

The Oakland Sail

Oakland University/Rochester, Michigan/Vol IV, No. 34/March 26, 1979

Greek letter organizations want to go national

By Terri Hale
Sail Staff Writer

Two Student organizations, Sigma Iota and Delta Alpha Sigma, recently filed a petition requesting President O'Dowd and the Board of Trustees to allow them National affiliation.

When Michigan State University-Oakland was founded in 1957, Chancellor Woody Varner and others from MSU wanted to develop an educational institution which focused strongly on academics. No fraternities, sororities, or intercollegiate sports were planned.

B.J. Griffin, secretary to President Donald O'Dowd, recalls it was the students who decided against such organizations, although she adds, "there may have been a bit of nudging."

A MEMORANDUM dated February 5 was sent by O'Dowd to five university assemblies requesting advice on the issue. He noted that students attitudes about fraternal organizations have changed, and that the practice of not allowing them on campus was just a practice, not a policy. The question asked of the various university assemblies was whether or not nationally affiliated fraternal organizations

O'Dowd requests input for decision

belonged in an academic setting.

The five assemblies: the University Congress, the AP Assembly, the University Senate, the Administrative Council, and the Alumni Board were asked to reach a decision before April 1.

Congress approved a resolution asking that O'Dowd and the Board of Trustees allow national affiliation for fraternities and sororities. A provision for reviewing the charters of national organizations to insure compliance with anti-discrimination policies was included.

THE UNIVERSITY Senate would not consider a concurring motion, with some senators saying such a decision was not part of their function. Congressman Kevin Appleton feels, however, that the "Senate is ignoring the issue."

The matter was discussed at the March meeting of the Alumni Board. Elaine Petz, director for alumni relations said, "They (the board) were not real enthusiastic about the idea of fraternal organizations at all." She suggests that it could be because many of the members came from an era when not having fraternities was seen more as an "asset" than a "liability."

However, the Alumni Board decided that local social organizations should be allowed to join national organizations as long as provisions against discrimination and hazing (dangerous initiation rites) were made.

Information about initiation, hazing policy procedures, and ethics codes has been requested from three other Michigan universities by Kathy Abraham, coordinator for student organizations.

"WE GO BY a people first guideline," said Beth Lippert, president of Sigma Iota. "We accept people who want to work to attain our goals." Lippert said the only discriminatory practice was not allowing men and was not racial.

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Committee works to preserve OU land

By Kevin Kassel
Sail Staff Writer

Spring has returned and nearly 1500 acres of Oakland land is available for the use of area residents.

The University Senate's Campus Development and Environmental Concerns Committee (CDECC), made up of faculty, students, and administrative personnel, has been working to preserve more natural land for the future of OU.

Richard Stamps, assistant professor, sociology and anthropology, is the faculty chair of the committee. "We're looking at plausible ways to utilize the southwest corner of the campus," he said. "We're concerned about the wetlands. We have a special little ecological niche in the university. We want to maintain some proper ecological balance," he continued.

"We, as the committee, serve as an advising board," said Stamps. "We feel that as a community and as a university we have a responsibility to say 'hey' lets slow down a little bit. We want to be sure that some of that land is saved," she said.

THE AREA the committee wants reserved consisted of 425 acres bordered on the north by Lonedale road, and on the east by the Katke-Cousins golf course. The land is "used alot by students," according to

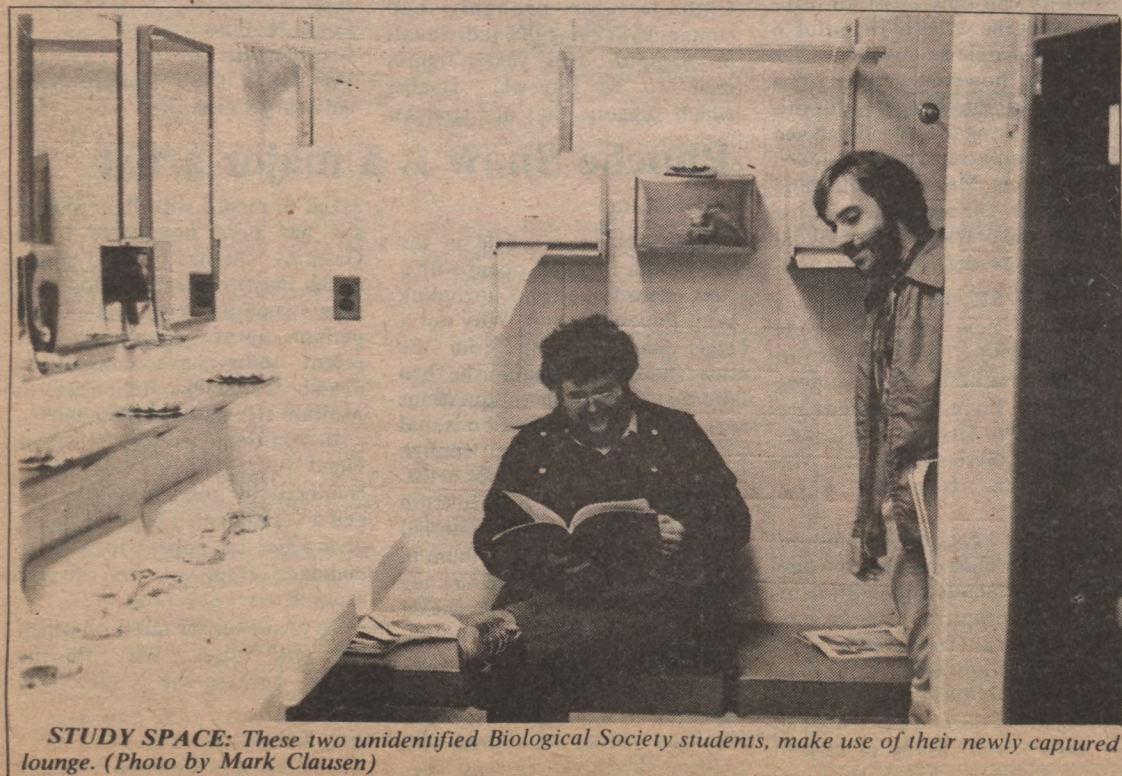
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FOLK DANCES: Members of the Slavic Folk Ensemble performed dances from around the world in their "home show" held this weekend. (Photo by Carla Mitchell)

Protest swirls around shortage of office space

Biology students seize Dodge Hall bathroom



STUDY SPACE: These two unidentified Biological Society students, make use of their newly captured lounge. (Photo by Mark Clausen)

By Betsy Schreiber
Sail Staff Writer

The MEN sign is covered by a piece of paper saying, "Biology Graduate Office and Study Area."

• Inside the bathroom, a couch stands next to the sinks. On top of each urinal, an ashtray sits on a bright blue napkin. On each stall a card is taped on the door: Reading Room, Visitor's Lounge, Smoking, Non-smoking.

Scientific journals are spread on the floor. A sign-up sheet for usage of lounge furnishings is taped to a door.

FIVE members of the Biology Society, including graduate students in the Biology Department, transformed the lavatory in Dodge Hall into a study lounge.

"It was a small protest on our need for space," said Eric Goldenberg, Biology Society member. "We've been trying since September to get office space."

Friday morning, the members began giving tours to secretaries. A

suggestion was made to have a ribbon cutting ceremony, and to invite President O'Dowd. The students talked about getting a filing cabinet, a coffee pot and a desk.

The Biology Society, which consists of 45 members, and eight graduate students say they need a place to meet, relax and study. They have been meeting in the library, empty classrooms, dorm rooms, and labs.

"ONE REASON for choosing a men's room was to show how students are treated as far as space allocation goes," said Goldenberg. He said that if their latest effort didn't produce results, they would probably keep on trying.

"It was set up as a prank," said one student, who would not tell his name, "it was nothing malicious. The first floor of Dodge is all graduate offices for engineering and we have nothing. It's a slap against the system."

Another student, who also

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Sail Editorial National fraternities OK but not beneficial

Little did Woody Varner know in 1957 that the decision to ban fraternities and sororities would cause a furor 22 years later.

Recent requests by two fraternal-type social organizations to seek national affiliation have evoked various opinions from the campus community. University Congress approved a resolution to allow affiliation, while opinions from members of the faculty and administrative staffs range from definite no's to indifference.

We do not argue with the contention that students should have the "right" (i.e.: opportunity) to join nationally affiliated fraternal organizations. We do wonder, however, what concrete benefits they will add to the university given the nature of fraternal organizations, and the characteristics of OU's student population.

The nature of fraternal organizations, that of a closed, selected membership, does not seem to benefit a majority of students.

MANY fraternal organizations have a history of irresponsible actions concerning discriminatory membership policies and initiation rites. Two social organizations of a fraternal nature at OU that are not seeking national affiliation, Intrepid Souls and G.D.I., have already demonstrated, at least to on-campus residents, that initiation rites can, and do, interfere with academics. They interfere not only for those "rushing" but for other students that live on the same floors or in the same buildings.

It would be interesting to know how many "rushees" face possible academic probation or dismissal because of their involvement with the group. At least two of them face that now, with less than a month to pull up grades that have fallen during their initiation period.

Further, the burden of paying national dues is another consideration: of what benefit to OU is money spent on a parent organization? Will SAB money support the activities of on-campus social organizations that can afford national affiliation?

THE CHARACTERISTICS of OU's student population does not predict any measurable degree of success for the organizations, or for the benefits to the majority of the students, who are commuters, usually work part-or full time, and are generally older than the traditional college age. It is difficult to see how any group organized on a fraternity/sorority line would attract such students.

One spokesperson maintained that national affiliation would add stability to the university, that instead of having organizations float in and out with individual groups of students, a stable structure would be maintained.

Perhaps. But the small number of on-campus students who would probably form the core of the organizations, cannot afford to be divided again. OU is, in many ways, already a divided campus: between resident and commuter, between full-time and part-time students, between student governments. We do not need yet another division: between fraternity and non-fraternity.

In its resolution, Congress made a provision for review of initial charters, and annual reviews of the organizations adherence to those charters. This was done to insure that the organizations would abide by the non-discriminatory policy set by the university. We approve of this measure, as well as the efforts to find out how other campuses deal with initiation rites and ethical codes.

BUT AFTER ALL is said and done, except for the few individuals involved, national affiliation will make little difference to the majority of OU students.

Again, we believe that those who want to should be allowed to join. National affiliation, however, should not be granted on the rationale that it will greatly benefit non-members, or the campus community, because in reality, it will not.

THE MARSHALL ARTS



Letters

Professor frustrated with OU's institutional priorities

Dear Editor:

I am writing this letter to express a deep frustration with the institutional priorities adopted at OU. For eight years many of us have complained, argued, cajoled and begged for student lounges in academic buildings. We find money for almost everything at OU but this. Yet, our student body is basically a commuting population; most of our students are employed; and a vast majority have no interest or time to go over to the Oakland Center.

What this means in human terms is very demoralizing. Students who work all day attend classes in Varner from 6:30-10 and can't even have a cup of coffee. People who get up at 6 a.m. and drive an hour over snow and ice have no place to relax before an 8 a.m. class. The best place to study

in South Foundation is the telephone booth. For chairs, students use the floor.

THE LACK of lounges has been attributed to lack of funds, fire laws, student stealing, food contracts, a greater need for office and classroom space and other reasons. Each point has some validity but each *could be* resolved, if there was a commitment to making student lives more satisfactory at OU.

It strikes me as senseless to serve on committees dealing with "retention" or the quality of student life year after year when so basic a convenience as a comfortable chair in an academic building is denied to students. It has been the most discouraging feature of my association at OU that fine people like Rosalind Andreas have tried yearly to make

changes and nothing happens. Another disappointment is the lack of effective action on the part of elected student leaders. Who at OU will speak for the hard working commuting part-time student if not their elected leaders?

THE NEW carpet in Oakland Center and the new offices there are pleasant but the students still sit on the floor in Varner, in the phone booth in South Foundation and on the steps of Hannah Hall. Our lack of sensitivity to the basic everyday well-being of so many students explains why so many students have found Oakland University to be an alienating and unattractive educational environment.

Jacqueline Scherer
Associate Professor of Sociology
Dept. of Sociology/Anthropology

Lecture series does have student representation

Dear Editor:

First of all, let me say I appreciate the attention the *Sail* is giving to the President's Club Lecture Series. This sort of publicity can only assist all of us who want the series to be useful to as many people as possible.

I must, however, correct some misconceptions. The series for this year was designed and organized by a committee which included two students, Marilyn Clinton and Al Watson. The committees for the series in the previous years have all had active student representation.

HOWEVER, the group which is organizing next year's series is without student representation because requests for student members have produced no response. We stand ready to add student representatives to the committee, but we need volunteers.

After five years of working on this series, I must say that the key seems to be faculty cooperation in bringing appropriate class groups into interaction with the President's Club lecturer. As you know, the public lectures are only a minor part of the two day schedule for each visitor. Many of us are

convinced the major impact of the series comes as a result of informal discussions in classes, receptions, and at mealtime gatherings.

Last year the typical President's Club lecturer probably had contact with 800-1,000 individuals on campus. This year's figures seem to be somewhat smaller which suggests that our students

are more interested in the countryside than in the city.

NEXT YEAR, we concentrate on the extraterrestrial environment. We'll see what happens.

Lewis N. Pino
Chairperson
President's Club Lecture Series
Advisory Committee

Phoebe Snow is a major artist

Dear Editor:

Elise D'Haene's article in the *Sail*, March 19, 1979, opens with a series of lead questions, including "Why Phoebe Snow?, Why not a bigger named group from the music industry?" Because she then fails to address these questions specifically, the implication is that Phoebe Snow is not well enough known or less than a major artist.

Nothing could be further from the truth. Since gaining national attention with her debut album in 1974, which contained the hit song "Poetry Man", she has produced five well received albums, including the most recent release, "Against the Grain". She has appeared on major network television shows, she toured with Jackson Browne, she has been

asked to record with Paul Simon, she has been nominated for a Grammy, she has finished higher in the Playboy Reader's Poll than others such as Bette Midler, and perhaps most importantly, her recent tours have consistently drawn capacity audiences to medium size halls of 2500-3000.

In addition, her style is a nice blend of jazz, pop, and blues, enhanced by good song selection and a very talented back-up band, giving her an appeal to a large audience from a very diverse campus.

So to answer the question which the *Sail* raises, Why Phoebe Snow—because she is very, very good!

Jan Kubik
Coordinator of Campus Programs

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The *Oakland Sail* is a nonprofit publication serving the Oakland University community. It is produced by students every Monday & Thursday during the Fall and Winter semesters. The *Sail* is not an official publication of Oakland University.

'Tilt' plays its way from bars to records

Local rock band tries to make it big

By Nick Charles
Sail Staff Reviewer

Bands in the Detroit area try for years to be something more than a bar band. For the Trenton based band called Tilt, this dream is slowly becoming a reality.

Tilt played together for two years before their manager, Ron Geddish, picked them up in March 1977. Geddish, owner of Star Artist Management, saw their performance at the Second Chance Bar in Ann Arbor. Geddish said "their vocals and original material" set them apart from other groups.

All of them sing and write. Their ages span from 22-year-old lead guitarist Mike Harner to 26-

year-old rhythm guitarist/bassist Frank Ewing. Drummer John Ponder and keyboardist/bassist Doug Kahan are both 23.

About a year and a half after Geddish started managing them, Russ Regan, president of Parachute/Casablanca records was called to see Tilt at the Brownstown Station in Trenton. Regan, who discovered Elton John, Neil Diamond, and Al Green, liked Tilt and signed them on immediately. At the same time, other record companies were looking at Tilt, such as M.C.A., Capitol, United Artists, and Atlantic.

TILT'S DEBUT album, "Music" was released on October

15, 1978. Geddish said "now we're just waiting for the single to happen, which usually takes about four weeks, and a tour should follow."

Their album is a combination of hard rock songs such as "Get It Again", "Do You Rock and Roll" and "Make It A Good Time", and slower songs like "Love Don't Go" and their single, "Just What I've Been Looking For" and "Indigo".

KAHAN IS the main writer in the band. He wrote five of the nine tunes on the album alone, one with the rest of the band and another with a friend.

Tilt said they didn't have any message for the world other than that they play "good time music." Their album has no concept, just nine good tunes. Kahan said

jokingly, "we thought about writing on the cosmic misuse of our galaxy." He added more seriously, "we'd like to please people of all ages; our goal is not to be pegged as a rock and roll band."

TILT WILL be playing bargain concerts all over the U.S. to get exposure, like the one at Royal Oak Theatre on January 25.

All of the members have always wanted to play music but only Kahan and Ponder studied in college. "Both John and I went to college for a year; I went to Henry Ford to study music and John went to Eastern on a drum scholarship," said Kahan.

He explained they couldn't go to college and have the band at the same time. "All you can do if you

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Phoebe Snow will sing rhythmic blues

By Daryl Fortier
Sail Staff Writer

Rhythm and blues will fill the Sports and Rec Building on March 30 when singer Phoebe Snow comes to OU.

Snow's current album, "Against the Grain," was given a perfect five star rating by *Billboard* magazine. *Billboard* described the album as being "her funky best, wailing her way through a book of bluesy rock tunes (half of which she composed herself) with maximum effectiveness."

"We decided Phoebe Snow was just the singer to fill our needs," said Jan Kubik, coordinator of campus programs. "We select an artist by who we can afford and whether they are going to be touring in the area. It just so happens that Phoebe Snow was available."

APPEARING with Snow will be Corky Siegel, formerly of the Siegel-Schwall Blues Band.

Siegel has also performed with the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra and Arthur Fiedler and the Boston Pops.

Tickets are \$7 for general admission, \$6 for OU students, and can be purchased at CIPO.

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- A prize will be awarded for the first correct solution in each category received through campus mail. All solutions must be self-explanatory and well-written.
- In case of ties, the mathematical style of a solution will be used to determine the winner. If several solutions are deemed to be of equal merit, the final selection will be on the basis of a random draw.
- Send answers to Undergraduate Math Contest, Department of Mathematical Sciences.

A. Find the sum of the coefficients of the polynomial obtained after expanding and collecting the terms of the product:
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