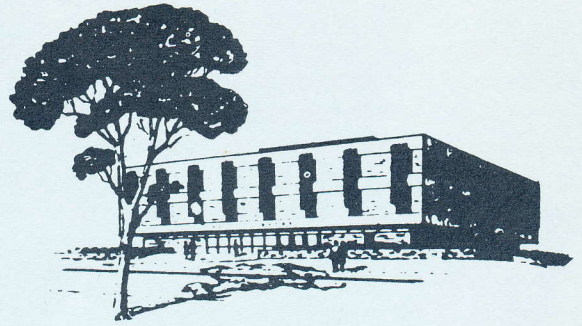


# OAKLAND UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS



Freshman Newsletter - #2

March, 1966

*... an exciting  
community  
of learning*

## MISS OAKLAND UNIVERSITY SELECTED AT SNOW CARNIVAL FESTIVITIES

After two nights of talent, swimsuit, and evening gown competition for the Miss Oakland University 1966 title, a panel of five judges narrowed down the original field of twelve candidates to six lovely finalists. The pageant was a highlight of Snow Carnival festivities, February 11-12.

The pick of the judges was candidate no. 1, Kathy Longeway, a sophomore from Birmingham. Judges were not only impressed by her appearance, but were also dazzled by her dramatization of a scene from George Bernard Shaw's play, ST JOAN. Kathy brought an overflow crowd in the Oakland Center Gold Room to awed silence during her performance, and got a roaring ovation at the end of it.

Kathy will represent Oakland in the Miss Michigan pageant in Muskegon this summer. Last year's Miss OU, Sharon Snyder, who, like Kathy, also hails from Birmingham, was first runner-up in the 1965 Miss Michigan competition. Other finalists in the Oakland pageant were: June Lorimer (candidate no. 2); Kathy Sullivan (no. 5); Carol Sue Hoffler (no. 8); Suzanne Wibby (no. 9); and Janis McLeod (no. 10).



## SNOWLESS SNOW CARNIVAL STARTS "MUD TUG" TRADITION



An unseasonal thaw melted away all evidence of winter just before Oakland's annual "Snow Carnival" got under way February 11, but soggy ground didn't dampen the enthusiasm of the OU student body. Although the skiing events regularly scheduled for the week-end had to be cancelled, Snow Carnival planners quickly found a perfect substitute -- a "Tug of Mud."

With the sun shining brightly overhead on Saturday, nearly 100 undergraduates gathered at a muck-filled basin soon to become an artificial lake situated between the Oakland Student Center and the newest residence hall, dorm no. 6 sides were chosen, and two by two the opposing teams marched down into the quagmire to do battle. It was not an all-male contest by any means. Dozens of Oakland co-eds waded into the fray, too, some of them with a reckless abandon that made their male counterparts seem timid by comparison.

Who won? No one could tell one side from the other by the time the last of the mud-tuggers crawled back up onto terra firma.

## PATIENCE, YE HOUSING SEEKERS

Jim Appleton, Director of Housing, reports that within the next few weeks those of you who have paid the \$25 housing deposit will be receiving, from the Housing Office, a contract and further information about housing arrangements. You will also have an opportunity to return information which will assist us in room assignments. Please be patient, the forthcoming information from the Housing Office is sure to answer all your questions re housing arrangements for the fall semester.

## STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Ed Birch, Director of the Oakland Center, has organized the following comments on student activities at Oakland University:

Oakland University provides opportunities for student involvement in a variance of extra and co-curricular activities through encouragement of the development and continuation of special interest committees as well as all-campus governing groups. Moreover, it is felt that participation and exposure to such programs can be an integral part of the educational process and that each individual student should be afforded the opportunity to participate.

The Oakland Center traditionally has served as the "Center" of activity on the Oakland University campus. The social, recreational and cultural programs conducted in the Center intimately support the interests of students, faculty and alumni and friends of the University while also serving as an informal meeting place for members of the University community.

The Activities Center located in the Oakland Center serves as a coordinating bureau for extra-curricular programs which serve to enrich the social life on campus. Mr. James Petty, Student Activities Coordinator, works closely with student organizations in the planning and implementation of their programs. The Activities Center also houses offices for official student groups, a music listening room, exhibit area, and student publications office as well as the master calendar of campus wide social and cultural events. A ticket desk for a variety of events (theatre, sports, music, etc.) being conducted in the greater Detroit metropolitan area is also an integral part of the Activities Center. Closely tied to the Activities Center is the student operated Pickwick Club which presently operates the billiards and general games facilities in the Oakland Center.

In addition to the Activities Center and its facilities, the Oakland Center includes the University Book Center, a grill, meeting rooms, a lounge, two main cafeterias and a faculty-staff guest dining room, barber shop, dry cleaners and an information desk where miscellaneous items such as candy and cigarettes are available. The Book Center serves as the campus source for books and general supply needs while the grill with its own outdoor patio offers students and faculty an informal atmosphere where short orders, fountain items and snacks are featured. Adequate facilities are provided for your use, both while you participate in the many activities organized in the Center and as you take part in the committee work involved in presenting the wide variety of activities held each year.

Although Oakland University presently does not have a central student government in the traditional sense, student involvement in decision making is coordinated by three major governing boards: the Student Activities Coordinating Committee, Dormitory Council and Commuter Council. These governing boards are actively involved in the affairs of the University. In addition, many special interest and social groups, religious groups, and service clubs function on a regular basis. Office facilities for these groups are located in the Activities Center. Students living in residence halls participate in various activities such as open houses, mixers, discussions and lectures. These activities are sponsored and presented by Dormitory Council and the various house councils throughout the year.

Experiences in creative writing, editing and publishing are provided through three student publications: the Oakland University Observer, Contuse and the Ascendent. The Oakland Observer is published once each week in newspaper form during the regular academic year while Contuse and the Ascendent are published once each year. Contuse contains selected student literary works and seeks to encourage literary merit among the Oakland student body, while the Ascendent serves as the University yearbook. These publications are written, edited, published by students with general guidance being provided by appointed advisors.

A diversity of cultural events are provided for University students, faculty and administrative staff through such groups and programs as the Meadow Brook Theatre Guild and the Fine Arts Festival and Poetry Festival. The Meadow Brook Theatre Guild while presenting several student productions during the course of the year provides opportunities for students interested in the dramatic arts. The Fine Arts Festival consists of a week long program of lectures, readings, foreign language plays and musical productions. An additional exclusively student production is the annual Poetry Festival. The Festival traditionally presents at least one nationally prominent poet and features readings by members of the faculty and student body. The Meadow Brook Music Festival with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and Robert Shaw is on campus eight weeks during the summer and the University concert series presents concerts by prominent performers throughout the year. Moreover, prominent speakers are featured periodically during the course of the year. Programs involving these prominent speakers in informal dialogue with students and faculty are considered an integral part of our speakers series and general student life.

We feel it important that Oakland students be provided every opportunity to participate in meaningful extra and co-curricular activity. Moreover, individual interests in new and different experiences are encouraged and supported and we stand ready to assist you in any way possible in helping you to achieve a more meaningful and productive University experience.

### "SEQUIR VIRTUTE E CANOSCENZA"

Dr. Howard Clarke, a professor of Classics, is one of the most talented and dynamic lecturers on the Oakland University faculty. Many of you will have an opportunity to enroll for Dr. Clarke's freshman course, Literature in the Western Tradition, in the fall semester, 1966. The following are Mr. Clarke's recollections on finding an appropriate motto for Oakland University:

A few years ago Chancellor Varner appointed me chairman of a small committee charged to discover or invent or otherwise come up with an appropriate motto for Oakland University. We didn't know quite how to begin, so we started by whiling away afternoons in the grill trying to recall memorable words we had heard or read. We didn't have much luck--apparently all those wise sayings just weren't that memorable--so we tried to make up an original motto. Some of our concoctions were pretty funny, and some were pretty unprintable, too. Then we started to think about the mottoes of all the schools each of us had attended, but this helped not at all; let's face it, most mottoes of most schools are very square indeed, and we didn't want to burden Oakland with the dreary pieties of the past or the specious slogans of the present. Finally, we decided to limit our range of choices by determining on the language in which our Oakland motto should be expressed. Now we started to make some progress.

Latin, the obvious choice, was out--too many schools already had Latin mottoes; Greek was out, too--too difficult to read; English didn't appeal to us--who could tell when the words we chose might turn up in a cigarette commercial on TV; French was a possibility--but it's a hard language to pronounce; there's Spanish, too--but nobody could get very excited about Spanish; next, German was eliminated--it's not the most beautiful language in the world and the Germans have tended to misbehave in the twentieth century; and, finally, nobody wanted to think about the disastrous publicity we would reap from a motto in Russian. But by a process of elimination we found ourselves coming ever closer to one of the great languages of Europe--Italian.

Of course, Italian! The language of Dante and Michelangelo, of St. Francis and Machiavelli, of da Vinci and Garibaldi, the official language of music, the language of the greatest opera libretti (and the language, too, of some of the world's most beautiful women). Well, among Italian writers, there is pre-eminently Dante and his great epic, the Divine Comedy. If Dante, in this magnificent poem, could practically create Italian as a literary language, then he could certainly produce a motto for Oakland University.

There are a number of brilliant scenes in the Divine Comedy, but there is one in particular that seemed to us to strike the right note of exhortation and inspiration--at least two of the ingredients that belong in a university's motto. This is the stirring speech that Dante has put in the mouth of the Greek hero Ulysses, whom Dante and Vergil

meet in their progress through the Inferno, the first of the poem's three parts. Dante thought of himself as a Trojan (the Italians were descended from the Romans and the Romans from the Trojans--or so they all liked to think) and he didn't particularly like Greeks (that's why he put Ulysses in hell), but he does formulate for Ulysses one of the most inspiring speeches ever composed. It is an address Ulysses delivers to his men in the course of their long and arduous journey home after the Trojan War. "In it he calls upon his followers to sail on and on in pursuit of knowledge and experience of the world--even beyond the Pillars of Hercules (the Strait of Gibraltar), traditionally the ancient world's limit of legitimate exploration. He exhorts his men to remember that they are human beings and that it is their pride and their responsibility to "follow courage and wisdom." Ulysses' words are particularly appropriate for a university, since they are a reminder that the pursuit of knowledge requires both courage and conscience, but is ever man's great aspiration, his highest human endeavor."

The last three sentences in the preceding paragraph I have excerpted from a description of the motto that I once wrote for the OU Student Handbook. The description is adequate as far as it goes, but it does not exhaust the meaning of the motto nor does it fully render the message our motto should communicate to the members of Oakland University. For the words we have chosen are not "follow courage and wisdom," but "seguir virtute e canoscenza," and the Italian words have meanings that range far beyond their English equivalents. The Italian seguir, for instance, is a stronger verb than the English follow, suggesting that the pursuit of knowledge is indeed a pursuit and hence requires energy and devotion and commitment. Likewise, virtute connotes more than courage. It suggests also that the student and teacher in the pursuit of wisdom must be moral, responsible, dignified, humane--in a word (now much misused) "virtuous". And canoscenza suggests a dimension of wisdom that is beyond the narrow, the technical, and the pedantic; it reminds us that true wisdom involves an acquaintance with self and world, a total awareness of what it means to be a human being.

So that is what our motto says. And although I am a college professor and occupationally addicted to lecturing the young, I have nothing to add to what Dante has said so well. It's a good motto. It has class. Think about it.



Associate Professor of Classics  
Chairman of Classics Department

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OAKLAND UNIVERSITY  
Rochester, Michigan

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