

The Oakland Sail

Oakland University/Rochester, Michigan/Vol. III, No. 7/October 14, 1977

Assembly meets without student reps.

by Nathan Menoian
and Mark Clausen

The Constitution of the College of Arts and Sciences allows for student representation on the College's assembly, but there are no students present at assembly meetings at this time.

Gary Foster, a University Congress member, said he is presently a student member of the assembly but that Rueben Torch, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, has failed to notify him of

assembly meetings. Foster said he was elected along with six other students to assembly seats by University Congress.

Torch said that he knew of no students legally on the assembly. "According to the constitution," he said, "student representatives must be elected by all the students in the College of Arts and Sciences. To my knowledge this has not been done."

Article III of the consti-

tution reads: "Student members of the assembly shall be elected from an electorate composed of all undergraduate and graduate students officially enrolled in the College of Arts and Sciences."

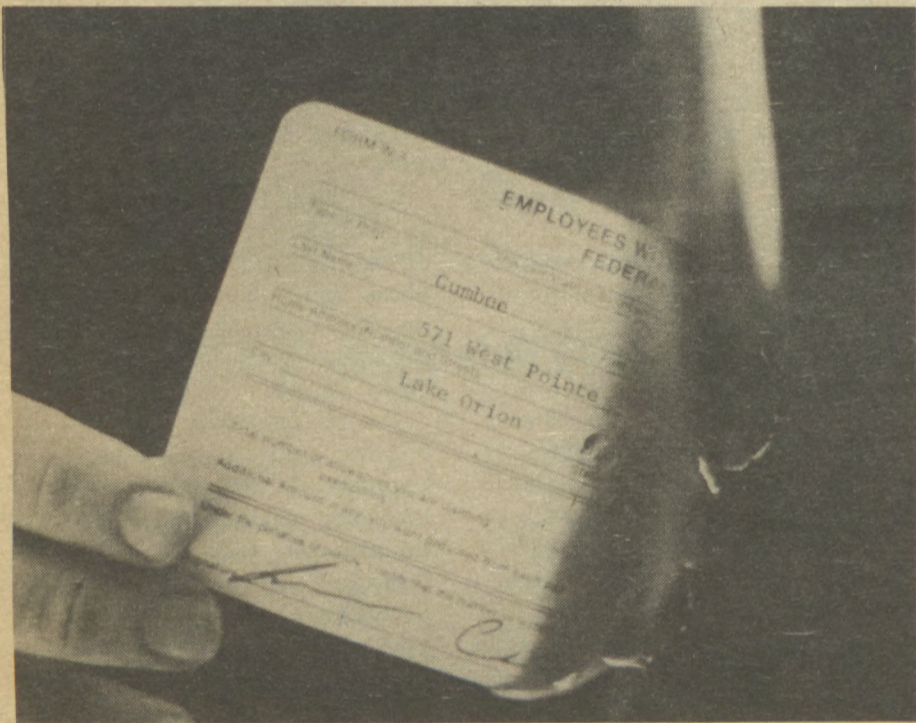
A note by the assembly states: The University Congress has the right to conduct the election of students in any way it chooses.

The controversy over student representation on the assembly arose last

year when the proposed Honors College of the College of Arts and Sciences was approved by the Board of Trustees. Foster argued at that time that approval of the proposal be postponed because there was no student input or representation. The Board approved the Honors College anyway.

There has not been any student representation on the assembly since 1971.

(continued on page two)



Oakland prof. battles IRS

By Tcni Simonetti

Non-violence is a way of life for Jack Cumbee. Non-violence is what Cumbee is seeking in his protest against the government's taxing system.

Cumbee, an assistant professor of philosophy, said he has refused to pay his taxes because tax money is spent to do "things that violate my religious beliefs." He said his actions are in protest for "non-violence changes" in the system.

Cumbee and his wife, Judy, appeared in U.S. Tax Court on October 3 after petitioning the court for a hearing. They are currently waiting for the court's decision, Cumbee said. He added that he and his wife "don't expect the courts to rule" in their favor although "it's not impossible." Cumbee said that it is very unlikely that he will be jailed for not paying his taxes.

In their petition the Cumbees contend that the United States government "makes plans and builds weapons for the destruction of persons...and aids in numerous dictators/dictatorial governments in coming to power and maintaining themselves in power." The petition cites examples of the U.S. government's support of and/or involvement in revolution and oppression in other countries, including Chile,

Brazil, South Korea, and the Dominican Republic.

The petition also contends that the government's use of the Cumbees' money "constitutes a restraint on the free exercise of (their) religion." Free exercise of religion is a right guaranteed in the first amendment to the Constitution. Religion, as defined by the Supreme Court in 1965, is "the role of the belief in the person's life...and not the content of the belief." The Cumbees contend that the aforementioned acts of the government "are sustained by government...and violate (their) religious consciousness."

The Cumbees also argue that the right of religious conscience is an "inalienable right." Inalienable rights are those which cannot be given or taken away from a person. "Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" are such rights.

Cumbee said that he "makes no claim against taxation." He is willing to pay taxes "used to nurture the worth of the individual." If the court rules against his claim and Cumbee is forced to pay taxes that support military and defence purposes, he would be doing it unwillingly, he said.

The government allows 50% of its general fund money for the defense budget, Cumbee said. He added that there is "no justification" (continued on page three)

New president steps in

by Dave Ross

The University Congress filled the power vacuum left by the resignation of president Aaron Burnette by choosing a new president and executive staff at its meeting October 12.

Executive Assistant Will Biddlingmeier was chosen as permanent president. His term of office begins October 14 when Burnette's resignation becomes effective, and it will end in January, when the new congressional term begins.

Congress reconfirmed Lori Philo as Student Activities Board (SAB) chairperson and Al Watson as Concert Lecture Board (CLB) chairperson. It approved congressman Steve Quick as the new executive

assistant.

Congressman Paul Grossman expressed loud opposition to the approval of the executive staff. He said the waiving of the public notice bylaw did not give congress enough time to make a good decision. He said the nominations were being "rammed down congress' throat."

Grossman appealed the rulings of chairman Biddlingmeier. He slowed the meeting by calling for a division of the house, forcing a secret ballot to be taken. After the appeals failed, he called the two-hour limit on the meeting.

Biddlingmeier became angry and bluntly told Grossman he was out of order. He ruled the proceedings were proper (continued on page three)

Assembly -cont.

(continued from page one)
 "The appointment of Donald O'Dowd as President caused student representatives to walk out on the Assembly of the College of Arts and Sciences," said Foster.
 "Students in the University Senate and the assembly were not in any way consulted about the appointment, and that is why they walked off," he continued.

Foster would not reveal his sources but said he was told by students who were

on the assembly in 1971 that O'Dowd's appointment was the reason for the walkout. Vice Provost George Matthews said, "It was a general boycott of students in vocal and governmental participation. They simply withdrew themselves." Matthews served as the first dean of the College of Arts and Sciences from 1965-73. Dean Torch said, "It's the first I've heard of that report, but my main impression is that they left for other reasons. Though it could be true, I really don't know for sure."

"At the time of the walkout, the executive committee and assembly members all felt sorry the students had left and said their spaces would be held open for them if they wanted to return, but they never did," said Matthews.

"Before the walkout, students were involved and participating on some of our committees, but after they left the assembly, their participation has been very minimal," said Torch.

Torch said that students are now interested in returning. "Prior to this semester, students had inquired about getting back on the assembly, but we told them they would have to be elected by the Arts and Sciences electorate in the Winter semester before the beginning of their term in the fall," he said. "This is in accordance with our constitution."

"My main feeling," he continued, "is it would be nice to have them, but without them we can still carry on."

Since the walkout, no steps have been taken by the assembly to bring students back, according to Torch.

"It seems to me that the assembly does not really care if students participate, because so far this semester there have been two meetings of the assembly which have not been mentioned to the student members," Foster said.

The controversy continues, with Foster contending he and six other students are members of the assembly, and Torch saying that he knows of no student representation until Congress runs a college-wide election in the winter semester.

Editor's Opinion

By Mark Clausen

I read a very interesting article in the Oct. 2 issue of the Detroit Free Press. The paper sent three of its reporters back to their alma mater, the University of Michigan, to compare present conditions in Ann Arbor to their college memories and experience.

The youngest staffer sent, James Neubacher, attended University of Michigan in the early 70's during the time of campus unrest, student activism, and increased awareness of social problems. Anyone remember those times?

The headline which appeared above the continued portion of the story asked: "Where have all the issues gone?"

It does seem as though the issues which were so important to the students at the turn of the decade--Vietnam, the sexual revolution, racism, and ecological damage--have all faded into the background.

In my opinion, the voices which heralded and debated those issues have been replaced with an uncomfortable; dangerous calm.

Where have all the issues gone? They're still here, though hidden. To me, the difference is in the people. My age group has chosen to ignore issues similar to those our older brothers and sisters demonstrated against, held sit-ins on, and took over campuses for.

National issues which would have had 60's students up in arms (literally)--denial of homosexuals' rights in Miami, high-level government corruption, and urban decay--are all virtually unnoticed and unchallenged on today's campuses. It distresses me and puzzles me.

On issues closer to home, the indifference is the same. The defeat of a bill to decriminalize marijuana brought no visible reaction from campuses around the state.

It is obvious to me that the issues are still here, and still as crucial. It is the people who have changed. Too bad.

We need people who have

the guts and concern to speak up for what they feel is right, and against what they feel is wrong. American youth are on the road to stagnation.

It seems we are a generation of silence. We plod though life without taking our eyes off our feet long enough to see where we are going or what is going on around us.

For too many people the only real concern is--- "Is there enough money involved for me?" Granted, that question is important, but is its importance so great that it crowds out issues which are not economically based--issues like justice, equality, and human rights?

It seems to me that too many people my age feel that no project is worthwhile for its own merit, only for the "green" it means.

Is this lack of concern indifference or selfishness? Are we so insecure about our futures that we do not care what is going on around us, or are we just lazy?

So my friends, we had better get it together because if we don't start caring, things are going to change. Our rich "green" wallpaper will not prevent the roof from caving in when our walls are crumbling from neglect. Some of the best signs of the times appear on bathroom walls. As Neubacher related: "In the men's room is an old scrawling on the wall of the toilet stall. 'God is dead.' Clearly circa 1960's. It has been altered recently and now reads: 'God is Bread.'"

Reforms discussed

Richard VanderVean will be speaking on "Evolving Congressional Reforms" Thursday, Oct. 20 from four to five p.m. in Gold Room A at the Oakland Center. VanderVean became the first Democrat to be sent to Congress from the 5th District in 64 years when he won the special election to fill the seat vacated by Gerald Ford, who had resigned to become Vice-President.

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The Sail is not an official publication of Oakland University and the views and opinions expressed are not those of the University, but it is assisted by University services in accordance with University policy.

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All signed letters to the editor of appropriate content and length will be considered for publication by the Oakland Sail. However, the Sail reserves the right to deny publication of any letter submitted.

Battles - cont.

(continued from page one) for this. He said that "we must refuse to do it (support the defense budget)... If there is nothing we refuse to do, then we are moral monsters."

Cumbee feels that his protest was not a failure. He said the importance lies in the "spirit of the attempt...going to the system to tell the truth and stand for it."

The Cumbees' struggle with the IRS began in 1973 when they filed a tax form claiming tax credit for withheld taxes, he said. The IRS refunded their money and then recalled that money which the Cumbees refused to pay, he said. "We morally and legally deserved to have our money sent back" he said. This procedure was repeated in 1974, Cumbee said, and because they would not return the money to the IRS, it seized two of Cumbee's paychecks.

Cumbee said he was also influenced by a Buddhist monk, Thich Nhat Hanh, who

was exiled from Vietnam, was "dedicated to relief of suffering of people, renounced methods of violence and had a passionate concern for justice." After listening to Hanh speak, Cumbee said he decided to become a "pacifist." A pacifist is a person who opposes war and favors settling disputes between nations by peaceful means.

Non-violence is a spiritual attitude; an active principle that is carried out every day, Cumbee said. Non-violence is "not just the absence of physical violence," but, more importantly, it is the recognition that "every human being has something precious about them." Cumbee believes that if non-violence is practiced for a long enough period we could have a "world of mutual trust and respect." Cumbee added that he is not being too idealistic. "The problem is that we are not idealistic enough," he said.

Library squeeze to end

In order to remedy a severe shortage of space in the Kresge Library, the Board of Trustees on October 4 approved a planned \$9 million expansion of the library from its present size, 77,000 gross square feet, to 200,000 gsf.

The shortage of space is so critical that students are presently working under crowded conditions, and volumes will soon have to be moved into a bomb shelter in the basement of North Foundation Hall, according to

Richard Pettengill, chairman of the Internal Library Building Committee.

George Gardiner, Dean of the Library, said the library was originally built for a university of 4000-5000 students. OU's enrollment is now over 8,300 students (Full time equated students).

To combat this problem, the library staff has, according to Gardiner, had to "decrease the quality of reader stations" by replacing individual desks with tables, and by moving

President - cont.

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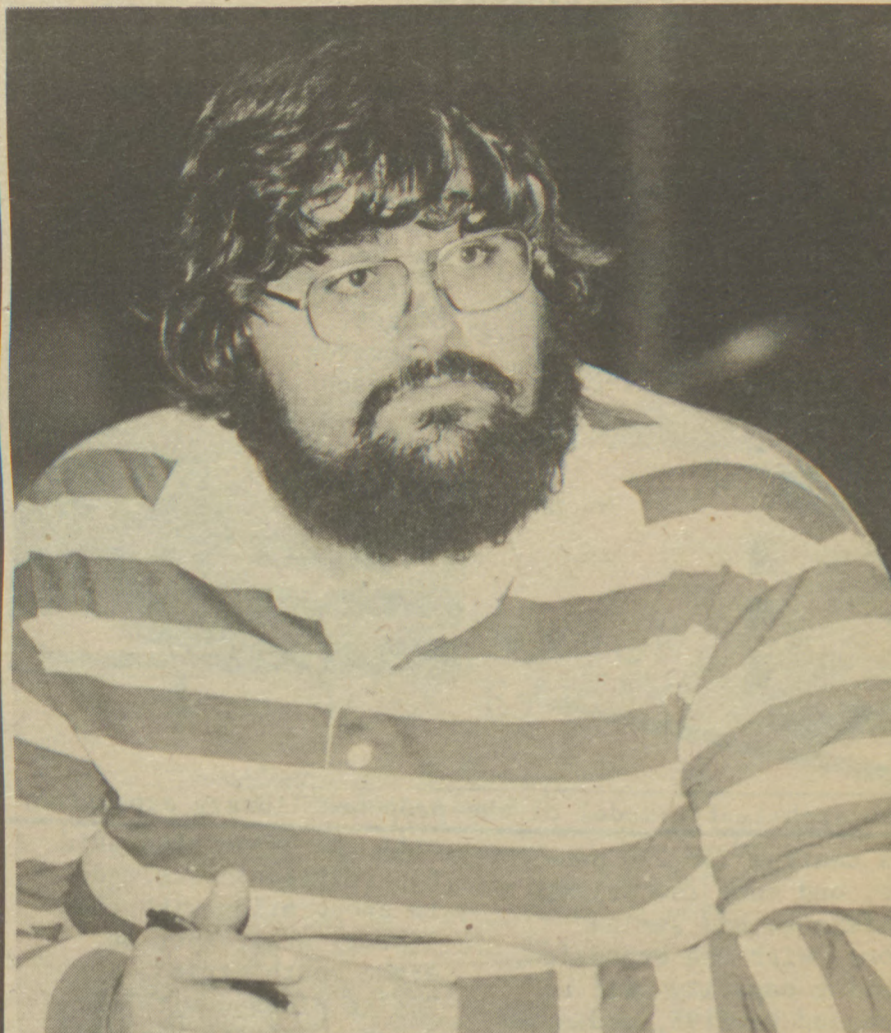
Greg Flynn was elected to serve as elections commissioner. He said his goal was to get a 20 percent turnout at the elections November 14 and 15.

Biddlingmeier has confirmed his intention to run for the presidency in November. His election to serve out Burnette's term may help him then. "Any advantages to be incurred by an incumbent

will help," he said.

In a few weeks Biddlingmeier has gone from virtual anonymity in congressional circles to the highest office in student government. He has not been chosen in an "at large" election at any stop along his rapid climb to power. He said in the limited environment of congress, his actual performance will have a great impact on his political fate.

Faces in the crowd



STEVE QUICK is the new executive assistant of University Congress. Previously a congressman, he has served on the Student Rights Committee. Quick is a prominent organizer of Fitzgerald House dorm activities.

notice

TO: ALL UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND PERSONNEL
FROM: UNIVERSITY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE AND
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

1. EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 17, 1977, THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY WILL ENFORCE ALL METERED PARKING AREAS ON CAMPUS. HOURS TO BE ENFORCED ARE 7:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M. MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY.
2. THE FAR NORTH PARKING LOT, JUST WEST OF THE WALTON ENTRANCE, HAS RECENTLY BEEN DESIGNATED AS AN ADDITIONAL OVERNIGHT PARKING AREA. PARKING IS NOW ALLOWED BETWEEN 2:00 A.M. AND 6:00 A.M. THIS LOT WILL ALSO BE LIGHTED DURING THE EVENING HOURS.