

FOCUS: Oakland

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ARCHIVES

FREE



Pinko Hippie Anarchists Liberate Hannah Hall

On the night of Friday, Nov. 21, a rather mysterious group of unidentified revolutionaries headed secret operations in the southwest sector of the Oakland University campus. Disguised in student garb and wielding American flags, the vigilantes began operations by vandalizing indiscriminately and generally terrorizing local law enforcement officers. After performing several scandalous vandalisms as diversionary tactics, the guerrillas moved on to their prime objective--the former John A. Hannah Hall. They stormed the bastions of the building and congregated on the roof, where they unsheathed their flags to reveal crowbars. After liberating John Hannah's name from the front of the building they replaced the letters with psychedelic day-glow tape spelling out "SCIENCE HALL" in shocking electric brown. With a triumphant shout, after quickly admiring their handiwork, they clambered down from the roof and disappeared like shadows into the night, leaving the late-arriving law enforcement officers in a state of near apoplexy.

The repercussions of the event were widespread and immediate. The officers on duty remained firm while exercising as little force as possible. They called a top administrator. That administrator sprang into action, stating that externally influencing sources of dissent would not be tolerated, while internal expressions of student concern are vital to the existence of the university as a life process. With that note of finality he awaited further developments.

How did such roguery start? Reliable sources have it that the whole affair was devised some time ago by two campus revolutionaries, last seen casing Kresge Library in the dead of night. The movement quickly grew, embracing people from all walks of life, including popular leaders from the Deadweight Caucus, the Mad Dogs, the Crazies, the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Silent Majority, and the Book-of-the-Month Club, creating a strong bond among them in their dedication to that single cause; to liberate the name of John Hannah. By the night of the actual event the attraction was so great that recruits were even enticed away from Hush, Hush, Sweet Charlotte in the Vandenberg television rooms.

Now that the deed is done and it has been pondered deeply by our ever-alert administrators there remains only one Question: Where are the letters? A number of theories have been raised. Some say they are now carefully hidden, soon to be put up on the gate house. Others believe that they are now being sent, one by one, to Mr. Hannah himself in hopes that he will be able to put them into the correct order. Still another theory is that they have been recaptured and are now kept locked away under twenty-four hour guard.

In any event, the whereabouts of the letters is still a mystery, and the Deadweight Caucus Guerrillas have won at least a temporary victory. The building remains as Oakland students have known it for years--The Science Building.

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(so what else is new?)

Why Free?

This issue of Focus, the last of the semester, as you undoubtedly noticed, cost ten cents less than usual. Why the Change? We were unable to compile another full size issue this time, but still had some things we really wanted say. Not wanting to ask ten cents for a half issue, we devised this as a Christmas gift of a sort. We'd like to thank those that have supported us this semester. Starting January 14, we will be publishing every week, with more features than ever. We think you'll like it.

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ROCHESTER UTICA

editorial

A New Set Of Channels

In the slowly grinding bureaucracy found in an institution as complex as Oakland, it is a rare feat when someone manages to cut the red tape and accomplish their ends in a brief period of time. When the person or group is able to do it when a degree of regularity, they may presumeably be regarded as a miracle worker. There is such an organization on campus, the Association of Black Students, spearheaded by Gary Good.

In looking at the existing channels, the Association apparently came to an obvious conclusion--they don't work worth a damn usually, and when they do, it literally takes ages to accomplish anything. During the present semester, then, ABS has devised its own set of channels, their success to date would indicate that perhaps the rest of the University community should take similar strides.

Briefly, the new channels consist of a four-step pattern. First, decide on an objective, or a list of several. Lists are better because they sound more impressive in stage two, which consists of preparing a letter of demands. This letter should state all objectives, clearly indicating that it is not a threat in any way. The third step is picking out the appropriate people to send the letter to. The primary consideration in this matter should be the determining of who will jump the fastest in response to this particular complaint. Another concern is to be sure to work one level of authority above the accepted channel. The key, then, is to find an administrator above the normal level of decision who frightens rapidly. The fourth phase, and by far the most difficult, is to sit back and keep from laughing while committees and/or administrators are running around with their head in a fury, attempting to figure out what will make you the happiest.

Judging by the amount of success this tack has had for ABS this semester we can only urge other frustrated groups or individuals to try it. We can see it now. The Allocations Committee would become a part of Dean Dutton's office, with all organizations submitting demands. Dutton would then find some "representative student leaders" to consult on the matter and disburse all the funds, generally in complete agreement with the demands. As the load got heavier, Dutton might even create an Activities Board of students to help coordinate the funding mess, a commission embracing all segments of the university community The possibilities are practically limitless.

Mr. Dutton is not the only administrator who has seen fit to establish this practice, it should be emphasized. This very fact makes ABS's tactics all the more enticing. When "properly concerned", the bureaucracy moves very rapidly. Who better is there to be concerned about than the student body? Take advantage of this precedent. Write a letter of demands today.

(We should point out that we are not criticizing the validity of ABS's demands. We are in total sympathy with them, and applaud their ability to accomplish the unaccomplishable.)

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Oakland's Government-Do Students Have a Voice?

University Senate

Do the student members of the University Senate have any power? The answer from both students and faculty is an overwhelming no.

As to being representative of overall student opinion, the answer is undoubtedly no. They all feel that they were elected for their opinions and therefore feel justified in acting according to their own consciences.

But are they effective? Here there is no simple answer. The students although they have had success in several efforts, feel that their presence on the Senate, basically a faculty body, is mere tokenism, and that their effectiveness is negligible. The measures that they have passed, they say, would not have gone through without faculty support. The faculty members feel for the most part that the students, although no more active than other members of the Senate, do serve a vital function by being present and able to speak out on student-centered issues.

One member of the faculty was of the opinion that the students' presence at Senate meetings was a disrupting factor in trying to pacify them rather than in expressing their honest opinions. One student felt that the students were intimidated by the faculty and that they could not be completely honest in presenting both sides of an issue because they were too readily opposed by the faculty mem-

bers. Overall there is the feeling, especially on the students' part, that the student-faculty relationship is an adversary relationship.

Both students and faculty feel that the system of parliamentary procedure and the channels through which a measure must go before it is even considered by the Senate, are frustratingly long, slow and complex. But the faculty members and the most long-standing student Senator recognize that this system has built into it protections for minority opinions. This same student said that although it takes a long time, the administration is responsive to student demands and needs and that it is not necessarily bad that they do not respond quickly to radical measures.

One other problem that concerns both faculty and students equally is that of the break in communications between the Senate and the students and faculty. Some of it, of course, goes back to the old problem of student apathy, but there is much more to it than that. A great many students are not aware that there is a Senate, let alone that there are student representatives on it or that there are ways built into the system for each of us to express our opinions. Students other than Senate members can sit on the various committees that "hash out" the problems that will be brought before the Senate for a final recommendation. Any student is free to attend Senate meetings and, if recognized by the Senate, to make suggestions, add facts, or express opinions.

SOME SOLUTIONS

Several students and faculty members have indicated support for Mr. Chernow's plan of a separate Student Senate which would have limited but definitely effective veto power over the Faculty Senate. Others agreed that there should at least be a provision made for increasing the number of students on the present Senate in proportion to the number of students there are enrolled at Oakland.

In problems of curriculum, there

is a more effective means open to the student. That is to go to the faculty in the department involved. In the first place, you are then dealing with an individual on a personal basis rather than with an impersonal body encumbered by a system. Suggestions for change go from the faculty to the department Assembly, and if not settled there are sent on up to the Senate.

Concerning the communications problem, small steps are being made at the present time to fill the obvious gap between the Senate and the University community at large. Hopefully, future bulletin boards will carry permanent records of the representatives. Mr. Sturmer's door is always open to interested and concerned students. Although the Senate publishes material about their meetings, doesn't seem to be reaching the people it is supposed to reach. This is a problem that cannot be so easily dismissed. But some day there may be members of the opposite sex running around on your floor at all hours. If you are in favor of twenty-four hour open house, then there is no problem. But what if you're not?

Commission on Student Life

Oakland's Closest facsimile to a central student government is the Commission on Student Life. This body, composed of eight students, five faculty, and two administrators, is empowered to make decisions in broad realms of student life, encompassing virtually all non-academic areas.

There is some question as to the effectiveness of the group. They do not possess the final voice in important decisions, being merely empowered to recommend in most instances. Their discussions tend to be extremely lengthy, and significant issues often take months to iron out. They have operated, albeit slowly, in several areas.

Several members are dissatisfied with the Commission, as well as the entire student government organization on campus. At present, the Commission is considering a proposal to establish a new form of campus government. The results of this discussion should be clear by January.

The present Student Activities Board was created by, and is responsible to the Commission. Women's hours were eliminated and visitation hours expanded due to Commission

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MRS. WILSON'S MEADOW BROOK

Standing almost in the midst of the architectural poverty of the O U. campus is Meadow Brook Hall, the mansion owned by the late Mr. and Mrs. Alfred G. Wilson. Meadow Brook, which sits on 127 acres of Oakland's property, is among the most impressive mansions in the nation. Mrs. Wilson had both the money and the travel and building experience to plan such an elegant home.

Matilda Raush married her boss John Dodge in 1907. Dodge became

demolished without ever having been occupied." Mrs. Dodge kept the plans for the mansion, however, and later had some of the rooms in Meadow Brook Hall built to their specifications.

Considered by some of the wealthiest widows in the United States, Mrs. Dodge married Alfred Wilson in 1925. Their honeymoon in Europe gave them ideas for Meadow Brook.

The Meadow Brook Estate was built on a 1600-acre site, most of which now constitutes the Oakland

dining room is 52' x 22'.

Two elevators, a secret stairway, and a Grand Staircase, which has a landing large enough for a living room, were built into the house.

In a tour of the mansion in May, 1966, Mrs. Wilson herself described the house as of "Tudor inspiration, modified to suit our present day living." Yet Mrs. Wilson did not give complete credit to the Tudors. In the same tour she emphasized, "I have taken a great deal of pride in feeling that this home is an American product, even though it was adopted from the early English period, since all woodwork carvings and all fixtures were done by American artists."

The dining room is a prime example of the mansion's beauty. The walls are of carved walnut panelling, and the furnishings are also walnut. The Victorian-designed cabinets are decorated with sixty Meissen inserts.

The entire house is accented by original paintings, many of them famous. For instance, the dining room paintings are "The Lamb Children" by Sir Joshua Reynolds, "Mrs. Frances John Brown" by Gainsborough, "Lady Lushington", by George Romney, "George Washington" by Gilbert Stuart, and portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Wilson by Louis Betts.

Included in the Great Hall are two marble urns from Pisa, Italy,



Photo Courtesy of University Relations

a multimillionaire as a parts supplier for Ford and later, with his brother Horace, as manufacturer of Dodge Brothers cars. Dodge died in 1920, leaving a nearly finished Grosse Pointe marble mansion. According to an article in "Great Homes of America," the mansion was to be furnished "with a \$50,000 organ and new furnishings on order. The widow inherited most of Mr. Dodge's \$44, 000,000, but she lost all interest in completing the mansion. It stood empty for years and finally was

University campus. Construction of Meadow Brook Hall was begun in 1926 and completed in 1929. Inspired by English manor houses, the Wilsons' home cost them over \$3,000, 000. Construction of the same building today would cost, according to the estimate of one Detroit architectural firm, over \$14,000,000.

The mansion is enormous. It is 410 feet long and has 200 rooms. Room dimensions are staggering: the living room is 20' x 40' and the

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Continued from page 4

and Rembrandt's "Portrait of a Soldier." The library is done in oak and contains carvings of poets, philosophers, and writers.

The entertainment room in the basement conveys a lighter mood than the more formal rooms. "The Court Jester" and "Charlie Chaplin" are two of the stone carvings. Models of antique ships also decorate the room, which is two stories high and has two fireplaces. The adjacent game room contains an oak pool table and a Swiss bear armchair.

The second floor of the mansion consists mainly of eleven bedrooms, some of which are done in Early American, Tudor, English modern, Louis XIV, and Italian.

Such an extraordinary home deserves no commonplace setting, and Mrs. Wilson herself was delighted with the property on which Meadow Brook stands. She described the area surrounding the mansion in her 1966 tour:

"The Residence is located . . . in a secluded spot, overlooking the surrounding rolling, wooded area; it is almost out of sight of the public highways. It appears to be in a lowland, but is actually on a knoll commanding a lovely view in all directions."

But the very size of Meadow Brook Hall and its environs caused problems with maintenance, so the Wilsons followed the lead of Henry Ford's family, who gave Fair Lane to the University of Michigan to establish its Dearborn campus. The Wilson endowment was made to Michigan State University in 1957, and included \$2,000,000 cash for building purposes. The total value of the gift was estimated at \$10,000,000. The only stipulation was that Mr. and Mrs. Wilson could keep 127 acres of land and the



Photo Courtesy of University Relations

mansion for the rest of their lives. The Wilsons moved to the smaller, modern Sunset House, and the Hall was used for cultural events and occasional university functions, including the Meadow Brook Seminars in 1958, where a format and objectives for "Michigan State University Oakland" were developed.

Students at Oakland had a personal interest in Meadow Brook Hall when the Wilsons were alive, not only from a cultural standpoint, but also because it was the home of a couple they sincerely revered. Mrs. Wilson took an active interest in all phases of university life, attending most of its functions --- freshman convocations, dances, graduations, and reunions.

In 1963 she was made a member of Oakland's first graduating class and was given an honorary degree. She knew each of the first

graduates by name and gave each one a diamond class ring. Then she gave a dinner dance at Meadow Brook Hall in their honor. According to one Oakland student, quoted in the Michigan State News, "She was the only person at the University who, when she entered a room everyone--regardless of the length of their hair, or anything--stood up."

Upon the death of Mrs. Wilson in September, 1967, Meadow Brook Hall and the acreage surrounding it became University property, although the University cannot touch the property until the estate is settled. The fate of the mansion and grounds will eventually lie in the hands of the Oakland administration, who will decide how the property should be used.



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Washington march in retrospect

by Mr. Peter Bertocci

Instructor of Anthropology

How, if at all, will the March on Washington affect the U.S. involvement in Vietnam? To begin with, it is possible to argue that the cumulative events leading to the earlier October 15th Moratorium and those occurring after it has affected the President despite his vehement disclaimers to the contrary. Some analyses have pointed out that even before October 15th the President had attempted to anticipate and lessen its impact by a) dumping

General Hershey as Selective Service Director, b) feeling obliged to prepare a speech to the nation which would "spell out" his "policy" more clearly, c) making certain moves in Vietnam itself which could be perceived as an "effort" at de-escalation of the war. Secondly, the rising tensions which preceded the November 15th March on Washington may be said to have reflected Administration fear that "time was running out" on the delay in American disengagement and that the old excuses would no longer serve to stifle the discontent which played a role in bringing Johnson down. Finally, although some news analysts argue that the President has successfully "bought time," the general impact of the March on Washington has been to make it clear once and for all that this is in fact now "Nixon's War." He may play it cool for a few Winter months, but unless tangible action on the war issue is discernable, he must know that he will be in trouble. If it achieved nothing else, the March has served to underscore that point.

The impact of the March on national politics can be more clearly perceived, particularly in the President's response to the threat of dissent in the streets. Either by design or because he simply does not know any better, Nixon has raised the spectre of neo-McCarthyism in his blatant appeal to the jingoist emotions among large numbers of worried, but ill-informed, and essentially powerless people. The

Madison Avenue facade is torn away and the "old" Nixon we associate with the politics of cynicism stands once again revealed. The Agnewization of American politics has perhaps come to reflect the next policy phase to which we shall be subjected. This response to the threat of wide-spread protest has, in effect, done the Movement and the Liberal/Left spectrum a service in that whereas the latter forces were formerly accused of polarization tactics, the President himself has now obligingly assumed that onus. National television commentary, the most conventional of political analysis, has even noted this fact.

Moreover, what may be interpreted as the Administration's thinly disguised attempt to discredit the Movement by drawing protestors into violence has failed. It is especially instructive in this regard that Attorney General Mitchell, who with his underling Kleindienst is a prime suspect as the architect of that policy, has spent his time since November 15th insisting that the March was in fact violent. Since this description of the March as a whole is baldly false, it can only be taken as a measure of the desperation with which the Administration is attempting to discredit dissent. For the Movement leadership realized that this was the trap being laid for it and as a result it maintained a strict insistence throughout that the March be peaceful and within the bounds of legality. The training of Marshals, the insistence that protestors march only when and where permitted, and the pleading with adventurist segments of the New Left that they not engage "kick-ass" politics all attest to this determination.

In addition, the Movement succeeded in getting the Administration to back down on its "policy of firmness". Through Congressional pressure, telegrams and finally the personal intercession of the Capital's Mayor, Walter Washington, the Administration was induced to renege on its ban on Pennsylvania Avenue. Moreover, although thousands of troops were bivouacked in major government buildings, in a surprising display of insight they were kept indoors and not seen on the streets to any significant degree. It may be thus argued that if Nixon's advisors actually planned a strategy of violence--and the "real truth" can, of course, not be known at this time--their ability to carry it off was hampered successfully.

Nixon's decision to respond in the overall manner may be seen to have entailed some political

Continued on page 7

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risks. Firstly, by raising Joe McCarthy's ghost, he may have begun to rally civil libertarians of all political hues against him. Secondly, by relying on his "Silent Majority" and evincing panicked disdain for generally peaceful dissenters, he has risked turning off large numbers of over-30 moderates who might have been well disposed to his "peace efforts," but whose sense of fair play might also have expected him at least to feign reconciliation with his opponents. Thirdly, and perhaps most importantly, as a result of this particu-

structure. For there is little evidence that men of power in America, whose preference for managing dissent lies in the F.D.R.-descended cooptive politics of liberalism, have any taste for a resurgence of the populist Radical Right. That Nixon seems willing to flirt with that lurking beast might well come to be assessed in those quarters as evidence not only of his inability to "do things right," but moreover of certain dangerous tendencies he might have as a political leader. This point is complex and, of course, conjectural, but it is offered here as one guide to observance of future events.



lar response to the management of dissent, certain elements of the national power structure on which he is ultimately dependent may be inclined to view his leadership capacity with increasing distrust. This point is made with respect to Agnew's attack on the television media---satirized by one wag as "A Gnu's View of the News." The authoritarian overtones of that speech, with their appeal to the generalized alienation of the petty bourgeoisie, may not have set well with important segments of the national power

A final point worth noting, and one to be regarded as wholly salutary, is the fact the participants in the March conveyed the notion that what they were doing was patriotically legitimate. While Viet Cong flags and the like were in scattered evidence, the overwhelming symbolism by the dissenters was "as American as apple pie." The juxtaposition

position of peace emblems with patriotic symbols and slogans and the variations on the Stars and Stripes was far too wide-spread to have been wholly planned. In this manner, then, the Movement fought Nixon's attempts to de-legitimize it by the inference that dissent was somehow unpatriotic and by the association of patriotism with agreement with Administration policies. It can now be seen more readily that the criticisms expressed by overwhelming numbers of dissenters are precisely not anti-American in tone, but rather informed by a vision of what American might be. As one sign seemed to summarize it: "America: Change It or Lose It."

Viewed, then, in the cumulative perspective of previous and simultaneous events, it can be argued that the Movement moved a great deal. Efforts to pooh-pooh it as irrelevant or to label it as a "political Woodstock" seem premature at best, a crude "put-down" attempt at worst, lacking a comprehension of political analysis of events.

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Continued from Page 3

action to a large degree. Recently, the Commission granted the Association of Black Students 25% of the semester's activities fees. However, this represents virtually the total activity of the Commission in the last two years.

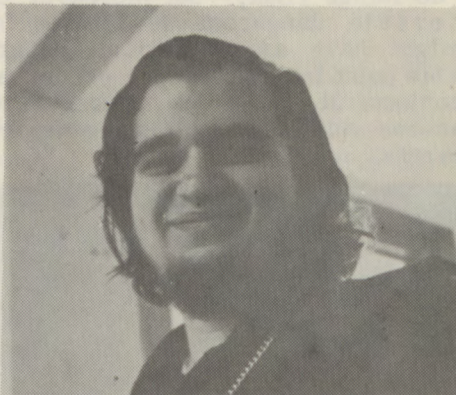
Originally, the Commission was established as an emergency measure to ease massive tensions within the University community. These difficulties centered around the lack of student voice in policy decisions. Finally, in February, 1967, a meeting was called in Vandenberg Lounge to discuss the possibility of closing the University with a full-scale protest. To quell the unrest, Chancellor Varner appeared. He then established the Commission on a temporary basis, to investigate several areas of controversy, and to report back with its findings. It was to possess the widest based constituency possible, with students, faculty, and administrators sitting on the Board.

At the end of Winter semester 1967, the Commission reported back its findings, as well as its recommendation that it be made a permanent body. This was done in fall of that year, with it becoming a special Committee of the University Senate, empowered to make recommendations to the Senate and/or the Chancellor on issues of student life.

Student Activities Board

In order to simplify its bureaucracy, the Student Activities Board has passed a resolution dissolving the inner organizations, the Executive Committee, University Activities Planning Committee, and the Allocations Board. SAB as a whole will take over the responsibilities of these three committees and set up ad hoc committees. These committees will deal with special problems as the need arises and will be subject to review by SAB.

In the past SAB has found these organizations to be too confusing because of a lack of communication. For example, the Allocations Board has often done something without the Executive Committee knowing what was done. UAPC has continually had to apply to the Allocations Board for funds. The Executive Board formerly oversaw the activities of the other two



Jack Lerner, member of SAB & Commission

branches. UAPC planned the speakers, concerts, and film series for the benefit of the entire student body. Sidney Cohen, the Butterfield-Miller concert and Wilson's Weekend were planned by UAPC.

The most controversial branch of SAB was the Allocations Committee. The question of how to allocate enough money to satisfy every club has caused a big problem.

Clubs are asked to submit a request form stating how much

money is needed for the semester's activities. The committee then decided who would get how much by reading the forms and deciding which clubs will benefit the largest number of students. In order to receive funds, the clubs must have concrete plans for the use of their money.

There were four ways of allocating money. 1) By release funds; that is, funds immediately available for use 2) Unreleased funds; the club can have the money as soon as a speaker is definitely booked 3) Loans, which are to be repaid. 4) Committee allocations, in which clubs were getting money committed from last year.

With the dissolution of the Allocations Committee, SAB as a whole will temporarily disburse funds. The board is considering several proposals for replacing the Allocations Board. One proposal states that: 1) Money will not be allocated; clubs will be self-financing. 2) Money will be placed in special accounts and can be drawn out on a loan basis. 3) Special gifts can be provided to clubs who are in need of something but can't afford it. 4) New clubs will be able to request small amounts for office supplies. This way all of the money not allocated will be used for free productions for Oakland students. The new organization of SAB will operate on a temporary basis in anticipation of the proposed Student Congress, which may be established as early as January.

ABS to Get 25% of Activities

The Association of Black Students will receive the 25% of the student activities fees it requested for next semester and will separate itself from the control of the Student Activities Board.

In a two hour meeting the Commission on Student Life gave unanimous approval to a motion which reads: "The Commission on Student Life, acting on the recommendation of SAB and ABS, instructs the University Accountant to credit 25% of the student activities fees, for winter semester of 1970, to the ABS account. During the winter semester of 1970, the Commission on Student Life temporarily authorizes the separation of ABS from SAB without prejudicing the standing of ABS as a fully recognized student group on this campus."

The decision reached at the meeting stems from a proposal submitted by the ABS at an earlier Commission meeting. The relevant parts of the proposal are much the same as the final motion that was

passed at the latest meeting except that the ABS proposal intimated that the 25% allocation and the separation from SAB would be indefinite. The Student Activities Board had received the same request from ABS for the allocation of the fees, but the ABS refused to be under the jurisdiction of the SAB for the reason that it would be required to submit frequent reports to the Chancellor on the disbursement of the funds.

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