

THE OAKLAND

Sail

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Classic Department closes

By Dorothy Davis

The Committee for the Preservation of the Classics at Oakland University was formed to oppose the administrations "University Faculty Position Shift" which totally eliminates the Department of Classics and its small staff.

The committee also opposes the further curtailment of studies in the Humanities which will ensue should this policy be effected.

The Committee is not opposed to any other area of interest; it merely wants to be allowed to "do its own thing."

The students are also protesting ever increasing tuition hikes and ever lessening options.

Classics department students working at the petition table have been heartened by the realization that signers are opposed to Oakland University's public image becoming that of a "trade school."

Their reasons are extremely pragmatic, involving both personal status and economic being. Irrespective of their discipline, they do not want their degree from Oakland University "watered down."

The concept of "universus", the whole, seems to be appealing with the inter-disciplinary opportunities this implies.

Along about the time of Sputnik (1957) school boards and curriculum committees in the high schools began to falter in their support of the Humanities. The result of this has been many years of college freshman who really have had very little exposure to a strong Humanities curriculum and virtually none to a Classical curriculum.

It may be worth noting that the Indiana State Board of Education is having second thoughts about the wisdom of this approach and has insti-

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MeadowBrook Ball planned

By Annette Veginski

The third annual MeadowBrook Ball will be held on Saturday, March 20, from 9pm to 2am, in MeadowBrook Hall. The affair is formal or semi-formal, with the theme being "Shall We Dance."

The committee in charge of organizing the ball is headed by chairperson Debbie Alba, and consists of 13 members: Steve Agostino, Jeanne Arend, Kathy Basquin, Steve Graham, Marcy Levinson, Colleen Mahoney, Sandy Miller, Lisa Mills, Michael Nelson, Bob Peebles, Laura Raymond, Karl Schmidt and Stan Schwarz.

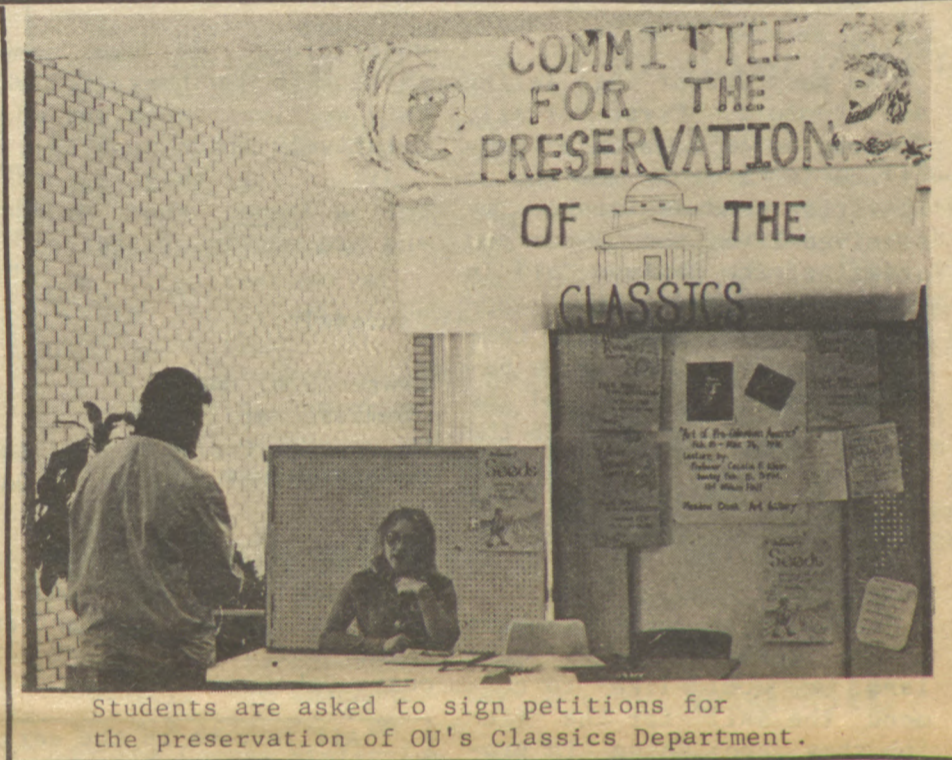
Music will be provided by ClearDay, who play a variety of songs from easy listening to rock. ClearDay performs regularly at nightclubs and

weddings in Grand Rapids.

There will be an open house of the mansion from 9 to 10pm. After that the third floor will be closed off.

Invitations to the ball will be sent to all full-

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Students are asked to sign petitions for the preservation of OU's Classics Department.

Faculty to be evaluated

By Steve Neef and Kathy Parker

A new faculty and course evaluation publication, designed to aid Oakland students in choosing classes and instructors, is being prepared by the new Academic Evaluations organization.

The organization, under the direction of Bruce Stone and Laura See, is presently designing a questionnaire to collect information from both students and faculty. The book will cover 1000 sections of all undergraduate on-campus courses in classroom set-

tings, and will be ready for distribution by the Fall '76 Semester.

"The information offered in the Undergrad Course Selection Guide and in the OU catalog is inadequate and misleading," said Stone. "Most students do not have any idea of what type of a class they're taking or what kind of an instructor will be teaching them until it's too late. This book will contain any and all information they would need in their selection of courses."

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ABS features Dick Gregory

By Patty Carr

Humanitarian Dick Gregory's lecture on "Social Problems" Anti-Social or Social" will be the highlight of Black Awareness Month sponsored by the Association for Black Students.

February has been designated by the ABS as Black Awareness Month and will feature several programs and events

including four Afram Jazz Ensemble sessions, a roller skating party, flea market, gospel choir performance, career seminars, films, discussions and poetry readings.

The ABS is a central committee, headed by Michael Elliott or Kimathi, as he calls himself, with headquarters in 34 OC. According to Kimathi, every black person on campus is a member, although there are only about twenty active members.

Gregory, who has come into the limelight recently for

his insistence on the reopening of the Kennedy assassination investigations, appeared at Oakland in 1973. He is also actively involved in the Martin Luther King and Malcolm X assassination investigations.

The lecture will be videotaped and students unable to attend Gregory's talk may contact ABS members for information on future showings.

According to Kimathi, "Once you see and hear Dick Gregory, you will remember it the rest of your life."

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Letters to the Editor

Editor:

As both of you know, I have long been an ardent supporter of appropriating Congressional monies to help establish and operate the Sail and WOUX. It was my impression at the time of my advocacy on behalf of these organizations, that they would become vehic-

les for providing both entertainment and news of campus events.

Since that time I have had reason to question the purpose of both organizations. I find it hard to believe that a newspaper does not find it newsworthy to announce the candidacy of a person running for University

Congress President, or that a radio station finds it not newsworthy to announce the endorsement of a candidate by organizations which can claim membership or representation of over four-thousand students.

Should these policies remain in effect, it will become prudent for myself, as

well as other congressmembers to re-examine the role of these two "news media" organizations and to critically evaluate any future request for support from Congress.

Gary A. Foster,
University Congressman

Editor:

The purposes of this letter are twofold. First of all, we feel an expression of gratitude is in order for the cooperation and assistance we received from the editor and staff of the Oakland Sail in the publication of the Congress Election Edition. Communication of this type between the candidates and the electorate is vital to the success of any election, especially a valid one. Their help in the production of the Election Edition helped us achieve that goal.

Secondly, as former members of the staff of Focus: Oakland, we would like to commend the Sail for the fine job they are doing in providing the university community with a viable student newspaper. Having spent a few years in their position, we know full well the trials and tribulations that they are

undergoing. We can sympathize with how they feel when they receive complaints about relatively minor problems.

All in all, they're putting out a damned good product, and are worthy of praise.

Sincerely,

Lawrence D. Hadley,
Commissioner
University Congress Election
Former Editor of Focus: Oakland

Vicki Dearing, Co-Chairman
University Congress Election
Former Office Manager of Focus: Oakland

All letters to the editor must be correctly signed, an address given and limited to 350 words in length. Names may be withheld for adequate reason.

Editor:

When university graduates walked the aisle to their diploma there used to be an aura of refinement surrounding their caps.

To graduate from a four-year university meant they had successfully completed two years in liberal arts and two years in their major. Besides learning the skills

for a selected profession, it meant they had studied other cultures, learned other languages, interpreted great novels and works of art. It meant they knew something about the history of man in a classical sense by studying mythology, archaeology and etymology.

Since the 1950 baby-boom, and cold war expansion another "ology" has slowly begun to dominate the American campus. It is technology.

Now, in 1976, Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan, is initiating a termination or drastic reduction in such departments as: Art and Art History, English, Classics, History, Linguistics, Modern Language and American Literature.

20 new departmental positions have been allocated to Nursing, Biological Sciences, Teacher Education, Economics and Management, Mathematical Sciences, Psychology, Sociology, Anthropology and Speech Communication.

By the end of spring, 1977, approximately 20 Oakland University professors will be fired simply because there will be no place for them on the campus. There still be no place for them because it seems in today's education there is no place for culture. No time for classes.

Why?

Why does Reuben Torch, Dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences

at OU, have to cut off the head of one child to nourish the other?

A Classics major and member of The Committee to Preserve the Classics, feels it is a combination of student disinterest and the state of our economy.

"Michigan has had two bad years," she said. "The expanded welfare budget had reduced the funds for education. Oakland is state funded. Because the arts and humanities departments are not the most popular on campus, and because money is scarce, they are the first departments to go."

"This is a penny-wide, pound foolish position for the state to take when many of the arts and humanities budgets are nothing compared to the proposed budgets in other departments."

In the Feb. 9 issue of the Oakland Press, OU Classics Professor, Stephen Shucard was quoted as saying: "It takes a great deal of expensive equipment to train a nurse; all we need is a room, blackboard and a few textbooks."

It is my feeling that what Professor Shucard, and the rest of those faculty members whose careers are threatened, need most of all right now is student interest and support.

Students must sign petitions, write the state legislature and attend meetings designed to prevent this unfortunate action.

Oakland University, once known as the "Harvard of the mid-west," will be reduced to a trade school if students are more concerned about graduating than the value of their degree.

Thank you,

Carol Teegardin Webb, student

The Oakland Sail

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Livingston to resign

by Vince Muniga

"I'm going to miss Oakland. I've made a lot of friends here," commented Cindy Livingston, Assistant Director of Student Organizations.

Ms. Livingston has been at Oakland for the past four and a half years, and has worked three of those four in Student Organizations.

Ms. Livingston, who is moving to Iowa City, Iowa to join her husband plans on going back to school this summer taking up studies for her Masters degree in labor and industrial relations.

When she first started at Student Organizations, the department did what she called "little fun things," such as carnation sales, shamrock giveaways on St. Patrick's Day. They were little things which didn't amount to much.

Student Organizations now takes charge of all student activities with emphasis in



Cindy Livingston, who is leaving OU to move to Iowa City.

the areas of concerts and lectures.

Looking back at her first concert, which she summed up as a disaster, Ms. Livingston feels students are becoming more aware of what Oakland has to offer.

Her job also entails book-keeping for student accounts and final approval on posters and banners.

She is also the advisor for the Oakland Sail.

ADA to close in April '77

By Jeanne Arend

The Academy of Dramatic Arts (ADA) will conclude 10 years of training young actors for theatre work when it closes in April, 1977.

The decision to close ADA was not an easy one to make, according to university administrators. "ADA was a jewel we really wanted to keep. But basically, we couldn't afford to keep them in the style they should be supported," said Vice-Provost George Matthews.

ADA is the only two-year, non-degree, professional actors training school in the state of Michigan. Approximately 112 students have graduated from the program since 1969.

Director Jerry Dahmann expressed regret at the administrative decision, but said that it was a decision of priorities.

"Some programs have to go to save other programs. ADA is a very expensive program. It costs more money to pro-

duce one credit at the Academy than anywhere else at the University," said Dahmann.

Matthews agreed, saying, "ADA has been running a very fine program. But for the past few years, the University has been cutting back on ADA's financial support. You finally reach a point where, if you can't afford to do it right, you better not do it at all."

President O'Dowd was particularly unhappy about having to discontinue the ADA program, because he was one of its original primary backers.

The decision to close ADA was primarily an economic one. Because the Academy is state-supported, it receives no money from private funding. Most similar programs in the US are privately supported.

No new students will be accepted into ADA for the 1976-77 year, but the program will continue until that April to enable those first-year students in the program to graduate.

Covenant Players perform in Abstinence

The Covenant Players, a repertory theatre group from Los Angeles, will perform in the Abstinence of Oakland Center from noon to 1:15 pm on Monday, Feb. 23.

The players present brief vignettes from their rep-

ertoire of over 300 plays. Themes are selected for the particular place of performance with special emphasis on ethical and personal concerns.

Each player also acts out of a faith commitment.

Their style, marked by humor and satire, is more communication than performance. Response from the audience, therefore, is encouraged by the Players--all recent to college life themselves.

The group performing in the

Abstinence is just one of 25 touring units throughout the country. The Covenant Players are sponsored on campus by the Campus Ministries of Oakland, who relate to the community both from the Human Interaction Center, 19E Oakland Center, and St. John Fisher Chapel on Walton Blvd.

Wayne State University and Oakland Community College are also on the players itinerary.

The campus community is invited to participate without cost.

Classic

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tuted a series of summer seminars which eventually will lead to much greater stress being placed on a Humanities curriculum.

Another encouraging face is that nationwide the study of Greek and Latin is on the increase. There has even been a discussion that Modern Greek might be added to Oakland's Modern Language curriculum.

Women's Center

By Kathy Parker

A series of open discussions focusing on the history and philosophy of women, will be presented in a four-week mini-course sponsored by the Women's Center. The theme "I am a woman giving birth to myself" emphasizes the central questions to be probed: Where are we now? Why are we here? Where are we going?

Helen Murphy, of the North Metro Growth Center, will lead the discussions on Mondays, 3-5 pm, Feb. 16-March 8 in 125 O.C. Other topics of interest to both male and female students will also be included. At noon on Feb. 20 Sister Mary Van Gilden will speak at the Center on the role of women in religion. Her talk will cover the issues of women's roles in the church, the questions surrounding women in the priesthood, and relevant information for women concerned with expanding their roles in religion life.

Faculty evaluations to be published

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The questionnaire is scientifically designed to produce an accurate representation of faculty and courses, with consideration for variations in the respondents' qualifications. Students' views of faculty and courses will be collected, as well as individual faculty statements of policy and goals.

In order to obtain a fair judgement, profiles of student respondents will also be collected and considered.

The evaluation instrument itself will be distributed in the classes between the eighth and tenth weeks of the semester. Laura See is chair of this committee and is studying similar surveys done across the country in order

to insure the fairness and accuracy of the report.

A similar publication, "Oakland Undiapered," was offered from 1966 to 1972, when it was discontinued. Asked why there is new interest in publishing such a guide, Ms. See said, "Teacher evaluation is a big issue in academia right now...it is closely related to a popular drive in consumerism."

"We are attempting to go a step further this time," Ms. See added, "by requesting the support of Oakland's Teaching and Learning Committee. In

this way, students will have a greater impact upon the question of tenure for individual instructors."

The total cost of research and publication for the first semester is projected to be \$800.00. Thus far, the AE has received funding of \$260.00 from the SAB and Commuter Council.

The organization hopes to enlist the aid of nearly one hundred students for the data-gathering process and distribution of the evaluation instrument. Several departments are offering academic credits to students contributing to these activities.

Anyone interested in working on the project can obtain further information from Bruce Stone, 62 O.C. or Laura See, Commuter Services, 377-2020.