

# The Oakland Observer

November 4, 1966

Oakland University, Rochester, Michigan

Vol. VIII No. 9

## OU Welcomes MCPA

### Might Makes Right

### Great Society Is A Myth



Stringfellow

by Mike Werenski

William Stringfellow came to Oakland Tuesday to do his part in preserving a "viable society" -- a society worth living in -- for America.

Following Bernard Fall in the Oakland Speakers Series, attorney - theologian - author - editor Stringfellow also preserved the series' high quality.

In his speech "The Great Society as a Myth," he assailed the conservatism of President Johnson's programs. These programs compose "a relatively inconsequential movement of social change -- merely a patching of the fabric of American society -- at a moment when what is poignantly needed in the United States...is change of revolutionary imagination and scope

..., change which at last demythologizes the secular order in America."

Mankind has had through the ages a penchant for myths. As religion has become less of a myth, mythologizers have turned to the secular orders. In America, the creed is basically "that individual enterprise in any secular pursuits...is morally right if the objective sought is in fact attained" -- that is, "might makes right."

On an international scale, such a myth justifies the likes of US operations in Vietnam. America is big and rich, so it must be righteous. It can't possibly have anything in mind but the best interests of the Vietnamese people.

Just as other nations must bow to the Great Society, so must its citizens. Jingoism is the highest virtue; dissonance is treason - the worst iniquity.

To remedy the situation, there must be someone in society "free to revolt". This someone, Stringfellow believes, is a Christian, for "a Christian is free to be first of all a mature man in this world, free from the idolatry of nationhood..., free from the fraudulence of myth, free from the blasphemy inherent in any mythology." The Christian can tell the world that despite all its claims, the Great Society is essentially a commitment to a decadent myth.

### Fernald Sees OU As Great Opportunity



John Fernald

by Diane Harris

John Fernald, who resigned as principal of the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts last year after a long dispute over how the academy should be run, has joined the Oakland faculty to start what will virtually be an American Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts.

He stresses that, though a member of the faculty, he will not be training undergraduates for university examinations in the usual American way; his work will be with young people who will earn their living in the professional theatre.

Reasons why Fernald chose a university for the theater site, and Oakland in particular, are many.

He feels that a university campus itself presents the most stimulating setting for intellectual development. "Not only students and faculty, but professional people with an artistic concern tend to seek the university environment."

Oakland offered Fernald a clean slate as far as curriculum, faculty, and students are concerned. Fernald is anxious to write

on it. He has vast opportunity for experimentation.

Oakland is easily accessible to more than 4,000,000 people, who have no established professional theatre at all at this time.

Facilities are provocative. The Wilson Hall auditorium seats 600, and a new theatre will be built next year which holds 1200. Moreover, the library, cafeterias, dormitories, and recreational facilities will be used by the company.

Fernald's 21-week season begins January 4, with Bertolt Brecht's "The Caucasian Chalk Circle." Succeeding presentations will be "Love's Labor's Lost," in February; Shaw's "You Never Can Tell," in March. April's presentation will be Jean Anouilh's "Waltz of the Torreadors;" and "The Three Sisters" by Chekhov, in May.

The aim of both the company and the school will be to maintain the technique and philosophy of acting exemplified during his ten years with RADA. "I welcome the opportunity, he said, of doing here what I was prevented from doing there."

### Student Journalists Discuss Problems

Oakland University extends a welcome to the one hundred fifty delegates of the Michigan Collegiate Press Conference on campus this week for their sixth annual press conference.

Delegates from as far as Northern Michigan University, at Marquette, Michigan and Lake Superior College at Sault Ste. Marie will be in attendance.

Colleges in the Detroit area and western portions of the state will also be attending seminars on the various phases of newspaper and yearbook production.

MCPA is in its seventh year and sponsors its annual events at member colleges. Under discussion each year are the aspects of college newspaper financing, layout and reporting.

The convention begins Friday with a banquet and appropriate remarks by after-dinner speaker, Judd Arnett. Arnett is a daily columnist for the Detroit Free Press.

Saturday's schedule of conferences begins at nine o'clock with a photography seminar led by Tony Spina, of the Free Press. Spina is recognized for his personality studies and a recent pictorial study of the Pope's visit to this country.

Other discussions will feature Louis Cook, drama critic of the Free Press, Mr. John MacLellan, former managing editor of the Detroit Times and representatives from the Pontiac Press, and Wayne Klein, secretary of the Detroit Press Club.

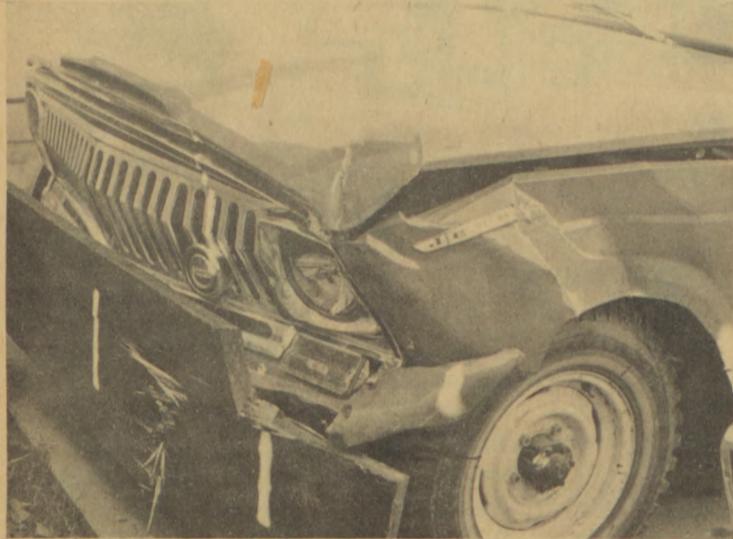
The convention will close Saturday afternoon with a presentation by Allan Blanchard, reporter for the Detroit News.

Spring convention will be held at Marquette, Michigan.

Charles Forton, organist, a member of Oakland's department of modern languages, will appear at 8:30 tonight in a recital at Ford Auditorium.

Critics have been generous with their praise for Forton's previous concerts at the auditorium. This particular recital is for the benefit of Oakland music students.

Tickets are still available at the Activities Center desk and will also be sold at the door. Student admission is \$1.50.



The new OU security patrol wagon, but three weeks old, has sustained its first injury in the line of duty Tuesday, Oct. 25th at 5:10 p.m.

While proceeding south on the blocked-off portion of Squirrel Road to investigate a complaint,

Corporal Elmer Hoover, of the Security service, was suddenly faced with and struck by a rapidly moving north-bound car.

Hoover is now in St. Joseph's Hospital awaiting a specialist to treat his paralyzed back.

Damage to the university vehicle was estimated at \$650.