

The Oakland Observer

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Oakland University, Rochester, Michigan

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Board On 'Expression' Proposed

Appendix Changes "Waltz" Cast



Pauline Reynolds (left) trades insults with her sister Jill Tanner (right) as Curt Dawson is petrified in the Background. The action occurs in the Meadow Brook Theatre Production of Anouilh's "The Waltz of the Toreadors." The play will enjoy a four week run from April 5 through April 30. See related story page 7.

Appealing in Many Ways

Blair Reviews KONTUSE

By J.G. Blair

KONTUSE SEVEN is an appealing magazine -- in the several ways that an independent undergraduate literary magazine ought to be.

The first thing that strikes me is eye appeal and it continues throughout the imaginative layout. The editor, Greg Paxson, and his staff have found an amazing number of ways to utilize the resources of the wide-page format, and the material they chose, particularly the photography, is excellent.

There is literary appeal, too, though of a particular sort, limited to the most recent modes of writing. That students, apprentice poets especially, should want to follow the contemporary professional models (like Gary Snyder and his poetic uncle, William Carlos Williams) is perfectly natural and appropriate. The first of three poems by Don Downing does satisfy my professional longing that somewhat older and technically more precise molds of poetry are not entirely lost. That most of the poems here are straining self-consciously for significance goes without saying. What is important is that a number of the poems have a substance that someone from another generation can feel, like "Blues

Guitar" by Ed Rudolph, "I Cannot Get Over Being Married" by Mary Teuber, "I Am the Mad Juggler" by Mike Neulich, and two by Greg Paxson "About Women" and "Inside. Laughter." One hopes that every person in college now would find at least one poem here that clarifies his own experience in language sufficiently different from that of his elders that he can accept it wholeheartedly.

Among the non-poetic pieces, two seem especially worthy of note to me. Jeff Fox has edited a series of "Letters From Two Women," brief contemplations of life as experienced in Japan and France by former Oakland students. Particularly the many Oaklanders planning a trip abroad may benefit from seeing how such an experience can be used, filtered, caught, and assimilated rather than being allowed to simply run through ones fingers and mind. The lone dramatic entry, "The First Daffodil of Spring" by David Klingenberg, is a small masterpiece in the Pfeiffer manner. Those who saw it excellently performed by Ruth Hurst and Phil Smith during the Fine Arts Festival can attest to its genuinely dramatic qualities.

Because of an emergency appendectomy operation on Robert Donley, Joshua Bryant has been pressed into service in the newly opened Meadow Brook Theatre production of "The Waltz of the Toreadors." Donley was to have played General St. Pe, the leading role in the play. The character of The General is the pivotal one in the play, carrying about 75% of the lines.

Since being told of Donley's illness, Bryant has been burning the midnight oil. "There's an awful lot of lines," he said at the time. "The rest of the cast has been wonderful about helping me find my way around on stage. The entire play has to be reblocked. I don't really know where I'm going yet . . . but I will by the time we open Wednesday (April 5)."

Robin Ray, director of the "Toreadors" says that Bryant has an amazing capacity for memorization and early had a good grasp on the very difficult part of the aging General St. Pe. "The General is difficult not only because of the sheer bulk of lines, but because of the delicate nature of the play, sliding as it does from hilarious comedy to utter poignancy. We are all confident in Josh's ability, however. He is a very talented young man. We are most fortunate to have an actor of his abilities to take over on such short notice."

"The Waltz of the Toreadors" will run for four weeks, April 5 through April 30.

Now that the magazine itself is out, everyone can judge for himself whether the recent "censorship" controversy was necessary or appropriate. For this reviewer the magazine has a wholeness that fully justifies its existence, independent or not.

A fragment from the cover of KONTUSE SEVEN. Used with permission



Dr. Blair reviewed KONTUSE SEVEN from the silverprint, the final printer's replica of the finished product. KONTUSE SEVEN will go on sale Wednesday, April 12, in the main hall of the Oakland Center. Price is \$1.50. See related story on page 10

Commission On Student Life Splits Over Report

By Mike Honey

Embroidering the university "Commission on Student Life" in debate this week was the proposal submitted to the Commission on Tuesday by the Committee on Student Expression. The eleven-page paper was written by Commissioner Henry Rosemont, a philosophy instructor. The main controversy concerning the report centered around objections which had been raised, in written form, by Chancellor Varner.

The Committee Report

The problem which the Committee addressed itself to is the "expression and/or suppression of the artistic endeavors of the Oakland University students."

As a solution to the problem of censorship, the committee proposed that a review board for student works be established by the University Senate composed of: two faculty members from the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures; one from the School of Performing Arts; two professional artists, who are residents of the Oakland County Area.

Function of Review Board

The principal task of the board would be to "determine whether or not the artistic and literary skills currently being taught by the relevant discipline(s) are competently displayed in the student works brought before it for consideration. In each case the Board can reach one of three decisions:

- 1) Artistic and/or literary skills competently displayed; work is suitable for public performance, production, publication, or display.
- 2) Artistic and/or literary skills competently displayed, but subject matter of work is such that initial performance, production, publication or display should be restricted to the members of the University community.
- 3) Insufficient display of artistic and/or literary skills.

University Support

Works judged in categories one and two, should they result in civil or criminal proceedings being initiated against the student, would be provided with University legal "and other" counsel.

If a work is judged in category three, the University would not be obligated to provide "legal or other counsel." It would be obligated, however, to provide the same facilities to students, as are provided to other groups who do not submit their displays, films, etc., for University approval.

Obligations

According to the proposal, the

decision of the Board would impose no obligation on the student either to produce or suppress his work. Neither would the student be obligated to submit his work to the Board. However, if the student were to display his work without approval of the Board, and by so doing cause a criminal or civil suit to be brought against him, the University would in no way be obligated to defend, aid or support him.

Advantages

The most obvious advantage of this proposal for the student would be that not only would he be aided by the University in developing creative and artistic skills in the classrooms but he would be supported by the University in his attempts at practical application of those skills, if his attempts met the academic standards of the professional critics of the University.

Advantages for the University as a whole would be that it would be "spared the complex task of attempting to lay down general criteria for determining artistic and literary skills, controversial subjects, and matters of 'good taste.'

All value judgments made would be professional judgments.

"The University would not be required to defend works which did not meet the academic standards current among the faculties of the relevant disciplines.

"The University would not be guilty of imposing censorship on its students."

Consideration of All Groups

According to the Committee's recommendation, "Each of the three groups which comprises the University community would be acting in a manner that was both responsible and responsive to the other groups."

Legal Implications

According to Rosemont's document, if "the University feels that consent, sanction, or approval of any kind for student artistic endeavors is implied by allowing students to rent facilities for displaying works judged in category three, or not judged at all, "a public statement to the contrary can be issued, following a precedent recently established at the University of Michigan."

"By acting in accordance with ...above, the University in no way incurs any obligation to defend, in a civil or criminal court of law, any student whose publicly displayed works are charged with being in violation of city, county, state, or federal statutes." This statement Rosemont incorporated in the report only after lengthy

Last Issue Due To Finals

Continued on Page Ten

The Oakland Observer

The opinions expressed in this column are the opinions of the paper. They are not necessarily the views of the university, faculty or other students. Signed columns are the personal opinions of the authors.

University Must Lead

With the last publication of the trimester, the "Observer" would like to end on a constructive note. Various crises have presented themselves and some have been resolved. Some have not. As usual, the most important ones have not been resolved. Among these are housing, Meadow Brook Theatre, student publications, "Kontuse," campus security, and allocation of student funds.

In order to solve some of the problems, the Commission to Study Student Life was instituted to make recommendations to the Chancellor to carry to the Board of Trustees. Some of the committee findings will be good. Some will not be so good. The quality of the recommendations will depend to a large extent on how bold are the delegates to the commission in formulating their proposals.

In the area of housing, the delegates are faced with the problem of creating a mature and intelligent off-housing policy that will protect a student's rights to live where he likes, and at the same time, taking into account the University's budget for financing the dorms. The idea that student restrictions should not be determined solely by financial or political considerations must also be kept in mind.

With the professional Meadow Brook Theatre on campus, it now becomes incumbent on the administration to provide some kind of funds to re-institute a student theatre group. After all, this seems to be the place where students of Oakland, who are neither members of the Meadow Brook professional theatre nor the Academy of Dramatic Art would logically find their creative outlets.

In order to foster other creative efforts, the University must search quickly to find a solution to the type of problems that face "Kontuse" and

other artistic publications. Rather than completely disassociating themselves from the students and their work, it should provide some means of fostering and protecting original works.

What the problem comes down to, is whether the University will lead the community or follow it. Whether the University can attempt to enlighten the surrounding population, or take the easier route and completely cut off student creativity for fear of community reaction is the question.

In order to assume a really vital role in the "university of learning" Oakland must learn to take more than tentative, halting steps. Our vision should be bold, and the argument that our programs might not be acceptable to the Board of Trustees, the Legislature or the community-at-large, must not limit us to those mundane standards that are commonplace to those institutions. By continually watering down our academic and extra curricular programs to meet the widest possible support, we arrive at mediocrity.

Enough of this talk about "how it's done at MSU." If we have to talk about how it's done anywhere, why not the University of Michigan or the University of Wisconsin?

Why not choose as our model someone we truly wish to emulate? We find it hard to believe anyone here wants another MSU. One is enough.

Why can't we become the model for others?

In Oakland's particular case, a small, new school, it is difficult to defy the legislature regularly. But it seems this is the time to begin to build a good reputation that we hope will stay with us.

N. Hale

We Must March Forward

Dog Eat Dog At Old Ivy

By David Black

Are you the typical student: worried, overworked and generally up tight because finals are nearly here? Should the end of every semester be a race to see if the student can produce an exhaustive amount of work in an extremely short period of time?

As important (and timely) as these questions may be, they only touch on some of the faults of our educational system.

Today, going to college doesn't imply a learning experience. The emphasis is on achievement, meaning grades, and not on the intellectual betterment of the individual.

Moreover, a student is forced

into situations that involve competition with other students. One can't succeed in college, except at the expense of those around him. If someone gets a good grade, someone else gets a poor one. If someone makes the "Dean's List," someone else doesn't. If someone is chosen for a position of importance within the University, at least one other person is denied that position.

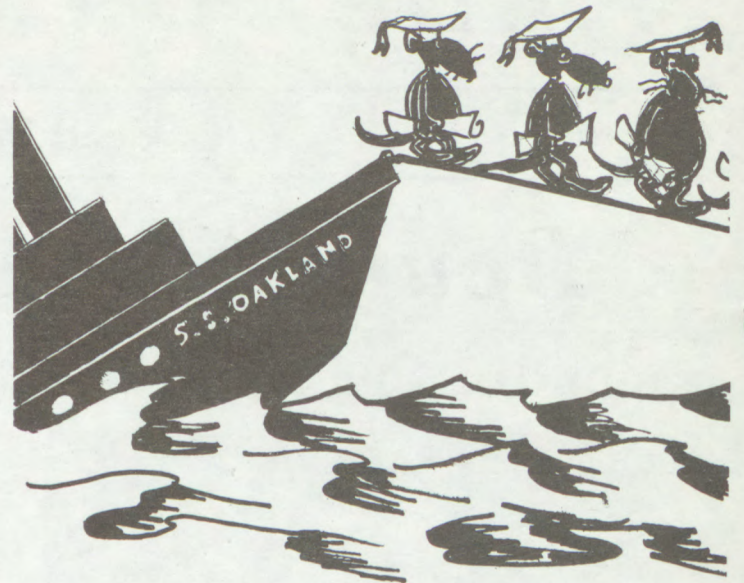
Little value is placed on sharing. In fact, if two people decide to share information during an exam, they can be dismissed from the university. If a university is to be a "community of learning," it is a community without communal spirit.

Most of the pleasant exper-

iences at a university are to be had outside the purely academic realm. Whether these experiences take place in the back seat of a car or at an apartment party, students are forced to leave the university proper to add any pleasure to their otherwise dull existence. Today's college courses are too "cut-and-dried." There is no attempt to make learning come alive, to make learning fun. . . .

Higher education should be personal, pleasant, unhurried, and uncompetitive experience. No one can be expected to survive, let alone prosper, in an atmosphere of constant pressure. There is no reason why the best students should be forced to "turn on, tune in, and drop out."

And The Beat Goes On



Will the Captain go down
with his ship?

The Oakland Observer

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Gripes About VB More Negroes

Dear Dean Appleton

We are sorry you were unable to honor our invitation to the 2nd Floor pizza party yesterday evening, as we were looking forward to discussing the moving of all the men from that floor this coming Fall. We have strong feelings on this subject and wish to communicate them to you.

At the beginning of the Fall semester 1966, all Vandenberg students had to live in a partially completed dormitory. This was unavoidable, and is fully understood.

The Philosophy Department needed offices and the 2nd Floor Vandenberg West was chosen. This meant that we enjoyed some privileges which other students could not. Still, our privacy was the price we paid. This was apparently unavoidable, and is fully understood.

We were given lock and key for our study lounge and we made the lounge into our living room. This was delightful to us. However, on several occasions the TV Guide, Playboy, and other magazines disappeared. Not many magazines, really, but enough to be annoying. We do not feel it is coincidence that the magazines have disappeared on the days when the maids clean the lounge. This is apparently unavoidable, and is fully understood.

On several occasions, one or two of the philosophy professors have used our lounge for some planned activity. We would have gladly given our OK if we had been asked. We were not asked. This is over and done, and is fully understood.

None of the rooms on our floor have screens in the windows. We were told we would get them last Fall. We do not have them yet, and do not expect them anytime soon. This has been more or less satisfactory, considering the record "kill" of flies in one room for one day last Fall was only 50. This, also, was understood.

Several of the residents of the floor made a significant financial investment for furnishings for their room -- furnishings which specifically fit the unique physical characteristics of the rooms on the second floor.

Now we are told we cannot live on this floor next Fall semester. It seems New College Fraternity is coming to Oakland University. They have to live someplace. Second Floor Vandenberg West, for good and obvious reasons - primarily size, the very feature which makes it so attractive to us - was chosen.

We understand why all these things have happened. No one meant for them to happen. Evidently they could not be helped. No one is to blame. We understand.

The following names (and signatures) are those students who have signed the accompanying letter.

Hunter W. Peil, Larry Friedman, Fred Page, David Letvin, Mark Kotler, Michael Dunham, Douglas Miller, Julian Mostel, David Steinman.

To The Editor:

While becoming increasingly disillusioned with Oakland's administration, I have been devoting some time to considering its membership, and it seems to me that this same administration is nearly, if not completely, devoid of Negro members. There also appears to be a notable absence of Negro secretarial help in the administrative offices. I am curious about this.

The administration ostensibly claims to want more Negro students here, and yet as far as I know there are no Negro admissions counselors, who could, without doubt, deal with this problem more efficiently and knowingly than their white counterparts simply by virtue of their being Negro.

This letter is not meant to be an indictment of any sort. I am simply anxious to know why, at a school which follows state equal employment opportunity laws there are virtually no Negro administrators and few if any Negro secretaries. Certainly these people deserve a fair shake and I cannot understand why a state supported university is unable to hire more Negroes. These people have too much trouble finding employment in private business for them to be ignored by state employers, if that is the case.

Sincerely,
Michael Curtis

P.S. Maybe what our administration needs is a little soul.

Campus Calendar

FRIDAY, April 7

"Pink Panther" will be shown at 8:00 in 156 NFH for 35¢ adm.

SUNDAY, April 9

"Pink Panther" will be shown at 6:30 and 9:00 in 156 NFH for 35¢ adm.

MONDAY, April 10

Students and faculty are invited to attend the University Singers and Oakland Singers Spring Concert. No charge. 8:30.

TUESDAY, April 11

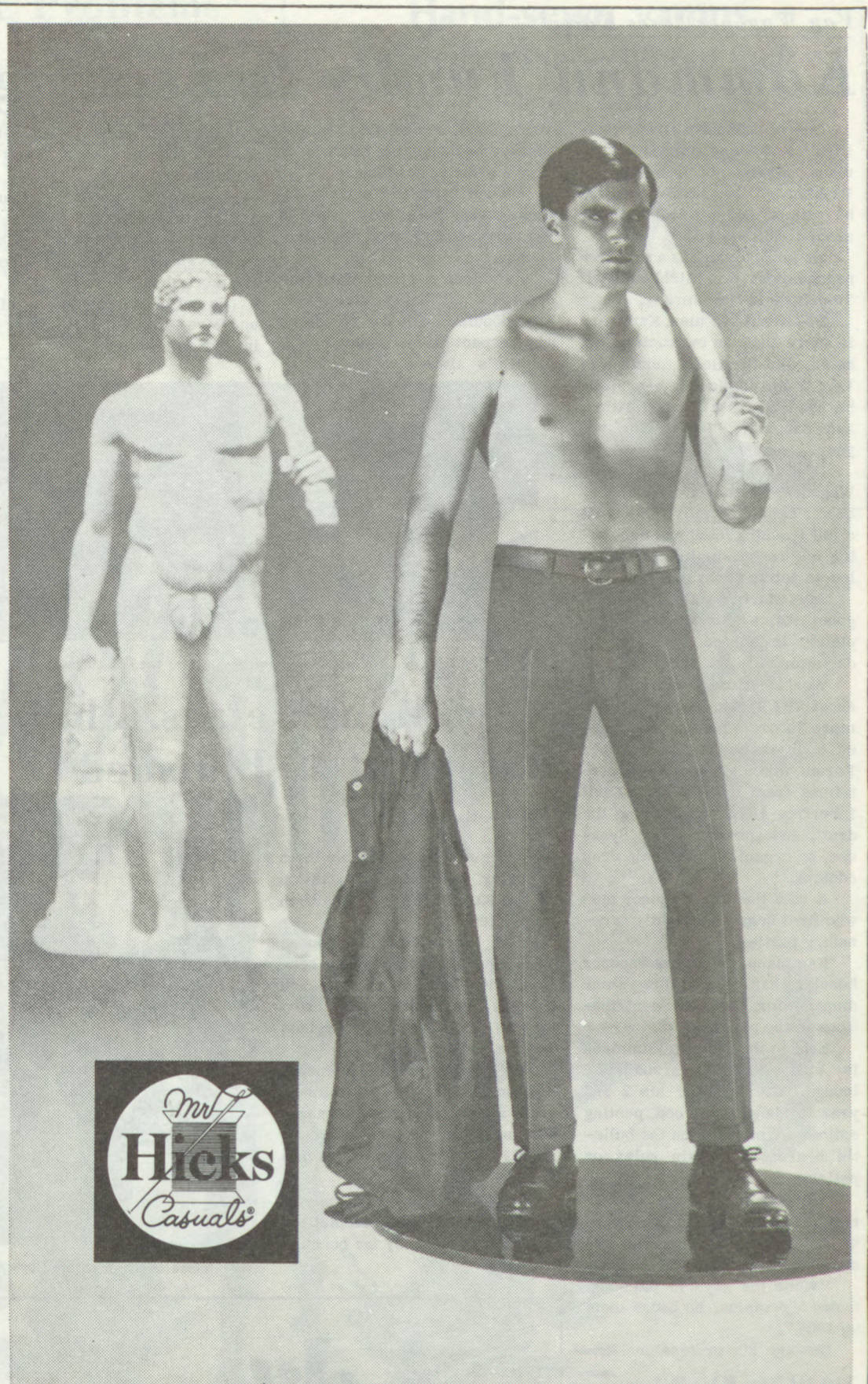
The Madrigal Club of Detroit will present a concert of classical music at 8:30 in the Lecture Hall of Detroit Institute of Arts. The program will include Pittsfield's cantata "A Sketchbook of Women," Brahms' "Twelve Songs and Romances," Three choruses from Fine's "Alice in Wonderland" and Randall Thompson's "Pueri Haebraeorum" for double chorus. Tickets are at 50¢ for students.

* * *

The Cranbrook Academy of Art will display the DeLawter collection of African Sculpture, through May 7, and the works of Gustav Vigeland through April 30.

SUNDAY, April 16

The Newmann Student Association will sponsor a Mass for graduating seniors followed by an informal coffee hour. 10 a.m. at St. John Fisher Chapel.



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