

# The Oakland Observer

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY OAKLAND

Volume II — No. 15

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Rochester, Michigan

## Two 'Firsts' Mark 1961 Curriculum

MSUO will add two more "firsts" to its curriculum this fall. They are the Mathematics and Science series and the Asian Studies program.

Establishment of the Asian Studies program will make this university the only school known to require full year sequences in both Western and Eastern civilizations. Likewise, the two-semester sequence, "Mathematics", and "Science and Society", will seek to achieve a goal different from the mathematics or the laboratory science courses required in some few institutions.

"Science and Society," the first course in the series will be offered in the fall, and "Mathematics" will be offered in the winter.

Secondary education majors not in science or math are advised to take the series in the junior year to avoid conflict with student teaching. Elementary education students will take other math courses. Liberal arts students may take the courses in either the junior or the senior year.

### New Kind of Course

The science course will be taught by Herman W. Lewis, a biologist coming to MSUO from MIT. Because Lewis has not yet arrived, details of course contents are not available. But the 1961-62 University catalogue says:

"This course, in recognition of the fact that science is much more than a method or a growing body of factual information, introduces the student through analysis of several scientific topics to the intellectual approaches and the philosophic implications of science and of its central role in present-day civilization."

(Continued On Page 7)

## Nine States, 3 Countries In New Class

Nine states, three foreign countries and 11 counties in Michigan will be represented in MSUO's third freshman class, according to the admissions office.

Included in the roster of new students is the son of the Indonesian ambassador to Portugal. Students from Honduras and Germany will also be enrolled.

States represented are Connecticut with one student enrolled, Indiana with two, Maryland with three, New Jersey with five, New York with two, Texas with one, Virginia with three, Washington with three, and Wisconsin with one.

Four other countries — Turkey, Viet Nam, Canada, (Continued On Page 4)



CHANCELLOR VARNER points out location of new Student Houses to new students Harold Raupp and Freya Figas, both of Southfield High. Freya is one of ten winners of \$500 Foundation scholarships. Mr.

Varnar is also telling Mrs. Alfred G. Wilson and Harold A. Fitzgerald they will have to break ground that is slightly damp. Rain cut short the May 18 ceremonies. The first of the houses will be named Fitzgerald Hall.

## Dorm Work Speeded; Women's Hours Studied

See Photos On Page 5

Speculation has been running high on two questions connected with the four new Student Houses. One is the completion date as the contractor strains to do the job in two weeks less than the contract specifies. The other is the curfew hours for the women's house.

The houses will have a fairly new wrinkle: a telephone in each room if desired.

Legislative approval of the \$1,100,000 loan from the Federal Housing and Home Finance Agency for this project and expansion of the Student Center did not come until mid-May, which runs the 120-day contract construction schedule into mid-September. Although one of the contractor's officials told the Observer last week that the four units could not be done before Oct. 15, the contractor himself has promised Chancellor D. B. Varnar and George Karas, director of Physical Plant, that one men's and one women's house will be ready by Sept.

1, and the other two by mid-October.

### Inspector Says Sept. 1

The main problem has been to get faster delivery of materials, principally steel door frames, a transformer and an incinerator. These have now been resolved, and Engineer Henry L. Dunkelberg, who is inspector of all four campus construction projects (library and science engineering build- (Continued On Page 7)

## 110 Students Make Spring Dean's List

Five students achieved straight-A (4.0) averages for the Spring Quarter, and 105 others earned a grade-point average of 3.0 or better. This number represents 14 per cent of the student body.

The Spring honors list is longer than it was in the Winter Quarter, when 106 students had at least a 3.0 average. There were 117 honor students in the Fall Quarter. (Continued On Page 4)

## Profs Sold Into Slavery And Worse At Picnic

By Paul Turk

See Photos On Page 8

Shouts of "Preparen armas! Apunten!" followed Samuel Shapiro, a "counterrevolutionary," to his "death" at the hands of a firing squad at the University picnic June 2.

Shapiro had just been purchased at the Teacher Education Association's Professor

Auction by the "Foul Play for Sam Committee," organized by Gabriel Martinez. They wanted him for his many newspaper and magazine articles about Castro and Cuba after his stay there last summer and his winter visit when the Fair Play for Cuba Committee went there.

Also on the auction block (Continued On Page 2)

## 14 Added To MSUO Faculty

Fourteen new appointments give MSUO's faculty this year an even higher percentage of earned doctorates (90%), than last year, and higher than any other college or university in the country. Among these are an atomic physicist and a psycholinguist. Several are outstanding men in their fields.

Dr. Ralph C. Mobley, the physicist, was associate professor of physics at Louisiana State University and director of the Neutron Scattering Research Project sponsored by the Atomic Energy Commission. A graduate of Lawrence Institute of Technology and the University of Wisconsin, he will be professor of physics.

Dr. Donald C. Hildum, appointed assistant professor of psychology, is the psycholinguist. Hildum earned his doctorate in linguistics and social psychology at Harvard, where he became a teaching fellow in social psychology. He will come to MSUO from Case Institute of Technology, Cleveland.

MSUO's new Asian Studies program will be directed by Dr. Charles O. Hucker, currently professor of Oriental Studies at the University of Arizona. Hucker, appointed professor of history at MSUO, formerly taught at the University of Chicago. He is departmental editor for Oriental literatures for the Encyclopedia Britannica.

Dr. Kenneth D. Roose, a professor of economics at Oberlin, will be associate dean for the social sciences. The author of a book on the recession and revival of 1937-38, Roose was a senior staff economist on President Eisenhower's Council of Economic Advisers.

Dr. Maurice F. Brown, Jr., will teach English. He has been (Continued On page 6)

## This Issue First of Two For Freshmen

This issue of the Oakland Observer, MSUO's student newspaper, is the first of two written especially for this fall's new freshman class.

It will also go to last year's freshmen and sophomores, however, principally because so many complaints were received last summer when they were left out.

Unlike last summer, however, this issue is written and published by the student staff.

The next issue will be out the middle of August.



# OBSERVATIONS

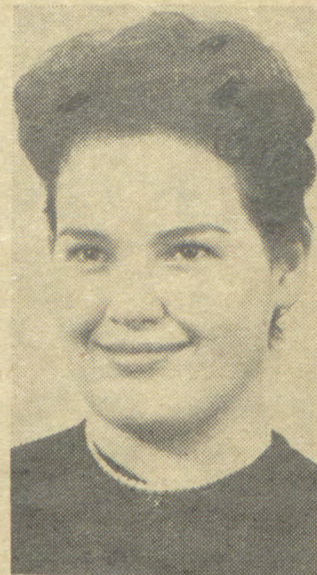
By Sue Bierstein

Herbert Stoutenburg, our registrar and director of admissions, is in Nigeria helping to set up registration procedures at the University of Nigeria, opened by MSU-EL last fall. Mr. Stoutenburg left two weeks ago, flying via Scotland and London. He'll return Aug. 15. . . . Elevator key duplicators may relax their efforts this fall: the elevator in the new library will open by pushing a button. No more faculty-staff-student segregation. Use of the elevator by students isn't encouraged by librarian David Wilder, however. He says we're young enough to walk. Adults have somehow developed gross misconceptions about youthful energy. It's not as abundant as they think. At what age is one considered old enough to ride an elevator, we wonder? . . . While we're on the subject of elevators, a conversation with George Karas, director of the physical plant, should be mentioned. Is the elevator in South Foundation Hall (SFH) a lemon, he was asked. He says not. (FYI, it is out of order three or four times a month, and some faculty and staff members have been stuck between floors as many as three times since it was installed last fall.) The trouble, Karas says, is that blocks of wood and similar objects have been wedged between the automatic doors to keep them open for longer periods than the doors have in mind. Consequently, the coil (whatever that is) that operates the doors burns out, making the whole thing inoperable. But why does it stop between floors? . . . "Econ", "calc", and "poli sci" are



SUE BIERSTEIN

familiar abbreviations for courses. Everyone knows that these stand for economics, calculus, and political science, respectively. But how can we abbreviate such courses as Business Cycles and Economic Forecasting, Theories of Meaning and Truth, or Motivation and Personality. . . . Dr. Shapiro is growing a reddish beard while he waits for his visa to visit Cuba. It should come any time now, he says. He's one of only eight or nine Americans having State Department permission to visit the island. . . . Peter Irwin, an incoming freshman, is New Jersey state chess champ. Good competition for Dr. Shishkoff. . . . One of Mrs. White's freshman English classes gave a party for her at the end of the year, and Mr. Tafoya was presented a bottle of cognac by one of his French classes. Two examples of the friendly relationship between students and faculty. . . . Interesting fact: the "black" boards are painted plate glass. . . . This year we were comfortable saying "Fall Quarter" or "Spring Term." But what do you call a trimester section? A TRI-mester can't very well contain SEMesters. Fall "mester" doesn't sound right, either. But now some kill-joy says a trimester is really a semester, since it is a full 15 weeks and hence the MSUO idea should really be called the Tri-Semester Plan. . . . Faculty and staff members still around during the summer months have reacted with grumbles and wisecracks to the food machines installed in the cafeteria to replace the regular good-servicing facilities for the summer. The machine serviceman wisely ducks out just before noon, hoping to escape the complaints of stale food (it's replenished daily) and unreturned coins. Charlie Brown could be seen banging and thumping on those with stubborn coin-returns. (Charlie just left for vacation.) A campus wag refers to the whole installation as Machini's, our Italian restaurant.



LAUREE WEBB



PAUL TURK

## Faculty Loses Ballgame, Too

(Continued from Page 1) with Shapiro were David Wilder, librarian; George Matthews, associate dean for humanities; and Audrey North, assistant librarian. Martinez' committee bought the group for 18 "gringo" dollars, topping a bid of two tractors.

Before the execution, Shapiro was ordered to dig his own grave. This done (at gunpoint), Shapiro was marched to the wall (of South Foundation Hall) where he was blindfolded.

Shapiro tried to place Mrs. Shapiro against the wall, shouting, "Take my wife, not my life!" His plea went unheeded. The squad fired. Shapiro clutched his chest, tottered, wheeled and then slumped to the ground. The firing squad may have been using blanks, but they got a well charged (someone said hammed) performance from the victim and from his violently grieving "widow."

A crowd gathered. Someone offered the not-so-dead Shapiro a cigarette — his first one ever.

"Gee, I didn't think they'd use real bullets," Shapiro exclaimed as he lay puffing on his cigarette.

Wilder, Matthews and Miss North, the other members of the group purchased by the "Foul Play for Sam Committee," were made to cater a picnic for the "revolutionaries."

Professors Laszlo Hetenyi (education), Sheldon Appleton (political science), James Gherity (economics), Mrs. Helen Kovach (Russian), and Mrs. June Collins (sociology), were required to sing their alma maters in the cafeteria at noon. Gherity and Hetenyi were

wearing Bermuda shorts, also part of the bargain. Appleton appeared in short shorts, barely visible under his suit jacket. A bow tie added to the incongruity of his outfit.

Other noon entertainment was provided by Mr. Collins, Gloria Shapiro (English), William Rhode (political science), John Galloway (art) and William Hammerle (physics).

Rhode, master of ceremonies, introduced Hammerle, who presented a poem he had written about a flea and his octopus flying student. Collins displayed his "abstract" painting using the letters "MSUO." Mrs. Shapiro gave a talk on "the political hierarchy of MSUO." and Galloway sang an MSUO "alma mater" song he had written. Their vaudeville performances brought big ovations.

Another "punishment" resulted in a thorough housecleaning for Dorm No. 2. Residents of the dorm watched vigilantly as Jack Hidde and Jean Young of the athletic department, Hollie Lepley, acting dean of students, and Louise Landon, bookstore manager, scrubbed and scoured.

Nurse Cramer was compelled to chauffeur buyer Ron Miller to classes in a wheelchair for a day.

The "Save the Barn" committee got some publicity for its cause in the purchase of Loren Pope, director of university relations and assistant to the chancellor, and Norman Prady, publications editor. The pair, dressed in madras jackets and Bermuda shorts, rode through the cafeteria in a "barn" constructed of red cardboard and plastered with ads for "Red Man Tobacco" and "Clabber Girl." It was built on a large dolly and pulled by two faculty horses.

One sign on the little structure said, "Tear down the science building!" (The barn is part of the Meadow Brook Farms. A student-faculty committee, recently renamed "The Barn Council", has been organized to try to convert the former dairy barn into a theater. Plans had called for razing of the barn to make

way for engineering buildings.)

Administrators suffering a more embarrassing fate were Chancellor Varner and Dean of Faculty Robert Hoopes. Tables in the cafeteria were efficiently cleared by the new "busboys." Both were purchased by the Student Government.

Profits from the auction, amounting to almost \$300, will provide a scholarship for an advanced student.

The student-faculty softball game was another humiliation for the faculty. With the score 9-1 in favor of the students at the end of two innings, the "varsity" was removed and Larry Hummel went in to replace Gary Achenbach on the mound. At this point the faculty began to close in, but a further burst of scoring determined the outcome before the game ended.

Former "Fidelista" Pat Welsh "cleaned up" for the prize in the pie-eating contest. Welsh swallowed his aversion to butterscotch pies, eating one faster than eight other contestants. His prize: a butterscotch pie.

A dance, the "Cannon Ball," was the last of the picnic activities. The cafeteria sounded like the Shapiro "execution," as dancers popped balloon after balloon, ending the picnic with a bang.

## Campus Poetry

"An Answer to Spring"

The hills awaken and turn green  
And I walk through light spring air.  
Perhaps I step on the grave of the dead,  
But he doesn't seem to care.  
The hills awaken and turn green,  
But somewhere the hills are bare.  
All the hills that I see are green.  
The rest — I don't really care.  
He who lives without a dream,  
Who lets the sun hide no lie,  
Never has to fear death,  
For he has nothing to die.  
—Jan McClements

## Writing Contest Won By Editor Of The Observer

An editorial, urging retention of an old barn for use by student-faculty drama groups, won top honors in the first annual campus newspaper writing contest.

The editorial, "Senseless Death in the Barnyard," was written by Susan Bierstein, 18, of Hershey, Pa., who has been editor of The Oakland Observer, since April. Miss Bierstein is a freshman.

Articles by Lauree Ann Webb, who was editor of the Observer from last fall until April, won both second and third place honors. Miss Webb, 19, of Utica, is a sophomore.

Her second place winner was an interview with MSUO Professor of Art John Galloway. Her third place winner was an editorial, "Quantity Demands Quality," which examined the structure of and response to MSUO's lecture-concert series.

As a result of Miss Bierstein's editorial, plans to remove the barn, part of the former Meadow Brook Farm operation of the Alfred G. Wilsons, have been delayed and a student-faculty group has been appointed to outline plans for the barn's use.

Honorable mentions in the contest went to reporter Paul Turk, 19, of Birmingham. Turk, a freshman, earned honors with two stories, report of a faculty-coed baseball game; the other a St. Patrick's Day treatment of a story about overdue library books.

The judges also cited both Miss Bierstein and Miss Webb for their reporting and writing of stories on the recent state budget appropriations.



SMUG EXPRESSION on Chancellor D. B. ("Rocky") Varner's face — as he crosses the plate with a run — comes from the fact that student fielders, misjudging the vigor of maturity, played in too close, and he thus saved the faculty from a whitewash.

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MEMBER

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