

EDITOR'S NOTES

In this issue, we offer more of the entertaining and informative articles you like, but we also take an important step toward more engagement with other issues faculty really care about. How can we be in the middle of a push in student enrollment growth without publicly talking about it? Brian Connery leads this issue by tracing our progress from the early committee recommendations on how OU should handle enrollment growth to an analysis of how it actually went. David Garfinkle addresses, quite directly, the gap often separating faculty and administration on the essential issue of academic values. Susan Wood explores the frustrations, if not the seeming hopelessness, yet occasional ray of light in academic committees and task forces, with emphasis on those intended to guide us.

From the arts, we have a review by Brian Murphy of several books on the post-Beatles life of John Lennon. Humorous pieces by Bill Byrne and by Cathy McQueen restore levity to the issue. Brian Murphy reviews the poetry of Thomas Fitzsimons and Amy Clampitt. And original poems are offered by Gerald Rice, one of our senior students.

A truly extraordinary contribution from the arts is provided by Charles McKenna. It was originally published in a 1969 issue of *The Oakland Review*, ancestor journal to ours, when McKenna was an Oakland student. The piece is an analysis of the work of the absurdist playwright, Samuel Beckett. It will be striking to readers of our present *Journal* to see the sort of student contribution that existed back then. Perhaps it is even more striking to learn that McKenna, a student in French, wrote the piece in French; it is translated here by Dolores Burdick, Professor Emerita in Modern Languages.

The Dismal Scientist column reports on a dozen research articles I read on faculty productivity over the life cycle. The rumors that the typical faculty research productivity peaks somewhere in the 30s to early 40s age groups are true. The surprise, however, is that the rule is easily broken.

That's it. As usual we welcome your responses as well as original items of your choice.