountains of rejection. What is needed is an increased awareness that these children are not legitimate heirs to the tag of "Monster" or "Retard," but are rather gifts to our society, capable, if given the opportunity, not in spreading repulsion or terror, but great joy, happiness and spiritual strength.

This special child, sometimes with a gaping, drooling mouth, or a silenced tongue or shuffling gait, is an altogether singular entity. Each is snowflake-unique, and is as sensitive as any other child to acceptance or rejection, even though these expressions may never be expressed fluently.

He is not, by nature, carbon-cold and incapable of response unless molded so by even the briefest of human encounters. It takes but one look of repulsion, or the click of a quickly latched backyard gate, to deal a killing blow. But watch his many-faceted soul respond and reflect its brilliance from the warmth of a smile, the strength of an understanding hand.

Unfortunately, the selection of the word "retardation" is perhaps not a wise one. It has a harsh,

disagreeable ring to it, and frightens a great many people, who somehow find the word suggestive of gross abnormalcy. Perhaps if we were to slough away some of the common misconceptions surrounding the "retarded" child, it would cast him in a different light and enable him to regain a stolen birthright that our "normal" children take for granted.

How, then, are we to define "retardation?" Dr. Richard Allen, director of the Mental Study Unit at the University of Michigan Hospital, states flatly:

"Retardation is a symptom of an organic disability of the brain. Cultural deprivation is a tremendously overworked term. In this whole area of diseases, we just don't know how to diagnose them, and so we dump them into the wastebasket of cultural deprivation."

Cultural deprivation is a catch-all definition which attempts to zero-in on the socio-economic status of the family as being the heart of the problem of "retardation."

Substantiating Dr. Allen's theory are results of surveys from the National Institute of Health. The Institute's research has determined that nearly 100 potential causes of brain damage can now be spotted before they become unleashed.

Brain damage can strike out unexpectedly like a cobra at any of our children, and is no respecter of economic affluence or culturally well-developed environments. Cottage, tenement, mansion alike are subject to the danger of its venom.

Its poison can penetrate a child's brain suffering from a raging fever that accompanies many childhood diseases, such as measles or meningitis. Brain damage is no stranger to the otherwise clinically correct hospital delivery room, and wields a paralyzing blow to a child spanked into the world before his time as a result of induced labor. It stalks the cottage nursery, in the form of lead poisoning resulting from chewing on the face of a brightly painted wooden soldier. It can attack the livers of babies with a malady known as PKU, an inability to break down amino acids found in baby foods and mother's milk.

No matter what the cause, the effects are the same—brain damage. Why not, then, correctly identify this malady with a scientifically correct label? Aspirin is not phenobarbital, and leukemia is not pneumonia.

Our hearts and hands go out to the child struggling along dystrophy's painful path. An affectionate, eternally innocent Mongoloid child is equally deserving of such treatment.

Let us first change the labels on our fund-raising canisters to read: "Brain Damaged Children Can Be Helped."

Let us begin by teaching our children that the brain-damaged child is not a fiend, but rather, a potentially warm, understanding friend . . . somewhat "different" perhaps in appearance; but, then, are we to teach our children to choose their companions with physical perfection at the top of the checklist?

When your daughter, bored with the stillness of a summer day, comes to you and plaintively complains that there's nothing to do, why not suggest that she call for the Mongoloid child on the next street, and enjoy a leisurely stroll around the block.

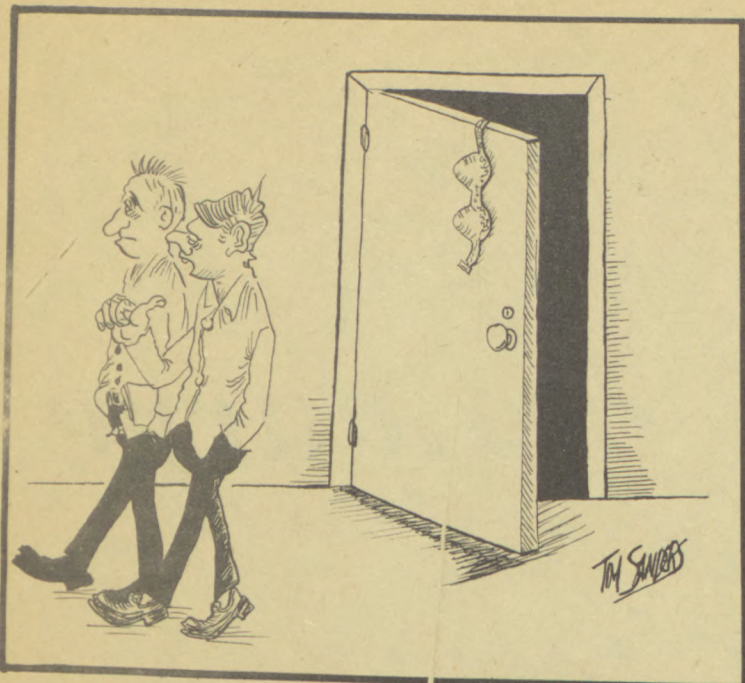
Suggest to your son it can be a rewarding experience to use the medium of the backyard sandbox to guide the faltering hands of a brain-damaged child in creating majestic castles, uncluttered with the moats of misunderstanding.

On the adult level, an afternoon bridge or golf game could yield to a greater challenge and feeling of accomplishment if replaced by the adventure of escorting one of these children, or even a group of them, to a park, watching them thrill to the earth-released exhilaration of a wind-whistling ride on a swing.

When the last book has been written about the cause and prevention of birth defects, one wonders if a chosen few of these special children will not continue to tumble from cloudless skies like unmelting snowflakes, to become blinding pinpoints of purity on the earth's soiled mantle.

Isn't it possible that they were sent to us as silent protesters against non-involvement, to quicken in our hearts the spirit of the Good Samaritan, and to bear witness to the fact that all will not be well with the world until we can look upon it with their glazed, yet penetratingly innocent eyes? Uneducable, perhaps, but knowing all. Speechless, yet the possessor of a secret, profound fluency unobtainable in any university classroom. Uncoordinated, yet clutching to crippled frames more trophies of daily triumphs than any laurel-wreathed athlete.

Your patient is rounding the corner now. Why not unlatch the gate and fill that prescription?



It's Odd, but everyone except Burton and Fenster has Registered A Protest against Tripling.

Editorial

Our Candidates

Reorganized this summer, when only one fifth of the present resident body was on hand to pass judgement, the Dorm Council will elect its membership next week. Ordinarily at Oakland, protests at most arbitrary actions are registered in the form of apathy or boycotts. Notwithstanding our disapproval of the D.C.'s summer quickie changes, we do feel that our endorsement of some candidates can serve a useful purpose, even if 'tis only the hope of avoiding this kind of thing in the future.

Many of the candidates are freshmen, and of course we have no way of knowing who they are or what they can do. The same for a few of the upperclassmen. Therefore, our recommendation of one candidate is not to be taken as rejection of his opponent. It's just that we know our candidate can do the job.

At large: Bill Connellan and Jean Gordon; Anibal: Margaret Meeker; Number Five: Dike Lewis; Fitzgerald: Mike Micholak; Hill House: Vickie Frost; and Pryale: Kathy (Schultz) Smart.

We wish all of them success.

--de

And What About You?

We have been asked why we chose to print the article on the front page of this issue. To many thinking, sensitive people, the piece is perhaps trite. Many others have never considered the problem at all. We are glad to have the chance to present a well-written view of what ought to be a matter of public concern. We hope that we can bring some people out of their safe, self-contained worlds.

--de

Architecture Negates Intellectual Spirit

by Ashley Morrisette

I would like to dedicate this column to my late uncle, freelance writer Richard LaCoste. Published in such widely divergent journals as "Playboy" and "The Catholic Digest", this creative relative has become the most logical member of my family after whom to model myself.

A true "hack" writer, he succeeded in writing on a number of superficial subjects, without having the slightest knowledge of, or interest in, any of them. His articles being utterly low, he was thus widely published. With some luck, I may be fortunate enough to follow in his footsteps.

To start the disjointed ramblings which will make up this weekly, or semi-annual, "advertisement for myself". I'd like to make a few comments on the buildings which Oakland students live and learn in.

LeCorbusier wrote, in 1923, that there was nothing more likely to produce chaos in the social order than habitats not designed to fill the spiritual, psychological

and physical needs of their inhabitants.

In "The Presidential Papers", Norman Mailer associates the unimaginative, look-alike architecture which dominates modern America (and Oakland) as indicative of the growth of a collectivist, totalitarian spirit in this country. Both these artists consider architecture extremely important in determining the spiritual quality of a society.

If this is true, the quality of Oakland University is not being nourished by the erection of the buildings on our campus.

The buildings which affect the feelings and thoughts of college students most directly and intensely are the dormitories. It is there that the student lives, studies, and establishes the meaningful social and intellectual relationships so influential in his development.

At Oakland the dorms are almost impossible for a sensitive human being to live in. They are, above all, ugly. The newer pair

is over-powering and fearsome in the arbitrary manner in which they rise out of the surrounding natural landscape.

All five are physically uncomfortable to live and work in, and the design of the rooms is sterile and characterless.

Multiplying the troubling discomfort of dorm life, is the inefficient administration handling of the limited living space in the dormitories.

The alternative which LeCorbusier described was one of "architecture or revolution". The architecture at Oakland is totally inadequate.

But what is even more troubling is the quiet insensitivity among students and faculty who apparently are willing to tolerate such insults to their needs and natures.

The result can only be a continued cancerous growth of monstrous dwellings and an increased exodus of eligible students into a surrounding community ill-equipped to handle the influx.

New Columnists Enter Fray

?? ? by Daniel Stein

As freshmen at Oakland University the opportunities which lie before us are innumerable. We are emerging from the period of turbulent adolescence into that of turbulent maturity.

The vapid moral, intellectual, and to be sure, physical resemblances we have assumed in the silent name of security during our earlier years may hopefully be destroyed in anticipation of an emerging way of life.

We have no collective worth. We have no collective principles. We will not be a "good" or "bad" class.

Our strength lies in our capacity for rational and individual thought. It is for us to find our true identities through the confidence gained by the development of our unique virtues.

The new dimension which we must take on, that of individual accountability, will lead the way to sound reasoning and will give us dignity and a sense of personal worth.

There is no easy way. Success is subjective.

On this page appear several fledgling columns, some of which may become regular features with the Observer. The editors hope that the views expressed here will provoke comment, even controversy among our readers. Our columns are always open to dissent and discussion, as well as new and original material.

Enchiridion

by Lee Elbinger

The kids have been rioting this summer. They have been drinking, fornicating, disturbing various peaces, etc., etc., and I, for one, am glad. It means they are alive.

The kids from good homes and the kids from bad homes, college kids ("who should know better") and high school drop-outs, all join hands, all become one in an orgy of mindless, meaningless rebellion against mindless, meaningless goals.

Youth says no. I laugh, I applaud this scene. Everyone knows how the play will end. The college kids will go to their suburbs, the drop-outs to their respective jail cells, every peg in every slot, every cog in place, youth becomes the wild, frenzied time between the obedience of childhood and the mind-sleep of maturity.

For it is to "maturity" that we are headed. No matter how we dance and sing, no quantity of beer will erase the fact that someday we will rejoin the tribe.

Some of us will don the tribal garments and fight Johnson's Viet-nam Folly (all together now, let's defend a promise made when we were eight years old).

Others of us, as we take our places in the roles Society has prepared for us, will start using the phrase "Be practical" more and more often. Entire chapters of our lives will be labeled "crazy" and we will look forward to our glorious futures as cogs in the wheel of Fortune.

I contend that the Mature Individual in a Sick Society is a master of rationalization and self-deception. I laugh, I roar, I stamp, I wince, I shiver and shake with a sense of poetic justice when I read of the righteous indignation of Mature Individuals at the vandalism, the mischief, the drinking and promiscuity of their well-raised kids.

On, on with our college educations. The president dreams of a Great Society, a nation of sheep with sheepskins, and we must not let him down.

Policy Change:

Equality Try Means

Missing Mrs.

Changing a long-standing journalistic policy, the editors of the Observer decided this week that they will no longer use the title "Miss" in their news columns.

All women who have attained maturity will be known as "Mrs." in an attempt to further equalization of the sexes.

Reasons advanced by the editors may be summarized as follows:

"There is no reason to discriminate between married and unmarried women any more than there is any distinction between married and unmarried men.

"Old maids called 'Miss' frequently experience a feeling of inferiority which should be done away with.

"The title 'Miss' implies an innocence which is no longer the case insofar as most unmarried women today are concerned. It is an outdated ideal.

"Children of unmarried mothers will be freed from stigma when there mothers are known as Mrs."

Published weekly at Rochester, Michigan by students of Oakland University. Views expressed in editorials are those of the Observer and do not necessarily reflect those of the University. Offices are located in the Oakland Center; a man-made society. I hope all news media will follow suit."

The Oakland Observer

Dormies to Elect Council

Inter-Dorm Council elections will be held Wednesday, September 22. Resident students will have the opportunity to vote while waiting in the dinner lines.

James Appleton, associate dean of students and housing director, feels that "If Oakland is to have a truly effective Council the students must pay attention to electing good representatives."

In accordance with this idea students will be given several opportunities to review and become acquainted with the various candidates.

At-large candidates will speak on the Tuesday preceeding the elections at 8 p.m. Candidates for specific dorms will talk at various times arranged by their dorms.

At press time the following candidates had registered:

At large

Charles Clark, Sophomore
Bill Connellan, Junior
Charles Eagen, Sophomore
Jean Gordon, Sophomore, 1 yr.
D.C.
Mel Kozek, Junior

Ken Silver, Junior, 4 semesters, D.C.

Anibal

Jennie Alderdice, Freshman
Margaret Meeker, Sophomore

Dorm No. 5

Jim Conboy, Freshman
Lee Elbinger, Sophomore
Larry Friedman, Sophomore
Gary Greiffendorf, Freshman
Dwight (Dike) Lewis, Sophomore
Frank Richter

Fitzgerald

Lawrence Fishtahler, Junior, 2 semesters, D.C.

Mike Micholak, Sophomore
Harold Shanafield, Sophomore

Hill House

Connie Eaman, Freshman
Vicky Frost, Freshman
Cam McKelvey, Freshman

Pryale

Cindy Altwood, Freshman
Steve Lichtenfelt, Freshman
Gordon McKay, Freshman
Kathy (Schultzie) Smart, Junior
1 yr. D.C.
Dave Ward, Freshman
Jeff Yorinks, Freshman

Phil. Class to Draft Constitution For University

Combining the practical with the theoretical is often difficult to do, particularly in an academic atmosphere, but 10 OU students will be attempting it this term.

Members of James Haden's "Theories of Justice, Power and Freedom" philosophy course will study C.J. Friedrich's *Man and Government*.

They will then spend 2 weeks working in small groups drafting articles for a university constitution. The last 5 weeks of the class will be devoted to a constitutional convention where the articles will be reworked and approved.

Haden has included the project in his course because he feels that theory without practicability is just as bad as practicality without theory.

Asked why he picked this particular topic for the project, Haden replied, "I am convinced that it is time that people did some fundamental thinking about higher institutions of learning."

"We've got to start somewhere, or else all we are going to do is compound errors in the university structure," he declared.

"Besides, it would be easier to make adjustments and changes with a small university, rather than when the university becomes swollen like Berkley."

The "University" Haden refers to is of course, Oakland.

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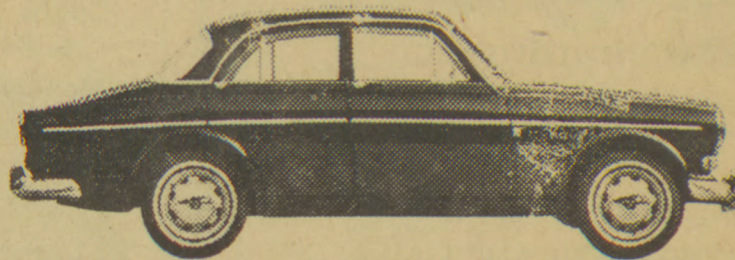
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Registration Meets

Expectation of 2300

It's not often that final figures correspond to estimates, but it looks like Oakland may have done it this year.

Throughout the past year, Chancellor Varner and other administrators have stated that OU would have 2300 students this fall.

While final figures were not available at press time, Registrar Thomas Atkinson said Tuesday, "We've got our 2300 students."

"We don't have any more or any less than we expected and everybody's happy," he added.

Late registration will run through next Friday.



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Non-credit Theatre

Aston Opens Mime Class

Isolating the individual parts of the body is the first problem which students will tackle in the theatre's new Class in Mime.

Tom Aston, director of OU's theatre, will open the course next Monday and classes will continue each Monday at 4 to 5:30 p.m. Assisting Aston will be student

Bob McGowan who has studied mime.

Mime is that theatre art which combines the world of dance and acting. It originated in the French Comedia del Arte and today, Marcel Marceau is probably the world's best known mime.

"Starting with the fingers and hands, the individual isolates the different parts of his body with movement patterns," said Aston, describing the class. "When aware of the parts of his body, he can then put them together in a form of movement without words. Mime scenes will be created by the students."

The class is open to anyone interested and will meet weekly in the theatre in the Sports and Recreation Building. Registration is next Monday at 4 pm.



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O'Dowd Speaks

It is a pleasure to have all of you here and to experience the excitement that you have brought to the campus. We have great hopes that the new members of the student body will carry on the tradition of concern for academic matters that has marked Oakland already as a singular university.

I encourage the veteran students to continue to attain the high level of academic and intellectual achievement that marked their work last year.

I know of no other public university in the United States where students have shown such great enthusiasm for the curriculum

and so much respect for their academic programs.

The Office of the Provost does not often deal with issues of immediate concern to students. It serves as a coordinating agency for a series of student-oriented academic functions.

The schools and colleges, the program in continuing education, and the major academic agencies of the library, registration and records, admissions, computing center, psychological services, advising and the dean of freshman are all part of the Provost's span of interest. Many questions arise each day in the lives of students that must be handled in each of these different offices.

From a student's viewpoint, the Provost is primarily able to respond to suggestions and proposals that affect the curriculum or the administrative operation of the academic program.

Should you wish to make comments or recommendations in these areas, I will do my best to be of assistance to you.

As you can see, the Provost is a role that defies description. By way of clarification, let me share with you an aphorism that Professor Edward Heubel recently called to my attention: "Chairman may chafe and Deans decide, but Provosts prevail."



Donald D. O'Dowd
Provost, Oakland U.

Comment

To the Editor:

I was very surprised to learn that Dean Sells had resigned his post here at the University and taken a new post at U-M. I am sure that all the students who knew him are saddened by this loss.

Dean Sells was one of the most understanding administrative officers I knew, and he would go out of his way to keep a student out of trouble or to get him back on the right track again.

He used his judgement wisely and proved time and again that the Dean of Students wasn't an ogre to be avoided like the Black Plague. He had the courage to speak up if things weren't going right for a student, and to complain where complaints were to be made.

Sells helped straighten up the administration after he got here and shaped it into the smooth working apparatus it is today.

Dean Sells earned his respect by these and many other little things; got and received respect from students and staff members alike. If the administration has not realized its loss by now, it will in the near future.

Edith Bozanich

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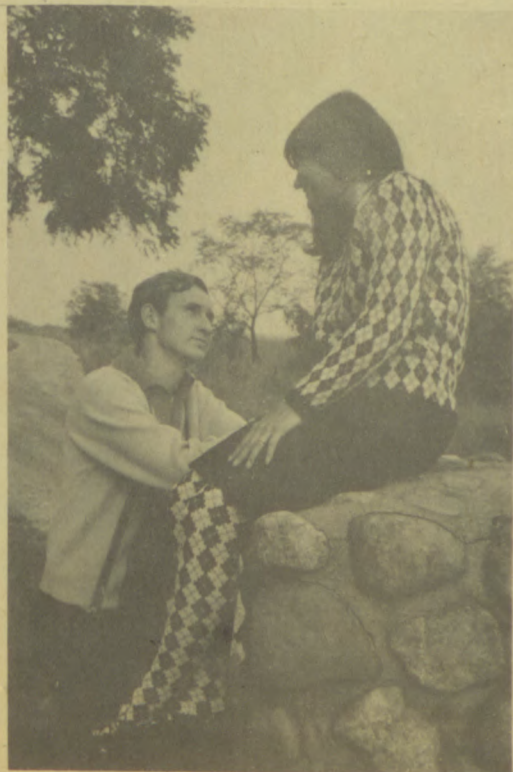
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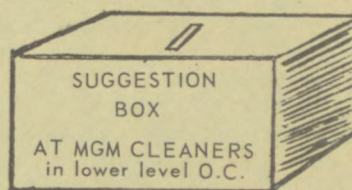


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Thin-Clads Open Season

Oakland's cross country team opens its season tomorrow in an unusual meet at Defiance, Ohio. The '65 debut pits the Pioneers against Defiance, Indiana Tech, and highly favored Ohio Wesleyan in the Tri-State Relays.

Coach Dick Robinson will take to the meet his eight top runners led by Louie Putnam. The harriers will be divided into two-man relay teams, and each will have run at least three miles before the day is over.

Sophomores Putnam, Gary Cobb, Gil Ashendorf, and Tom Tobias highlight this season's squad. But promising freshmen Tim Kaul, Bruce Neumer, and Can McCoskey offer formidable competition to the returning let-termen.

The thin-clads next outing on their nine-meet schedule will be September 25 at Olivet.



All sports photos on this page by Howard Coffin.

Saturday Sports Jamboree

All students are invited to take part in two Sports Jamborees being planned for tomorrow and next Saturday. Entries are due at 9:45 for 10:00 action in Tennis Doubles and Soccer.

Those interested in playing

Men interested in refereeing Intramural Touch - Football League games should contact Hollie Lepley immediately.

softball or touch football should sign-up at 1:15, while golfers and "badmintonists" register at 12:15 and 10:15 respectively.

The soccer and football games will be for men only, but the ladies are welcome to participate in the other sports.

Entries are due Tuesday for intramural water basketball, tennis and touch football.

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