

# The Oakland Observer

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New editor cuts it up as the retired and aspiring look on. Photo by Kopley.

## Editress Rules New Staff

Sheri Jackson moves to the editorial position of the Observer with the first issue of the spring term.

Miss Jackson, who has been managing editor since September, replaces retiring editor, Bill Connellan.

Connellan's 5 semester's experience with the Observer has led him to a summer job with the Detroit News.

David Johnston, copy editor since February, has been named managing editor.

Recent additions to the business staff include business manager, John Zwack, and advertising manager and super salesman, Bruce Chadwick.

Changes in the summer staff line-up put Edith Bozanich in charge of circulation and filing and Carl Baranski -- Handy-

man.

Miss Jackson's feminine leadership will be the first since Sue Bierstein left the editorial post in 1962. An English major with 4 terms of Observer experience, Miss Jackson plans to operate the Observer under the title of "editress."

Connellan will be working as an apprentice reporter at the News in a special program for college juniors. When he returns in the fall, he will be taking 5 courses and devoting himself to academics.

Johnston, who joined the Observer staff last fall, assumed the copy editor's position in February. An imaginative junior, he has added excitement and controversy to recent Observer pages. Johnston presently refuses to declare a major, curious to see what University reaction will be.

A business administration major, John Zwack is a junior from Drayton Plains. Sophomore Bruce Chadwick has tentative plans for the summer. He will probably be handling advertising for the yearbook as well as the Observer.

Miss Bozanich, an Observer staff member since last fall, is a secondary education-history major. Baranski has been with the Observer since last May when he took charge of circulation. As Handyman, Baranski will work more closely with the editorial than the business staff. He is a junior, majoring in American area studies.

## So Long For Now

Coming to exam time as we most indubitably are, the Observer staff is retiring next week to its respective boudoirs to hit the sack, uh, books. Next issue, for all you hardy three-semester people, will be May 7. Cheer,

## Liberal NY Congressman John Lindsay to Address Grads at Commencement

Approximately 300 graduating seniors and 2000 parents, guests, and faculty members will hear Congressman John V. Lindsay give the commencement address Saturday, April 24.

The seniors had originally voted to invite Robert Kennedy, but the New York Senator was unavailable.

Lindsay will receive an honorary degree from OU. Others receiving degrees will be Roy Wilkins, head of the NAACP, and Myer Shapiro, art historian.

As a young leader of the liberal faction, Lindsay is a constant source of controversy in both his own Republican and the Democratic camps.

Lindsay received his BA and his LLB from Yale. From '55 to '57 he served as executive assistant to U.S. Attorney General Herbert Brownell. Brownell was largely responsible for Eisenhower's election and is reported to be now pushing Lindsay towards the N.Y. governorship and eventually the presidency of the U.S.

After serving in the Navy during W.W. II and as the President

## Con-Con Says It's up to SACC

Con-Con is dead. Following six months of deliberation, the group last week disbanded after making its recommendations.

Con-Con's recommendations, made in the form of a six-point proposal, were introduced at the final meeting by Bill Connellan and seconded by Gary Durst.

The proposal, voted on point-by-point, read as follows:

"1. That SACC be given the charge of resolving the student government issue.

"2. That SACC be given all Con-Con records, including the recommendations of the subcommittees.

"3. That a letter be written to the Faculty Senate to request that students be made members of the following Senate committees until such time as a student government evolves. Each committee will appoint the student members. The Committees are Athletic Policy, Student Affairs, and the Committee on Instruction.

"4. That a request be made to include two student members on the Student Conduct Committee.

"5. That a request be made to the Dean of Students to include students in the meetings of the Dean of Students staff.

"6. That Con-Con disband."

of the New York Young Republican Club, Lindsay was elected to Congress from New York's 17th ("Silk Stocking") District on Manhattan's East side. He is now serving his 4th term in that capacity.

Reflecting his Americans for Democratic Action vote-survey rating (87%), Lindsay has been a constant plague for his colleagues on the right-hand side of the aisle. In 1961 his vote helped pack the once conservative dominated House Rules Committee. In 1962 he voted for appropriating \$100 million for the purchase of UN Bonds. Fellow Republicans balked because the UN Assembly had at that time not yet adopted the opinion of the World Court on the financial obligations of UN members. In '64 Lindsay voted against reducing foreign aid appropriations and then in the same year helped veto a bill to prohibit subsidies on agricultural products from being shipped to Communist nations.

Recently he added his vote to defeat a Kennedy-backed bill entitled "Industrial Security" which would have given the government summary power to remove from their jobs up to 5 million Americans employed in private industry and universities on defense contracts or related research.

The 43 year-old Lindsay has also been an avid crusader against censorship of books and the mail, wire-tapping, and the use of lie detectors on Pentagon personnel.

Summarizing his goals as a congressman and his philosophy of government, Lindsay is quoted as saying, "As a Republican with a high respect for the philosophy of Lincoln, I see it as the special task of my party to redefine the role of the individual in our half-garrison, half-welfare leviathan state.

"Massive complexes of institutional power tend to roll up individuals in their path."

## Head Residents, RA's, Chosen for Spring and Fall

Appointment of new head residents for the spring and fall semesters was revealed this week by Alice Haddix, director of residence halls.

Senior Dave Lewis, who will graduate in August, has been selected to be the head resident in Fitzgerald for the summer. Lewis is currently an RA in Fitz-

Continued on page 6.

## Intercollegiate Song Fest Highlights Music Scene

Three concerts will liven the OU musical scene between now and the next **Observer**: an assortment of works by David Dichiera April 11, a concert by pianist Theodore Ullman April 16, and the fast-becoming annual Intercollegiate Song Fest April 10.

The Dichiera concert, 3:30 this Sunday afternoon in the Gold Room, features the world premieres of four works as well as several older compositions.

Dichiera's piano playing will be augmented by the violin of Vartan Manoogian from the Juilliard School of Music, pianist Mary Race, singers Alice Dutcher, Roma Riddell and Doralene McNelly and a capella choir conducted by George Cripps.

Tickets will be available at the door and are free to students.

The Ullman concert, 8:15 p.m. in the Little Theatre next Friday, will include works by Bach, Beethoven, Chopin, Prokofiev, Debussy and Brahms.

Ullman has appeared in concert around the world and has been highly praised for his work. He has received the Smith Johnson Award for superior music performance.

Tickets are available in the

Activities Center and again are free to students.

Intercollegiate Song Fest, 7:30 p.m. tomorrow, features vocal groups from Detroit, Ann Arbor, Birmingham and Oakland.

The group of Detroit businessmen and their wives, called the Grunyons -- an orthographical variation of the term used to describe a California fish, met with an enthusiastic response at their visit here last year.

The U of M Glee Club Octet, known to the world as the Friars, will attempt to repeat last year's triumph.

Not to be outdone by Ann Arbor, Oakland's own home-grown octet will make its first major appearance of the season. Their new name, the Oakland Buckets, was adopted because it was felt that the Oakland University Chorus Octet was too much of a mouthful. The title is also a pun on a local restaurant.

Sandwiched between the businessmen and the college students is a Birmingham High octet of girls called the Jills. These ladies are expected to lend feminine balance and harmony to an otherwise predominantly male program.



## Editorial

# Goodby - and Thanks

This has been the year of the "new breed," as Paul Turk dubbed us in his farewell editorial last spring. This has also been the year that the shadow of the sex and censorship scandal of last May hung over everybody -- except us.

Intercollegiate athletics -- the major controversy of our short history -- finally was introduced this year with hardly a whimper from those so bitterly opposed to them. The only major flare-up in this area came as basket-ball season approached. Even the appointment of a big name swimming coach failed to rouse any strong controversy.

As in the past, the Faculty Senate, jealously guarding its privacy, refused Observer reporters admittance to senate meetings again this year. Perhaps the Senate, after looking at other schools (even such ones as Flint JC) which allow the school paper to cover Senate meetings in person, will have a change of heart next year.

Another attempt was made again this year to establish a student government on campus. Con-Con started out with high hopes, ended up a bitter disillusionment for those involved. Dormitory Council, the only "government" on campus, has grown in competence and respectability during this, its second year of existence.

Beards, ever-present at Oakland, became the center of controversy when Dean Stoutenburg ruled that students working in the Oakland Center would not be able to wear beards in the future. While we had a lot of fun and received quite a bit of publicity, we misjudged the firmness of the Dean and failed to get him to withdraw his edict.

As we noted several weeks ago, the OU student this year has finally come alive and become involved. The march in Pontiac, the trip to Washington, and the trip by four OU students to Athens, Ohio, are all good examples of the student body taking meaningful action on their own. The activities program, under the inspired leadership of Jim Petty, has become very worthwhile as more students are taking an active part in it.

One of the most unfortunate things this year has been the loss of several top faculty members. The greatest loss has not yet been announced because his appointment at one of the best-known Midwestern universities has not been made official.

This year has also been one of growth for the Observer -- the two and four page issues of the past have been replaced by six and eight page issues.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the people who have helped make the Observer what it is today. To Paul Turk, Dan Polsky, and Bill Hoke. I extend thanks for taking time during the year to write letters of helpful advice and encouragement.

Thanks also should go to the faculty members, such as Mr. Amann and Mrs. Murphy, who have taken the time to contribute their comments to the Observer. Without faculty participation and co-operation, the Observer cannot hope to cover the entire spectrum of campus opinion. Thanks should go also to the profs who understood when staff members turned papers in late or cut class in order to get the Observer out on time.

Special thanks are in order for John "Mac" MacLellan, our advisor, whose help has been invaluable, and to Mr. Williamson, whose calm voice of reason on the Publications Committee has been so welcome.

I would also like to express my thanks to the administration, whose offices have always been open to the Observer, and especially to Mr. Varner, who faithfully kept his promise not to "delineate the lines of freedom of the Observer".

Jerry Ingram, our printer, also deserves thanks for the fine job he has done for us this semester. Even when we were late in getting the copy in, he managed to deliver our paper on time.

Most of all, though, my thanks go to the staff of the Observer, all of whom have been hard-working and faithful. Special mention should be made of the fine job Bruce Chadwick has done with the advertising, the excellent work of Sheri Jackson, and the dependable work of David Johnston. It is these people who were behind the success of the Observer this year, and it is these people who will carry on this summer as the Observer continues to grow. B.C.

## The Oakland Observer

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## Contuse IV: Pretty, But . . .

by the Observer Staff

Contuse 4 hit the stands last week, and, as usual, it was filled with entertaining and even very moving literary experiences. We missed the work of some of Oakland's best writers -- Mrs. Alberta Peoples, Mrs. Virginia Batinski, Mr. Jeff Fox -- but we welcomed the inclusion of others -- Miss Maureen McClow, Mr. Richard Swain, Mr. Don Downing, to name a few.

Assuming that you are well-stocked with beer and cigars, Contuse 4 is well worth your dollar. The largest single reason that this is so is the "Notes from a Journal," by Maureen McClow.

Miss McClow is a very capable writer. Her best trick is balancing her writing delicately between two genres, the "personal confession journal" and the burlesque of the "personal confession journal."

The effect resulting is that Miss McClow's writing is filled with meaningful ambiguity; and while it is not light enough to be frivolous, it is not heavy enough to be embarrassing.

She muses, "...how a world that produced Allen Ginsberg managed to produce a freak like me. I'm so damn secure it's hard to believe, AND IT'S NOT MY FAULT!" Her "confessions" have a certain validity at face value, but beyond that, we turn our thoughts to Ginsberg, that great self-probing original, and wonder if habit itself -- even habitual maladjustment -- does not smack of the easy, the pre-settled, the bourgeois.

Mr. Richard Swain's poem, "An UnSocratic Monologue," is a learned and well-wrought addition to a magazine which may pride itself too keenly upon its ignorance. Mr. Swain's poem is available even to those who have not studied the Platonic dialogues of disputed authorship; and although we may wonder what Calicles' prediction was, or what happened at Apollonium, we will be left in no doubt about the central image of the poem: the smile of the little bald man who spends his days "Declaiming, questioning, tweaking noses," the smile which refracts the image of the poem's speaker and everyone else who has studied with Socrates.

Worthy of special note are poems by Mr. Don Downing, whose work is aired in the Observer from time to time. Among other things, Mr. Downing is a ponderous rhetorician and a writer of long wisdoms. Nonetheless, he has an undeniable charm, and a quite considerable capacity for rehashing things said before, and full so well expressed.

We found particularly absorbing that poem of Mr. Downing's which begins "Purose is of course to be not quite mad." It is

Continued on page 4

## Comment

on Issues of Interest  
to the University Community

### Departing Historian Leaves Legacy:

#### "Firebugs" Seen As Political Satire

After seeing Mr. Biedermann and the Firebugs last night, I am convinced that we shall hear all about the "theatre of the Absurd", about cryptic symbolism, existential affirmation and similar nonsense. Nothing could indeed be more absurd than to place Max Frisch's political satire in the currently fashionable company of Albee, Beckett, Ionescu, et. al.

It is my contention that Max Frisch, writing for a German audience, was being satirical in a very specific and, in fact, down-to-earth manner. Mr. Biedermann and the Firebugs, first and foremost, is a bitter take-off on the events leading up to the Nazi seizure of Germany in 1933. What Frisch had in mind, I believe, was the creation of an ideological folk-drama in which the audience would have no difficulty in identifying the symbolic protagonists. If necessary, they were to be as clearly labeled as canned fruit.

This, indeed, is the place to start: the characters' names and behavior. Biedermann is a sardonic term for a respectable bourgeois, for a philistine. Add to this the ever-lit cigar and you have the standard European stereotype for Big Business.

The two firebugs are equally straight-forward as the two arch types of Nazism: Sep Schmitz (Sepp has a connotation somewhat similar to Bud in the U.S.: it ain't refined: Schmitz means blow or lash. As though this were not enough, he is an unemployed wrestler!) is the storm-trooper imposing by brute force and intimidation. Willie Eisenring is his cunning partner, smothering his victim in a ring of iron, after pal Schmitz has struck the direct blow.

The unseen, hired inventor, Knechtling, whom Biedermann drives to suicide despite the former's fourteen years of faithful service, (1918-1932), is of course Biedermann's Knecht (hireling, serf, slave),

in other words, the German working class, exploited and ultimately sacrificed by Big Business.

Other characters are slightly less clearly labeled. Though Anna's name provides no obvious clue, her behavior does: she is Biedermann's formalistic, simpering marionette, without a will of her own yet never forgetting her graceful and artificial ways -- i.e., the German parliament, whose strings were pulled by Big Business.

There remains Ph.D. What obviously labeled intellectual fits this bill? Someone himself not a firebug, but content to watch in passive fascination until it is too late? The only logical candidate is Bruening, leader of the Catholic Center Party, an intellectual who remains passive until almost the final conflagration.

I would imagine that Babette, Biedermann's wife, is meant to be Germany, while the dump cop may be the German Army.

The basic plot deals with the relationship of Big Business to the Nazi nihilists (Mr. Biedermann and the Firebugs). Specifically, the intimidate and, in the end, compliant, Mr. Biedermann stands for the Thyssens, Stinnes, Krupps and all the other German industrialists (whose offspring, incidentally, are again running Germany today!) who, despite some distaste, financed the Nazi movement, making its success inevitable. This, despite the obvious fact that the Nazis are openly intent (Is it Schmitz or Eisenring who mentions that telling the truth is their most effective smoke-screen since no one will believe it?) upon incinerating the whole bourgeois so-

Continued on page 3

### Cynical Soph Says

To the editor:

Congratulations are in order for Mrs. Haddix, our beloved Housing Director.

Since her resignation became public three weeks ago, she has successfully created herself as a martyred folk hero in the image of Loren Pope.

Now that she has accomplished this, perhaps she could tell us the real reason for her resignation, rather than the hogwash about conflict of "attitudes and goals" that she mentioned when she announced her resignation.

Clyde

### "Sign Away Soul"

To the Editor:

Fact has it that the "honor system" is in jeopardy. Rumor has it that a requirement for signing in before visiting a room in the dorms will be imposed.

In light of this development I thought a poem by the famous obscure poet, Stots Reelee, in which he makes reference to the obscure famous poet, V. Goldsmith, might be appropriate.

When a lovely woman stoops  
to folly  
And is betrayed by her R.A.  
Would signing a list make  
her less sorry?  
Would it make a difference  
in any way?

Oh, honor holds a high position  
That dwarfs the greatest Hill.  
'Tis better to leave  
this institution  
Than to sign away one's soul.

Charles Colbert



### Comment

Continued from page 2.

ciety. I don't know what the pun was in the original German, but nothing could be plainer than Biedermann and Babette (Big Business and a terrorized, hare-brained Germany!) cooking their own goose.

Once the basic pattern is recognized, much of the stage-business becomes fairly clear. Notice that it is always Anna that lets the Nazis in, i.e., parliament, simpering and reluctant, admitting the fire-brands. It is Anna who during the cooked-goose dinner (the 1932 collaboration of the big-business-dominated Nationalist party with the Nazis?) sits on Willie's lap, i.e., the Nazis, almost capturing parliamentary control in the elections of 1932. The ghost scene in which Sepp Schmitz impersonates Knechtling dead by suicide (The German working class in general, but almost surely the German Socialist part in particular!) is supposed to convey the ghostly, though impressive, resurgence or working class militancy (the increased Communist vote in 1932) which, in real life as on the stage, nonetheless succeeded in terrifying Mr. Biedermann. Earlier, the fantastic scene in which Biedermann, hopping yet standing still, infects the whole chorus with his madness, presumably refers to the economic crisis which had gripped Germany by 1931 in which Big Business, however impotent, still sets the non-pace.

Does this mean that there isn't a single juicy bit of absurdity in the play? How about the de-

lightfully gratuitous striptease? Alas, fun though it be, it isn't gratuitous either. The fact that the Ph.D.'s (read Bruening, leader of the Catholic Center) seduction -- and this is what the striptease is all about -- is carried out by a member of the chorus and not by one of the "real" characters is a good clue to the playwright's intention. It is the Harlot of Ambition, a vision of personal power (in fact, Bruening as chancellor ruled by extraordinary decrees!) that motivates Ph.D.-Bruening in opposing the Nazis after the conflagration had already started. Ph.D.-Slowinsky's final speech from the attic is not meant to be audible above the holocaust, any more than was Ph.D.-Bruening amidst the rumbling of the Nazi revolution.

Such, in my opinion, is the meaning of Max Frisch's "learning play without a lesson." If it contains a lesson for theatre lovers, it is to enroll in Mr. Chernov's German History course, and, lo, no longer is life reduced to absurdity, but absurdity is transmuted into life.

Peter Arrann

#### NOTICES:

**REGISTRAR:** Enrollment slips for pre-registration may be picked up in the Registrar's Office from 8:30 a.m. till 12 noon April 12 through 16. Scholarship and loan students must wait until April 30.

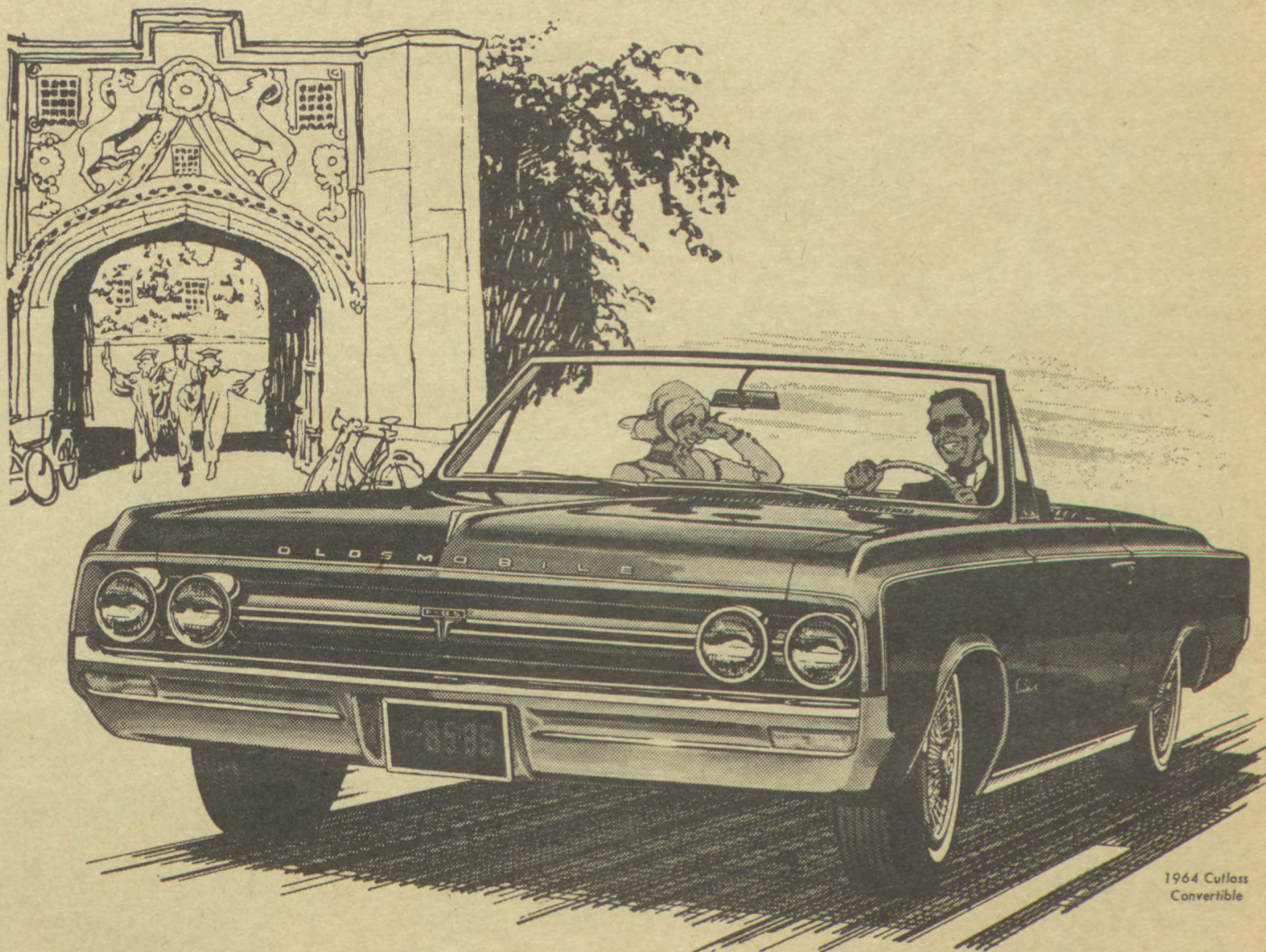
**TEACHER ED:** Internship applications for students qualified to teach in fall semester in secondary history, social science and general elementary must be filled out no later than April 23.

**SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE:** Scholarships are renewed if the student has carried 16 credits and maintained a GPA of 2.50. GPA between 2.0 and 2.50 results in probation for one semester. Loss of scholarship results from a GPA of less than 2.0.

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