

# FOCUS: OAKLAND

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## Night Watch: Who Watches Them?

By Robert A. Pociask  
and Lawrence D. Hadley  
Publishers of Focus

*Names of staff involved  
have been withheld, but  
the facts remain.*

Nightwatch performs one of the more vital functions in the Residence Halls security system. They are, if you will, the first line of defense against possible outside intruders; they also are the most visible public relations men the University has. Often a person's first impression comes from how they perform.

So much for rosy euphemisms. The plain and simple fact is that night watch, as it now exists is not doing its job. We are in effect paying these people for a job that is not being done. Of course this does not apply to all of night watch--it's only the bad apples that tarnish the rest.

As a resident, myself and others have observed this problem for quite some time. I'm sure some of you have seen times when you come in at 2:00 a.m. and they're fast asleep. They don't even notice you, or there are so many people around you can't tell who's on nightwatch. The list goes on and on.

Well, the situation finally reached its breaking point about one month ago on the night of December 15. Unknown person(s) observed a total absence of nightwatch in Hamlin for the better part of one hour. During this time they were present at best 5 minutes. The rest of the time was spent watching TV, talking to friends, or just gone.

Nightwatch does have some duties to perform--checking locks, etc.--but these do not use up 55 minutes out of each hour. A number of people were observed entering the building without identifying themselves, since there was no one to identify themselves to. Finally these unknown persons who were observing this action decided to take some action: they stole the nightwatch file box used to hold ID's and the nightwatch time sheet and report. The fact that they were able to do this tells you something of how effective nightwatch was.

Now this as an isolated incident could be taken care of quite easily by the proper authorities. The real killer follows: at exactly the same time (± five minutes) the same situation was present at the door of Vandenberg--i.e. no nightwatch personnel present. So, these unidentified person(s) stole the Alpha roster which was left at the Vandenberg station. Most people could believe one group being gone but two being absent simply stretches the imagination just a little bit. It's comparable to the first and second shifts of Chevy Gear and Axle mysteriously not showing up. To top it all these person(s) who took this stuff had heard stories of possible pocket padding by some people in the system by means of phony hours. However they could produce no hard facts so we'll ignore that.

The unidentified liberation of these objects gave them to Focus. They

asked that Focus do something about it.

When I first started asking around all I got were blank looks. Nightwatch definitely knows the staff was gone--one of their people told me that much. Mitch Livingston,

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## CONGRESS FLOPS

by Gary Kaufman

It is generally not common knowledge that University Congress meetings are open to any and all concerned persons who wish to know just what goes on at these meetings. However, the fact that the last Congress meeting was attended by only Congressmembers (who barely comprised quorum) probably saved this lame duck Congress a small amount of embarrassment.

The first issue brought up was the need for Congress to fill the vacancies on the Academic Policy Committee so that reconsideration of the present grading system would not be further delayed. It was moved that the Young Amendment (which states that the student body be given sufficient notification before those vacancies are filled) be suspended in order to promptly fill the vacancies.

The bias of acting President Bruce Campbell was displayed when it was announced by him that the motion (which needed a two thirds majority) had passed even though the nay votes had not been asked for. When it was asked by this reporter/congressman what the final vote was, Mr. Campbell replied, "Seven". A second vote revealed a total of seven ayes and four nays. After considerable debate, it

was agreed that this did not constitute a two-thirds margin. The Young amendment was upheld in this case and nominations will remain open until the next any student who is interested will not be prevented from sitting on this committee. It is this reporter's opinion that something even more specific than the Young amendment is needed in order to really inform the student body about committee vacancies.

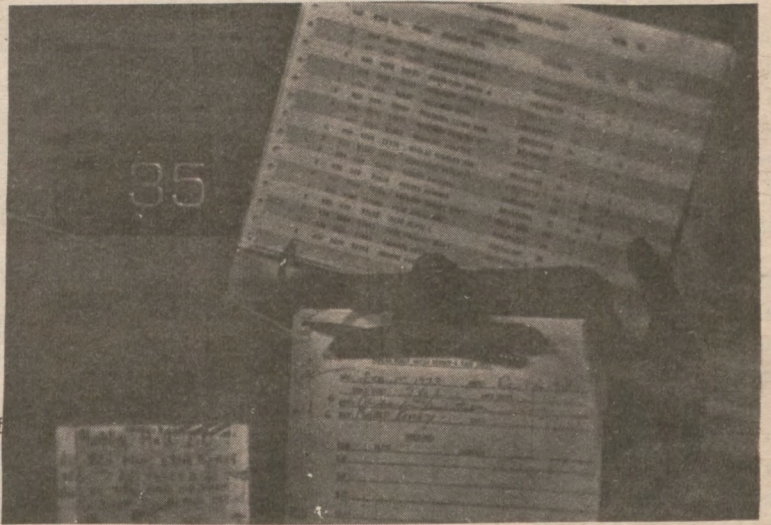
The second (and final) order of business was a discussion of the proposed Governance Council Constitution, which would replace the existing University Congress and Faculty Senate if ratified by both of those bodies.

Henry Carnaby began by outlining his objections to the proposed Constitution. It was effectively explained by Mr. Carnaby that the students would be getting a raw deal since they would comprise only 31% of the new council, their term of office would be only half as long as the non-student members of the council, there would be no student voice on the question of faculty tenure, and the powers granted to students as a governing body would be less than the powers they now possess. Other procedures enumerated

in the new Constitution, such as the method of election, were also questioned. A sheet passed around by Don Carr supplemented the objections raised by Henry Carnaby. Jim Sherry, appointed to represent the positive aspects of the document, felt that 31% was adequate representation for students and the question of tenure should remain in the hands of the various departments.

A proposal by Emsley Wyatt to form a committee of Carr, Sherry and Carnaby to enumerate Congress' objections was argued against by none other than Mr. Sherry himself who felt that a list of specific objections was not needed since the committee which would work on revising the proposed University Council Constitution has yet to be formed.

When the question was called on Emsley's proposal, it was discovered that quorum was no longer present, thus ending the 28 minute meeting. It was decided after the meeting, however, that congresswoman secretary Mary Parmenter would include a list of the objections in the minutes of the meeting which would be sent to the proper administrative officials.





# EDITORIAL: WYATT WINS

From unofficial sources close to the Election Validation Committee, Focus: Oakland has learned that EMSLEY J. WYATT has won the University Congress election for President. Out of a total of 636 votes cast for president, Mr. Wyatt received 47.9%, for a total of 305 votes. Mr. Gordon W. Young, Wyatt's closest contender, received 33% of the vote, a total of 210 votes. Al Leventen, a write-in candidate, trailed with 13% of the vote, a tally of 83. We do not have any totals on the other write-in candidates, who were comparatively minor.

We were forced to report these details in the editorial column as we received them late Monday, as we were going to press. Returns on the congressional candidates are still forthcoming.

The Election Validations Committee will be meeting on Wednesday, February 6, from 11-1 p.m. in the Meadowbrook Room of the Oakland Center. Students with allegations regarding the election are asked to present them in writing. They must also have ten copies of their allegations for their presentation. They will not be accepted otherwise.

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As Focus endorse Mr. Wyatt, we are of course pleased that he has won the election. We only hope that this election will be validated. Validation will serve to give the incoming Congress a credible start, something it sorely needs. Invalidation will wreak havoc with the entire system of student government.

Credibility has been a major problem with the outgoing Congress. It was a rallying cry sounded by many candidates during their campaigns. How successful it was remains to be seen, although it did work for Mr. Wyatt. We are of course convinced of his sincerity, however.

One of my few friends commented that now that Wyatt is in, I can start tearing him down. Many people are of the opinion that this is an extremely negative, vicious newspaper. My only response is, did they ever read Warp? I have, and compared to Warp, Focus is nothing but pablum. We are desperately trying to change this.

There a lot of numbers being pulled on the students around here, many of which go unnoticed, even by us. A lot of our staff members are warmed-over Warpies, who would like us to get more controversial. I share their sentiments.

Our function is not to sit around and pat everyone on the back. That is what R.A.'s are for. Rather, we should be pointing out what is wrong at OU, so that it can be changed. We can achieve more that way.

If all we do is sit around and say "All is well at Oakland University", nothing will ever get done, and the students will continue to get cheated by you-know-who. And if you like being cheated, well then fine. But most of us hate it, and want it stopped.

# LETTERS to the EDITOR

Dear Editor:

I would like to express my feelings about the past election. After observing for the length of the election it is my opinion that Grant Battle, Chairman of the Election Committee, conducted the election efficiently and as smoothly, moreso than any Congress Election in Oakland's history.

I also wish to express my thanks to you, Larry Hadley, the editor of Focus and your staff of workers for all your cooperation in putting together the "Special Election Edition" and your time spent at the polls as an election marshall on both days. Also I would like to issue a special thanks to our men in Blue, the Public Safety Officers

who guarded the ballot boxes and assisted the "Oakland Prep" students in casting their election votes in Detroit.

Last, but by no means least, I thank the poll-workers who gave their time to help in the election. The balloting process was more complicated this year than before, and they saw to it that all went well, without a hitch.

Thank-you very much to all involved.

Stephen E. Cannon

Dear Editor:

In regards to one of your writers--one Steve Cannon and his so called Column "Jokeland,"--it must be regarded as a "Fool's Paradise."

It seems that Mr. Cannon while piling on the humor is short on

his basic facts. In fact, in his article on "A Religious Service," he entirely forgot to mention that a "spirit pioneer" here at O.U. by the name of Donnie D. O. Howdy, is the so-called leader of a worshipping sect called "Ass-O-Grass" with a membership that includes every single administration head at O.U.

But one must forgive Mr. Cannon for his neglect on the grounds that he has even a hard time trying to keep his social engagements straight.

Am I not correct on that aspect, Mr. Cannon?

In fact, perhaps Steve should use along with Donnie a Nom de plum.

Scott M. Gagel  
English Grad Student  
Ex-Focus staff member

# JOKELAND

*a Fool's paradise  
by Stephen E. Cannon*

FROM: Pearl Gray  
Di-wreck-ter of Public  
Shifties  
Somewhere on Campus

TO: Howdy O'Dowdy  
Head Man of Joke-land  
Office of the Big Wheel  
Suite #63 (across from  
Nixon)  
Rochester, MI 48-oh,  
sick-3

Dear O'Dowdy:

Thank you for the flowers, but unfortunately we now have only two cars available for you to use for your planned excursion to Hamtramck for the Annual Irish and Polish Corn-Beef and Cabbage Roast. We will need the other police cars for the more pressing problems that plague the Luniversity; like making emergency trips to the store when the Hamms runs out, turning on the sirens and flashers, and chasing the rabbits and skunks out of the parking lots at nights.

By the way O'Dowdy, can you give the Shifties about ten dollars for bullets, each off-shifters wants one so he can shoot out the lights in the Center, just in case somebody forgets at night. It was after all part of your energy saving plan for Joke-land that will help the U.S. energy crisis. By the way, I got an idea! Why don't we in 1976 post-pone the extra day in February and put it on the

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# OU BOARD GOES Down DRain

A Birmingham firm has been awarded an \$18,500 contract to complete plans and specifications for the first phase of a new road and drain project at Oakland University.

The low bid by Hubbell, Roth & Clark, Inc., was approved at the OU Board of Trustees meeting Saturday, Jan. 19.

Funding for the first phase of the road and drain project has been approved by the Joint Capital Outlay Committee of the Legislature.

The road will run south and east of Dodge Hall of Engineering, Kresge Library, and Varner Hall, then loop back to the north and west to connect with an existing road and parking lot at the north and east corner of Varner Hall.

Recommendations from the Board of Trustees Personnel Subcommittee include a basic policy statement that OU will provide its employees

with rates of compensation and working conditions that are similar with and compatible with equivalent Michigan institutions of higher education, and that employees will be treated equally in terms of their job responsibilities.

The recommendations state that all employment relations policies shall be implemented without regard to race, creed, sex, age, religion, color or national origin, and that all decisions with regard to hiring, discharging, promoting, or otherwise affecting the employment status of employees at OU will be taken without regard to such factors.

The Oakland County Library Board made a \$23,400 grant to OU under direction of Robert Gaylor, Kresge Library, to support the Reference Hot Line, a reference service at OU

for all libraries in the county.

Other grants include \$12,425 from one firm and 10 individuals to support the OU President's Club; \$11,500 from General Motors Corporation to support a "Laser Power Absorption Study" by Gilbert L. Wedekind, OU School of Engineering; and \$11,250 from the National Endowment for the Arts, Washington, D.C., to be used for production support of Meadow Brook Theatre. The grant director is David B. Kanter, managing director of the theatre.

In addition, \$905 was received from 14 members of the OU faculty and administration in support of the Kresge Library gift fund. OU President Donald D. O'Dowd expressed special thanks to these contributors whose gifts go to strengthening the book acquisition program of the library.

WE WERE GOING TO PUT A HEADLINE HERE, BUT WE DIDN'T FEEL LIKE IT.

by Steve Kaplan

It seemed to him that nobody cared. The blank expressions, beady eyes, and slow movements were indicants of non-exhilarating action. But wait, this is a college campus! Somewhere, somehow there must be some commotion. If only he could find the answer.

After some interviewing, the thoughtful student came up with a handful of response. It appeared that his fellow students were wrapped up with their personal affairs; such as fallen grades, monetary matters, and social life. With all these mind shattering thoughts how could a student get involved? Involvement only goes as far as the involver takes it.

Yet it still looked as if a general state of indifference existed. There were many opportunities for involvement. Clubs, meetings, tournaments, you name it, an event for every type of participant. As such the population at campus

events diminished little by little. And what a disillusionment this was. According to all sources in the know, once you reach the institution of higher learning, there contains in it, an atmosphere of life, where you totally put yourself into an activity, knowing that your cohorts

are there for support. Ah, like most dreams, this one was slipping away.

One day as he was slurping on a coke through a straw an enlightenment occurred. If you want to get people excited, stimulate them with their interests.

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## LAND for SALE

by Sandra Burgess

Do you have a spare \$280,00 or so? Oakland University invites you to spend that extra cash on 3.57 acres of commercially-zoned land at the corner of Adams Road and Walton Boulevard.

Part of Matilda R. Wilson's original gift to the University, the land is not contiguous to the rest of Oakland's property; and it is too small to accommodate any foreseeable University building plans.

Robert W. Swanson, Vice-president for Business Affairs, is managing the sale, which is subject to the Board of Trustees' approval. He

noted, "The dollars are more valuable to the University than the property."

Realtor M. E. Snyder is the University's consultant regarding the sale.

Swanson has received no offers since the Board of Trustees announced it would accept them on November 16, 1973.

He attributes the slowness to bid to an unfavorable development market, to uncertainty whether fuel will be available to a newly-constructed facility during the "energy crisis," and to the University's \$280,000 mini-

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## THEFT: who's fiddling around?

by Mike Piston

Occasional thefts of private and university-owned musical instruments and equipment from Varner Hall have been handled in different manners by the victims of the thefts and Oakland Public Safety officers. While Earl Gray can point to noticeable results coming from painstaking investigatory work, Music Department personnel sometimes view a "ransom" system as a viable alternative. Both have pros and cons, but are not mutually exclusive. When Public Safety officers work hand in hand with students or faculty members offering rewards for the return of stolen instruments, the advantages of both systems can often be combined.

The main differences between obtaining the return of instruments by means of honey or fly-paper involved the problems of item-return and deterrence. While Public Safety officers are far from infallible in their investigations, they have scored noticeable successes in the music field. One such example of fine detective work was that which cracked a ring of thieves who had made off with approximately six instruments and pieces of equipment, total value of which was over \$6,000.

Yet Public Safety does not always get their man. Since that equipment kept in Varner Hall is often quite difficult for the burglars to

"fence," its return is sometimes easily and inexpensively facilitated. Such was the case of the student who discovered her viola missing from her locker when she returned from the Christmas holiday break. After notification of Public Safety officials of its disappearance, she and a

music department faculty member set about posting notices of an offered reward for its return. Their efforts were soon rewarded with the return of the instrument for a small percentage of its rth. Unfortunately, the thief was also rewarded with hard cash for a hard to dispose of item. Certainly nothing in this arrangement discourages him to repeat his performance.

However, with cooperation between someone offering a reward or ransom for an instrument (or anything else), and Public Safety officers, and the best of both can be combined. Once when this method was applied, a successful swap was arranged between thief and victim. With the instrument safe in its owner's hands, Public Safety officers moved in to make the arrest. Thus police work can be made easier by the reward system, and the victim can get back his instrument and not worry about it being stolen again.

The high rate of burglary throughout the nation means adequate precautions against theft must be taken in advance. In addition to normal means of securing one's residence, one should keep in mind the need to give police a chance to return your valuables should they be stolen and recovered. Though the fact that only 7 to 8% of all items reported stolen are eventually recovered by police is depressing enough in itself, even more so is the fact that only 1/2 or less of those items recovered can be returned to owners. Many owners have no possible means of positively identifying their stolen property. For instance--do you or anyone else know your stereo's serial number? In absence of any identifying marking, that's what you would need for

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