

Photo by Dick Keller

New O.C. complete, grand opening this week

The extension of the Oakland Center will be officially opened this week, designated as OC week. This week special events such as dedication meals, poetry readings, a discussion of the Women's Liberation Movement and a concert on Thursday, and a variety show on Friday in the Off Campus are planned for the opening. The goal of this grand opening is to emphasize the new areas through planned activities.

One of the most practical and attractive areas on the upper level is the new cafeteria. It is three times the size of Vandenberg, has its own lighting and sound system, and portable walls to make separate rooms. The cafeteria can be converted into rooms for lectures, concerts, and jam sessions.

Five new lounges have been opened on the upper level. There is a music listening lounge, which will be equip-

ped with earphones, tape decks, and turntables, and exhibit lounge for artists and photographers, the fire side lounge, and two others which are open and provide a place for commuters to go. Charlie Brown's information desk has been moved and enlarged in order to provide greater service. There is carpeting throughout for the first time because it radiates warmth and has a cheaper maintenance cost.

On the lower level is the Abstention, an enlargement of the grill. The Abstention presents a quieter and more sophisticated atmosphere with the new captains chairs, benches, and barn siding. The new rathskeller is open all day until midnight.

Another addition to the grill is the juke box room which can be used for impromptu dancing. On the south side is the new card playing room which was created to

alleviate the crowded condition of the grill. Two new lounges, enlarged student activities offices, and enlarged games room complete the lower level. The games room is equipped with billiards, ping pong, and checkers tables, and also has games, such as monopoly and risk, which can be rented.

Work was started on the new OC in the winter semester of 1969. Since then, the OC has lost its prestige because of the confusion of the building. According to Ron Ewalt, Assistant Director of the OC, the special events of OC Week are specifically designed to build interest again and make "Oakland Center become an exciting place" again.

People for the People Support Proposal for Change

by Mike Ray

A budding student movement on campus that has gained much support within the past few weeks is Educational Reform. Sponsored by an active student group called, "People for the People," what was once a written 16 page proposal calling for basic, fundamental changes in the present educational system has mushroomed into a full-fledged campus issue. The proposal, a general critique of the crisis in higher education (especially as it relates to Oakland University) developed primarily out of the efforts of a senior colloquium arranged by Prof. John McKay of the math department, and the dedicated efforts of many students whose ideas, criticisms, and support were invaluable in making this paper possible.

Entitled A Proposal for Change at Oakland University and edited by John Springfield, a senior in math, this paper contains many of the ideas and criticisms expressed by many people in education today who see the present educational structure as not obsolete but clearly detrimental to the development of intellectually and socially motivated human beings. It calls for a university that present structures be changed to accommodate these reforms.

For the past three weeks People for the People have

been running rap sessions, handing out literature and pushing buttons in an attempt to "awaken the Oakland student body to possible alternatives to the present academic structures." The response to both the proposal and the movement has been fantastic. Over 3,000 copies of the proposal have been distributed to students and faculty. Many people of various political stripes have voiced support and joined the movement. The reaction, most of it highly favorable, has been astounding and the coordination of activities has been running smoothly. Dormitory coordinators who act as student liaisons for those interested in making contributions to the movement, are located in every dorm and are available for any kind of assistance that is necessary to maintain student and faculty enthusiasm for these changes.

There is a large table on the upper level of the Oakland Center that is manned five days a week by students. Literature and information can be obtained there.

This week People for the People has launched Project: Saturation to get the reactions, criticisms, and support of faculty members the proposal for Educational reform at Oakland University.

Studio Company to show Shakespeare's Twelfth Night

The Academy of Dramatic Art's Studio Company will present Twelfth Night, starting tonight in Meadow Brook Theatre when the John Fernald Company is performing in Detroit.

Performances will be Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. Curtain time is 8:15 p.m.

The Studio Company is composed of graduating members of the Academy, which is the acting school that shares directors and artists - teachers with the repertory company. Both are directed by John Fernald, former principal of the Royal Academy of Dra-

matic Art in London.

Fernald uses the same methods to train his students now as he did such actors as Albert Finney, Peter O'Toole and other performers in England. Several of his recent graduates here are now members of the Meadow Brook Company and others are working in professional theatres throughout the country.

By inviting the general public to Academy performances in Meadow Brook Theatre, Fernald is offering audiences the fun of "spotting a winner" and watching his development toward future star billing.

Mich. boards at 90; 366 to come

There is little difference between the present draft lottery system and the previous system of conscription since all boards should easily reach number 366 by the end of the year.

After only one month of draft calls many Michigan boards are beyond number 90. As originally planned, a man born between January 1, 1944, and December 31, 1950 whose number was in the top third, numbers 1 through 122, could expect to be called; chances for the middle third, numbers 123 through 244, were supposedly not as high; and the lower third, numbers 245 through 366, could be considered safe.

As the lottery has turned out, however, there are only two differences between the old and new methods of incarceration. A male now knows whether he will be drafted in January, June, or December; and that he will not be draft-

ed at the age of 18, or, except for the first year, at the age of 20.

Draft statuses are not affected by the new system. However, if a man now has a 2-S deferment and it is possible that he could be in a lower classification, for health reasons primarily, he may want to write his draft board to explain the circum-

stances and see if he can get a lower classification. In order to do this, the board must already have a medical explanation from the registrant's original questionnaire.

If anyone is interested in information concerning the draft, the Draft Counseling Service is operating in Cubicle 57 of the Student Activities Center.

Draft Boards tell what they know

It has come to our attention that the draft boards in the Oakland County area understand the lottery system as poorly as some students. In trying to determine what number the local boards have reached the editor got two different replies to the same question from two boards. The conversations went in this manner. FOCUS: Could you tell me what lottery number you have

reached for the month of January. Local Board No. 65.: We are authorized to draw up through number 30 for January and number 60 in February. (To 30 in January, 60 in February, 90 in March, etc. would allow this board to reach number 360 by December but this would not take into account the rise in draft eligible men in June due to

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FOCUS editorial

Time For A Change

Fifteen days ago, Oakland's "student leaders" resigned, stating their feelings of alienation from the University power structure. The period since has seen virtually no communication on the subject between the frustrated students and the administration. Now, however, with a new leader in command, it is imperative that the problems involved be dealt with honestly and rapidly, before the rift becomes an unrepairable one.

We are not going to try to pin down the "good guys" and the "bad guys", for there just aren't such crystal clear divisions. It is horribly naive and simplistic to state that the administrators are all trying to screw the students. It is equally unrealistic to implicitly trust all the statements and actions of the parties involved. A far more realistic view must be taken. Many in the University community are seriously concerned about the matters at hand - faculty, students, and administration alike. We propose that three major actions take place - one initiated by the administration, one by the students, and one by a combined effort of both of these groups.

1. The University Ombudsman

Chancellor O'Dowd should create, with the advice of all concerned, the Office of the Ombudsman. His power would be vast. He would serve as an information center, helping people through the massive amounts of red tape one encounters at Oakland. He would be a problem solver, pulling together the parties involved and getting to the root of the difficulty. He would be, in short, an Action Line that was more than a publicity gimmick.

For him to succeed, he must be afforded maximum freedom. He should have no master, other than perhaps the Chancellor. He should be able to call the shots, and no one else.

Unless he had no restraining ties, it would be impossible to win the confidence of people around this University. Further, to attract the quality of man the job re-

quires, the power and prestige must exist. The job must look no less impressive than that of the Dean of Students.

Further, his office must be adequately staffed. If it is merely one man and a secretary, the Action Line situation arises again. Due to lack of time, only the most interesting or serious problems would be dealt with. He must have assistants and researchers in whatever quantities it takes to help all who need it.

If these conditions are fulfilled, a large stride towards reducing the existing frustrations will have been taken. For many, there is no one known in the administration to help them through a crisis of any sort. Or if the person is known, he isn't trusted. The Ombudsman would not be regarded as an administrator. He would have the freedom to be honest and fair. There is a need for someone possessing such power and independence.

2. The University Congress

Students should initiate the University Congress, through an election procedure, to serve as the voice in University politics for the student. As nasty as the word "politics" sounds, the fact remains that there are many areas of government on this campus where students really have to be involved. For example, the allocation of funds to clubs and organizations requires an ability to draw on experiences and priorities developed most easily by a student. It has been clearly established over the years that students should have a strong say in matters that affect their lives. While this has been attempted in the past, the structures have tended to be so cumbersome and disorganized that they were rendered virtually ineffectual.

The Congress would improve this situation. A President would be elected to oversee the organization. Other student government agencies, such as a Student Activities Board, Inter-Hall Council, and Commuter

Council would be standing committees of the Congress. Instead of the chaos of one body not knowing what another body is doing, a channel for communication would exist - a central body to funnel things through.

Oakland has tried to exist for too long without a centralized student government, choosing instead of form multitudes of committees. Centralization, for whatever reasons, was regarded as an evil by definition. It is not. In a community as lacking in communication as this one is, one body must exist where students and administrators alike can take questions concerning student life.

3. Educational Reform

Chancellor O'Dowd should form, in cooperation with interested students, a commission to study questions of educational reform. Over the last few months a growing concern has been notable in matters of curriculum. The concerns are many - irrelevant requirements, inflexible programs, lack of concern for the individual, and so forth. Much has been done, by students and faculty alike, to examine and criticize the existing system. The Springfield proposal on education is the culmination of just such an effort. The Matthews proposal for a degree in Liberal Arts is another. There are several others. None is perfect, but all point towards one conclusion - a commission should be formed with but a single purpose - to examine thoroughly the academic programs of the University.

Faculty Forum

Educational Reform: A Faculty View

by Roger Marz

Associate Professor
of Political Science

The traditional technique for shaping the curriculum at any university is political. Different sectors of the faculty have inconsistent views of what the goals of college education are, design different sets of required courses to meet those goals, and then bargain with each other to reach a set of course offerings and requirements that satisfy no one and meet no purpose.

There are no new curricular schemes; every reform has already been tried at some university for some period and has proven unsatisfactory. An intelligent man then would ask himself the question, "Which unsatisfactory curriculum do I prefer, and why?"

Speaking for myself, as I pretend to be an intelligent man, I prefer a curriculum with no required courses, one which would award a degree to a student when he completes 31 courses. If he wishes his degree to be "in" something - mathematics or English or political science, for example - he would have to meet the requirements of that department.

This system would place upon the shoulders of the student the responsibility for designing his own education. He could choose to pursue a utilitarian education. He could choose to follow the model of classical liberal arts, as he would invent his own notions of what a "relevant" education would be.

There are two main objections to this course of action. The first is that most students are not mature enough to make wise decisions and that they will be uncomfortable having to live with the outcomes of their own choices. If I were purely a man of principle I should say that any man or woman not able

to accept such responsibility will not profit from a college education. However, I am not a man of principle. The student who "needs" or prefers structure can get it in either of two ways. He can join one of Oakland's inner colleges or he can turn to one of the members of the Oakland University faculty who knows what a "good" education is and take his advice as gospel.

The second objection is

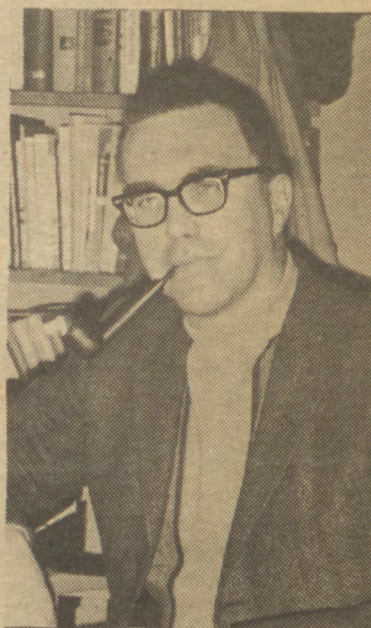


Photo by Steve Schaffer

that the departments will not offer an appropriate smorgasbord of courses from which an education can be constructed. By building in many prerequisites to their advanced courses they will make it impossible for a student to exercise more than a few limited options. This objection I take seriously and overcoming it will require administrative skill. First of all, departments that

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Two youths are there
Beside the night
Quiet
To watch the sky
'N feel the eve'
As they walk alone

There is a stillness
That comes between Lovers
In their eyes
And their thoughts
When they have touched

If it was sunlight alone
It would be lacking
If it had been only spring
It need have been less than whole
And if it had been without them
It could have been not at all

Then they were my Friends
And at that time
i was their's
Now the two watching the night
Watch their sons
And the stillness of the eyes
Is a hush as the children sleep
The ones of spring
Are nearing fall
i still look on
But now with a tear
Might i too find an eve' soon
And a young Love

ABSTENTION
CELEBRATES
the opening
of the
OAKLAND
CENTER
FRIDAY
TED LUCAS

Marc Chover
Karrell Fox (Milky the Clown)
Princess & Frog

arts & media

The sun glares
on the gold-colored vinyl furniture
Filling the eye with the light

And all other things merely lurking
Only half as objects and the other half
shadows

And in one corner three people talking
And the aimless, wandering question
which winds silently, in and out
between the words:

What is it, human life?
Some strange curse, perhaps?

But they are only shadows
(And words unspoken)
For the marvelous gold-colored
vinyl
furniture's

sharp focus diminishes everything
else

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Don Hudson
"Young Loves" by
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Faculty Forum continued from page 2

close themselves in should not be given additional staff and funds unless many students are opting for that major. If this be done ruthlessly, only those departments that attract students will survive and prosper. Secndly, appropriate mechanisms should be created and maintained to encourage students to gain credits through independent work and course work at other institutions if our standard course offerings prove inadequate to the task of giving a particular student what he wants.

If the university is in "crisis" today more than it has been in earlier times, it is because there are conflicts among the faculty, students, administration, and the general public as to what a university should be. As if that were not enough, there are also conflicts within each of the groups on the same question. The best way to respond to this unsettling state of affairs is to create an open university in which each student bears the brunt of designing his own education. All education is self-ed-

ucation; no university has ever succeeded in insuring that all of its graduates are "educated" and no curriculum that we at Oakland or our counterparts at any other institution have ever devised increases the probability that "education" has taken place. An open curriculum would recognize those brutal facts about the university and the world in which it exists. It would be bereft of any virtue--except honesty.

Draft

continued from page 1

college graduations and the backtracking in the lottery numbers that must be done then.)

Local Board number 331 used the same figure, 30, in a different manner, in answer to the above question. Board number 331: We are authorized to take 30 men in January and 30 men in February. Our Quota is 30. Focus:Oakland will still attempt to find monthly lottery numbers from the surrounding Draft Boards.

SALE

Books Gifts Things

UNIVERSITY BOOK CENTER

THIS WEEK

Jewish Student's Retreat Apr. 3-5

The weekend of April 3-5 will be the culmination of a semester of activities sponsored by the Jewish Student Association.

The J.S.A. will be sponsoring a weekend of outstanding Cultural-Educational, Social, and religious programming. The services should prove to be most creative and could be anything from a folk-service to a traditional service. They are guaranteed to be different from any anyone has been to.

The cost will be approximately \$10.00 and will include meals snacks and bedding. A \$2.00 deposit is required with the application.

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