

Focus:Oakland

VOL. III NO. 10

Oakland University

February 16, 1972

Shapiro says:

OPEN PARKING IS DEAD

A News Analysis

By Skip Thomson

"The Death of Open Parking" was the title of the official memorandum issued February 10 by the University Parking Commission to forestall any further rumors about the existence of an open parking experiment.

Apologetically, it was announced there would be no open parking experiment held this semester due to contract difficulties with "some of the employees of the University."

With the issuance of this memorandum, authored by Harvey Shapiro, chairman of the Commission, an end came to the period of confusion and rumors about open parking. The ramifications resulting from universal acceptance of the rumor can only be fully understood with the background and the history behind the rumor.

On January 11, the University Parking Commission sponsored a luncheon inviting the entire University community to discuss the possibilities of open parking.

In a memo written prior to the luncheon, and distributed there, January 31st was specified as the starting date of the month-long experiment (Focus erroneously reported the date as being Jan. 1st in last week's issue)

Under the provisions of the experiment, all faculty, staff, and student lots would be open to all members of the University Community. Excluded parking areas were the guest lots and dorm residence parking.

Within the memo issued during the January 11 luncheon, there was no mention of settling contract difficulties with employees over open parking. But in the memo issued February 10, by Shapiro, he cited this reason for cancelling any type of open parking experiment this semester.



Confident that the January 31st implementation date was reliable, Stephen Schultz, University Congress candidate, stated that open parking would go into effect on that date in his campaign platform.

Shapiro later stated that he made it quite clear at the luncheon that approval had to be acquired from all groups on campus before the experiment could start. Nevertheless, Schultz's platform coupled with the official January 11 memo from Shapiro gave vent to the widespread parking rumor.

January 31st arrived, and, accordingly to the majority of the student body, so had the beginning of open parking. Dozens of tickets were being given out by Public Safety to the unknowing violators, and

the complaints came in from all factions of campus population. In retrospect, full blame for perpetuating the rumor cannot be placed on Schultz alone. It wasn't until the February 9 issue of Focus, and the February 10 memo by Shapiro that the reasoning be-

ED REFORM EXPECTED IN MARCH

An Ed Reform Up-Date

The final draft of the Committee on Instruction's curriculum revision proposal was submitted to the Executive Committee of the College of Arts and Sciences Tuesday, Feb. 15.

While in the hands of the Executive Committee, alterations and suggestions can be incorporated in the proposal before it is presented for approval to the Faculty Assembly of the College of Arts and Sciences.

If approved by the Assembly, it will be submitted to the Academic Policy Committee of the University Senate. Upon completion of any revisions this committee might make, it will be given to the Steering Committee of the University Senate and placed on its agenda.

Final approval for implementation of the curriculum revisions

by the Senate will probably be in March, according to Committee on Instruction chairman Peter Evarts.

At press time, an official copy of the final draft of the proposal was not available. However, the core of the Committee on Instruction's proposal will probably contain:

-- a completely revised freshman year, a series of mini-courses to introduce freshmen to a variety of academic disciplines

-- a Communication Skills Department, in lieu of exploratories

-- a more flexible approach to distribution requirements

-- no UC courses

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FOCUS: COW DUNG?

Shakespeare once said, "Brevity is the soul of wit." Brevity refers to the lack of verbal and written material which a person or thing demonstrates to the public. This so-called newspaper falls into this classification, but lacks any form of wit, thus negating half of brev-

ity's defined notion. It is understandable that a newspaper must try to patronize its readers with as much variety as possible. However, the character and quality of many articles in Focus in the past semester, as well as your first issue of this semester, are synonymous with the

title of a letter to the editor in last week's Focus, "Elitist Cow Dung."

Apparently, Focus lies in a paradox of wanting to publish a worthwhile piece of journalism, but can not seem to get it together enough to find where its head should be long enough to accomplish such a task. Fortunately, Focus is a once a week publication and not a daily; for we would probably be reading the British soccer scores plagiarized from the Detroit Free Press sports page in Focus' search for relevancy. Relevancy; that's another well-worn topic, which Focus is as naive about as they are about journalism.

Even in criticism there can still exist room for constructive criticism. There appeared to be an overabundance of advertisements in your

Cont. on page 4



Stop Election Idiocy

By Jerry Bixby

The recent idiocy called an election causes one to reflect on the competence of some of the student government officials. The competence of any official who would allow the printing of the pictures of some of the University Congressional candidates, when not all could be printed is highly questionable. This is, of course, not the only example of doubtful administration. The kind of mentality that would require that candidates write a platform

on specific issues is, at best, warped. It is my sincere wish that the new people who take office (whenever that happens) are of a better caliber. To that end, it is urged that each student, before voting, consider carefully whom his vote might elect.

Focus: Oakland is published weekly by Focus Oakland Publications Inc. Offices are at 36 Oakland Center, Oakland University, Rochester, Michigan, 48063. Telephone: 377-3477.

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- Paul Axinn
- Skip Thomson
- Greg Daft
- Scott Gagel
- Rhonda Hoagland

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FOCUS A "LINK" FOR COMMUTER

Dear Focus Staff,

I have watched closely every one of your issues thus far this academic year. I have observed your apparent difficulty in keeping "facts" straight, and your problems in securing sufficient advertising revenue to publish (as evidenced by your sporadic publication schedule). By watching the staff listing each issue, I can watch the high attrition rate, which, I suppose, is owing to the generally apathetic attitude of OU students. And I have looked with amused interest at your "house ads", pleading for writers of every sort and kind. Yes, you do seem to have your problems.

And doubtlessly, there are many moments when you wonder whether the effort is worth the result. To many, it is not. But to many more of us, Focus is a singular link which we rely on to keep us in touch with the rest of Oakland University. And without it, OU would be no more than three or four classrooms with three or four different profs.

As one of the mass of OU commuter students, I come on campus at 7:30 AM (to get a parking space), have coffee and a donut in the grill till eight, and then I'm off for four hours of classes. At

noon, I leave campus to go to work.

Obviously, this leaves little time to get to know about what's going on around the University. Yet, I can pick up a Focus in the morning, and in ten minutes I can know more about Oakland University than I could learn if I attended classes for six years.

Granted, there are times when Focus isn't exactly "objective" (what professed newspaper is?), but for students like me, those trivial discrepancies hardly deter from the basic information.

Many times just this year, I have been very grateful to Focus for its unknowing aid. Dr. Coffman, the University Ombudsman, has been of great help to

me (although he doubtless doesn't realize it). But I never would have known that his services were available without Focus. Likewise, the front page story on open parking last week saved me from blundering into reserved lots, (I believed in

the open parking rumor too).

All this amounts to just one thing; I personally, sincerely appreciate the fact that someone on this campus cares enough for the "education" of others to try to publish a regular newspaper. Despite

your adversaries and their claims of irrelevancy and bias, I think Focus is doing great just the way it is. And I congratulate you, and wish you a long existence.

Sincerely,
Daryl Macklin

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'LAST SHOW' LIKE APPLE PIE

By Scott Gagel

Anarene, Texas, 1951: the last of the old west is beginning to die. The town is falling apart. Television is just starting to become a thing of wonder. It's the type of town where you have a football team to play on, a pool hall to hang out at and a picture show to take your girl to. It is the end of an era.

Brilliantly directed by Peter Bogdanovich and written by Larry McMurty, who, incidentally dedicated the book to his "home town", "The Last Picture Show" is by no means a look at nostalgia. Instead it is a vivid, candid look at a town through our eyes.

Sonny and Duane are the two young men who

transmit to us the feeling of trying to grow to manhood in a town that is not as cozy and as apple pie as it seems.

Sonny is played effectively by Timothy Bottoms, and Jeff Bridges is a convincing Duane. Both take their girls to the picture show, and between necks can still keep an eye on the likes of "White Heat", and "Father of the Bride".

The rest of the cast also is realistic in their approach in conveying a sturdy look at Texas characterization. Ben Johnson steals the movie in a masterful portrayal as Sam the Lion, the owner of the picture show.

The use of black and white (rather than color) film depicts the dust, wind and weary life of Anarene perfectly, giving the viewer one of the best American movies ever made.

Bogdanovich has his faults, but then, no one is perfect. Not even an "apple pie mom" town like Anarene Texas in 1951.

Openings for 1972-73 Student Administrative Assistants are available as of February 21. There will be an open meeting for all interested students to describe the positions at 3 p.m. Monday, Feb. 21.

Applications will be available at the meeting Feb. 21 and afterwards in Mrs. Keegan's office, 304 Wilson Hall. Interviews will be required. For more information, call Mrs. Keegan (377-3260) or Mrs. Barnard (377-3228).

Study Abroad

Oakland is sponsoring, for the second consecutive year, a spring study trip in Madrid. Spanish students who have completed two years of the language will have the unique opportunity to study, live and travel throughout the Iberian peninsula. The courses will be offered, both of which will count towards their spanish major. One course will be on composition and conversation and the other will be on spanish culture and civilization. Mrs. Carmen Urla, who will lead the select group, will teach one course and the other will be taught by a university professor in Madrid. The group will depart the first week of May and return during the third week of June spending a total of seven weeks in Spain. The cost will be \$700 which includes all ex-

penses except spending money.

The art, history, literature, music, and drama which envelopes the spanish society can also be the experience of Oakland students in this enriching educational endeavor of studying, living and traveling in Spain. Since there are only a limited number of spaces remaining it is imperative that interested students contact Mrs. Urla at 407 Wilson Hall or call the Study Abroad Office at 377-2060 as soon as possible.

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PARKING

Cont. from page 1

appeal any violation to our Appeals Board."

In terms of fairness, validating parking violations administered to victims of a rumor, perpetuated by a series of naive mistakes is hardly justification of a 'mishandled' project.

DUNG

Cont. from page 2

last issue. Ever think of increasing the amount? Lovingly yours,

(Name withheld)

[Ed. Note: Amount of what?]

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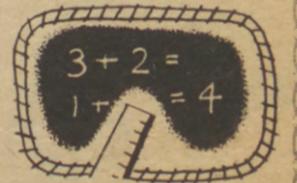
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