

Young Dems. GOP Form At MSU-O

Wednesday a meeting was held to form two clubs: The Young Republicans and The Young Democrats.

Dr. William E. Rhode, assistant professor of Political Science, introduced the two speakers, both prominent members of their party: Mr. Jack Gibbs, executive secretary of the Oakland County Republican Committee, and Mr. Frank Sierawski, executive assistant secretary of the Oakland County Democratic Committee.

Both men explained the structure of their already existing "Young" organizations, and told how the students at MSU-O could form a comparable group.

Mr. Sierawski told the students to remember the saying that "One vote may be harmless, but one vote not cast is useless." This was used to illustrate that one person may not be acknowledged, but a group such as the Young Dems or Young G.O.P. must be acknowledged.

Two of the students instrumental in starting the movement for the "Young" political clubs were interviewed after the meeting.

Jim Drummond, interested in the Young Republicans, said, "I feel that it is important to have organizations such as these in order to create an enthusiasm for politics among the students." Anyone interested in the Young Republicans should come to the meeting Friday, November 20, at 12:30 in room 166.

Harry Christiansen, interested in the Young Democrats, stated, "I am promoting these organizations because I am interested in politics, as everyone should be. I think that the Young Dems should educate the public about party policy."

The Young Democrats will meet next Thursday, November 19, in room 166.

MSU-O Announces New Discovery

The science department of Michigan State University Oakland recently announced an astounding biological innovation. The science staff, working in conjunction with the Meadowbrook Farms staff, has developed a chickipede, a cross between a chicken and a centipede.

This new creecher (it makes a strange creeching sound) was developed especially for families with many children who all want a drum stick; the chickipede has a hundred drumsticks. In addition to this, the tail, the scrawny neck, and the almost meatless wings have been eliminated. For those who like the breast and back sections, there are fifty of each, one for each pair of legs.

Another interesting feature of the chickipede is that it lays fifty eggs at a time. One merely sets the chickipede on the egg carton and it is filled within minutes. Most of the eggs are allowed to hatch, however, as there is little commercial demand for them yet, except for Greenwich Village Beatniks, who like chickipede eggs in their beer.

Chickipedes, like chickens, are covered with feathers, but since they are modern. They have no pin feathers. They have zippers instead, so the feathers zip right off. This would seem to pose a serious unemployment problem for the chicken pluckers, but it is expected that many of them will soon be employed raising chickipedes.



CARS A'PLENTY — Is your car in this picture? If so you are one of the 56% who drive to MSU-O daily.

Cars on Parade

A recent survey conducted on the makes and models of student cars in the MSU-O parking lot showed that almost four times as many men as women drive to college while one third more women than men are automobile passengers. Out of one hundred and twenty returns received by the newspaper staff, results indicated that 56% of the student body drive cars to school (54 males and 14 females) while 44% do not drive (20 males and 32 females).

Fifteen makes of American cars were represented: Buick, Chevrolet (Corvair), Chrysler, Corvette (sports car), DeSoto, Dodge, Ford (Falcon), Nash, Oldsmobile, Plymouth, Pontiac, Studebaker, Thunderbird, Willys, together with six foreign makes: Isotta, Volkswagen, MG, English Ford, Opel, and Renault. Chevrolet was the most popular with twenty-one cars, and

Ford was next in line with fourteen. From there the numbers decrease to five each for Buick, Pontiac and Plymouth; two each for DeSoto, Renault, Corvette, Nash, and Chrysler; and one each for the remainder.

The car models range from a 1937 Pontiac and a 1941 Chrysler to a 1960 Buick and a 1959 Thunderbird. Most of the cars are less than nine years old and nearly all are in very good condition. There must also be one or two antique auto collectors as two persons reported having a 1919 Stutz-Bear-Cat and a 1901 Ford.

This survey accounted for about one-fifth of the student body. If over half of them drive cars to college, the present parking lot, with a 500-car capacity, will shortly be overcrowded. Already on visiting days parking problems are becoming apparent.

Mme. Des Parmet Tells of Foreign Travels, Studies

By Lauree Webb and Patty Ferrell

One of the most interesting persons on the MSU-O faculty is Madame Helene Des Parmet, French instructor. Mme. Des Parmet is the wife of the French Consul General, now serving in Detroit. As the wife of a member of the French Foreign Services; she has had many unique experiences.

Following her marriage in Paris, she accompanied her husband to North Africa. While there she earned her Master's degree in archaeology from the French Institute of Carthage in Tunis, earning certificates in African, Phoenician, Roman and Arabian archaeology. During her stay in Africa, she supervised several archaeological diggings which uncovered the ruins of a Roman Bath and several Roman houses.

Algiers and Tunis provided many interesting and amusing recollections for Mme. Des Parmet. State dinners were served in Arabian tents with everyone seated on cushions around a common table. The host or hostess selected the best part of the meat (almost always mutton) and placed it on the plates of the guests of honor. No silverware was used, just fingers. She recalls one dinner in particular where the "grand finale" of the meal was a broiled sheep's head. Her hostess, according to Arabian etiquette, proceeded to remove the best part of the dish—the eyeball, and placed it on her plate. To Arabians it is rude to refuse to eat anything offered you but she said, "Even protocol couldn't make me eat that eyeball!"

One of her most amusing experiences was in Algiers. The wives of the various consuls were required to make several official calls on the wife of the ruling Prince. A peculiar feature of the Arabian court etiq-



Mme. DesParmet

quette was that no one could cross her legs in the presence of the royal family. Mme. Des Parmet recalls that all of the women used to go together so they could remind a would-be offender by a gentle jab in the ribs.

After a stay in Rome, which she describes as a "delicious" city, they traveled to Peru. There she found the primitive dress and customs of the people a main attraction. Most vividly remembered, however, were the frequent earthquakes. Never knowing when an earthquake would occur or how serious one would be, she was very often frightened by them. The earthquakes were almost always at inopportune times. Once she and her husband had driven to a city on the top of a mountain

Faculty Reveals First Impressions

By Bob Davidson

Now that the "shocks" of last week's themes and tests have worn off, it would be a good time to do some serious thinking. Those who survived last week without any failing marks in Political Science, Economics, Russian, French, Chemistry, Calculus or Sociology are not concerned with this article. However, it wouldn't do any harm to read this, and take heed of its contents.

What's wrong, Charter Class? Are we really trying? Is it right for so many of us to have so much trouble doing our assignments? Several weeks have passed by and it seems that the majority of us are still spinning our wheels, unable to settle into the proper routine that is required if we are to do the job we came here for, are capable of, and expected to do.

A poll of the faculty was taken by the newspaper to find the answers to these questions. The idea of this poll was to draw a general opinion from the faculty concerning the student body. They were asked two questions:

1. As a whole, are the students of MSU-O as well prepared for college as freshmen in other colleges where you have taught?

2. Are your students producing evidence that they are "a hand-picked class" representing the upper 50% of their high school classes?

On the forms returned, almost all faculty members said that we were not on a par with classes at other colleges. One math professor had this to say: "My students are deficient in arithmetic and in the ability to comprehend even relatively simple reading material. They have apparently never learned how to study and are prone to give up whenever they come to anything that they don't understand immediately. From this I conclude that the level of accomplishment expected of them in high school was such that they were never forced to think or to study." He goes on to say, "My impression of the average level of intelligence is quite good. In terms of any actual evidence, however, there has been nothing thus far that would indicate that we don't have the bottom instead of the top fifty percent."

Mrs. Cusack (English) summed up her opinion in these terms: "Enthusiasm and eagerness to learn—above average; academic preparation— $\frac{1}{2}$ -average, and $\frac{1}{2}$ -below average; sophistication— $\frac{1}{2}$ -above average and $\frac{1}{2}$ -average and below average. She also states that the "results of theme assignments

and class discussions further prove that all high schools have widely diverse standards of excellence."

Mrs. Collins (sociology), although she hasn't taught many freshmen classes, said, "Some of my students easily qualify as 'hand-picked' and others do not," and that "MSU-O students are as well prepared for college as other freshmen I have taught."

Mrs. Kovack (Russian) believes that the bridge between high school and college is too wide in America, and that the students in foreign countries are more prepared as to what to expect in college. Foreign students she said, are stereotypes, that is they all receive the same college preparatory courses. This is not true here in America. Here the students begin to specialize in a particular field early. One student may come to college with no foreign language background, but well versed in mathematics and science. In European countries all students have the same background.

Most teachers felt that we were not as well prepared as students they have taught in private schools. One instructor remarked: they are prepared; just as well as at UCLA; not as well as the University of Chicago."

Another faculty member encouraged us to "return to your high schools and demand that they put your younger brothers and sisters to work and stop depriving them of a good basic training," adding that "as far as their interest and willingness to work is concerned, the students of the charter class are above average, but the fact that their backgrounds, their previous intellectual training, and their ability to think clearly on a given subject is inadequate to the college task, reveals that the quality demanded of them in high school was, unfortunately, not quite high enough."

Since our class is as intelligent as any other, if not more so, we should settle down and accomplish the aim of our university: the production of "egg-heads," not mere college graduates.

outside of the Peruvian capital. While there, an earthquake closed all of the roads out of the city. After several days, one road was finally cleared. Parts of the road had been broken off and in places there was barely room for their car to pass. At one point a bridge had been destroyed and they had to wait until a new one was built. After gallantly allowing a heavy truck to precede them over the newly-built bridge they returned to the capital.

Mme. and M. Des Parmet have been in Detroit for three years and expect to stay one more year, though this is not definite. She finds life here very comfortable but not as interesting as the more primitive countries with their colorful customs and dress.

The most important part of life as the wife of a French consul, according to Mme. Des Parmet, is adjusting to the different ways of life encountered in the many countries she has visited. "Although we may not like

some of the customs or ways of these people, we must learn to pick out and emphasize the nice things and minimize the things we don't like. In the more backward countries, we try to give help where it is needed most, but we cannot demand that anything be done; we can only suggest that something be done."

When asked her opinion of American education, she replied that our universities were as good and sometimes better than those of Europe because we could afford to spend more money for laboratories and other facilities. She pointed out, however, that the education received in French high schools was of a great deal higher quality than in American high schools. The French high schools include studies comparable to those offered in the first two years of most of our colleges.

Mme. Des Parmet's two oldest children are now in Paris completing their French graduation. Her other three children attend school in Detroit.

Student Behavior

As a university, the impressions we make on other people are determined mainly by the behavior of the student body.

On recent occasions, the actions of students have not been the type which create favorable impressions with anyone: other students, faculty or administration, or our many visitors. Two such instances are the behavior in the library—a weary but uncorrected topic, and the behavior of a number of people at the Halloween dance.

A great deal has been said and written about the noise and discourteous conduct in the library. This should have been more than enough to correct the situation. This is not the case. True, the general level of noise is a bit lower, but unfortunately, this has not been accomplished by student self-discipline as it should have been, but by the police work of Miss North, a job she is not here to do, and one which should be unnecessary.

Much of the pleasant impression created by planning, imagination and hard work that went into the "Beatnik Bounce" was negated by the behavior of a few students. Whether a couple necks in private is pretty much an individual matter, but such conduct in public becomes a concern of the whole student body. It is evidence of immaturity and lack of taste. One wonders if such persons belong in college. This small percentage does a great injustice to the whole student body because the impression they create is far out of proportion to their numbers. There were several visitors and dates from other colleges who could not have received favorable impressions of us or of our college.

It is not only in the best interest of the majority to discourage this poor conduct; indeed it is their responsibility as well.

Lower Costs for Education

Money, Money, and more Money. That is the tune that all citizens hear from their boards of education. Is this necessary? Possibly MSU-O will lead another revolution in education. One that will make the taxes much lower for the average homeowner.

The buildings at MSU-O were built for approximately \$2,700,000. This includes North and South Foundation Hall and the Student Center. This price tag ranges from 1/2 to 2/3 less than most high schools built in Michigan during the past five years. This is amazing since the high schools have the same capacity for students as we have.

Some people call MSU-O austere functional, yet isn't education supposed to be functional? Education is a necessity, and having unnecessary frills detracts from the purpose of a school, that of educating our nation and educating them well.

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THE OAKLAND OBSERVER STAFF

Wanted: You

Fellow Students:

This is the third issue of the Oakland Observer. Unless we receive more assistance from you, immediately, it may be the last.

Trying to publish a weekly newspaper is a difficult job when we don't have sufficient help. If the publication of the paper were the only job we were trying to accomplish, it would be possible to have a weekly for you on schedule each week. However, since we are also students, the paper is an extra-curricular activity. Therefore, our full efforts are divided between two major tasks.

Anyone interested in any phase of the paper: writing, advertising, layout, typing or proof-reading, please come to our meeting on Thursday, November 12, at 12:30 in our new office in the Student Center.

Are we going to have a weekly newspaper or not? The decision is up to you.

The Newspaper Staff

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE STUDENTS

Our university is governed with the idea that the students attending it are ladies and gentlemen. For the most part we have been fulfilling this idea and living up to expectations. However, a few students are going to spoil it for the rest of the student body unless certain problems are solved among us.

Until now we have had only the most rudimentary rules needed to maintain some semblance of organization. But unless we can all act like the ladies and gentlemen we are thought to be, the administration will have to make and enforce rules that will limit the activities of all to curb the actions of a select few. The last party (we cannot call it a dance by even the most liberal policy) exemplifies most of these problems quite clearly. Hours of work were put into this activity, only to have it degraded by an inconsiderate few.

The line between fun and chaos is very vague but the line between fun and plain destructiveness is extremely sharp and clear. Some of these destructive activities are punishable by expulsion.

We are planning advance ticket sales for future dances and parties at lower prices than those charged at the door. This will give the planning committee a rough idea of expected attendance, provide working capital and last but not least, give students a chance to save money.

Any suggestions on any of the contents of this letter may be turned over to Mr. Fritz or Mr. Lepley.

Members of the Student Recreation Committee
Jannet Kelley
Chuck Kelmer
Robert Smith
George Stillman
Margaret Swoboda

Music in the Air

The music program at MSU-O, under the direction of Mrs. Isabel Himelhoch, will get in full swing Monday in the East Lecture hall, with piano, sheet music, and many voices. The group has held three scheduled meetings since its introduction, but functioned under a few severe handicaps. With neither piano nor music, it has been difficult to keep the lively interest which a group like this deserves and thrives on. The situation should be remedied, however, with the addition of a piano and enough music to go around.

Mrs. Himelhoch is primarily interested in developing a first-rate glee club of college caliber. As students show interest, smaller choral groups will be organized. The group sounds talented and promising, however, a few more voices—male and female, with greater emphasis on MALE—are desirable for an even finer group.

Tryouts have been scheduled for small choral groups to sing lighter, popular music at activities such as dances. A number of students have been accepted and there is still room for many more. If anyone is interested, he should try to attend the glee club rehearsals, regularly scheduled every Monday at 1 p.m. in the East Lecture hall. No auditions are required to join the glee club, but tryout dates for small groups will be posted on the bulletin board.

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Letters to the Editor

Dance

To the Editor:

Compliments are in order for those whose resources helped make the recent Beatnik Ball such a snapping success. The lights were dim, the music properly dissonant, and the candle-bearing Diogenes glowing proof of intellectual ferment at MSU-O.

William Schwab

Coffee Hour

To the Editor:

Dean Alexander has expressed on numerous occasions a desire for a healthy relationship between students and faculty members. On this point, we heartily agree with the Dean.

The coffee hour on November 4, was designed for this purpose. We were, therefore, disappointed to see that only a few faculty members were present.

We want to thank the faculty members who were present at the first coffee hour.

Disappointed Students

P.S. The coffee and rolls were free.

Irritated

To the Editor:

What is wrong with the newspaper staff? I would like to know why they can't get a paper out at least once a week (preferably twice a week) with some interesting stories in it. I read last week's issue and thought that there could have been more articles concerning the students. What is so hard about putting out a six page paper? I went to a high school that had a ten page paper coming out every week and always on the same day. I don't think anyone will pay five cents if the paper does not improve. Is the staff in need of manpower or is it just that they are not working? I would like to know the answer to this question.

An Irritated Reader

League Organized

Willis school, located on Opdyke road, three blocks south of intersection with Pontiac road, is the site where the men interested in basketball have been practicing every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday for the past two weeks. About forty individuals have been turning out regularly and Mr. Hollie Lepley formed a league Wednesday, Nov. 11. The league play will start the following Monday.

The schedule:

Wednesday, Nov. 18
Friday, Nov. 20
Monday, Nov. 23
Wednesday, Nov. 25
Monday, Nov. 30
Wednesday, Dec. 2
Friday, Dec. 4
Monday, Dec. 7

The number of games played will depend on the number of teams formed, however, no one will play more than one hour a day. This league will be an independent league and will not affect anyone's eligibility to play in any city leagues. The only regulation placed on the teams is one of equal opportunity.

This league was organized to give everyone an opportunity to exercise and have fun. Gary Acker is the student leader.

Varner's Father Dies in Texas

Mr. Harry Varner, father of MSU-O's chancellor, died Monday at his home in Cottonwood, Texas. He was 85. Mr. Varner left immediately to join his mother. The elder Mr. Varner served as superintendent of schools for fifty years. His funeral was Thursday. The staff of the Observer expresses its sympathy to Mr. Varner and his family.

Van Doren? No.

To the Editor:

I think that the people who want Charles Van Doren don't really know what they want.

These people want Van Doren because he has been in the limelight and they think this will put MSU-O in the same light. They are wrong.

Do we want someone who will lie to a grand jury? Do we want someone who will cheat publicly on a quiz? I say NO. Now, I ask you what kind of a name will he give us? What kind of a name do we want? Are they one in the same? You answer it, if you can.

A Student

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Freshman Theme

EDITOR'S NOTE: From time to time, the Observer will publish student papers written in freshman English classes which we feel will interest our readers. Our first selection is by Louise Landon, section 19. The assignment called for a description of a person with emphasis on one dominant characteristic of the subject.

ANNE

By LOUISE LANDON

Anne is proper. That's the way most of her acquaintances think of her. Everything she is and does is exactly the way it should be. It's almost as though she lives according to a catechism written for her alone.

Anne's propriety seems to be the outward evidence of an inner fear of criticism. She dresses impeccably, in the latest styles, because she is afraid of being "dated" by her clothes. She is always noticeably clean; a tiny inkspot on her finger sends her to the washroom immediately for a surgical scrubbing. Her speech is flawless. Every word is enunciated correctly, with carefully considered inflection, so that she will not be misunderstood.

Anne even chose her husband for his fine appearance. He is exactly handsome enough and tall enough for them to draw comments as a striking couple. He seems pleased to have a wife who is "proper." His family, too, was one of her considerations before agreeing to marriage. They are upper middle-class business people, respected and moderately active in their own circle.

Anne and Bill attend the correct number of dinners and parties each season, returning the same number of invitations, with little variation. They choose their friends carefully. Most of them are young couples who, like themselves, have been married only a short time.

At this moment, Anne seems satisfied with her life. She has chiseled her personality into a marble monument to decorum. If she were suddenly to vanish, few people would miss her for long, because she offers little to any other person. She has been so occupied in making herself irreproachable that she has lost any awareness she might once have had of the needs of others. Her life is a sum of negatives: how to keep from offending and how to avoid criticism.

Anne may not be totally to blame. Perhaps no one really is. Perhaps the pressure toward conformity in our society is too great for her. But some day she may realize that she is not really getting out of life the job that belongs to each of us, which we can find only by searching outside of ourselves.

Nov. 10-18

Insurance Conference — An insurance conference sponsored by Michigan State University will meet here Nov. 10 thru 18. The topic will be "The Basic Fundamentals of Insurance."

Tuesday, Nov. 17

Conference—The West Bloomfield League of Women Voters will meet here.

Wednesday, Nov. 18

Coffee Hour—Another coffee hour is scheduled. Meet at the student center from 2 to 3 p.m.

Letter to Editor...

OBSERVER PLANS FORUM; VAN DOREN TO BE FIRST TOPIC

If interest and contributions warrant it, the Observer will publish a regular series of student letters and short essays on a topic to be selected each week. The topic will normally be determined by student suggestion, or by current issues of interest. Contributions can be placed in the Observer mailbox in our Student Center offices, given to members of the staff or left with Mr. Pope's secretary, Mrs. McNeil, in room 139. All contributions must be signed, but they will be published anonymously upon request. Unless outright barbaric, articles will not normally be edited for any reason other than length, in which case we will make an attempt to contact you to do your own condensing.

This week's topic concerns Charles Van Doren, who at one time was asked to teach at MSU-O. The question is: "Do you think we should hire Charles Van Doren, after his recent scandal and do you think he could be of any value to this institution?"

To the Editor:

The question of the week is: should this university offer a teaching job to Charles Van Doren? I think the answer is 'no.' Why? Because I do not think Charles Van Doren has yet proved he is an intellectual. (You will note carefully, I trust, that I have not said he is a sinner, a condition I am fairly sure is common to us all. For instance our President, Vice President and many legislators have not spoken out on two fundamental moral issues of our day: McCarthyism and segregation. Nor, for that matter have many bishops. The responsibility of these men to stand for the truth is fully as great as Van Doren's in his field).

This whole episode induces a sense of national tragedy, more significant, I think, than the military Pearl Harbor of December 7, 1941 or the intellectual Pearl Harbor of October 4, 1957. This is because the issues of life are ultimately moral ones.

For this reason, the Van Doren question goes to the heart of the MSU-O story. This is not a fact factory. If you thought it was we did not make ourselves understood. The purpose of this institution is to try to develop mature, disciplined seekers of truth.

This endeavor involves leadership and the setting of example, which in turn involve intelligence, intellectual preparation, and the indispensable ingredient: the desire to do one's best. The standards must apply whether the person involved be Van Doren, you, my brother, or me. If we were to hire Van Doren it would be a tacit denial of all that we say MSU-O stands for. For, the simple fact is that—family, native intelligence and education to the contrary—he has not demonstrated that he has yet learned lesson number one on the way to being what we have defined as being an intellectual. That lesson is that a man can live only with the truth. (His confession was made under duress, the threat of prosecution for perjury). He said last week that he has just learned a lot about his responsibility to his fellow man. To me that admission makes a hollow mockery of all the educative process that had preceded that revelation. Consider that this is a man of the greatest gifts and opportunities. That admission indicts his college, the university where he taught, and his own teaching work.

To wrap it up in fewer, and another's words: "Unless the Lord build the house, the builders labor in vain."

Loren Pope

The Humor Corner

Lucille Younce, university operator, answering an incoming call recently, was asked for information about the courses being offered at MSU-O. In order to determine with whom the party should be connected, the operator asked, "Are you interested in credit or non-credit courses?" The reply: "Oh, this will be on the GI bill."

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