

MEMO

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As the Transfer Students See Us: Because we are a young new university, we took an opinion poll among our transfer students to see how they compare us with the schools they previously attended--where we fall short, and how we might do a better job. (We have nearly 150 transfers from 24 four-year institutions--78 of them are full-time students.) They were asked a half-dozen questions, which could be answered anonymously, about quality of instruction, level of intellectual effort expected, any differences in the faculty's attitude or approach to students, the learning climate, if they had to work as hard, or harder, differences in student bodies, and in social life.

The answers revealed near unanimity on three points: (1) praises for high quality of instruction at MSUO, (2) the high level of intellectual effort expected, and (3) the accessibility and friendliness of the faculty.

With two or three exceptions, they spoke of the challenging curriculum, the emphasis on learning, the advantages of small classes, the seriousness of both student and faculty in an atmosphere of informality.

On the other side of the ledger, social life at MSUO drew such words as "negligible," or "fair." This was blamed on "growing pains." Some few students said that it was ample, or that there was little time for it. Another complaint was that the students' backgrounds were too similar, that the student body was not cosmopolitan enough, or too serious. However, one of the dissents came from a transfer student from a wealthy girls' college. She thought there was much more variety here than at the fashionable school she had previously attended. Most of them thought the MSUO students friendlier.

About half the transfers are juniors and over one-quarter are sophomores. Less than one-fourth are freshmen and the rest are "out of sequence." They come principally from the University of Michigan, Wayne State, University of Detroit, Eastern, Central, and Western Michigan, Michigan State, Adrian, Albion, Antioch, Baldwin-Wallace, DePaw, University of Colorado, Syracuse, Stephens, and the University of Washington.

Most of them said they had to work harder here. Some said that there was too much reading; and one student said the university should recommend a speed reading course to every entering freshman.

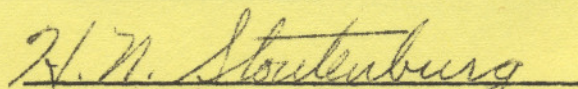
We are hoping now to poll by mail the approximately 50 students who have requested that their transcripts be sent to other institutions.

Professors on the Block: If you'd care to buy a slightly used professor for a day, come to the second annual auction being held at 4:30 p.m. Friday by students in the Teacher Education Association. Some 40 professors and administrators will be sold into a day of servitude. They must perform such chores or duties as their purchasers may command, short of writing term papers or providing exam questions. Last year, most of them took part in two noontime floor shows in the cafeteria which were smash successes. The affair, incidentally, raised over \$200 for a scholarship. The students hope this year to realize two scholarships. The auction will be followed by a barn dance in one of the barns behind the new Science Building.

Basil Rathbone to Appear: Because Charles Laughton has had to cancel his last 30 scheduled appearances of the season on doctor's orders, the MSUO-Community Arts Council has booked actor Basil Rathbone in his place for the April 6 feature of the lecture-concert series. Rathbone, who does a reading program somewhat similar to Laughton's, will perform at Pontiac Northern High School.

Literary Publication Planned: MSUO students have scheduled publication of a literary journal for the early part of the spring semester which begins next month. It will contain poems, short stories, and essays, written by students.

Austrian Boy to Attend MSUO: One member of next fall's freshman class will be an Austrian boy, Wolf Metzger, who with the aid of a tuition scholarship will realize a lifelong dream to come to the United States. Wolf, who has already been accepted, this year published the first high school newspaper in his native Province of Carinthia. His inspiration and guide has been MSUO's student weekly, The Oakland Observer. The link between MSUO and Wolf was Mrs. Elfi Werzer, now a teacher of German in the Rochester High School, who knew the Metzger family in Austria. Mrs. Werzer, whose daughter Ilse is a freshman at MSUO, was able to come to this country because of the aids of friends, and demonstrated her gratitude by paving the way for Wolfe to come to MSUO.


Director of Admissions