

The Oakland Observer

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All Invited To Barn Party

A barn party will convoke neath the elms in the barn behind the Science Building at 9:00 P.M. this Tuesday, July 7.

The party, sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Tony Cornellier, is free and open to all Oakland students and personnel. Emil Sutt, prominent local bandleader, has been engaged for the party. He will lead his eleven-piece orchestra in popular dance numbers.

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VARNER LIFTS BAN, OKAYS INTERCOLLEGE SPORTS FOR OU

ICA Again

Intercollegiate Sports at last! Chancellor Varner, ignoring the best advice of his own, hand-picked committee and overwhelming public opinion, has removed the official stigma from intercollegiate athletics.

He has invented no new reasons for his decision—old reasons are always the best. Intercollegiate athletics are supposed to establish a feeling of "Institutional Identification" for our allegedly listless studentry, thus hieing them on to greater, ever greater, achievement. After all, the reasoning goes, Oberlin has intercollegiate athletics. So does Wesleyan. So does Amherst. Therefore Oakland, as an imitator of those schools in point of goals, could safely have intercollegiate athletics too. (Oberlin, Wesleyan, and Amherst are not, of course, state-supported schools; all of them are at least 100 years old; each of them has an endowment of over 25 million dollars; all of them pick their freshmen from the top 1% of graduating high school classes throughout the nation; none of them has any real commuter enrollment; and all of them enjoy long-established reputations for academic excellence. In most other respects, however, they are identical to Oakland, and so the reasoning *must* be sound.)

So now the barriers are down, and the students are free to reach new heights of institutional identification. Just imagine—

—"Harold, guess what?"

—"I can't guess, Jonathan."

—"Our golf team has just beaten those cads of Alma College."

—"Oh joy, joy, joy! Now I can take that Western test with the Pride of Ownership an Oakland student should have!"

Imagine our entire student body hanging upon the every daring exploit of the fencing team. All our students, rising as one, mystically imbibing the fruits of Togetherness as our gallant rugby nine (or is it ten—or eleven, maybe?) falls upon the lads of our arch-rival, Hope College.

The day is upon us at last when the baseball team helps each and every OU Kid surmount his annual Identity Crisis. Think of the answers we can get to those questions all introspective students must ask themselves—"Who am I?" "Am I a student at a college that has a tennis team?" "Where am I going in life?" "Down (up?) to Albion to see the soccer match." "What is life?" "Life is a game in which that big Umpire in the sky sets the rules."

But why should we, Oakland University, limit ourselves to those mundane sports you could find at just any college? Let us be daring and different.

Let us establish a program of Intercollegiate Horse Racing.

Just think, we could be the only university in the country giving letters to jockeys. And why not? College athletics are dominated by the tall and the fat. Let's give the little fellows a chance to earn their glory. Besides, we already have the facilities ready-made over at Mrs. Wilson's.

Authorizes Basketball, Hopes Teams are Competitive

In a move ending a long and heated controversy, Chancellor Varner announced that Oakland's prohibition on intercollegiate athletics has been lifted.

The move came as no surprise. Varner, a fine athlete in his own college days, openly favored the establishment of intercollegiate competition, and was believed to be keenly disappointed by the findings of his own ad hoc committee on intercollegiate athletics. The committee had recommended in the fall semester that no program of intercollegiate athletics be established in the immediate future. After the committee's report, Varner tabled the topic for a short period.

Poll Decisive

A poll, conducted early last semester by Students for Intercollegiate Athletics, indicated that a majority of Oakland students were in favor of a program of "limited intercollegiate athletics." After the results of the poll were made public, Varner agreed to review existing university policy on the controversial topic.

(The poll was an object of considerable controversy itself. Many students described it as "insulting," and "slanted." The polling was conducted in an at-

mosphere of spirited electioneering, with pollsters frequently acting as electioneers themselves. In any event, conducted as it was by a group with partisan interests, a group more interested in obtaining an outcome favorable to their point of view than in accurately assessing public opinion, the poll was widely discounted. But it was on the basis of this poll that Varner ostensibly untangled the athletics issue.)

Letter to Hollie

Varner made public his decision to revise university policy in a letter to Hollie Lepley, director of recreation and intramural sports. The Chancellor emphasized that his decision was not a launching of intercollegiate athletics, but a dissolving of past constrictions upon them. Varner stated that Oakland's intercollegiate athletics program would be governed by a set of rules, among which were:

1. "We should participate in no more than three sports per semester."

2. "Intercollegiate football will not be included in this program."

3. The University shall provide no athletic scholarships.

4. "Where feasible, members of the faculty and staff should be utilized on a part-time basis

in an instructional or coaching position."

5. "I shall ask the Steering Committee to assist some appropriate committee of the Faculty Senate in establishing rules for eligibility and participation and to advise the Chancellor on policy matters pertaining to this program."

The Chancellor did not indicate whether or not he would regard the rules or advice proffered by the "appropriate committee" as binding.

Education First

Varner's letter concluded: "While it is my hope that our teams are competitive, this program must be developed within the framework of our educational objectives."

In all likelihood, six sports will be introduced during the first year. Informed sources indicate that they will be basketball, tennis, cross-country, swimming, fencing and golf. Baseball and soccer will be introduced at a later time.

Some Students Happy

Students who identified themselves with the Students for Intercollegiate Athletics, which conducted last winter's dubious poll, were elated by Varner's announcement. "We're very happy," said Bill Connellan, Grosse Ile sophomore. "The academic atmosphere hasn't been sacrificed and the proper limitations have been imposed."

Some Students Angry

Approbation for the Chancellor's announcement was far from universal, however. Said one Detroit senior, "The so-called limitations which have been set cannot be depended upon. The Chancellor has asked a committee to draw a set of restrictions. So what? Didn't one of the Chancellor's committees recommend that there be no intercollegiate sports in the first place? Can you imagine Varner letting some committee's restriction bench a star basketball player? Be serious!"

Dan Polsby, Maryland Senior, said: "I cannot believe Varner reviewed his decision on the basis of last winter's poll, which was a transparent fraud. I think rather that he was under pressure from President Hannah, our own admissions office, members of the

Of course, we may have to start at the Belgian Pony stage, but that's all right—you can't have a bowl contender right off. And horse racing is one sport that would arouse the interest of all students, because horse racing is one sport *you can bet on*. Colleges have so much trouble making their off-beat sports interesting, but we would have it made. Just think of the publicity: **THEY'RE OFF AND RUNNING AT MEADOW BROOK DOWNS**. We could use the pari-mutuel receipts to finance handicapping scholarships—who knows, perhaps we could even have a Department of Horse Racing.

And just think of the community interest! Just think of those reflective students who could earn enough playing the ponies to finance their college education! We might even be instrumental in raising the educational level of whole future generations of horse players!

The sky is the limit with intercollegiate athletics. We should never forget the great lessons intercollegiate athletics teach us, and never forget that great precept of our Chancellor: The end of making people like Oakland University justifies any means we might use to attain the end.

Good thinking, Woody, baby. Way to be.

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Oakland Foundation, and friends of the University like Harold Fitzgerald, who has already made public his conviction that a university's job is to preserve and advance mediocrity."

Robinson Pleased

Richard Robinson, Lepley's assistant, was very pleased with the news. He said, "We are very glad for the chance to compete in an intercollegiate program. This will not, I hope, curtail intramural activities. The intramural program should continue to grow."

Competition will be mainly with members of the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association. This league includes Alma, Albion, Adrian, Calvin, Hope, and Kalamazoo Colleges. Other potential competitors are two Ohio colleges, Dennison and Oberlin.

Scheduling for the coming academic year will be relatively light according to informed sources. Most of the schools have indicated a willingness to schedule Oakland, but most schedules for major sports have been filled for the coming year.

Denies AAUP Request

Earlier this spring, the intercollegiate athletics controversy had a momentary flare-up when the Oakland chapter of the American Association of University Professors sent an open letter to Chancellor Varner asking that the Faculty Senate be consulted for its advice and consent before any change was made in athletic policy. Although no public statement was made at that time, Varner is believed to have replied that Athletic policy was an administrative concern, and not properly within the Senate's jurisdiction.

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(Continued from P. 1)

Mrs. Cornellier, wife of Fitzgerald House head resident, said that the entire enterprise will cost \$500. The money was donated, primarily by the Musicians Union. "We hope to have a fine attendance," Mrs. Cornellier said. Refreshments will be served at the dance, and will also be free.

Said Mrs. Cornellier, "It ought to be a very rewarding and relaxing evening. I certainly hope everyone will feel welcome."

Comfortable summer dresses are the order of the evening for the ladies.

Bateman Heads Ed. Workshop

Keith Bateman, April political science graduate, will head a political education workshop at the Pontiac Headquarters of the Oakland County Democratic Committee.

The workshop sessions will begin Tuesday, July 7, and will be conducted on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 to 4 P.M., and from 7 to 9 P.M. Sessions are designed so that attendance is not essential at every meeting; thus a person who must work during the day can still attend the evening session.

James McNeely, deputy chairman of the Committee, stated that the purpose of the workshop is to combine work in the precincts with discussions with politicians and political scientists. Young people will thus acquaint themselves with "politics at the grassroots level."

Among the speakers to address the workshop will be State Democratic Committee chairman Zolton Ferency, County Democratic Committee chairman Sander Levin, and Edward Heubel, chairman of the OU department of political science.

Bateman, who will begin work on a masters degree at the University of Chicago this fall, will administer the workshop. Persons interested in participating can arrange to do so by contacting Democratic HQ, 17 Water St., Pontiac, Federal 4-0971.

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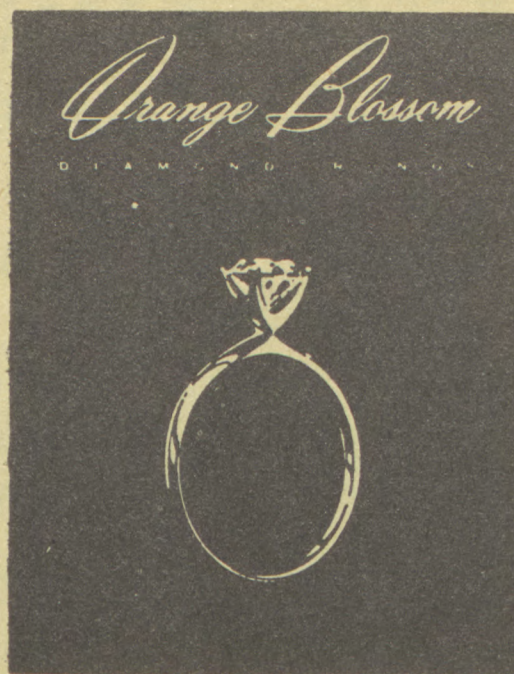
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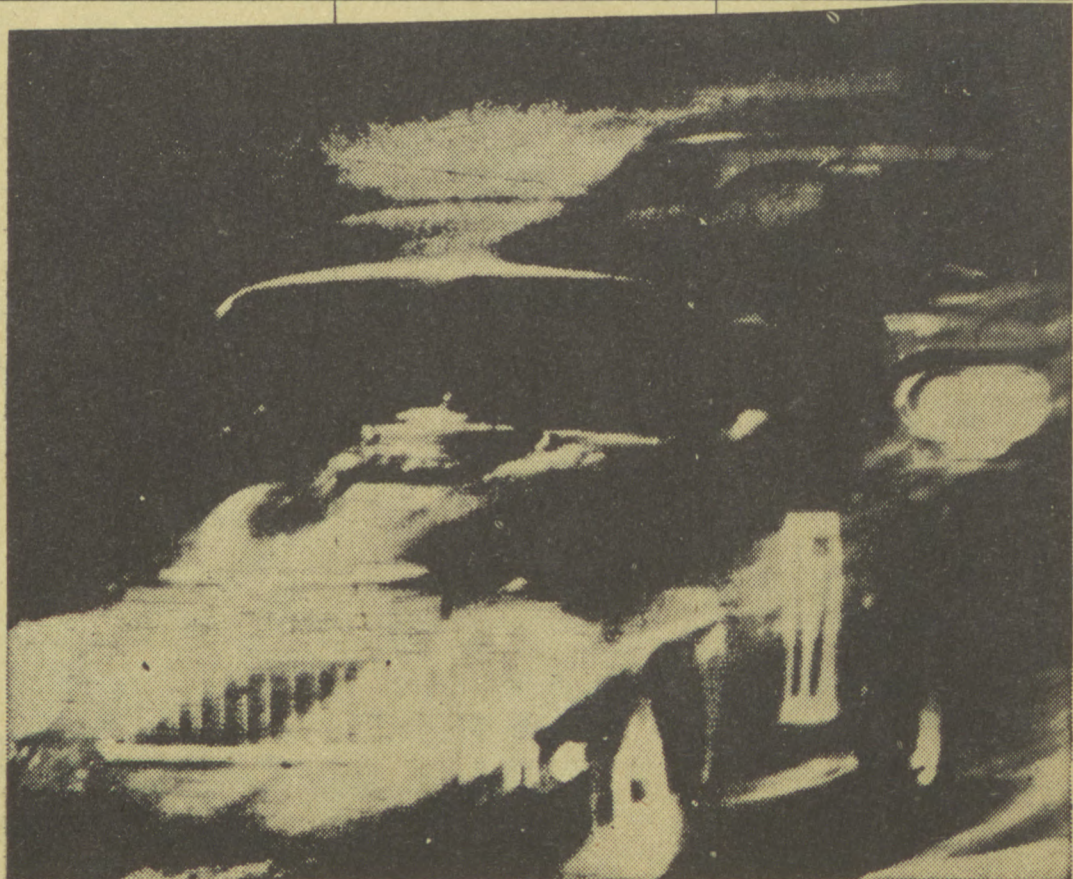
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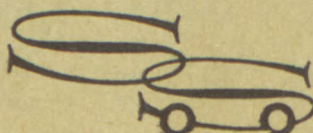
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