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*George*

VOL. II NO. 24  
April 7, 1971

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# A Full Election!

The University Congress Thursday voted to hold an election for the entire Congress (including President), reversing their decision of a week earlier to extend their own terms an additional year. The reversal was the result of an uncharacteristically loud public outcry against the extension. In fact, protestors, calling themselves "Students for a Democratic Congress," appeared at the meeting, presenting petitions containing signatures of over 300 angry students.

The election will be held as previously scheduled, April 12 - 14 (Monday - Wednesday of next week). You will be able to vote in the OC, in front of Charlie Brown's, all day and at Vandenberg during the dinner hour.

As petitions were not yet due as we went to press, the total list of candidates

was still uncertain. The Congress will be putting out a special flier prior to the election, listing all candidates and their campaign statements. At this point it appears that ten or eleven of the eighteen incumbent Congressmen will run for re-election. The number of new candidates is unclear.

The race for the presidency is equally muddy. Current President Bob Barkdull is known to be wavering on trying for a second term, and as of Monday night he had not filed a nominating petition. He cited heavy academic pressures and other attractive job opportunities as the primary reasons behind his reluctance to run. In any event, it appeared the field would be large, with four other candidates having already turned in nominating petitions.

## Analysis

# The First Congress

By LARRY GOOD

Think back for a moment to last January. Following one of the greatest publicity campaigns Oakland has ever seen, record numbers (over 33%) of students voted and sent into existence the first University Congress. Since mid-January, though, you have heard little from or about the group. What was accomplished by the group that was supposed to provide a "powerful student voice" in University policy-making?

At first glance, the answer would appear to be "not much," for in fact, little of substance was accomplished. This is far from an accurate statement though, because much did occur - it was simply behind the scenes.

Organizational activities were by far the central focus of the Congress. There were committees to be established, by-laws to be written, an office to be found, a constitution to be revised . . . the list was long. They could've done many of these things in a great hurry, and gotten right into policy questions, but they didn't. The congress members chose instead to take the time to carefully consider these problems of structure and bureaucracy, figuring that a sound base would in the long run be far more valuable than a series of hastily considered

to 1500 calls a week. These are calls from women seeking counsel and information. I myself receive two - three such calls a day. If I were in my office more often I am certain that the figure would be higher. The other

cont. on page four

policy decisions.

Given the time limitations, the Congress was extremely successful at accomplishing these procedural ends. They have an attractive and well-functioning office in South Foundation. Their meetings flow relatively smoothly each week, due to a large degree to the rules of business followed. And the Congressional committees have begun to function, notably in the areas of the residence halls, parking, anti-war activity, off-campus housing and financial review.

Probably the most important substantive idea to come out of the first Congress came from the Financial Review Committee, chaired by Ed Martinedes. They have devised a plan to collect student fees - on a voluntary basis - next year. This action became necessary after it was learned that the miscellaneous fees you pay (activities fee, health service fee, etc) would likely be abolished by the actions of the state legislature this summer. Their proposal will allow you to elect one of several options of fee packages, enabling you to keep services you get now. These would include such things as free medical care, cheap concerts, and a host of others.

The only real controversy involving the Congress (that is, before they attempted to lengthen their terms of office), surrounded the allocation of the student activities fee monies. Many groups, especially religious organizations, felt

shortchanged by the initial allocation. Some of the complaints resulted in larger grants after a review of the original request. As is inevitable, though, all were not satisfied in the end. It is expected that some will run for Congress on precisely this basis.

The biggest single thing that can be said about the first Congress is that it survived. One of the key reasons for this was the strong leadership of Bob Barkdull as president. Bob was able to instill in the group a sense of direction, always difficult in a new organization. Barkdull's biggest strength was organizational - under his direction the Congress coalesced into a strong unit.

Politically, the tone of the first Congress would have to be characterized as moderate, yet progressive. It was the first time within memory that some of the noted campus radicals were forced to work with students of a more conservative leaning. The experience appeared to be educational for all parties involved, and some positive legislation was the net result.

In retrospect, the first Congress must be termed a success. A firm foundation has been laid that will allow future groups to make some important input into University decision-making. As President Barkdull put it, "It seemed as though we would be caught up in procedural garbage forever. We're past that point now. The next Congress will be a powerful force in University politics."

# Pregnancy Counseling

By WILLIAM BREWSTER  
Campus Minister

*Women's Counseling Group for Problem Pregnancy* is a group of women from the Oakland University and the surrounding community which has been organized to meet the needs of women who feel that their pregnancies are problems. *Women's Counseling Group* will provide counseling and advising services for women and their families concerned with sexual problems, information about contraceptives, pregnancy, unwed parenthood, adoption services, abortion and pre and post abortion, and delivery. This group has received training, has compiled information, and is prepared to meet with

women who wish to avail themselves of its services.

The group has organized itself in full agreement with *Michigan Clergy Counseling Service for Problem Pregnancy (MCCSPP)*. The experience of *Michigan Clergy Counseling Service* was utilized in the training of *Women's Group*. The resources and information of *MCCSPP* has also been made available to them.

Two factors are chiefly responsible for this group's formation, 1) the growing need for abortion counseling, and 2) the uncertainty in the abortion referral business.

1) The need can be gauged from two sources. The number of calls received by the Detroit area answering service of *MCCSPP* has grown

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I would like to offer my sincere thanks to the people who helped keep *Focus* alive week in and week out the last two years. Most of the staff has been mentioned in past issues, but there are a few people in particular I want to briefly acknowledge for the help they gave me personally.

*Chuck Caloia*, without whose aid it would never have gotten off the ground in the first place.

*Bob Barkdull*, whose financial wizardry kept it alive after it got started.

*Alan Scott*, whose patient and frequent discussions benefitted this editor very much.

*Ingo Dutzmann*, who was always there when I needed him.

*Tom Dutton*, who defended campus papers when few others had the strength of their convictions.  
Larry Good  
Editor

**ABORTION COUNSELING** figure is an estimate that 30,000 Michigan women have gone to New York City for abortions since July 1st, one quarter of them going to the clinic with which the *Clergy Counseling Service* is associated.

2) The need for solution exists; but the situation in New York and Michigan is such that a legal medically

*cont. from page three* safe, and inexpensive abortion is not available to all women. The lag in reform measures is the cause of this problem in both New York and Michigan. There is no reason why a woman should have to pay more than \$150 for an abortion.

For information, call William Brewster, ext. 3656 or 2931.

# PROPOSAL: A School of Relevance

By LARRY GOOD

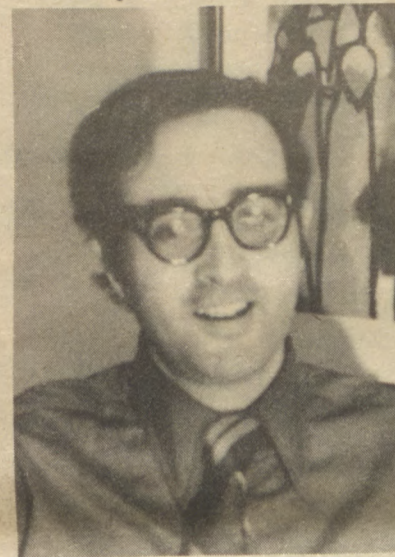
One of the choice catchwords in every educational reform movement is "relevance." If a group of Oakland faculty and administrators has its way, that word will become the keynote to an entirely new concept of education at Oakland.

The group is the *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Applied Social Sciences. Chaired by Viet-Provost William Sturmer, the committee has developed an extensive proposal which, if enacted, would enable students to spend their four years at Oakland working on the problems of the real world, rather than being confined to texts and theories. The plan is to create a new school within the university (comparable in scope and stature to the College of Arts and Sciences or the School of Education), tentatively called the School of Community Services and Development.

The goal of this new college would be to train students for roles benefiting the community, in such areas as community law, consumer education, or ecological studies. The training would be more direct and action-oriented than the existing liberal arts curricula are, and would involve practical field experiences and on-the-job "externships."

The proposed curricula has two major aspects, a core set of general education courses, and one of a variety of concentrations in specific career-oriented directions.

The general education courses would be taken by all students in the school, and would be far different than the existing distribution requirements. Where presently the emphasis is being placed on introductions to specific topic areas, in the new school the stress would be on learning skills and abilities applicable to any situation. Examples of this might be courses in writing techniques, analytical methods of study, and studies in problem-solving techniques.



The students could form his own concentration in one of several areas, and in fact the college would ultimately offer a variety of "pre-fabricated" concentrations, such as mass communications, community law, and other service-oriented areas.

The specifics of the Col-

lege are intentionally vague at this point. According to Sturmer, the proposal is only a starting point, a suggestion to be more thoroughly thought out and developed. The tentative target date for opening the school is fall, 1972, and Sturmer plans to spend the intervening year sampling opinions and ideas as to how the proposal can be improved upon, both within the University and most especially outside of it. As Sturmer put it, "A number of schools have attempted programs of this nature. Most have failed, and the reason has invariably been their lack of comprehension of actual community needs." There is a tendency, he feels, to turn the city into a "study the poor" laboratory, benefitting the University and its research, but doing nothing whatsoever to help the people involved. By making it the product consultation with a wide range of people, he hopes that the College will be able to provide curricular options that match existing problem areas.

There are no guarantees of success for this program. The track record for similar ones, as pointed out earlier, has been discouraging. But if careful planning and many hours of hard work indicate anything, Oakland's College of Community Services and Development is well on the way to a rousing success.

## RACISM LECTURES TO BE HELD

The final two lectures of the sociology-series "Racism and Beyond" will be held this Thursday and the following Tuesday. Thursday, Professor Oliver Cox of the Wayne Sociology Department will speak on "Protest and Militancy in Modern Race Relations." The lecture will be held at 10 a.m.

in Gold Room A of the Oakland Center. "Prospects for Bi-racial Neighborhoods in Detroit" will be the topic for the Tuesday session. Dr. Eleanor Wolf will be the featured speaker. This lecture will also begin at 10 a.m., but will be held in rooms 128-130 of the O.C.

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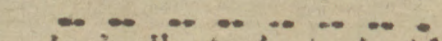
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