

# Focus:Oakland

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Oakland University

March 22, 1972

## BLC PROPOSES BLACK DORM

By Skip Thomson

The Black Liberation Caucus proposed the establishment of an Afro-American dormitory and protested the restrictive visitation policy in the dorms to the Housing Policy Making Committee on March 16.

Spokesman for the BLC gave two basic reasons for the request of an Afro-American student dormitory:

- To enhance the political, cultural, and social spirit of the Afro-American student body.

- Eliminate the misunderstandings between all racial, ethnic groups.

The proposed dorm would not be exclusively for black students. All students who are in sympathy with the black cause would be welcome.

The BLC proposal was read and discussed with Jack Wilson, Director of Housing, and the Housing Policy Commission of Inter-Hall Council.

Wilson was questioned by BLC spokesmen on his stance toward an Afro-American dormitory. He gave no opinion, stating he had not formulated one as yet.

Citing the problems U of M is having in trying to implement such a dormitory, Wilson related the many legal problems that Oakland would have that U of M is having now. [The NAACP has threatened to sue U of M if they establish an Afro-American dormitory. They charge that the establishment of such a dormitory is contrary to the Civil Rights Act.]

The BLC committee, headed by University Congress member Alvin Lewis, presented a directive from the Congress giving its unanimous support to the BLC request.

Lewis asked Wilson for an affirmative or negative declaration to the request.

Wilson stated that he could not make a final decision and that any decisions would have to be made by the University Board of Trustees.

tees.

A BLC spokesman stated the Board would receive a copy of their request, and a forum would be scheduled to include all major administrators, and the BLC, to voice their opinions on the possibilities of such a dormitory.

The current visitation or-

dinances restricts all non-Oakland students from the dormitories after 12 AM, Monday thru Friday, and calls for the registration of all visitors with the night-watchmen at the student dormitories.

The BLC protested that the current visitation policy was "in the worst in-  
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## PIRGIM Driving For Nader's Raiders

A petition drive aimed at convincing the University Trustees to establish a student-controlled, professionally staffed "Nader's Raiders" chapter on campus was launched Monday, March 13.

A group of Oakland students hope to obtain 4,000 student signatures calling for the establishment of the Public Interest Research Group in Michigan (PIRGIM).

The group, which eventually hopes to represent most of the 300,000 university and college students throughout the state of Michigan, wants to investigate areas of student concern and bring about needed changes.

Organizers expect that some of the areas PIRGIM will concern itself with are environmental quality, consumer protection, race and sex discrimination, housing, and the operation of public and private institutions in Michigan.

At the end of the drive, which is expected to last  
*Cont. on page three*

## "SEARCH & SEIZURE POLICY UNKNOWN TO STUDENTS

A NEWS FEATURE

As a result of the February 21 accidental shooting in Vandenberg, gun control and the University's "Search and Seizure" policies have been brought into public display once again.

Probably, if a poll was taken on the amount of knowledge Oakland students have on the policy itself, and the procedure used during a search, the knowledgeable would be in a small minority.

The University "Search and Seizure" policy is conducted in a manner similar to that of a civil criminal search. The civil authorities must procure a criminal search warrant from the County Prosecutor.

The University can, without knowledge of state and local authorities, issue an "In-

ternal University Search Warrant".

The criteria for the issuance of a University Warrant stems from the University's premise:

"The University understands that individuals have a constitutional right to be free of unreasonable search and seizure, and yet the University has an affirmative obligation to promulgate and enforce reasonable regulations designed to protect campus safety and to promote an environment consistent with the educational process."

Any member of the University community, faculty, staff, or student, who has knowledge of stolen property or weapons can make this known by a number of sources.

Obviously, Public Safety is one. Another alternative is through inter-University

procedures. Any head resident, resident assistant, central residence hall staff person, or any member of the Office of Student Affairs can be of service to a witness.

The University official contacted will then seek an Internal University Search Warrant. The President of the University, the Vice President for Student Affairs, or a person designated by these two officials, can issue a warrant.

A warrant is only issued after it has been determined that the information given by a witness can be reasonably relied upon to be substantial.

Anonymity of the witness is guaranteed; only by the consent of the witness will his name be divulged.

False testimony on the

part of any witness, if determined to be malicious, arbitrary, or deliberately fallacious, constitutes grounds for University action against that witness.

Earl Gray, Director of Public Safety, stated that false testimony on the part of a witness carries a double indemnity. Besides University punitive measures against the offender, civil litigation (defamation of character) is also a possibility.

False testimony does not include the failure to find the items cited in the warrant, during the search.

The Internal University Search Warrant, in practical use, is based on its civil counterpart. The illegal items in question are cited specifically in the warrant, as is the area to where they are to be found.

*Cont. on page three*



## Withering Podium, Wilting Message

Names, dates, places, maps, graphs, charts, tables, indexes, statistics, research results and on we go through an appearant never ending maze of academic thesis, hypothesis, detached speculations and philosophophies. The wilting message(s) falls upon us as it is eloquently spewn from behind the withering problem. . . Education ah yes, this is the noble process involved in preparing ourselves with the wisdom, knowledge and true enlightenment which will prove so beneficial to our future lives and to the lives of the poor, ignorant masses. . . or might this be another inap-

plicable theory to ponder?

There are so many interesting concepts to ponder within Oakland University. . . take, for example, neurophysiological strategies for obtaining nutrition as they relat to experimentation with electrode implantation and stimulation to the neurons within the brain of rats — such debth, such crucial knowledge to grasp digest, and store for future use. Application to what? . . . well, uh. . . we haven't gotten to that yet, . . . but surely it will all become clear in the end.

After all, let us show a

*Cont. on page seven*

## COMMENTS ON WAR RESISTERS

By Jerry Bixby

A welcoming sign can be seen hanging in the War Resisters League Office which it shares with Students for McGovern. It reads:

"The WRL does not support McGovern or any other RACIST, SEXIST, FACIST WAR monger, and mother fucker for president OR anything else. This means that we support NO ONE !" sic(k)

The General Club Classification list for Winter 1972 reads:

**"WAR RESISTERS LEAGUE"**  
Barry Schaudt / 377-3803  
To strive for the removal of all wars and that which creates social conflict [sic] by using the Gandhian non-violent resistance.

This will range from educational seminars to draft assistance."

Mr. Schaudt might well have said ". . . this will range from educational seminars and draft assistance to calling people motherf. . . kers."

This writer had intended to write an article comparing the goals of the War Resisters League with that of the Students for McGovern, but I received this response to a letter addressed the the WRL: "Fuck you, Jerry." I will not say who signed the response, as it may have been a forgery, but two of the signatures were named Barry and had the initials B.S. (how interesting) and B.G.

I wonder if Gandhi was familiar with the term "motherf. . . ker"? Don't roll over too fast, Mr. Gandhi, you might hurt yourself.

## REVOLUTIONARY CONGRESS UNORGANIZED

By Skip Thomson

Attendance at a meeting of the University Congress should be a requirement for all Oakland students. There, they can see Oakland's student legislative process in action; an unorderedly sham of what a responsible body of legislators are purported to be.

The "Second Meeting of the Revolutionary Congress" (the bi-line used for the UC's meeting Agenda) was a most amusing one-act play portraying unorganized bedlam in an established institution.

Credit must be given to UC president Jennifer Jickling for conducting the meeting with out the "cumbersome" formalities of parliamentary procedure. It was an admirable attempt to cut through the ubiquitous red tape of parliamentary procedure, but futile, if one examines the end results.

The final product of more than two hours of discorded dialogue was the completion of less than half of the agend's objectives.

Jenny's cries for verbal

restraint on the part of Congressmen or spectators was the only hint that indeed someone wanted an orderly meeting. It appeared that the confusion shook Jenny's confidence. Repeatedly she made errors in the counting of raised hands in a ballot. Her composure was ebbing away progressively faster.

Congress meetings have always been open to the public. It should always be that way too. But is Oakland on the same scale as the US Congress? Lobbying is an intregal part of the federal legislation process. Lobbyists are in close contact with Congressmen, they're never on the floor of the Congress during a meeting, practicing their trade.

Representatives from another publication on campus with close affiliations to the UC, visibly, as well as vocally, made their presence known to the assembled Congress. Should such overt

lobbying tactics be allowed?

The meeting was most productive in terms of legislation. A motion was passed to disavow any responsibility for debts incurred by any previous congress. The precedent of financial buck-passing has now become entrenched into Oakland's legislative system. Any debts that the present congress makes during this administration can, through precedent, be passed on to the next congress. Obviously, lucrativity comes in many different forms. Doesn't it?

A Congressional directive to the adminsitration was issued giving full support to BLC's proposed Afro-American dorm.

The proposed University Congress budget was approved.

Aside from the BLC proposal, and the budget, the unanimous motion for adjournment was the most affirmative piece of legislation of the entire meeting.

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## Black Dorm

*Cont. from page one*

terest of the black people."

"We shall vehemently protest any measures taken to further limit the access of any black people, student or non-student, into the Residence Halls," said a spokesman for the BLC.

The Housing Committee, prior to the arrival of the BLC representatives, decided to recind the current dorm visitation policy to make adjustments, but the present policy is still effective until revisions have been made.

Action will be taken upon a revised visitation policy at the next meeting of the Committee.

# SEARCH & SEIZURE

Cont. from page one

If other objects known to be stolen property, or contraband, are found during a search they can be confiscated and delivered to Public Safety for storage.

However, criminal proceedings against the legal resident of a unit where illegal property or contraband is found, when not specifically cited in the warrant, is prohibited. Only inter-University disciplinary action can be taken.

The search is to be administered by a residence hall staff member if in the formatories.

The procedure used in all searches is the same; the staff member will knock on the door of the unit named in the warrant and announce his intentions.

If admittance is denied, the staff member may enter the unit and enact the search.

The staff member will be accompanied at all times by an officer of Public Safety to alleviate the chance of harm to the staff members in completing their search.

An exploratory search on the part of the staff members is prohibited. No effort will be made to locate other items not cited in the warrant.

The Public Safety officer will not take part in the search. His function, other than protection, is to act as a witness to the search and to document the items confiscated, thus eliminating the possibilities of countercharges of theft on the part of the searchers.

Though the Internal University Search Warrant procedures are not determined to be civil actions, civil litigation can originate from the search.

If a staff member, in the process of a search, is assaulted by the legal resident or a visitor in the room in question, the search can become a civil action.

An assault upon a law en-

forcement officer carries a minimum sentence of two years, plus a fine of \$1,000.

A visitor in the room at the time of a search has no legal right to question or impede the proceedings. If this occurs, the visitor can be arrested.

The possession of weapons on campus is prohibited by University policy. Firearms, or other dangerous weapons, found during the execution of a University Warrant constitutes a violation of this policy.

"Violators will be immediately dismissed from the University and subject to possible legal prosecution in the courts under Michigan law," writes James Appleton, VP for Student Affairs, in an official memorandum concerning gun control.

"The University has a strong commitment to safeguarding the welfare of its members," writes Appleton, "and will not tolerate any individual who breaches either the Oakland policy or Michigan state law pertaining to the possession of weapons on campus."

He added, in connection with the search and seizure policy, "the University will not hesitate to act on any leads pertaining to the possession of weapons."

The legal precedent for the Internal University Search Warrant comes from a decision made by the Fifth Circuit Court in Cincinnati in 1958, reports Gray.

University officials at Troy State University, accompanied by state authorities, entered the dormitory room of a student and searched it in his presence, but without his consent. A substance was found that was later determined to be Marijuana. Subsequently the student was dismissed from the University. Criminal proceedings were not instituted against the student, only inter-university

punitive measures.

The dismissed student took legal action against the University and took his case to the federal courts.

He asked the court that he be re-instated at the college in good standing and that a declaratory judgement be issued that the evidence found not be permitted to be used in any criminal trial.

The case was dismissed and the declaratory judgement refused by the court. Here are a few significant comments from the decision:

- A student has the right to be free of unreasonable search and seizures.

- A tax supported public college may not compel a waiver of that right as a condition precedent to admission.

- The college has an affirmative obligation to promulgate and enforce reasonable regulations designed to protect campus order and discipline and to promote an environment consistent with the educational process.

- "Constitutional boundary line between right of school authorities to search rooms and right of dormitory student to privacy must be based on reasonable belief on the part of college authorities that the student is using his dormitory for a purpose which is illegal or which would otherwise seriously interfere with campus discipline."

## Meadow Brook Ball Deemed A Success

By Ron Malkowicz

The night of March 11 marked the return of the Meadow Brook Ball to the Oakland campus for the first time after a four-year absence. Held in the spacious rooms of the Wilson mansion, the affair seemed to have been thoroughly enjoyed by all attending, despite the somewhat muddy walk from the parking area to the hall.

Once inside the hall, spirits rose, as everyone took time to stroll around and enjoy the comforts of the house. One cannot cease to be fascinated by the mansion. Those who had never been through the hall before could have had an enjoyable evening just walking around. Even those of us who have toured the hall before were re-captured by its splendor.

The punch flowed freely all through the night. Its exact contents are unknown, but the concoction proved favorable to the taste, as spirits were noticeably up after a few hours and many glasses.

The music was another added luxury to the evening. Many members of the younger set readily took to the dance floor when Hal James and his orchestra struck up. There followed some fast-moving tunes that brought off the shoes and unbuttoned a few jackets.

A feeling of disappointment rose among the 120-odd couples as the evening drew to a close. It was indeed regrettable that the hall

ball couldn't have lasted longer. The people of Pryale House are to be congratulated for having dared to hold such an affair, let alone for having done such a fine job in putting it together. It is indeed hopeful that this night had marked the return of something good.



## PIRGIM

Cont. from page one  
about two weeks, the petition will be presented to the Board of Trustees. It calls for PIRGIM to be funded by a \$1.50 per semester per student fee to be collected at registration, as part of the student activities fees. The money will be refunded to students who do not wish

to be involved in financing PIRGIM.

For more information call 377-3041, or drop by the PIRGIM office, room 58, Oakland Center.



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# CHANGES IN STORE FOR DORMS

By Bob Knoska

With last year being in the realm of a major disaster for residence halls, a major face-life is in order for the upcoming year, asserts Jack Wilson, director of residence halls. With hall population down from capacity roughly 500, to 1,300, the halls are not only in a financial crisis, with each empty room meaning a loss of almost \$1,200, but there is also a crisis for getting people to stay in the dorms. There are almost no upper classmen in the dorms now.

A short look at the past year can give a bit of insight on what has happened. The economy is in a state of galloping inflation, along with recession at the same time, which means no money for students to live in the dorm. The faculty strike, then took students from the dorms, not only because of the delay in starting up the fall semester, but the loss in money in waiting for classes to begin. The housing office

figured the strike lost 100 boarders.

Currently there are 1,300 students in the halls with that number steadily decreasing. There are secur-

being attacked.

Many plans are currently being made to improve dorm life, in hopes of drawing people back on campus. From the traditional hall

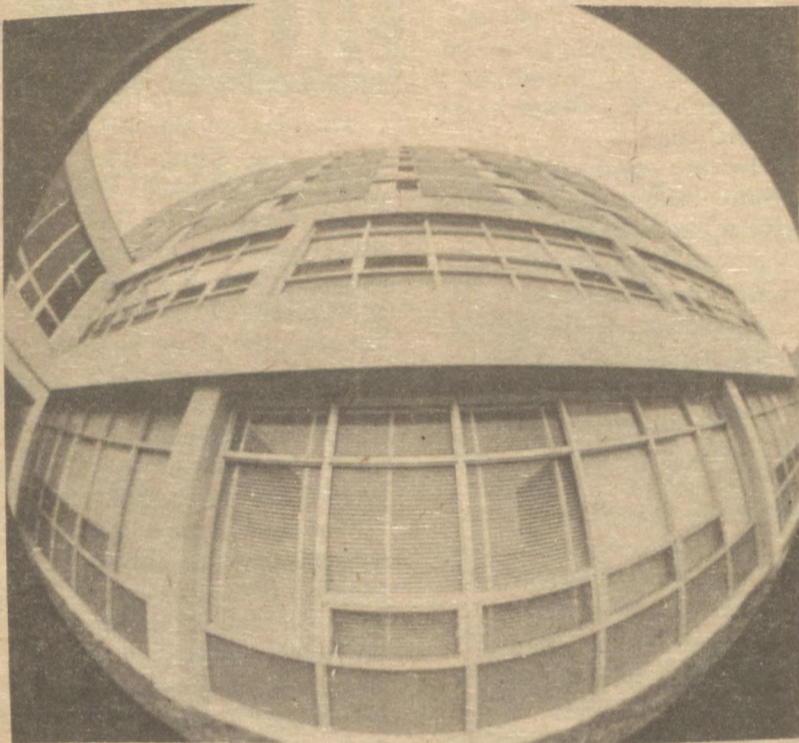
a central system and then trained for their responsibilities with a pre-school and an in-service program. R.A.'s will be responsible to the Area Coordinators.

The main change, though will be the organization of the residence halls themselves. The former policy of one-kind-of-situation-for-each-dorm" will be dropped. With the lower population of the halls some dorms will be closed. Dorms such as Van Wagoner or Hill House, with their medium size capacity of 200 and can house 150 in single rooms, may be closed due to the lack of interest in that kind of situation. But where there are other opportunities, such as Fitzgerald for an all male dorm, or another smaller dorm for an all female occupancy.

Where apartments are wanted, one of the residence halls that features a suite type living arrangement may be used as apartments next

year. A suite will be sold to 2,3, or 4 people and the price will be divided as at present. If fewer than four want the suite, the price may be about \$70 a semester per person more; that is for each person less than four in the suite there would be an increase of \$70 per person in that suite.

Another idea is the establishment of an all freshman dorm. This would include R.A.'s who will be trained to expect the things that a freshman will need. There would be counseling services set up permanently for the use of the freshman in that dorm; such things as writing skill tutoring, financial aids information, and even a placement office arrangement is foreseeable.



ity problems with employees receiving the brunt of unwarranted abuse, problems with rip-offs and assaults, and ideas for solving the problems

organization, the resident assistants will be chosen from



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# MEDITATION INCREASES MENTAL POTENTIAL

By Pepper Whitelaw

When you hear the word meditation you often envision cults, far-out religious groups or just downright kooks. But a few minutes with teachers John Lyons and Maureen Stern, of the International Meditation Society, and a good hard look at their credentials, and you reconsider and listen.

The International Meditation Society is a non-profit educational organization which advocates the technique of Transcendental Meditation, as taught by Maharishi Mahesh Yogi. It is a process that according to its proponents can provide an individual with deep rest which releases the fatigue during daily activity, which sleep does not release, resulting in more energy, relaxation and clarity of thinking.

Dr. Robert Keith Wallace and Dr. Herbert Benson of Harvard Medical School have recently published in the *American Medical Association Journal* (January 17, 1972) and in the February issue of *Scientific American* the physiological effects of Transcendental Meditations.

They found that the metabolism which shows how much work the body does, is refined during sleep about five to ten percent.

During 15 minutes of TM, the metabolic rate is refined twenty to twenty-five percent, twice as much as deep sleep, showing deeper, more profound rest.

Dr. Wallace also studied

the amount of oxygen consumption during TM and compared this with sleep. In five hours of sleep, oxygen is refined approximately 8%. . . in 15 minutes of TM, oxygen is refined 16%.

The lactic acid salt particles in the blood decreased some 50%. Since increase in lactate goes with attacks of anxiety, the reduction meant much less anxiety during TM and throughout the day.

The proponents of TM stress that it is not a religion, philosophy or life style and involves no physical or mental requirements. No degree of belief makes the practice work any better and no degree of skepticism prohibits the technique from working.

It first became popular in the United States in 1965 with students in colleges across the country, and because of this, the organization was named Student's International Meditations Society. Because of profound changes in the students, both personally and academically, teachers began to investigate the practice.

Today courses on "Science of Creative Intelligence" are being taught in over 1000 major college campuses. The Science of Creative Intelligence is the theoretical application that supports the experience of TM. By naturally and spontaneously bringing awareness to the source of energy and creative intelligence an individual can make use of his full mental potential. Mr. Lyons stressed that this is not a process of learning but one



of releasing.

S.C.I. substantiates that there is a foundation to life having its basis in deep rest, as verified by PhD's.

The ability to expand the conscious capacity of

the mind is reflected by the refined quality of the nervous system, this deep rest received through TM is reflected in our ability to think efficiently and clearly in all our activities.

PICTURE SHOWS Maureen Stern and John Lyons, two instructors of the Science of Creative Intelligence.

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# RAVEN GALLERY NOTHING TO RAVE ABOUT

By Peter Bailey-Gates

If you are wondering by what right and by whose authority I take this type-writer in my hands and wreak destruction, or at least my own opinion, upon a legitimate place of business, it is my own authority that allows me that privilege; no more, no less. I had the unfortunate experience of paying my dues at an establishment called the Raven Gallery last week, and if luck takes me by the hand and I say my prayers daily, it will be my last encounter with Mr. Raven and his galleried walls. I wonder by whose authority Mr. Raven had the gaul to ask me for \$2.50 a piece.

On walking in, I knew I should have turned around and made my entrance in reverse. I was met by a heavenly host of stuffed and undernourished cherubic faces, trumpeting their new found and still crackling voices in every direction. A stylishly boutiques, silver-haired, goateed man, pushing age fifty and dressing, acting and looking the part of Michael Butler phony, met me at the door with the overgracious comment "Got reservations!" phrased in such a way as to be neither a question nor an exclamation, but a statement of fact. Unfortunately I had, which allowed me the privilege of answering this Mr. Raven's next statement, "Name." phrased as before. After giving this gentleman my name, and expecting to be fingerprinted and mug-shot, I was told to pitch-in five dollars to the ever-growing pile of currency already in his hand. He looked askance when I

was forced to ask the young lady at my side for an extra dollar, but I bearded his look with the five dollars in my hand. We were led to our table by a smiling waitress, who was probably chosen more for her looks than her pose and efficiency. We were soon accompanied at our table by another charming couple. The young man, who lit a cigarette soon after I did, grunted when I put the ashtray in the middle of the table and that was the extent of our conversation. I could tell, however, that he was at that awkward age; too old for the Boy Scouts, and too young for S.D.S. The young lady had even less to say than her boyfriend, so we got along just fine; I was even disheartened when they left during the first intermission.

Another waitress soon came by to ask if anyone wanted to order. I was thirsty and seeing no spirits or beer on the menu decided to drink coffee, since this was supposed to be a coffee-house. It had never occurred to me to ask for a spoon with a cup of coffee, but I soon saw that that was my error. Somehow, at 52 cents for a cup of coffee, I expected a spoon. After drinking a few cups, (there was no charge for second or third cups) I caught the waitress and asked for some more coffee, to which she replied, with all the sweetness of their black coffee, that she didn't have any. That was obvious since she wasn't holding a pot and I didn't expect her to pull a Harpo Marx on me and take a cup out from under her clothes, but at least I expected that she would return after a short while and fill my cup. Fifteen minutes later I caught

another waitress with a half-full pot on a tray, but she told me I wasn't sitting at one of her tables. I never did get another cup of coffee.

The entertainment was good enough, I thought, to headline a circus act at the Abstention. Acoustic guitar and lyrics, at least most of them, were kindly provided by one Jonathon Roundly, or something, who played and sang like an Arlo Gutter, alluded to a Johnny Crash, and sang a form of Crosby Stills, Nash and (C.G.) Jung. After alluding to the Nashville performer of Standard Oil fame, Jonathon stated a country- & western song of his own composition; playing the first few chords and saying, with a smile on his face that, "this is a country & western progression." He had quite a different attitude when he started a blues piece, also of his own composition: he was serious. Pulling a funny on two Nashville performers, Standard Oil and Early Scruggles, won him the respect of that music appreciating audience. In other words, blues is a superior genre to country & western, and, as everyone knows, blues attracts superior musicians; I suppose that knowledge alone was worth the price of admission, but I kept thinking of what Standard Oil would say after learning that, after they must have paid the nine-foot tall musician a pretty penny to sing about a new car gasoline, they might have been able to save some money by hiring B.B. King or Howlin' Wolf or even Jonathon Roundly, himself.

In between his songs, Mr. Roundly put on the hat of a

Cont. on page seven

# "BALLAD" PLAYING AT BARN

*The Ballad of the Sad Cafe.* SET's newest production, opened last Friday, March 17. *Ballad*, Carson McCuller's novella, was adapted to the stage by Edward Albee, and is an examination of some of the costs of life and love.

*The Ballad of the Sad Cafe* tells the story of Ms. Amelia Evans, how she became a "recluse in her own shambles of a disused cafe and general store." The narrator guides us through a series of flashbacks, which follow Amelia's unconsummated marriage to Marvin Macy, whom she married but could not love. . . to her relationship with Cousin Lymon, whom she loved but could not marry. Albee, as usual, views humanity through the idiosyncrasies of individuals.

Amelia Evans is portrayed by Maurine Conine who has also been costume designer for this production. Maurine has recently been seen on stage at the Barn Theatre as a prostitute in *Threepenny Opera* and as the Gryphon in *Alice in Wonderland*.

Cousin Lymon is being played by Elliot Leib who has appeared at the Barn in *Threepenny Opera*, *Indians* and *Jimmy Shine*. Garret C. Albright is the narrator of *Ballad*. John Barnstead portrays Marvin Macy, Amelia's husband. John had the major role of Mr. Peachum in *Threepenny Opera*. SET will have original music by Darien Marcus for this production. Darien began his activity with the Barn Theatre in *Oh! What a Lovely War* in the fall of 1970. Also in the cast will be Ralph Rugal, Chuck Williams, A.R. Judd, Anne Bendix, Maggie Sutherland, Fred Mercer, Soo Menlove, Sue Lynn Weaver, Jim Stewart, and Vicki McAree. Tracey Phillops has acted as assistant director for this

production; Steve Falk, stage manager; lighting designer, Harold S. Chin, and of course, Tom Aston, has directed *Ballad*.

Should you attend *Ballad* there are new improvements to look for in the Barn Theatre. Student crews have installed and rebuilt a new light-



Maurine Conine as Amelia Evans in "The Ballad of the Sad Cafe"

ing booth and a large catwalk for the lighting system which is suspended from the ceiling of the barn. Also, continual fireproofing is being carried out by the students.

The Student Enterprise Theatre is celebrating its tenth anniversary this year. Having begun in the Gold Room of the Oakland Center the (then) Meadowbrook Theatre Guild moved to the basement of the Sports and Recreation Building, and from there to the Barn Theatre in 1968. The Barn Theatre has been renovated and rebuilt entirely by students.

The production dates for *Ballad* are March 24, 25 at 8:30 PM and March 26 at 7:30 PM. Tickets are available at the Student Activities Box Office, as well as at the SET offices in the Creamery. For further information, call 377-2245

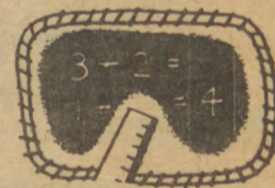
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# ADA Botched "Romeo"

By Jerry Bixby

What happened to the theme or the case of the missing Montague?

Of the eleven productions of Shakespeare I've seen, including college and professional, by far the worst was the Academy of Dramatic Art's production of *Romeo and Juliet*. What especially made A.D.A. look bad was the fact that I had recently seen the Hilberry production (W.S.U.) of *Romeo and Juliet*, which was excellent in almost every respect.

The first thing that struck me when I read the A.D.A. program was the number of actors in it — there are only thirteen. The Hilberry production utilized twenty-three actors. This difference is made possible by the fact that the A.D.A. production deleted Montague (Romeo's father) entirely. Julian Bailey played the parts of both the Prince and the Friar.

These doublings and deletions led to major problems in the last scene. Anyone who has read *Romeo and Juliet* is aware that Friar Laurence and the Prince must appear together in the last act. This is necessary for there to be any unity of theme. So what does A.D.A. do? It deletes the Prince, who is supposed to tie everything together and help reconcile the two families, from the last scene. And it hacks up Friar

Laurence's part very badly. He tries to explain (to the Prince in the original) what has happened. To do any justice to Shakespeare, Montague and Capulet must reconcile their differences in the end. But this is rather difficult as Montague has been written out entirely.

I submit that if one must delete any main character, it is Lady Montague, not Montague himself, who should be omitted. Shakespeare had her die before the last scene anyway. She appeared there in A.D.A. to speak some of her husband's lines. Another character entirely omitted is Peter, a servant to the Capulets. He is replaced by a female servant. Finally Paris' page, usually a male, is replaced by another female. One could well conclude from this that the A.D.A. is suffering from a shortage of males and has at the same time an abundance of females. Or could it be the director, Ms. Elisabeth Orion, is a female chauvinist? I don't know, but these two reasons were the only ones I could think of that made any sense. (granted they don't make much sense either.)

Let me conclude by saying I wonder how anyone could make such gross deletions from Shakespeare and still call it his work. As a friend of mine, Jock Felt, said to me: "Anybody that would tamper with the Bard's words [to such an extent] ought to be castrated." I guess Jock didn't notice the Ms.

# Raven Gallery

Cont. from page six  
was a cross between Bob Dylan and Bill Cosby, but Jon Roundly was a cross between the "Fabulous Furry Freak Brothers" and Richard Nixon playing "Silent Night" at the White House Christmas party. Technically, Roundboy was good, but stylistically he needed help, and lots of it. His one effective piece of the night was an interpretation of Slick Jaggoff's "Sympathy for the Devil", in which the performer did a David Frye-esque impersonation of Lucifer, himself; no mean trick, as Lucifer bore a striking resemblance to Frye's Nixon.

In the introduction to his "Sympathy", Roundfly mentioned that this was a song written by the lead-singer of the Rolling Stones, which immediately brought a score of "right on's" from the ranks of the serphims cracking their voices (and my ears) in the audience. It was kind of funny to hear a "right" in a strained high voice and the "on" two octaves lower; Howlin' Wolf can't even do that well.

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little faith and respect toward our intellectual leaders. . . a professor doesn't obtain his position through mere luck. . . he exists as our source of direction and inspiration. If s he feels it necessary to ridicule and condescend to us, feel secure in knowing that it is for good reason. . . for our welfare as learners. Who are we (as wet-eared novice) to call into question the validity, rationale, and intent of those who are dedicating their entire livelihood to the promotion of our intellectual growth?

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