

US INVADES LAOS

FOCUS: OAKLAND

VOL. II NO. 17

February 10, 1971

*"Gentlemen may cry 'Peace, peace,' but there is no peace;
the war has actually begun."*

— Patrick Henry, 1775

PRG SPEAKS

The following message was received by phone from the PRG in Paris:

The PRG in Paris has today issued an appeal to the student and youth conference in Ann Arbor, Michigan and to peace-loving people throughout the world to initiate firm, broad and immediate actions, including massive street demonstrations to condemn US aggression in Laos and to check new plans to invade Cambodia, Laos, and North Vietnam. The PRG confirms that as of February 4, tens of thousands of Saigon, Thai, and American troops have crossed into Laos with motorized vehicles. More than 20,000 Saigon paratroopers, marines and rangers are involved. At least two regiments of the 3rd infantry division of the puppet Thai army have gone into Laos, in coordination with the puppet army of Laos. The PRG asserts that

US ground troops, and not just American advisors, are involved and that round the clock bombing to support the ground troops is being carried out by the US air force in Laos. This military aggression is the first stage of a still larger aggression being planned. The PRG says that the apparent US plan is to invade all of Indochina, including Laos, Cambodia, and North Vietnam and that 10,000 US troops are now massed on the Laotian border. The PRG urgently calls on the people of the world to condemn this new escalation of the war and to take actions now that could check the plans for even greater escalation about to occur. The PRG states that there is a world-wide news blackout on this military escalation and that the American people must bring this news to their communities through every available channel.

The Student and Youth Conference on a People's Peace Treaty held in Ann Arbor this past weekend, Feb. 5 - 7, in response to an urgent message from Madame Nguyen Thi Binh in Paris called for massive student actions and demonstrations across the country on Wednesday, February 10, 1971 to protest the Feb. 4 invasion of Laos by American, Thai and Saigon troops.

The telegram received from Madame Binh, head of the delegation of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam at the Paris conference, read as follows: "Alert your Laos invasion by tens of thou-

sands US - Saigon - Thai troops. Action intense US Air force. Earnestly call you mobilize peace forces your country. Check US dangerous ventures Indochina."

In a later communication received from Paris by phone at 2:00 p.m. Sunday afternoon the PRG affirmed Madame Binh's telegram and called for the conference to bring the news of the invasion to the people of America since there was a nationwide news blackout on the invasion.

The conference earlier unanimously ratified the Joint People's Peace Treaty negotiated by American students who traveled to South and North Vietnam to meet Vietnamese youth and political groups. The conference also called for a broad range of local organizing and ratification efforts aimed at implementing the peace treaty. This will include a number of

national actions beginning in March and a week of intensive direct actions beginning May 1 in Washington D.C. These May demonstrations will not be the usual one-day mass marches but will consist of sustained actions designed to force the U.S. government to accept the terms of the People's Treaty and to prevent the government from business-as-usual functioning.

The People's Peace Treaty calls for immediate and total withdrawal of American troops on a publicly set date. At that time, there would be an immediate and mutual cease fire as well as discussions to secure the release of all American prisoners and to set up procedures to guarantee the safety of all withdrawing troops.

In addition the treaty calls for an "end to the imposition of the Thieu-Ky-Khiem regime on the people of South Vietnam in order to insure their right to self-determination and so that all political prisoners can be released." A provisional coalition government would be formed to organize democratic elections with all parties agreeing to respect the "results of elections in which South Vietnamese can participate without the presence of any foreign troops." The treaty also pledges that Americans and Vietnamese will honor the independence of Laos and Cambodia and the 1954 and 1964 Geneva Agreements not to interfere in the internal affairs of these two nations.

The preamble to the treaty states: "Be it known that the American and Vietnamese people are not enemies. The war is carried out in the names of the people of the United States and Vietnam but without our consent. It destroys the land and people of Viet-

cont. on page three

RALLY
12:30
GOLD ROOM

Congress Moves...

The Student Congress has passed two resolutions in support of the movement for a People's Peace and the day of nationwide demonstrations and rallies to stop escalation of the war in Indochina.

The Congress endorses the move to establish an information center, and establishes an Ad Hoc committee to supervise and disperse funds (with a ceiling of two thousand dollars, plus an option to request additional money for speaker fees) to other anti-war groups.

The Congress urges the student body to attend the anti-war conference and seminars on Wednesday, Feb. 10, 1971, despite those classes that might interfere.

JOINT TREATY OF PEACE BETWEEN THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH VIETNAM AND NORTH VIETNAM

In November and December, 1970, a delegation of student body presidents of American Universities, organized by the United States National Student Association, exchanged views by mail and in person with representatives of the South Vietnam Liberation Students Union. An American student trip to Vietnam was organized as a result of a mandate of the 1970 National Student Congress. The purpose was to explore the possibilities of a peace treaty that would put an end to the war on terms that would satisfy the honor and safeguard the interests of the people of the United States and Vietnam.

Fearing that this democratic initiative would lead to formulation of peace

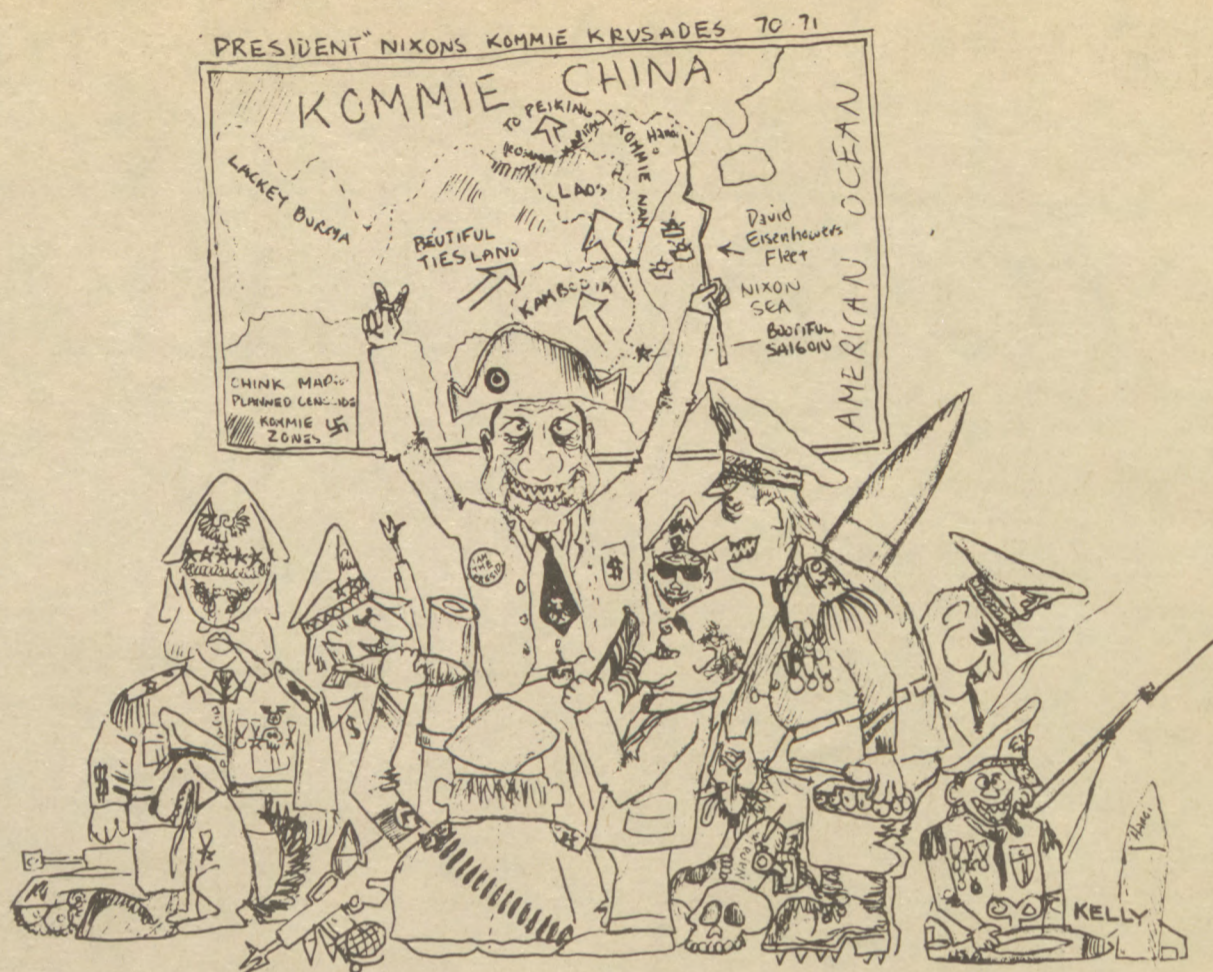
terms that could readily be adopted by the American and Vietnamese people, the Thieu-Ky-Khiem regime denied visas for the American students to enter Saigon. Ironically, some of the students denied visas were veterans of the Vietnam war. An advance representative of the delegation, however, was already in Saigon, and was able to meet with official representatives of the South Vietnamese National Student Union. From this meeting came the Joint Declaration of Peace with the South Vietnamese Students.

Meanwhile the entire delegation of eleven American students traveled to Hanoi and met with official representatives of the North Vietnamese National Student Union and the South

Vietnamese Liberation Students Union, whose representatives had traveled to Hanoi for this meeting. This conference produced a Joint Declaration of Peace signed by representatives of the three groups.

Based on the areas of agreement between the Saigon document and the Hanoi document and after discussion with Vietnamese in Paris, a common declaration of peace has been written and agreed to by the three Vietnamese groups and the Americans. This document will be submitted to a wide range of organizations in the United States and Vietnam. Wherever possible it will be submitted for ratification either by referendum or by the vote of the official governing body in cities, towns, and

cont. on page two



THEN, WHEN WE'VE TAKEN PAY-KING WE'LL SWEEP INTO CANADA, AND GREENLAND AND...

TREATY TEXT CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

states and by religious, business groups, the organized poor and any other group whose integrity or life is threatened by continuation of the war.

TREATY TEXT

Be it known that the American and Vietnamese peoples are not enemies. The war is carried out in the names of the people of the United States and South Vietnam but without our consent. It destroys the land and the people of Vietnam. It drains American of its resources, its youth and its honor.

We hereby agree to end the war on the following terms, so that both peoples can live under the joy of independence and can devote themselves to building a society based on human equality and respect for the earth.

1) The Americans agree to immediate and total withdrawal from Vietnam and

publicly to set the date by which all American forces will be removed.

The Vietnamese pledge that as soon as the U.S. government publicly sets a date for total withdrawal

2) They will enter discussions to secure the release of all American prisoners, including pilots captured while bombing North Vietnam.

3) There will be an immediate cease-fire between U.S. forces and those led by the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam.

4) They will enter discussions of the procedures to guarantee the safety of all withdrawing troops.

5) The Americans pledge to end the imposition of Thieu-Ky-Khiem on the people of South Vietnam in order to insure their right to self-determination and so that all political

prisoners can be released.

6) The Vietnamese pledge to form a provisional coalition government to organize democratic elections. All parties agree to respect the results of elections in which all South Vietnamese can participate freely without the presence of any foreign troops.

7) The South Vietnamese pledge to enter discussion of procedures to guarantee the safety and political freedom of those South Vietnamese who have collaborated with U.S. or with the U.S. supported regime.

8) The Americans and Vietnamese agree to respect the independence, peace and neutrality of Laos and Cambodia in accord with the 1954 and 1962 Geneva conventions and not to interfere in the internal affairs of these two countries.

9) Upon these points of agreement, we pledge to end the war and resolve all other questions in the spirit of self-determination and mutual respect for the independence and political freedom of the people of Vietnam and the United States.

By ratifying the agreement, we pledge to take whatever actions are appropriate to implement the terms of this joint Treaty and to insure its acceptance by the government of the United States.

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Vargas Firing Raises Tenure Issue

The Faculty Contract Debate: Part III

Dr. Luis Vargas will be leaving Oakland University at the end of this week. The tenured members of the Department of Modern Languages and Literature have voted against renewing his contract, creating a situation analogous to the Brand — Magney case (Parts I & II).

Upon evaluating the resources and responsibilities of their department, the tenured members discovered, much to their chagrin, that they had 15½ too many people. So a slight purge was in order.

In a letter received by Vargas, an Assistant Professor of Spanish, announcing the non-renewal of his contract, such reasons as irregular office hours, "capricious grading," lack of publication both quantitatively and qualitatively, refusal to advise students, and lack of participation in departmental business were listed as determinants in the decision. Vargas received no negative criticism regarding his classroom teaching methods from the committee of tenured professors responsible for reviewing expiring contracts within their department.

Vargas is teaching only one

class at this time, an advanced Spanish literature course, meeting for a concentrated five-week segment of the semester. His employment will terminate at the end of this course.

"The thing that I object to most is the statement that my publications had no value," Vargas explained. During the past two year contract term, he has published two academic research articles in a Chilean magazine and numerous cultural articles in leading newspapers of his native Chile.

That faculty members will publish becomes little more than a hopeful assumption since most departments do not list specific requirements. Later, when it becomes time to consider contract tenure, evaluations regarding "quality and quantity" are left to the subjective impulses of tenured department members.

Dr. Vargas qualified his initial reluctance to act as an academic advisor at the time of his hiring in 1968 by explaining that he was unacquainted with the traditions and systems in effect at Oakland University. He had come directly from Chile to accept employment at Oakland. The Modern Languages Department did not appreciate his reluctance

to misadvise students or his offer to accept alternative departmental chores, Vargas explained.

What was implied by the ludicrous accusation that Dr. Vargas is a "capricious grader" remains a mystery to all. According to Vargas, his evaluation of student work was based on the accepted University scale. Vargas denied the accusation that he failed to keep regular office hours and explained that he had also encouraged students to visit him at his home.

Regarding his alleged lack of participation in department business, Vargas asserted, "No one cares about what I've done in my classroom, the only thing they want me to do is to be a bureaucratic instrument. Some are professors, some are committee members; I want to be in the classroom."

The American Association of University Professors is interested in Vargas' case because it is hoped that it will be instrumental in defining ambiguous appointment procedures. The procedures utilized at Oakland University are indefinite, confusing and archaic. Those holding power to hire and fire at Oakland University are the tenured members of a de-

partment. Their meetings are closed and a faculty member whose appointment is in jeopardy has no opportunity to appear in order to defend his position.

Although Vargas is undecided regarding future employment, he insists that he would never, if asked, consent to remain at the University because of unavoidable difficulties in working with certain department members. Vargas was highly recognized in *Oakland Undiapered* (100% of students polled rated his subject knowledge to be extensive and 84% expressed a definite willingness

to take further courses from the professor) and by the committee of 39 students that endeavored to maintain his employment at the University.

To remedy future situations, Dr. Vargas offers two suggestions:

1) Insist upon explicit contracts prior to hiring listing rights, responsibilities, and tasks. Negotiate grievances prior to employment.

2) Involve students in all decisions regarding hiring and contract renewal of faculty.

By Lynne Twining

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Conference *cont. from page one*

nam. It drains American of its resources, its youth, and its honor. We hereby agree to end the war . . . so that both peoples can live under the joy of independence and can devote themselves to building a society based on human equality and respect for the earth."

At the conference opening session on Friday evening, organizers and representatives from college campuses, G.I. groups, labor unions, women's and third world organizations from all across the country gathered to begin an extensive campaign to bring the Peace Treaty to the American people. In a recorded message, Madame Binh stressed the importance of this new initiative for the American peace movement and called upon the people of America to rededicate themselves to the struggle for peace.

Cynthia Frederick of the Committee of Concerned Asian Scholars and others

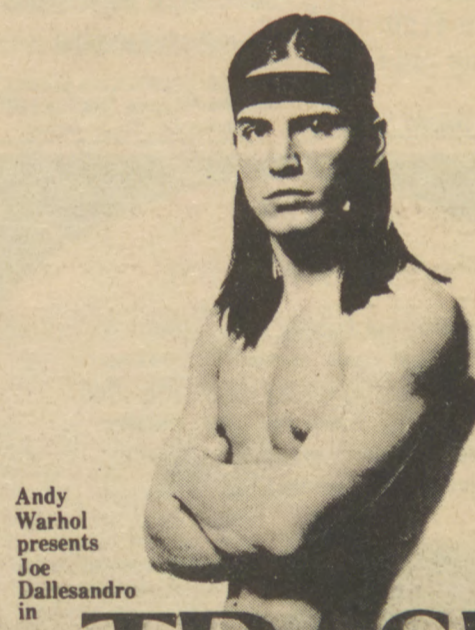
recently returned from Vietnam spoke to the plenary session of the convention on the current critical situation in Southeast Asia. They reiterated the potential of the conference to "carry this just and equitable solution to the American people who are desperately searching for an end to the tragic US involvement in Southeast Asia.

The conference also received a message from Bobby Seale and Ericka Huggins of the Black Panther party jailed in New Haven, Conn., calling for demonstrations to protest the rise of political trials. Sister Ericka said "No heroes, no rhetoric, but massive educational rallies and street politicizing . . . And we have to do it with love, you know, the understanding that we need more than just movement people and sympathizers at these rallies. We need whole families of people. Young, old, black, brown, yellow, beige,

whatever. Male, female, gay - everybody. Because everybody is faced with American oppression and all of us are the America that will be, dig it. So we all really have to get to work and focus on the people, not individuals. Love, power, strength." Bobby and Ericka

On Saturday and Sunday, the conference divided into workshops and constituency caucuses . . . The Michigan regional caucus called for a statewide Michigan conference on the escalation of the war and the implementation of the peace treaty to be held in late February or early March. This statewide conference will include representatives of all types of groups: blacks, chicanos, women, students, workers, and religious and professional groups. The conference will attempt to coordinate state and local actions building up to the national May 1 target date.

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editorial

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- Richard M. Nixon
August 14, 1968

And the War goes on...

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To the Editors:

I feel like responding to the letter of Mr. Zollschan and to a reply by the editors. Mr. Zollschan's letter expressed such strong emotion that it was scary. It disturbed me enough that I cannot respond to it. But I feel like criticizing a couple of sentences in the editors' reply:

1) "As the article by 'Francois Duvalier' 'criticized' every group involved in the Christmas decorations incident, we are satisfied that it was successful." I'm not so satisfied. I recall noticing the uncomfortable

juxtaposition of the article and the J.S.A. theft news, also. My impression after having read the article was that the "non-decoration" people were made to look more foolish than the "decoration" people. And I, as a "non-decoration" person, dislike being made to look foolish.

2) "The only sin we can be accused of with any legitimacy is innocence, of underestimating the subtle prejudices existing on this campus." This is a well-worded description of what seems to have been the case. But I feel that the editors don't think this "sin" so terrible. It isn't ordinarily, but, considering the Christmas mood and measuring with a mental estimate the number of people "hurt" by reading this article, I would feel that a significant "sin" has been committed. I hope that the Christmas incident has made us all less innocent of religious prejudices on this campus.

Lorraine B. (O.U. employee)

P.S. I think that the letters section is the most valuable part of *Focus: Oakland*. Could you not make such narrow columns, though? If you think this a worthwhile letter, you may print it.

To the Editor:

Most people don't take *Focus: Oakland* seriously. Everybody more or less knows this (including, we suspect, the staff). People tend to blame this on irrelevant factors like personality, poor writing or lack of journalistic skill. These criticisms miss the point. A

LETTERS=LETTERS

newspaper is more than a set of unrelated, disconnected, "objectively" written articles. Rather it is fundamentally an attempt to formulate an interpretive, critical analysis or perspective through articles, editorials and other features. For example, one's opinion of the *Detroit News* or *Fifth Estate* is not really based so much on writing style or article content, as on the extent of one's support for the (necessarily subjective) interpretive perspective represented by the sum total of articles. Indeed it is this perspective which creates and defines the character of a newspaper, and also one's opinion of it. The total lack of any such critical perspective is responsible for the general disinterest felt toward *Focus: Oakland*. The *Focus: Oakland* of Feb. 3 provides several good examples.

One article consists of a proposed Cuban law against loafing and malingering, which we happen to disagree with. Many people (ourselves included) understand and approve of loafing and avoiding work in a capitalist society where work is almost always inherently alienating and very rarely directly benefits the worker. Americans work for money, not because they believe in the work that they are doing. In Cuba, the situation is quite different. Since the beginning of the revolution in 1959, the Cuban people have obtained control of their country and are striving to develop a society in which one works for the benefit of his sisters and brothers in the community, rather than for personal profit. They are trying to create a society based on love rather than greed. Most Americans feeling as they do about work, are understandably skeptical

about such claims. It is only with the return from Cuba of over 2,000 American Vercermos Brigade volunteers who witnessed and were moved by this revolutionary social process, that we are beginning to understand its implications for a humane socialist society. Also, Cuba has made great strides in meeting the needs of its people in spite of both an underdeveloped economy and U.S. trade embargo. This situation imposes an obvious need to mobilize all available labor power and yet is neglected by *Focus: Oakland*. Because of its lack of any political perspective, *Focus: Oakland* views and permits its readers to view a Cuban revolutionary phenomena within an American capitalist context and hence distorts it.

The same issue of *Focus: Oakland* also tries to deal with the subject of bigotry. A previous issue of *Focus: Oakland* contained a reprint of an obviously anti-semitic article which first appeared over 50 years ago. The article is preceded by a barely necessary explanation and disclaimer. The fact that American attitudes about Jews have changed over the past half century made the article a harmless, though interesting, study in bigotry. The article nevertheless elicits a hysterical and paranoid reaction from a Mr. Zollschan who submitted a letter which contains open threats of violence to those he deems anti-semitic. He excitedly describes the fate of Jews under Nazis and egotistically proclaims his personal mission to protect us from a similar fate: "I shall see to it personally that the murderous performance is not repeated here." He then goes on to describe how he intends to repeat the "mur-

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FOCUS: LETTER LETTERS: LET

derous performance": "Let those who feel as I do know my presence here Finally, let the timorous take heart. This time it will not be Jews but Nazis (whether of the right or so-called 'left') who are headed for the boiling vats. Only one word of caution is necessary. On no account should what boils out of them be utilized for cleansing purposes!" (No mention is made by Mr. Zollschan of whether he intends to use other human remains, such as skin and teeth as the Nazis did.) *Focus*' action required no apology and yet they were so insecure about what they'd done that even Mr. Zollschan received one. If *Focus*' actions had been grounded in any kind of a political perspective, it would have provided them with a source of confidence in their actions, the intent of which was clearly satirical and anti-racist.

The subject of bigotry is treated further in an editorial by Larry Good. The article is honest and was probably hard to write. Yet, since it deals solely with his personal reactions to racism, it ultimately fails to deal with racism at all and must be dismissed as self-flagellation and a white liberal guilt trip. The social, economic and institutional basis of racism are ignored. There is no attempt to develop a means for whites to collectively organize to oppose racism. These elements are absent because to deal with them requires a systematic political analysis. All we are left with are Good's personal reactions and a call for self-evaluation, which really isn't much.

A final example concerns *Focus*: *Oakland*'s treatment

of the women's liberation movement. Basically, their coverage has consisted of one issue of *Focus: Oakland* which was turned over to women liberation activists. Since then, *Focus: Oakland* has ignored the subject except for including sexist ads like the one captioned "Sex Is Your Business (birth control is ours)" in the last issue. A political perspective makes one aware of the deep-rooted basis of women's oppression (or of any other oppression) and the need for sustained effort to secure liberation. *Focus: Oakland*'s occasional token articles dealing with oppression underscore its ignorance of this fact.

We think we have made our point about *Focus: Oakland*.

Judi Latimer
Sally Lou Rasmussen

(As you know, anyone on the campus (whether a staff member or otherwise) may submit articles that further political views, whatever they may be. If they're written coherently and will interest more than a handful of people, we'll print them, as we have in the past. We welcome these articles and wish we had more of them.

You can tell pretty well where the editors of this paper stand from its editorials. But we don't think the students of this school want a newspaper that, like the *News and Fifth Estate*, insists on doing its readers' thinking for them by making the world appear to fit neatly into a particular ideological perspective. (It doesn't, you know.) And we don't feel it would be proper or desirable for us to use the

only regular, widely-distributed communicative organ on this campus as a vehicle for any one ideological position. The interests of our readership are best served by allowing the paper to be a medium for a genuinely free exchange of ideas. In accordance with this, the staff members — themselves from a wide range of political backgrounds — are free to write their articles as they wish, without being subject to political censorship. *Focus* is not an institution but the collected efforts of individuals, and they take the paper seriously if and when they wish.

Nothing is more satisfying to a newspaper reader (or human being) than to read opinions that consistently and continually reinforce his own. The readers of *Focus* have been and will continue to be, we hope, dissatisfied.

(So much for our self-indulgence.) Now, permit

us to advise you that you have grossly over-estimated the open-mindedness of the people at Oakland University. Various experiences, (the reprint about Jews, for one) have clearly demonstrated to us (often we've learned the hard way) that heaps and gobs of racial bias are everywhere on this campus, and Mr. Zollschan may not

be reacting hysterically at all. Most Oakland students, believe it or not, have not yet reached the point of recognizing the bigotry and hypocrisy within themselves. A call for self-evaluation must, we feel, precede the "analysis" you suggest.

— the Editors)

Focus: Oakland is published weekly at Oakland University, Rochester, Michigan. Offices are at 36 Oakland Center, Oakland University, Rochester, Michigan 48603. Telephone: 377-2000, ext. 2117.

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SET Works Alice

Some establishments, like some people, get better with age. The S.E.T. Barn is an "anti-establishment" that ages gracefully and is constantly renewing itself. This Friday will mark the opening of their latest original production to date, "Alice In Wonderland." This time Tom Aston has adapted his own script right from the original Carroll and Marc Abel, an O.U. sophomore, has provided a never-before score. The music ranges from folk to rock to blues, but doesn't smother the primary story of Alice's adventure.

The idea of allowing yourself — Alice — to breathe is an important one in this unique production. With all the complications of modern existence that threaten to suffocate us, Tom thought that it was necessary to perform a script that could present an alternate way of thinking, of surviving. Looking at the simple side of "Alice," rather than clouding the glass with

Freudian jargon, we see Alice adjusting to all the "Newnesses" in a change in her life. She tries to ease herself into her new "time in space," which is, as Tom puts it, "a new way of breathing." And the Cheshire Cat tells Alice, "move with the body, think body soul." ("Body soul" is in the psoas muscle, at the base of the diaphragm; eastern thinking acknowledges it as the seat of conscious existence and the powers that breathe.)

Alice tells us "Let yourself have time to breathe." Her advice is needed mostly by the adults who've forgotten how to breathe life into their existence. Perhaps that's why grown-ups are more intrigued with the tale of Alice than children, who have not yet learned to stop "breathing."

After all that, you might think that this is going to be a Zen version of Alice. Not quite — it has all the trappings of the "old favorite" as well as the new



Members of 'Alice cast frolic at rehearsal. (a.p. wirephoto)

viewpoints of an original script. There are masks for some of the more "character" characters (the Caterpillar, rabbit, etc.) and some original wardrobe ideas mixed with more traditional costumes, like the Queen's gown and Alice's pinafore. It looks like the S.E.T. is going to offer Oakland another exciting and fresh chunk of theatre — may their power increase and overflow! Oh, don't forget this time the Barn has overflowed into the new PA building auditorium.

February 12, 13, 19, 20, (8:30), 14, 21 (3:00) are the production dates. O.U. students and children under 12 (is this symbolic?): \$1; all others, \$2. Call 377-2000, ext. 3556 for more information. Even if you don't call, COME!

The University Film Series had planned long in advance for a visit from Ossie Davis, well-known black film-maker. Well, he's "filming in Mexico," so director John Evans will be coming on the 15th. On the following night (16th), the Series has scheduled two of Evans' films: "What Do You People Want?" and "Prelude to Revolution." Evans has said he'll be glad to discuss both his and Davis' film (which will be shown on the 15th:

"Gone Are The Days" followed by a discussion with John Evans. Performing Arts Building Auditorium, 7 p.m. O.U. students, \$1, general, \$2. (Tickets will go on sale Feb. 11. For information, call ext. 3558.)

RARE EGGS

RINGS ON HIS TOES Part Two

WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE: The good Lord created all that exists, the dinosaurs all died of boredom, mankind started to exist, Ring Lardner wrote some books, the USA won WWII, and, on April 1, 1971, the sun went out. Now, on with our story . . .

(The scene: A circus tent on the outskirts of Africa. Two tightrope walkers are walking their rope rather well, considering that they are stone drunk.)

1st Tightrope Walker: So you were saying about Ring Lardner.

2nd T R W: So I was.

1st T R W: What other things did he write besides plays like the one we're in that on like the one we're in that don't make any sense?

2nd: Well, he wrote some really good, really funny short stories that do make some sense, some poetry, some bad checks, some . . . AHAYAAAAA! (He falls off the tightrope to the cement below.)

ACT IV, Scene 3

(At the funeral of the clumsy rope walker. The Beatles return after a long abscence to pay their respects and are convinced to sing a song in eulogy.)

The Beatles: We've come to think everything that's clever was first said by the funniest author ever ever ever Ring Lardner! He's my pardner! Good ole Ring! He's the thing!

The Owner of the Theatre at Which This Play is Being Presented: Stop it! Stop it! (He pulls the Beatles' plugs out of the wall, and water begins to rush out of the holes onto the floor.) Can't anyone be serious for even a moment? People are going to get the wrong idea of Ring if we don't all calm down a bit and assure them that they should all go out and read one of his books. (The audience begins to pack up and leave.) No, No, not now, just sooner or later! He did write some really good stuff, you know.

The Rest of the Cast: (Giving Bronx Cheers and spitting at the theatre owner.)

The Theatre Owner: (Ignoring them all.) He was born in 1885 and died in the year in which he passed on, 1933. He wrote plays which were actually performed, more than I can say for this one, (He turns to the rest of the

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cast.)

The Rest of the Cast: (More Bronx Cheers. Long John Silver loppes off the theatre owner's left arm with a pelican.)

The Theatre Owner: (Applying a tourniquet to his profusely bleeding stump.) Furthermore, he wrote a story which was later made into a movie, and drank a lot.

The Rest of the Cast: (To audience.) Will you all promise to go read a book or two by this Ringo guy so that we can get on with this play, please?

Audience: (This means you.) (In unison, if you please.)
Yes, we will!
Yes, we will!
Yes, we will!

End of Act IV

ACT III

(During the last act, Act III was totally rewritten, so that I now feel unashamed to present it to all of you wonderful folks, so here it is.)

St. Patrick: Snakes. Snake for sale. Buy some snake. Read a book by Ring Lardner, and buy a snake for a book mark.

Toilet Salesman: Incidentally, why is it that Irishmen are always green?

St. Patrick: They're all sick of that dumb accent they all have, and they're sick of snakes, and they're sick of being cast in plays like this that don't make any sense!!! (He begins to contemplate committing suicide.)

Mickey Rooney: I know what let's do; let's go mountain climbing!

Raquel Welch: Oh, Lord, no!

The Entire Cast: (Start climbing upon Raquel Welch, the Mountain Range in the South of France.) (They all sing in unison, and the audience is invited to join in if necessary.) Put one foot in front of the other and climb, brother climb. This play will soon be over, it's about time, time, time. Let's climb right out of here. Let's climb right out of here!

(The orchestra begins a musical extravaganza lasting several hours while the members in the audience begin to grow restless. However, gradually, the curtain is lowered, the theatre doors are opened, and everyone goes home.)

The doctor in the house would like to thank you all for your patients.

The End

Greg Erickson wrote this play to convince everyone that Ring Lardner isn't as famous as Mark Twain, but should be. He didn't do a very good job, did he?



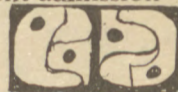
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POLL DELAYED

Due to a lack of space, the ballots for the First Focus International Music Poll were not published this issue. Look for them in the next issue of Focus.

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