

# OAKLAND UNIVERSITY

DEAN OF FRESHMEN'S OFFICE



Freshman Newsletter - #1 May, 1970

## STUDENT LIFE AT OAKLAND UNIVERSITY



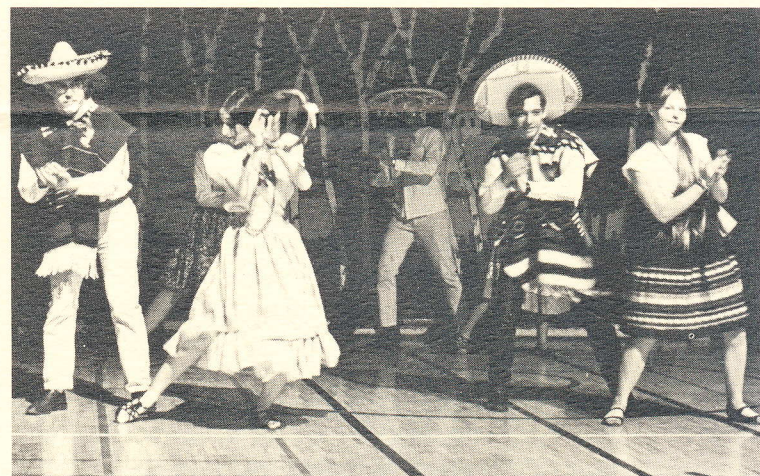
"College life is centered in the curriculum, yet includes a wide variety of experiences which extend beyond the classroom. It is often through informal contact with a teacher, friendship groups, contact with persons of other races and persuasions, campus values, and the opportunities for active participation in campus life that human development is realized. We think such immersion in the campus life program can make a difference--improving your competencies, developing autonomy, forming interpersonal relationships, finding purposes, and developing integrity.

We welcome you as active participants in the programs described in this Newsletter, and in other areas which you will have the opportunity to develop. It is our intent to provide a staff skilled and willing to assist you, and services, activities, and programs which are enjoyable while serving as laboratories for you to re-examine and discover 'where you're at.'"

James Appleton  
Dean for Student Life

## SOCIAL AND CULTURAL CLIMATE

An important part of an Oakland student's life centers around out-of-class activities designed to supplement the University's academic program. These activities include both social and cultural events. In the past, one of the more popular all-campus social events has been the celebration of the birth of the University's benefactor, the late Mrs. Alfred E. Wilson. An Indian Summer Weekend sponsored by various campus groups provides fun and relaxation in the Fall. The John Fernald Company of the Meadow Brook Theater and the Studio Company of the Academy of Dramatic Arts present major theatrical works throughout the academic year. Students wishing to participate in any and all phases of theater work may participate in the Student Enterprise Theater (SET) which, with the assistance of an adviser, is totally coordinated and managed by students. The University Orchestra, University Chorus, and Oakland Singers enrich the social and cultural scene at Oakland. The French, Russian, and Spanish Language Clubs provide a cross-cultural perspective through annual presentations to the University community.



Spanish Club provides cross-cultural perspectives



## FILMS, SPEAKERS, AND CONCERTS

Three major film series run throughout the academic year: DAFA., a series of foreign films shown in the Rochester Hills Theater, The Classic Film Series, and the University Film Series, weekend showings of the best in contemporary films from "Belle Du Jour" to "In the Heat of the Night". An annual spring film festival focuses on special areas of the media such as underground films or a particular director and his works. Dr. David Reisman, Julian Bond, Dick Gregory, Dr. Sidney Cohen, and Anis Ninn are typical of the speakers featured in the University Speakers Series and in lectures sponsored by academic departments. Programs involving these prominent speakers in informal dialogue with students and faculty are considered an integral part of the educational program offered at Oakland. The University Concert Series runs the gamut from the fall pavilion rock concert to established classical artists such as the Philadelphia String Quartet.

## STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Experience in creative writing, editing, and publishing can be acquired through participation in four student publications: FOCUS: Oakland, Oakland Review, Oakland Undiapered, and The House Organ. FOCUS: Oakland, an independent student paper, is published once each week during the regular academic year. The Oakland Review publishes Oakland students' analytical, research and critical articles on any scholarly subject. Oakland Undiapered, an organized attempt by students to evaluate the faculty of Oakland University, is published once a year. The House Organ, a literary magazine with student and faculty contributions, was published and distributed once this year.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVOLVEMENT IN CAMPUS DECISION MAKING

Although Oakland University presently does not have a central student government in a traditional sense, student involvement in decision making is provided through participation in the Student Activities Board, the Inter-Hall Council, Commuter Council, and individual residence hall governing bodies. These governing bodies deal with specific areas of University life. In addition students may participate as full voting members on the University Senate which is concerned with all matters relevant to the general welfare of the University including academic policies and programs.

## INTEREST GROUPS

Oakland fosters a large variety of interest groups ranging from P.L.E.A., an environmental action group, and People for the People, a group concerned about combating racism, to the Flying Club, which provides flying lessons at a reduced rate to its members. Clubs also serve students interested in a variety of areas: radio, skiing, politics, women's liberation, and other interests.

The Association of Black Students (ABS) is an organization which provides a community in which black students can feel a sense of belonging and fulfill their educational, cultural, social, and political needs and interests. ABS has sponsored many programs, activities, and events for Oakland students and young black students from the Detroit Metropolitan area. Project Motivation brings prospective black college students to the campus for several days during which they can attend classes, activities, and gain a valuable perspective of the realities of campus life. ABS has also worked with the Academic Support Center on campus to provide tutorial assistance to some of Oakland's black freshmen and sophomores. Cultural events such as displays of black art, poetry readings, and various speakers along with social events such as dances and swim parties are also sponsored by the Association. ABS is not just a political group, but an association which tries to fulfill the many and diversified needs of black students at Oakland University.



## OAKLAND CENTER: FOCAL POINT OF ACTIVITY

An integral part of the student life program at Oakland University is the Oakland Center. The completion of a new \$2.4 million, 400 square foot addition to the Center during the past year has greatly increased its ability to serve the needs and interests of students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends of the University. Centrally located on campus, the Oakland Center is ideally situated for this purpose. As well as providing meeting space for members of the University community, a Bookcenter and Gift Shop, the Center has a variety of food service facilities, several informal lounges, a number of activities areas, a barbershop, and cleaners.

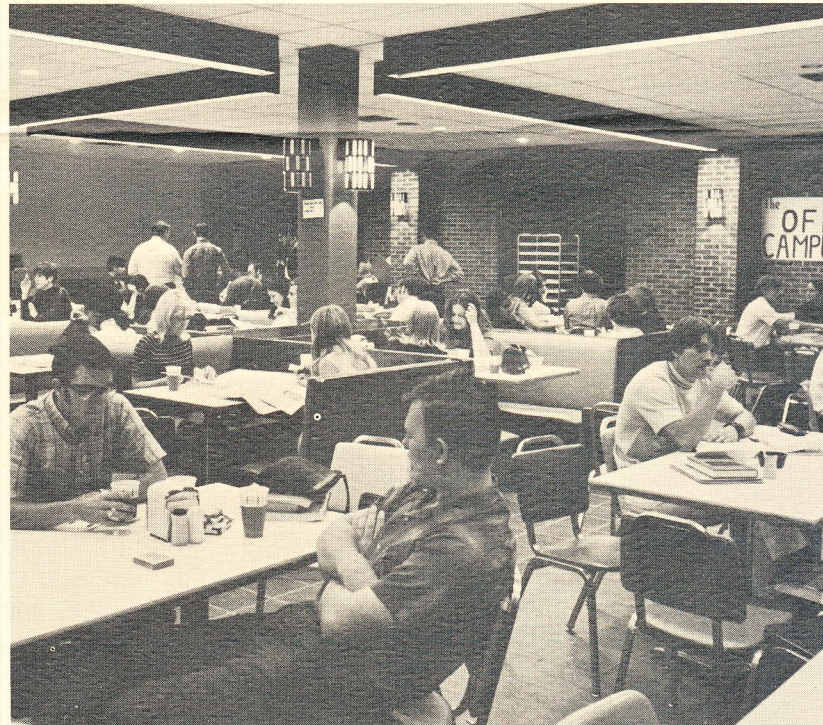
The Student Activities Center located in the Oakland Center serves as a co-ordinating bureau for extra-curricular programs. The Student Activities staff works closely with student organizations in planning and implementing their programs. The Activities Center also houses offices for official student groups, meeting rooms, a Poster shop, a Master Calendar of campus-wide events, and a student work area. A ticket desk for a variety of events occurring in the Greater Detroit Metropolitan area is also an integral part of the Activities area. Upon completion of the new addition, a darkroom was opened for students interested in photography.



Closely allied to the Activities Center is the Pickwick Games Area, a student-managed recreational center which includes billiards, a ping-pong room, and an informal games area. And nearby at the Abstention, a rathskeller-type room adjacent to the popular Oakland Center grille, a student coffee-house group offers on the weekend a wide variety of musical entertainment in an informal atmosphere.



Relaxation in the Pickwick Room



Students Gather in the Grille



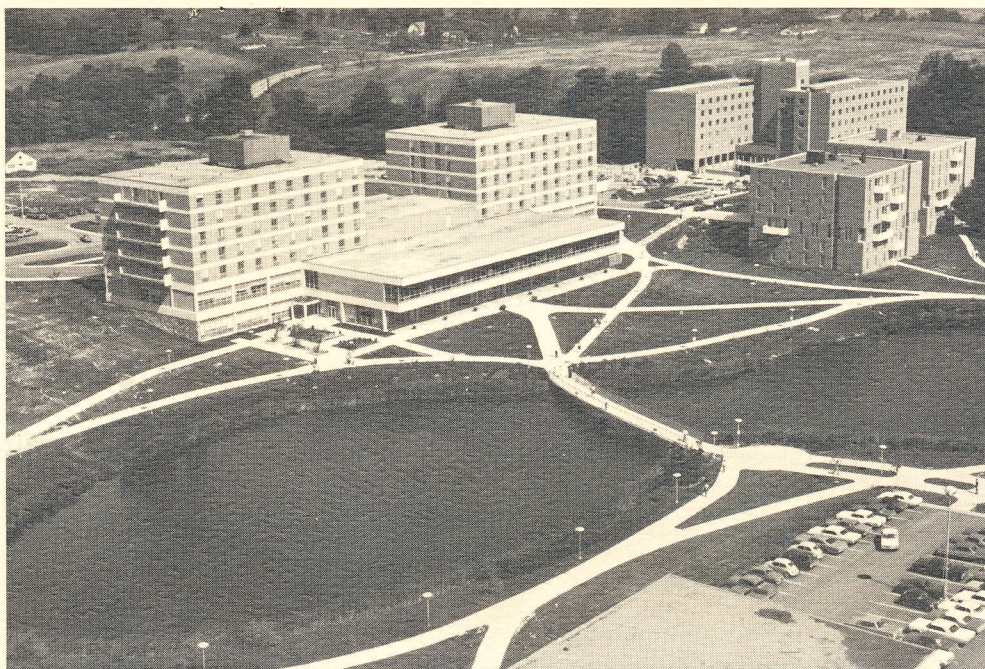
## RESIDENCE HALL LIFE AT OAKLAND

For the one-third of its students who live in residence Oakland University provides staff, facilities, and activities which will help in broadening their college education. Residence hall life at Oakland is an exciting combination of living, learning, and developing consideration and concern for others as students share academic and social experiences. Students have ample opportunity to determine the atmosphere of their residence hall by becoming involved in its government. Each hall has a council composed of elected representatives which plans activities, recommends policies, acts as a discussion forum and supervises various phases of the hall program.

Head Residents and Resident Assistants, who live in each hall, are important residence hall staff members. They serve as advisers to the residence hall government and student groups and assist individual students in many ways. Each Head Resident is responsible for the coordination of his hall's program and the work of his Resident Assistants. He is usually a student personnel professional or a member of the university faculty. One Resident Assistant (RA) lives on each floor of a hall. Resident Assistants are upperclass students who have demonstrated abilities in the academic and leadership aspects of university life. They also help to promote an atmosphere conducive to friendliness, cooperation, and good scholarship. They help students become acquainted with the social, cultural, and intellectual aspects of campus life, and with the university services available to them.

Seven residence halls, built within the last eight years, offer a variety of accommodations and sizes. Anibal House, Fitzgerald House, and Pryale House are L-shaped buildings with twenty-four double rooms in each wing; the wings are joined by a student lounge. Hill House and Van Wagoner Hall are six-story units, each containing 100 double rooms, a lobby, lounge, and

recreational room. Vandenberg Hall, completed in 1966, is a seven-story, twin-tower structure. It contains 285 double rooms, kitchen and dining facilities for 1900 students, student lounges, multi-purpose areas, study and seminar rooms, and recreational areas. Students enrolled in Charter or New College generally live in Vandenberg Hall. The newest facility, Hamlin Hall, was completed in 1968. The residence hall houses 676 students in attractively arranged suites for four students. A nine-story hall, it has a main lounge with a fireplace, a lounge on each floor, seminar rooms, and large multi-purpose areas. Facilities which are available in each hall include telephones in each room, laundry facilities, public lounges with television sets, and vending machines. Anibal House and Hill House are women's halls; Fitzgerald House and Van Wagoner Hall are men's units and Pryale House, Vandenberg Hall and Hamlin Hall are coeducational units.



Aerial view of Vandenberg, Hamlin, Hill, and Van Wagoner - four residence halls



## PHYSICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM IS VOLUNTARY

The Physical Education Program at Oakland is a voluntary one designed as a service for men and women students, faculty, and staff and directed to the participating individuals rather than the spectators. Opportunities for instruction and practice are offered by the Physical Education staff in approximately twenty different sports and recreation activities. In addition, staff members are available to consult with individuals or groups interested in planning personal physical fitness or physical recreation programs. EACH PARTICIPANT MUST ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR HIS PHYSICAL CONDITION AND MUST ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR INJURY INCURRED DURING PARTICIPATION IN ANY PHASE OF THE PHYSICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM.

## RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

The Sports and Recreation Building, open seven days a week, contains the following facilities:

*150' by 110' Gymnasium	*Weight Room
*Exercise Room	*Dance Room
*Training Room	*Gymnastics Room
*Golf Putting Green	*Table Tennis Area
*Space and Equipment for Boxing, Wrestling, and Fencing	*Courts for Badminton, Handball, Basketball, Squash & Tennis
*Heat Room	*Men's & Women's Locker Rooms
*Swimming Pool with Two 1-meter and One 3-meter Diving Boards	

The outdoor facilities include: tennis courts, ski hill with an electric rope tow, baseball diamond, soccer field, rough track, field hockey area, and several softball and touch football fields.

## COMPETITIVE SPORTS PROGRAM

Women have an opportunity for extramural sports practice and competition in basketball, bowling, golf, tennis, swimming, and volleyball with women's teams from other colleges in Michigan. Men have an opportunity to participate at the inter-collegiate sports level in cross-country and soccer during the fall semester, basketball and swimming during the winter semester and baseball, golf, and tennis during the latter part of the winter semester and during the spring and summer sessions.

Oakland University is pleased to compete in one or more sports with MIAA Colleges Adrian, Albion, Alma, Calvin, Hope, Kalamazoo, and Olivet, Aquinas College, Grand Valley State College, Ferris State College, Eastern Michigan University, Central Michigan University, Northern Michigan University, Western Michigan University, the University of Detroit, and Wayne State University. Contests are also scheduled with colleges and universities in states and provinces bordering on Michigan. Oakland University is a member of the National Collegiate Athletic Association.



## RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS

Oakland has several religious groups which act to coordinate and strengthen religious activities on the campus. The Newman Club, Christian Science Fellowship, Jewish Students Association, Christian Fellowship, and Wesley Foundation are among the religious groups found at the University. These organizations sponsor numerous social events as well as speakers, discussions, and lectures.

## VOLUNTEER PROJECTS

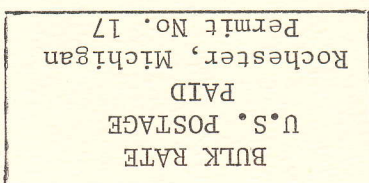
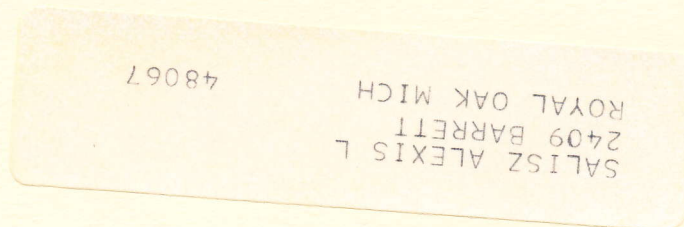
Volunteer projects provide students with opportunities for meaningful and educational involvement with the surrounding community while contributing to that community. The major volunteer program at Oakland is known as POEAT, the Pontiac-Oakland Educational Assistance Tutorial. Children from several schools in Pontiac meet with individual Oakland students who serve as tutors, friends and confidants for these children.

Other programs and projects function at various times throughout the year as clubs and organizations assume responsibility for volunteer efforts or as schools, churches, and volunteer bureaus call into the volunteer office to identify needs in the community. Aside from the rewards which come through helping others to grow and learn, students receive training and experience in teaching, child rearing, counseling, social work, etc. For further information contact the Coordinator of Volunteer Programs.

YOU HAVE BEEN ADMITTED TO OAKLAND . . .

. . . and during the next months before fall enrollment, you will undoubtedly have many questions regarding the University. To answer some of your questions and to keep you informed of the latest happenings within the University, you will receive a series of Newsletters.

In the issues to follow general information regarding academic programs, student services, campus resources, and campus traditions will be discussed. One of the first things you will discover as a student at Oakland is that the faculty and staff are dedicated to making your learning experiences within the University complex successful and meaningful. Your understanding of the many programs and services described to you in succeeding issues is important in our fulfilling this goal. We hope these previews of what to expect next fall will help you achieve a successful transition to Oakland and university life.



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Rochester, Michigan  
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