

Special Edition

The Oakland Sail

Oakland University/Rochester, Michigan

Your voice - Your choice

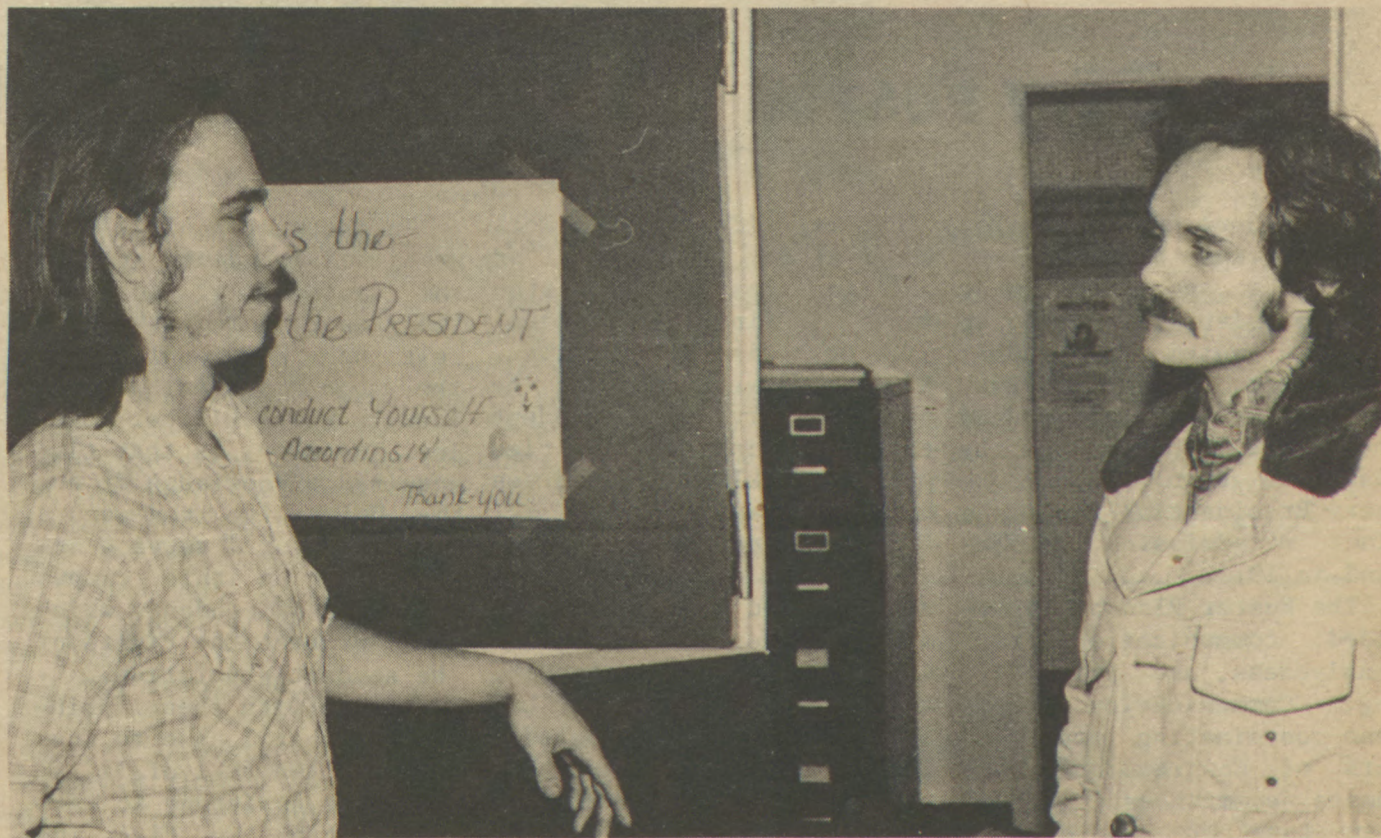
CONGRESS ELECTIONS

The University Congress will hold its regular elections November 21, 22, and 23. Twenty students will be chosen to serve as voting Congressmembers. One student will be chosen as the new Congress President.

The new Congress Constitution states that the prime purpose of Congress is "to provide a central student government responsive to the needs of Oakland University students ...". In the true spirit of this statement, the Elections Commission, headed by Greg Flynn, has worked to keep the elections wide open and exciting. Flynn has a turnout goal at the polls of over 2,000 as the Commission's target for this year. Last year, only about 750 students took part in the election.

Any currently registered OU student will be allowed to vote. Each student may cast one vote for President and 20 votes for Congressmembers. Cumulative voting is allowed, so a voter may cast all twenty votes for one candidate or any combination in which the total equals 20. No half-votes are permitted.

More polling areas will be open this year than ever before. The Oakland Center will have polls set up Monday and Tuesday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Vandenberg Hall will be open for voting from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Monday and Tuesday. Night students can vote in the Fishbowl in South Foundation Hall Monday from 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. and Tuesday from 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Commuters will have a special chance to vote



Presidential candidates Gary Foster and Will Biddlingmeier will face-off in the University Congress elections Nov. 21-23.

from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, when a polling area will be set up in Dodge Hall.

The Society of Automotive Engineers and the OU Student Nurses Association will sponsor a debate between Presidential candidates Gary Foster and Will Biddlingmeier Friday November 18 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Gold Room, OC. Questions for the candidates will be taken from the audience.

The University Congress is the student voice to the University, and it's your choice as to who will speak for you. Each year Congress handles over \$35,000 in student fees. The decisions it makes, or fails to make, can affect your campus, your classes and your life.

Opportunity for write-ins

If you're interested in Congress, but were unable to submit a petition for candidacy, you still have a good chance if you campaign as a write-in. Under the new Congress Constitution, there are 20 voting seats open for elected student representatives. Only 14 candidates submitted petitions before the November 11 deadline. There are still six vacancies wide-open for the upcoming election.

Every seat on Congress is important. Responsible and intelligent people are

needed to fill every position if Congress is going to be successful in governing the student body. If you think you can handle the job, get together your campaign and see if you can win your chance.

Students wishing to announce their write-in candidacy can submit a one page position paper to Dave Ross before November 17. The names of all candidates, including candidates already on the ballot and write-in candidates, will be printed in the November 18 edition of the Sail.

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES



Gary Foster

Throughout my campaign for Congress President, I have spoken about the Foster Plan; a plan for bringing about a system to student government. The Foster Plan is nothing radical, indeed the three aspects of the plan have been proposed by every Presidential Candidate since my admission to Oakland in 1974.

The Foster Plan is three-sided: communication, responsiveness, and prioritizing. Communication would mean coordinating the members of Congressional and Senate committees, getting them together to discuss what is happening, to share information, and to simply give the involved members a chance to meet each other. Currently, chairpersons of student delegations may never have met other chairman; it is impossible to make Congress effective while key people don't know who each other are.

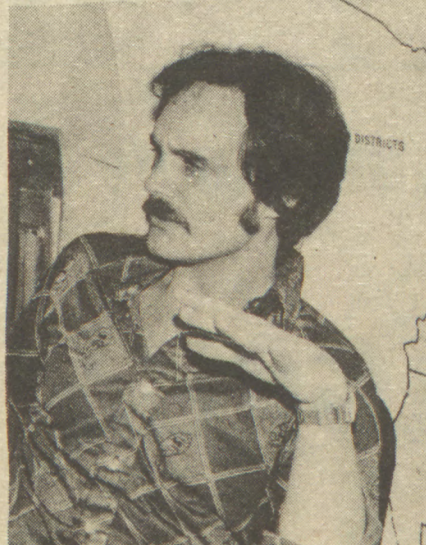
Responsiveness in student government means problem solving; intervening with



financial aids to get a work referral for a student, or offering assistance to students in financial, academic, or social difficulties. Student government must be able to serve any student that is having difficulties within Oakland. Congress must be responsive.

Priorities, in the Foster Plan, would be to establish well defined goals, with limited and specific objectives, and a clear method to achieve them. Congress has never, to my knowledge decided exactly what they wanted to accomplish or how it was to get done. University Congress cannot be effective until goals, objectives, and methods are set.

University Congress set be an effective instrument on Oakland's campus; I believe this. Serious leadership, leadership that does not accept office games as a substitute for effective actions, can bring Congress around. I am serious. I believe it can work.



Will Biddlingmeier

In the winter of '77, a group of students started the Tautological Society, the reason being that we felt there was no place for the common student at Oakland to voice his/her opinion. We also, at that time acquired a knowledge of how the University ran and a real need for a service organization on this campus comprised of students which would protect the rights of the student population.

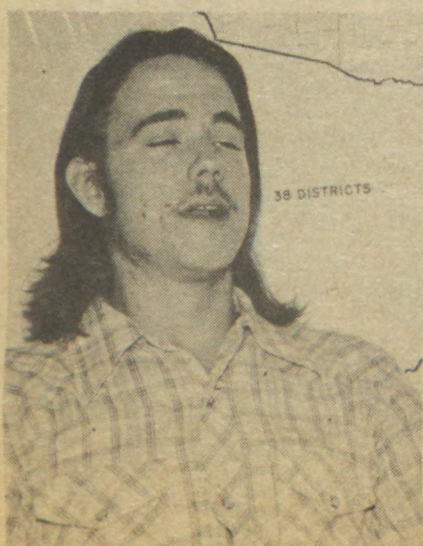
It was with these principles that I came to Congress in the fall of '77 as Executive Assistant to Aaron Burnette. My first job was to clean up and lay a mechanism for the operation of its committee structure. Second of all, we started work on the Senate sub-committee and University-wide committees structure.

My third project as Executive Assistant was to finalize the Congress Constitution. It had been through a long series of administrations within Con-

gress; all that was needed was one last hard push by Congress to get it over the top of the fence and begin working under it.

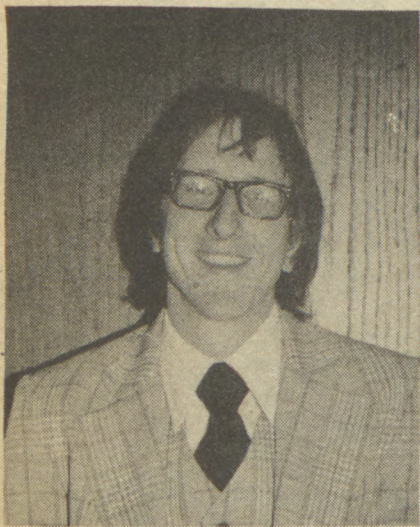
Then, October 14, Aaron resigned and Congress appointed me to the position of President. At my first meeting, I presented Congress with a financial report and a list of goals that Congress was to begin working on.

If elected for another term of president, I will continue to turn Congress toward a consumer advocacy standpoint, continuing to insure that the rights of students, their liberties and freedoms, are in balance with their duties and that you and I will never lose the freedom of being a student. I will continue to stand on open communication, giving information to the student body and seeking their feedback along with representing your interests in the leadership of University Congress.



CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATES

Bob Knoska



just over 10 years.

I have seen a lot of things at Oakland, with experiences as a resident and a commuter and the other ways that I've outlined. I think that any way I can help with the mechanisms of the University Congress to become strengthened and viable, then I will have succeeded.

The student at OU has to have some way to make his or her views and directions felt, and that's what the Congress and I would work toward.

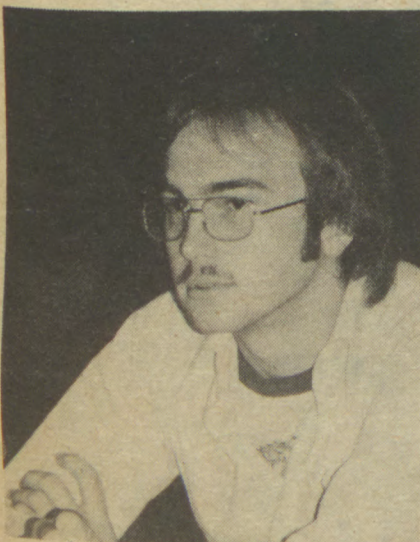
We in the Congress have always had to overcome a continuity problem that exists from one Congress to another. We've tried to overcome that problem with procedures and policies and stout enough personalities. Maybe we have succeeded more than the student body knows, but we've got to do better, and make everyone, students, faculty and staff know that.

I'm stubborn, and try by force of my personality to succeed at my overall goal, of a strong student government. I ask for your vote again to try.

I was the editor-publisher of one of the predecessors of the Oakland Sail and a student Senator from the Emsley Wyatt University Congress administration. I currently am a University Congressperson, the chairperson of its Steering Committee. I'm 25 years of age.

I think that since I'm back at Oakland, that I should try to accomplish what I think has to be done. That is, to make years of student government and traditions that exist at other universities work at Oakland University in

Erich Mau



The University Congress is a governmental body composed of twenty Congressmembers, like myself, who are elected each year to serve the students and

voice their opinions. If re-elected I will continue to do this and use my vote to reflect the concerns of the students. Of main concern to me is the representation of the commuter population. Just as important to me is the representation of the students who are enrolled in engineering and science courses. As one of the few commuters, and the only engineering student in Congress, I am able to represent viewpoints from this different frame of reference. I hope to continue to do this through the support of the students, both during the elections and after.

Mike McClory



I have attempted to ensure that students' money has been distributed in such a manner as to ensure maximum benefit to those attending Oakland University. While serving on OURCOST (Oakland University Research Committee on Student Tuition) it has always been my utmost concern to ensure that student fees and tuition are used in the most efficient manner and that students continue to receive the benefits that they are entitled to by paying their various fees and tuition.

I have served on University Congress since October 1976, and have become familiar with the workings of the Uminersity. My experience would be an asset to the Congress, particularly in helping to orient new Congressmembers after their election.

University Congress is the official vehicle of communication between the students of Oakland and its administrator. It is my duty as a Congressmsmber to attempt to carry out the wishes and demands of the student body.

As a member of the Student Allocations Board(SAB)

Jeff Hipchen

My name is Jeff Hipchen, I'm a freshman residing in Hamlin Hall. I have been looking forward to this chance of getting into the OU Congress. I'm a concerned, hard working student who is looking forward to becoming a member of Congress so I can express my own ideas and listen to ideas of others which should be expressed.

Many students living on campus have been disappointed with the on campus life. Most students have found it to be boring and dull. This is due to the fact that OU offers activities that include the interest of only a small minority of the students. If elected to a Congressmember position I would like to present this problem to Congress so OU would be a more appealing place to live.

A problem that is rising presently is that of white and black students forming

their own cliques. If this problem continues it could cause many problems and conflicts among the student body, ruining the good experiences we do have by living on campus.

I have read some articles lately in the Oakland Sail about conflicts between members of Congress. These are problems many groups of large people have when they are dealing with the important subjects that our OU Congress does. If these conflicts continue, little will be accomplished to help the school and student body. I would like to get a position of Congressmember to straighten out the problems occurring inside of Congress.

OU has great potential of being an outstanding school of academics as well as student life. I'm confident I will be a good representative of Congress and will work hard to make OU a better place all around.

CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATES

Dave Nelson

So who is Dave Nelson and why on earth should you vote for him for University Congress? Essentially because he wants to get something done on this campus. Already an active member of the Committee for student rights, he wants to see what Congress is doing with it's 25% of your student activities fee as opposed to what could be done As parliamentarian for Area

Hall Council, he will be quite capable of cutting through procedural messes which occur in Congress so often. But his major qualification is that he wants to make Congress representative of the student body Dave Nelson: He's new, he's willing to work, and he's working for you. Vote Dave Nelson for University Congress.

Bill Twietmeyer

I was elected to the University Congress last February. Since that time, I have noticed that Congress has not effectively used its committees. I am talking about the OURCOST committee and the Student Rights Committee, which deal with student tuition and student rights, respectively.

It is impossible for each member of Congress to understand the implications of every proposal that we decide. Therefore, it has affected our ability to make

intelligent decisions.

These committees are set up to serve Congress. Their objective is to research problems which arise, and make recommendations to Congress.

Under the current administration, I became chairman of the OURCOST committee. I assisted in rebuilding that committee and I intend to develop a powerful committee structure, which will serve both the student population and the University Congress.

Paul Kuligowski

University Congress is the device of communication between the students and administration, and the lack of confidence of the University Congress seems to be the attitude of many of the students and that true representation on the part of the students has not been achieved.

These and many other reasons are the base of my campaign. I feel that through true representation I can win the confidence of students and administration. This will lead to improvements for the students and the University as a whole.

Jim Dettman

About myself : I've had a lot of opportunity to work with people, being in positions of leadership, and I take it seriously when I get the chance. I was elected president of our National Honor Society, and was chosen best vice-president of manufacturing among the Junior Achievement companies in my city. I am

a member of the Honors College here, won three sport letters in high school, and received a Student Life Scholarship for my extracurricular involvements, GPA, and leadership potential and abilities. I am a freshman I think you'll agree that some underclassmen are needed on the 20 person Congress.

Christopher Robbins

My name is Christopher Robbins. I am a junior transfer student from Alpena Community College. I am in the National Junior College Honors Society (Phi Theta Kappa). My major is physical anthropology.

In the past, in high school, I participated in the sports program. I ran crosscountry and track plus I was on the swimming team where I was awarded most valuable swimmer. Also, this summer I was active as a manager in a women's softball league.

At Alpena, where I received my Associates Degree in liberal arts, I had courses in political science-4.0; sociology- 3.0;

economics-3.0; psychology-3.0; and social psychology-3.0. I've had 21 credits in the natural science area with a cumulative 3.0 GPA. I've also had a humanities course- 4.0, and a year of history of Western Civilization-3.5.

At the present time I am taking 16 credits at Oakland and am living in the residence halls (119 Hill). The reason I want to run for University Congress is because I want to try and become active in a school organization and to help with the University and student needs. I have a feeling for people's needs and would voice my opinion that would lead to action.

Marilyn Clinton

As a freshman I have started becoming quite active in student government and activities, and I would like to continue doing so. I am currently serving the student body as a member of Congress, and I have enjoyed participating in this organization. I have also gained a great deal of experience in the functions of student management and

would like to apply this experience to another term.

Besides being in Congress I am also a member of the Concert Lecture Board, and I hold a seat on the President's Club Lecture Series Advisory Committee as a student representative. With the experience and knowledge gained from these activities I can better fulfill my position as a member of Congress.

Lauren Riegel

Larry Stebins

Mari Brown

Dean Waldrup

The candidates listed above did not submit platforms. This Special Edition was edited by David Ross.