

# Focus:Oakland

VOL. II NO. 14

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## Barkdull By A Landslide

For about a week, the walls of this hallowed institution peered from behind a barrage of posters some how indicating that there was to be an election. To the uninitiated, this onslaught appeared to be no more than the redundant efforts of a few ardent fools to rekindle the Spirit of Student Governance. If only by the concerned efforts of Providence, an unprecedented proposition of students, thirty-three percent, were drawn to the polls to indicate their choices for the University Student Congress President and Congressmen.

Bob Barkdull emerged victorious with 934 out of 1740, fifty-five percent of the presidential vote. Cathe

Calder followed with 369, Joel Becker with 146, M. T. Thompson with 141, and Brian Seyburn with 93 votes. Three write-in candidates, including a well seasoned Harold Stassen, claimed a total of four votes.

Lawrence Baugh received the largest congressional vote of 1506; Tom Kredon received second place endorsement with 1384 votes and Bob Barkdull claimed third place with 1345 votes. Barkdull will be relinquishing his congressional position since he was elected president. He must appoint another candidate, approved by the Student Congress, to assume this position.

Congressional candidates elected during the Jan. 13

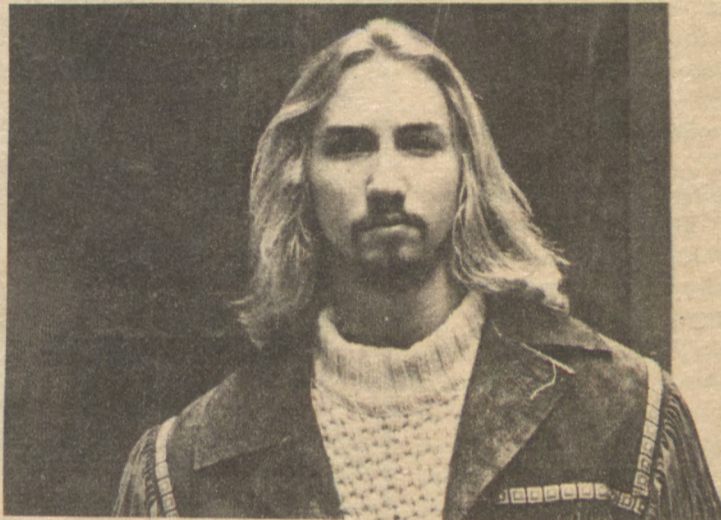


Photo by Steve Brand

15 balloting were:

- 1. Lawrence Baugh 1506 votes
- 2. Tom Kredon 1384 votes

- 3. Bob Barkdull 1345 votes
- 4. Nick Vitale 1145 "
- 5. Liz Zivanov 1094 "

- 6. M. T. Thompson 1084 "
- 7. Gary Appel 1080 "
- 8. Steve Gaynor 1050 "
- 9. Josh Lerner 1006 "
- 10. Bob Pizzi 944 "
- 11. Marlene Ellis 918 "
- 12. Willie Dulaney 880 "
- 13. Tom Ouellette 865 "
- 14. Nancy Flynn 860 "
- 15. Becky Barkham 857 "
- 16. Bill Pfeifer 817 "
- 17. Ed Martinedes 798 "
- 18. Mike McCartan 775 "

The following is the official campaign statement

of platform made by Barkdull prior to his election:

Students have got to have say in decisions which affect their lives at this institution. We're only 6,600 students, yet we have been unable to coordinate our efforts for improving the community we all live in together. Engineering students and political science students, student representatives and administrators, conservative faculty and radically left faculty all suffer from inadequate intra-university communication. We need a student Congress that acts progressively and responsibly enough to retain respect between the diverse segments of the University. Note that I stressed respect, the most important ingredient in the formula for effective communication. The president of this Congress must be pragmatic, flexible and rational in dealing with the individuals entrenched in O. U.'s power structure. Tagging administrators or faculty senators with a blanket outlook of futility will get us nowhere. Nor will overly optimistic naive achieve the ends we aspire to. Realistic perceptions coupled with credibility and creative work on the part of this Con-

gress are imperative.

Originally as steering committee chairman, of the last student congress and now as "an interested student," I sit on the commission to enumerate the powers that this Congress will have in its constitution. Student control over student affairs has been a long time coming. This is an important semester for Oakland. We can misperceive our opportunities or be the creators of university governance that will set precedent for progressive Oakland rather than the university we now see clinging to the status quo. Day care centers, educational reform, apartment style dorms, alternative admission policies, book prices grill prices, equal pay, student union, drug center, and all the things we need to work for are not issues now. The issue here is how we can get them.

As co-publisher of *Focus*, president of S.C.T.C. (the organization responsible for the two symposiums this fall: "The Future of Our Cities," and "Institutionalized Racism"), Congressional representative to the last Congress and chairman of it's

### Magney Reinstated

By Michael Hitchcock

John Magney has been reinstated after being suspended over a happening in one of his Freshman Exploratories. The class is intended to deal with the absurd; Magney, along with members of White Trash, attempted to create a freely absurd event to open the first class. Two Engineering students objected to the use of obscenity and Magney's consecration of a half bottle of wine, and by writing a letter to Dean Gibson, set in motion the chain of events which led to Magney's temporary suspension. At the hearing to determine if he should be reinstated, the most serious questions seemed to be the use of

steering committee my primary interest has been for community awareness and communication.

This statement is not to promise you the achievement of a multitude of goals but merely to avail you of the outlook I have as to the means to be used. Get out and vote. Your vote means something.

obscurity and wine in the classroom, and the fact that Magney had insisted in the class that he was not the teacher.

Several conditions were imposed for his reinstatement: that he meet with the class at the times listed in the schedule and that only those students enrolled in the class be allowed to be there. There was also some question over Magney's grading procedure.

Magney commented that his understanding of the academic tradition was that the instructor had complete control over the content and structuring in his classes. "Of course that can be used by the bad as well as the good," he said. In Freshman Exploratories, there is an added degree of outside control. Joan Rosen, head of the Exploratory program, has been telling students that they couldn't add Magney's course, a decision traditionally made by the instructor.

Prior to the election, a seven member University Congress Election Committee was appointed to supervise all aspects of the campaigning and voting. In order to prevent discrepancies such as those partially responsible for the invalidation of last semester's election from recurring, this board compiled and publicized an explicit list of rules. Rigorous controls placed on balloting ruled out any fraudulent voting.

The committee met again on Monday, January 18 to validate the election. While the Elections Committee provided supervisory elements, the Office of Student Organizations, headed by Ingo Dutzmann, provided the coordination needed to organize election workers and run an orderly election.

By Lynne Twining

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Old News p.8

## COMMUTER SERVICE

"Size has changed Oakland in many ways. A lot of the things size has done seem to be bad. I don't know if that is true or inevitable, but it is obvious that in a number of areas Oakland needs things now that a few years ago, because of smaller size, we could do without." One of these things has, we hope, just been created in the form of the Commuter Services Office. Located in room 18 of the Oakland Center, between the gift shop and the barber shop, this office will have as its primary function the identification and handling of the special needs of the commuting student.

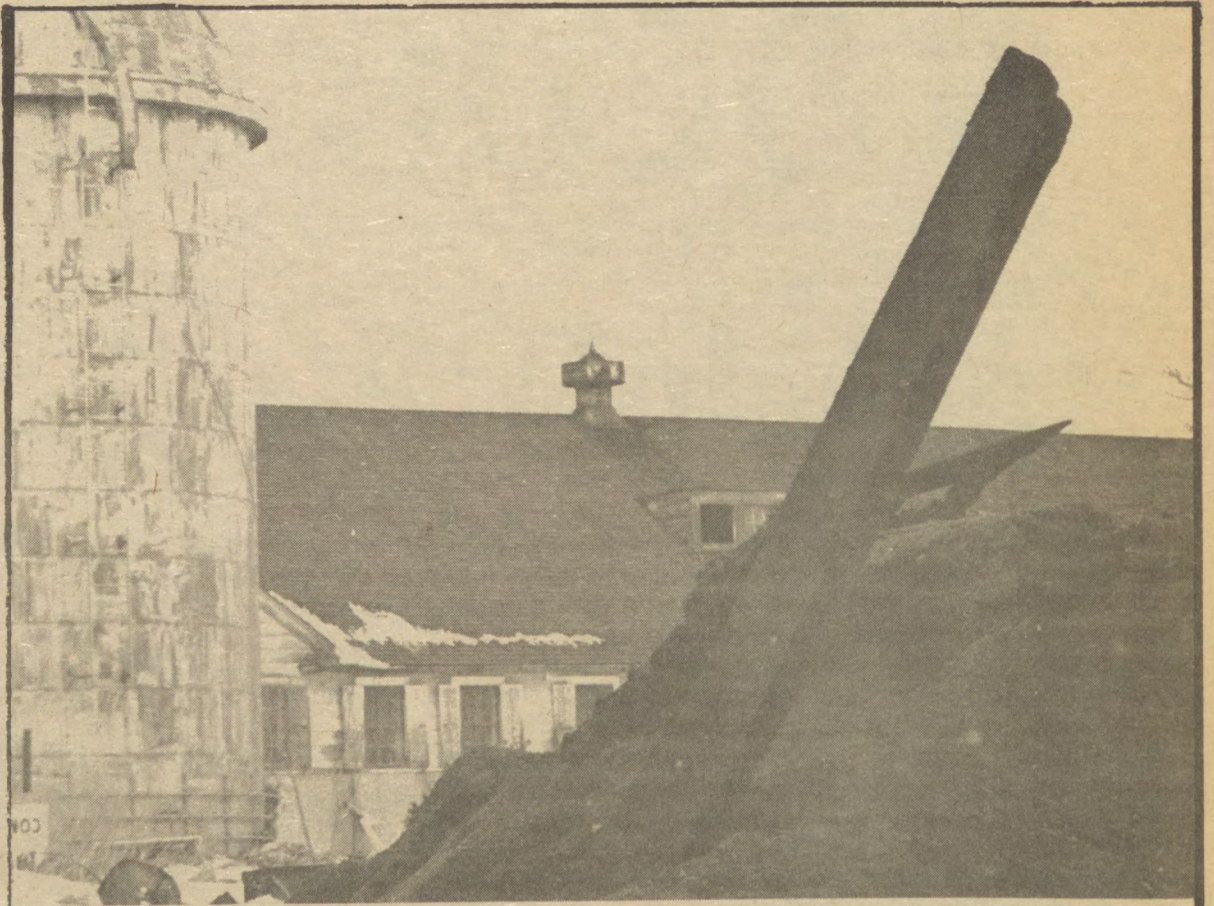
The reaction to these needs will span a broad range, from development of activities especially for commuters at commuter times to better information and responses to the parking problem. The actual list will be as long as commuting students wish to make it.

One of the major problems faced by the office will be communication.

There has never existed at Oakland University a satisfactory method by which commuters could be reached. One of the priorities recently announced by President O'Dowd was communication, and hopefully proposals made in response to this concern will help deal with this, but there can be no substitute for physical, face-to-face communication. "We know the commuters are there and now they need to know that we are here. To this end, we will be sponsoring a Commuter Week, Jan. 25 thru the 29, which will feature activities directly aimed at commuters. Information about this will be available in various places around the campus."

Sharing the office with Commuter Services is the Commuter Council, which seems to be taking on new life with the focus of interest on the problems of commuting students.

There is also a lounge area in the front of the room which all commuters are invited to utilize.



The mysterious appearance of two trucks from Pontiac Motor Division on campus has no apparent conspiratorial purpose and may even prove beneficial to the campus environment. The trucks were seen dump-

ing piles of what appeared to be dirt behind the Grounds Crew barn, near the Barn Theatre. *Focus* has learned that the material in question is foundry dust given to the University for ice control. This material effectively

does the job and is relatively harmless. Other things such as garbage bags which have been dumped in the same area are not part of this program and are completely unauthorized.

## PEOPLE'S NEWS COALITION

By Michael Hitchcock

A growing number of high school and junior high students in the Detroit area are turning to underground newspapers as a vehicle to express their discontent with their schools and their society. Administrative control over regular school papers keeps news of repression and struggle out of the hands of these students unless alternate forms of communication are devised. The successful beginnings

of several papers and the desire of other students to get something started at their own schools has resulted in the formation of a People's News Coalition.

Representatives from North Farmington, Madison Heights, Sacred Heart, Fordson, Emerson Junior High, the Free School, West Bloomfield, Henry Ford Community College, and two Ann Arbor high schools have already had several meetings and workshops to see if some of the problems of starting a paper could be solved easier by combining resources and knowledge and working together. People from the White Panthers and the Fifth Estate have been sharing their skills and equipment with the newer papers.

Ideas that have come up so far include bulk buying of paper and other supplies, organizing efforts at getting advertisements, and a press service to exchange news. A national high school press service has been started in New York, where a number of high school papers are already functioning. A benefit is being planned for the end of this month to raise money for the coalition.

Students in Ann Arbor have been publishing a city

wide paper for over a year now, the people involved began the paper when they were still in junior high. Students at Fordson High have gotten out several issues of the *Spark*, and many other papers have either gotten the first issue out or plan to do so shortly. Most of the papers concentrate on administrative and police efforts to keep students under control and student efforts to fight back. Issues such as dress codes, curriculum, the tracking system, racism, and the war are all covered. One issue of the *Spark* contained a strong attack on male attitudes toward women, as expressed by high school males.

There have been two types of administrative response to the new papers; one of these has been the traditional attempt to keep any kind of foreign matter out of the hands of the students by confiscating copies or threatening students who distribute the papers. This method has also been used at military bases to fight dissident GI papers, but in the case of GIs, this action is clearly illegal. No one seems to be really sure of the legal rights of high school students to distribute their own papers. Some

schools have adopted a "free press" policy which is only partially free. Material must be written by students and cannot be obscene. Operating within this policy, the students at Ann Arbor have managed to get 2500 copies of each issue into the hands of the students without too much hassle. The question of obscenity, a traditional aid in the repression of underground papers, still continues to find its uses. Two students at Roseville High School were suspended for printing a hidden "fuck you" in their regular school paper.

Some of these regular school papers have attempted to deal with more serious issues. At Cooley High School, the paper recently dealt with the Memorial Park incident, and the Weather Men. Most school papers, though, continue to be concerned with football and DAR awards. But the trend is growing for high school students to follow the lead of their older brothers and sisters and take their media and the power over their lives into their own hands.

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Criticize  
Joe's story

# ABS Disbands: BLACKS REORGANIZE

"Please note: ABS as a formal black student organization has been abolished! The new black *political* organization on this wretched campus is: Black Liberation Caucus."

That abrupt notice signals the passing of the Association of Black Students and the birth of a new concept in black organizing on Oakland's campus.

The Black Liberation Caucus (BLC) will work under the ideological umbrella of Revolutionary Nationalism and Pan-

Africanism. Briefly, these philosophies say that black people must control their immediate situations. This includes education, police, health services and local businesses. Long range national objectives center on the fight against racism and capitalism. Local and national programs of liberation aid the reunification of African people. People of African descent throughout the world will realize similar political and cultural identities. Physical relocation is not called for.

Subscribing to a political ideology is a major difference between BLC and the Association. With ideology comes direction. And with direction, a more efficient and effective organization should emerge.

Efficiency is a likely outcome of the structure of BLC. Unlike ABS with its usual line of officers, the Black Liberation Caucus is controlled by five ministries. Final decision-making power rests with the Central Committee which is made up of the chairmen of each min-

istry.

The black student body elects the cadres, that is the membership of the ministries. Each cadre is composed of five people who elect a chairman. Thus, the responsibility lies with 25 people who can carry out programs with much greater ease than a few officers. In ABS those few officers had to depend on their entire constituency for the completion of projects. The pressure on those few was unreasonable and counter-productive.

Collective decision making is another advantage of the Central Committee system. It moves away from individualistic concepts which pervade Western thinking. It allows for greater distribution of power and wider participation in the decision making process.

The five ministries are those of defense (political education) information, culture, education and finance.

The Ministry of Defense is responsible for political action and ideology, political education seminars, political rallies, the heightening of political consciousness and the coordination of campus and community political activities.

Responsible for communications within Oakland's campus and between the BLC and outside groups is the Ministry of Information. They will deal with the mass media and develop

means of information gathering and distribution.

It will be the duty of the Ministry of Culture to provide the membership with entertainment that raises the awareness of the black student. This may be done with plays, poetry readings and "communal activities" such as picnics and rap sessions.

Tutoring, drug programs, local speakers series and other activities will be taken up by the Ministry of Education. Academic seminars for black students will also be included.

Monetary matters will be under the Ministry of Finance. Fund raising and the keeping of records will be their major responsibilities.

The activities of the various committees will provide all black students with a means of participation in the organization. Despite the ideological framework of BLC, people will be urged to participate regardless of their political persuasion.

Through the common levels of consciousness and because of the experiences of all blacks in this country, small differences in thought

cont. p.8



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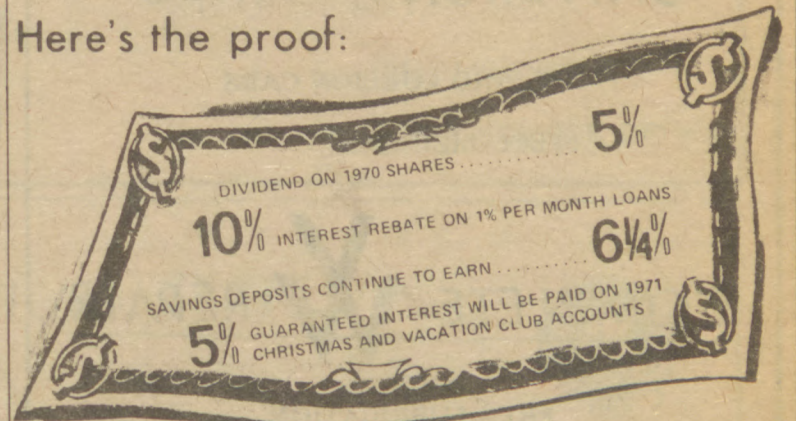
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