

# The Oakland Observer

STUDENT PUBLICATION FOR MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY OAKLAND

Vol. II — No. 8

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1961

Rochester, Michigan

## Construction On Dorms To Start On April First

The OAKLAND OBSERVER has learned that tentative plans have been set for construction of MSUO's first dormitories to begin on or about April 1, pending state approval of a \$1,100,000 federal loan.

About \$600,000 of the loan will be used for construction of the dorms, and the remaining \$500,000 will be used to double the size of the Student Center.

The dormitories will have to be self liquidating, and this fact will determine the costs to the students.

"The specific rates have not yet been decided," said Loren Pope, assistant to the chancellor. "Generally, the cost will center around \$375 per semester."

The four dorms, two for men and two for women, will consist of two floors with twelve rooms to a floor. Two students will be assigned to each room. Four of these two-story buildings will be grouped together at about a three-minute walk northeast of the Student Center.

They will accommodate 192 students. The juniors will be given priority when the assignment of students takes place. Although there may be some recognition of the distance a student has to travel to get to the college.

Students will eat in the Student Center cafeteria until the cluster has grown to nine or ten dorms and then they will have their own dining room and kitchen facilities. Each succeeding cluster will have its own facilities.

Students may pick their own room-mates. There will be one resident advisor for each dormitory.

The proposed dorms "Will give students the advantages of small group living, and a feeling of belonging," Pope said.

"It is hoped that these dorms will be an effective substitute for fraternities and sororities without their disadvantages."

## Vice President Appoints Three Press Secretaries

Student Senate Vice President Marge Swoboda has announced the appointment of three press secretaries to head the student government's department of public relations created at the Senate meeting of January 13.

Ron Miller, head of the department will be assisted by Susan Bierstein and Clark Davis. All three are experienced members of the Oakland Observer staff.

Their chief responsibility is to keep the student body informed of student government activities. They will work under the direction of the vice president.

## Chamber Music Festival Soon



THE IOWA STRING QUARTET — Stuart Canin (from left), John Ferrell, William Preucil and Paul Olefsky. Preucil and Olefsky both are former members of the Detroit Symphony. The Iowa Quartet will appear at Michigan State University Oakland Feb. 24, as part of the first annual MSUO Chamber Music Festival, Feb. 22, 23, and 24.

## Pianist, Lecturers, Quartets Featured In Three-Day Event

A chamber music festival featuring lectures and prominent performers will be held Feb. 22, 23 and 24 in the Student Center.

Included on the program are the Michigan State University String Quartet, pianist Joseph Schwartz and the Iowa String Quartet.

Opening the public program at 4 p.m. Feb. 22 will be Dr. H. Wiley Hitchcock, associate professor of music, University of Michigan, who will lecture on the background of chamber music.

His second lecture at 7 that evening precedes the 8 p.m. performance of the MSU quartet, which will present works by major composers. According to Dr. Gerald Straka, chairman of MSUO's cultural programs committee, the quartet is one of the best chamber groups in the country.

Pianist Joseph Schwartz, associate professor of piano at Oberlin, (O.) Conservatory of Music, will give the same program here that he gave in Town Hall, New York City on January 28. He will be introduced by Dr. Robert Holmes of the MSUO music department.

Dr. Walter Collins, also of the MSUO music department, will lecture Friday evening. His lecture will be followed by a recital by the Iowa String Quartet, featuring Paul Olefsky, a former cellist with the Detroit Symphony and William Preucil,

## Hucker Joins MSUO Faculty

ROCHESTER — Dr. Charles O. Hucker, an expert on the Orient, has been appointed professor of history and chairman of Michigan State University Oakland's committee on Asian studies.

Dr. Hucker, 41, is now professor of Oriental studies at the University of Arizona. Before accepting appointment at Arizona in 1956, he was assistant professor of modern Chinese literature and institutions at the University of Chicago. He was at Chicago for six years.

Chancellor D. B. Varner chose Dr. Hucker after a tour of major Eastern foundations which support educational development in Asia and Africa. The foundations gave Mr. Varner lists of qualified persons and Dr. Hucker was the one person named on all lists.

Establishment of the Asian program will make MSUO the only institution in the nation requiring its students to take a full-year's sequence of studies of non-Western and Latin American cultures. MSUO will then be the only institution requiring one-year sequences in studies of Western as well as Eastern and African civilizations.

Appointment of Dr. Hucker was one of five approved yesterday by the Board of Trustees which held its regular monthly meeting at MSUO for the first time. The others were Dr. Maurice F. Brown Jr. as assistant professor of English; Dr. Herman W. Lewis as associate professor of biology; Dr. Robert Hoopes as Professor of English and assistant to the chancellor for university planning. See APPOINTMENTS—Page 3

## Degree By Exam May Be In MSUO's Future

A proposition is being considered by the Developmental Programs Committee of the MSUO Academic Senate by which a new system of obtaining a degree would go into effect in one of the future fall terms.

By adopting a plan similar to the College of the Pacific, in California, a degree would be obtained through a final examination of proficiency and recommendations of

tutors rather than by completing a certain number of required courses and attaining a specified number of credits.

The student would thus be able to try his examination at any time he felt he was sufficiently prepared, regardless of the amount of time he had spent in class or the grades he received there. However, grades would still be important in the respect that a student could not remain in school if he did not show evidence of potential development.

Requirements for each department would be decided by the faculty teaching the subjects and would assume the proportions deemed necessary within their own field.

Present students would have their choice to which system they wish to follow, but new students would follow this plan if adopted.

## Wayne, State To Debate Here

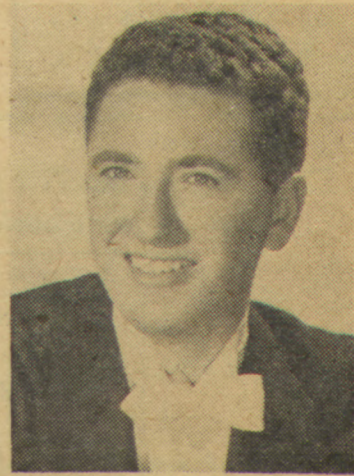
The varsity teams of Michigan State University and Wayne State University will meet February 21 to debate the national debate topic: Resolved: that the United States should adopt a program of compulsory health insurance for all citizens. This debate will be held at 7:00 in the Student Center Lounge.

At the same program trophies will be presented by Loren Pope, assistant to the chancellor, to the two top-ranking high schools in the suburban league sponsored by MSUO and coordinated by Dean Cusack. Contending schools are Royal Oak Kimball, Troy, Avondale, Romeo, and Oxford. The MSUO Debating Society will host a meet the afternoon of the 21st to decide the league winner. Students from all the high schools in Oakland and Macomb counties and all MSUO students are cordially invited to the debates.

## Father Toner To Speak March 6

Father Jules Toner, S. J., associate professor of history, University of Detroit, will speak March 6 at 1:00 in the Student Center Lounge on "The Religious Structure of Roman Catholicism."

Father Toner's talk will be the third talk in the Seminars in Basic Contemporary Theologies sponsored by the University. Other seminars will concern Episcopalianism and Protestantism.



Joseph Schwartz

former Detroit principal violinist. Mr. Olefsky is now conductor of the Iowa State University Orchestra.

Admission is free for MSUO students and faculty and a series ticket will be available to the public for \$1.00. Printed programs will be available before the performances.

## Opera Season

The 1961 Metropolitan Opera season at Masonic Temple, Detroit, will consist of six evening performances and a Saturday matinee. Evening presentations will be "Turandot," May 22; "Martha," May 23; "Rigolotto," May 24; "Nabucco," May 25; "Aida," May 26, and "La Traviata," May 27. The May 27 matinee will be "La Boheme."



## MSUO Image — Part Two

MSUO students have been charged with being apathetic. Most of the complaints in this direction have been concerned with social activities. But the complainers have been short-sighted, they have overlooked the most important aspect of the character of the MSUO student.

The MSUO student is committed to his academic work. The commonest reason for not attending club meetings is, "I have to go study." Students who don't attend dances are unwilling to take the time away from their books.

The MSUO student is here because he knows that there is no "instant" education. Unlike some other colleges, MSUO is not a supermarket. One cannot get a degree by a four year program of "serve yourself" and regular stops at the cash register. A degree from MSUO must be earned, and the student who earns one is guaranteed a thorough background in the liberal arts. He will have a "built-in" concern for the world around him. His knowledge of past and present will provide him with the necessary equipment for meeting the future.

This kind of education cannot be obtained by the mere occupation of a classroom chair. It demands constant reaching for a goal, the continual development of a keener insight and a never-ending process of sorting, classifying, and discovering relationships. MSUO students have met the challenge. They have dedicated themselves to education for education's sake. They have refused to allow obstacles to stand in the way. In doing so they may have neglected social activities. But in the tradition begun by the founders of MSUO and the charter class, they have dedicated themselves to learning. And, after all, this is what really counts.

### What's The Matter With MSUO Faculty

Recently, various professors have been using vulgar language and repulsive jokes to hold the attention of their class. I ask, if the staff at MSUO is supposed to be so tremendous, why should they have to turn to such raw methods of acquiring attention?

A good teacher should be able to conduct an interesting class using only the subject matter that is pertinent. If MSUO was an all male college, profanity might be accepted, but since women are present, I think they should be respected.

When smoking in the classroom was complained about the smoking was stopped. Now, as a girl, I ask for respect from the faculty in the classroom.

A Sophomore

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### The Oakland Observer

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February 17, 1961

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"WELL . . . SO MUCH FOR MIDTERMS."

## Publisher Replies To Editor

The following letter was received by Chancellor D. B. Varner.

I am somewhat dismayed at the dismal and unhappy picture of student life at MSUO which an undergraduate paints in your student publication.

Since I've had close connections with the institution from its earliest days, I'm constrained to wonder whether this impression is from someone who isn't sufficiently oriented or who is possibly influenced by some unconscious frustration.

As a judge in the Snow Queen Contest, I was impressed by the sincerity, the happiness and the purposeful lives these splendid young women are leading. Their poise, reasoning and adaptability were of a definitely superior order.

We interviewed fifteen under circumstances that were somewhat trying to them, but they acquitted themselves with distinction and great honor to MSUO, and we left with an even greater respect for the student body and the institution. The atmosphere in which they learn must be constructive and stimulating or it would have been reflected in their answers.

Over the years I've enjoyed reasonable opportunities to visit campuses all the way

from Stanford to Smith and Colby. Also, for a quarter of a century we have had five or six students that work their way through college employed at The Press summers. Quite generally I find undergraduates happy, cheerful, optimistic and firm believers in the world today — and tomorrow. They revel in the good, the fine and the spiritually uplifting. Only a few concentrate on the inept and the crassness that seems to touch all life a little.

MSUO has a brilliant future. This will only be realized by the concerted efforts of the builders and those with vision and those that struggle towards the heights with sunshine in their hearts and an unquenchable desire to conquer. Very little of a constructive nature is gained by dwelling on the flaws, the little defects and the rough edges which a newly formed society hasn't had sufficient time to assimilate and conquer.

Sincerely,  
Harold A. Fitzgerald  
Publisher, Pontiac Press

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## Job Interviews Scheduled For March 6 By GM

On Monday, March 6, 1961, several members of the General Motors Salaried Personnel Placement staff will be at MSUO to interview students for summer employment and, at the same time, look for students with an eye to the future.

All students interested in employment with GM during the summer are urged to make an appointment in room 160 prior to March 1. Those students are also urged to bring to the interview a typed resume of themselves, including job experience, background, offices held, honors, and student activities.

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## "Failure" Is Success In Shapiro Biography

By Lauree Webb

A biography of the nineteenth-century author and political figure Richard Henry Dana, Jr. will be published by the Michigan State University graphy, augmented by liberal Press next month. The bio-axcerpts from Dana's personal papers, was written by Dr. Samuel Shapiro, assistant professor of history at MSUO.

Mr. Shapiro gave the Oakland Observer permission to review his first book prior to its publication.

Dana's grandfather was Chief Justice of Massachusetts. The family was wealthy and possessed considerable status. Dana was a man of ability and seemed to possess all the essentials for a successful political career, but he never attained the high office to which he aspired. Why he was a failure was one of the principle problems facing Shapiro.

Tradition had chosen Dana's college (Harvard) and church; tradition determined his career. His "Two Years Before The Mast" written at the age of 19 attracted seamen to his law office and within a few years he had gained a reputation as a skilled admiralty lawyer.

But he made little money. At 33, his life was marked by economic insecurity, self-dissatisfaction and failure to accomplish his social goals.

Dana became increasingly involved in politics. But his almost constant lack of funds prevented him from taking advantage of the opportunities that could have gained him rich political rewards.

His antislavery sentiments made him a leader of the Free Soil party in 1848. But his otherwise conservative views alienated him from the rest of the party's leaders. He continued to work for antislavery apart from the party and defended many fugitive slaves. Dana was one of the founders of the Republican party, which was conservative but still antislavery.

The Republican triumph in 1860 was interpreted by Dana

as a "vindication of all his political speeches and actions of the previous 12 years." He looked for higher rewards but was not dissatisfied with his position as federal district attorney. For the first time in his life he experienced financial security.

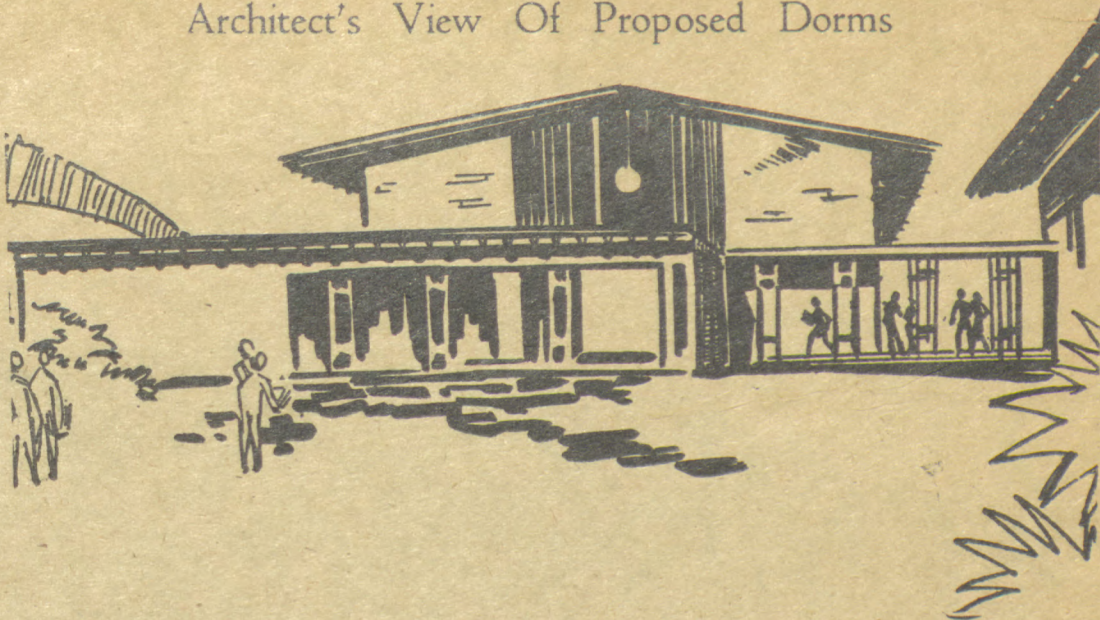
The crucial point in Dana's career was in 1868. He ran for a seat in the Massachusetts legislature and was defeated by Benjamin Butler. He attributed his defeat to Butler's greater financial resources for campaigning. But Dana was an aristocrat, and proud of it. He did not carry the vote of laborers and his anti-Catholic sentiments lost him the support of the Irish immigrants who had flooded Massachusetts. There was a general feeling of anti-intellectualism and contempt for "gentlemen." Dana's defeat was due to changing times and his inability to change with them. Butler's election was a triumph of the new rich over the intellectual aristocracy.

Although he came close in later years, Dana was "always a bridesmaid and never a bride." He did not receive the political rewards he felt he deserved. He returned to his law practice convinced there was no place in American politics for "men of conservative tendencies."

Biographies do not allow much freedom for creative or personal writing, however, Shapiro has made the most of the form. He has chosen to tell the story of a man's life that is in itself interesting and has added background information which makes it more so. Dana's life story to make more meaningful by the inclusion of opinions by his contemporaries. And Dana's relationships with Lincoln, Douglas, Van Buren, Webster, Emerson, Longfellow, Mann, Melville, Sumner, Grant, Polk, Hayes, Garfield and Jefferson Davis sum-up a whole era of American history.

"Richard Henry Dana, Jr." has a timely significance since the electoral college and the spoils system, two aspects of American politics which Dana found objectionable, have been the subject of recent controversies. And because the ability of present political leaders to change with changing times will determine not only the political success of individuals, but the success of American politics in the immediate future.

## Architect's View Of Proposed Dorms



## Appointments

(Continued from Page 1)

ning; and Dr. Donald D. O'Dowd as Dean of the University.

Dr. Hucker, a native of St. Louis, Mo., is a graduate of the University of Texas and received the Ph.D., with honors, from the University of Chicago in 1950. A World War II Air Force veteran, he entered the service as a private and left as a major.

A Rockefeller Foundation Fellow in Inter-Cultural Understanding, 1952-54, Dr. Hucker was a special research fellow with Academia Sinica Institute of History and Philology (1952-53), Taipei, Taiwan (Formosa) and with the National Taiwan University. He was a visiting research scholar (1953-54) with the Kyoto (Japan) University Research Institute of Humanistic Sciences.

He has published many scholarly articles and currently is working on two books. He has served since 1955 as editor for Oriental literature for the Encyclopedia Britannica and served last year as consultant on Oriental studies for division of higher education of the United States Office of Education.

Dr. Lewis, 37, a Chicagoan, holds bachelor's and master's degrees in zoology from the University of Illinois. His Ph.D., in genetics, is from the University of California. Dr. Lewis now is assistant professor of biology at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (since 1954) and previously was a U.S. Public Health Service Postdoctorate Fellow, 1952-54.

Author of numerous scholarly articles, he is now directing research seeking genetic control of a disease — causing enzyme on a grant from the National Institute of health. This project will be transferred to Michigan State University Oakland.

Dr. Brown, assistant professor of English at Colby College, Maine, received the M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Harvard University. Dr. Brown, 32, and a Marine Corps veteran, previously was a teaching fellow and tutor in English at Harvard and taught sections of Archibald MacLeish's course in humanities.

Dr. O'Dowd has served as MSUO associate professor of psychology since last August and previously was assistant professor and acting dean of freshmen at Wesleyan University, Conn. He is 34, a graduate of Dartmouth College and holds the M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Harvard University. He is the recipient of research grants from the National Science Foundation and the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

In establishing the office of dean of the university, Chancellor Varner said the position would include the responsibility for coordinating the activities of the office of dean of students as well as the office of director of MSUO's Continuing Education department.

In his new position, Dr. Hoopes, now dean of the facul-

ty at MSUO, will be responsible, Mr. Varner said, for the systematic study of new developments in higher education. Dr. Hoopes will devote one-half his time to the new post thus allowing him time to return to his main interest—writing and teaching in the field of English.

Dr. Hoopes, last book "Right Reason" in the English Renaissance," was completed just after he came to MSUO and he has another book, long planned, on the poets Spenser and Milton, in the early stages of work.

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