

ROCHESTER-- a city growing towards the future, still retains the quaint, small-town atmosphere of the early 1900's. (Staff photos by Aaron Rubin; early Rochester photos courtesy of the Rochester Clarion). **STORY ON PAGE 3**

The Oakland Sail

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Tuition increase in September definite

By Karen Sue Hermes

Tuition is unlikely to increase more than \$1 or \$1.50 per credit hour in September, estimates OU President Donald D. O'Dowd.

Room and board will increase only slightly, if at all, says Patrick C. Nicosia, OU manager for business operations.

A definite figure for the tuition increase will be determined by the Board of Trustees after the Michigan State Legislature announces its 1977-78 fiscal appropri-

ations. Figures for room and board should be decided at the Board's March 17 meeting.

Ray Thomas Harris, OU budget director, says O'Dowd's tuition estimate "sounds reasonable." Governor William Milliken recommended \$14,904,154 to the legislature for OU's 1977-78 fiscal budget. OU's request was for \$16,691,558.

"The governor's recommendation is the bottom line and we very rarely get less," Harris says. "Most often the legislature will appropriate more.

"The Board is waiting to make a definite tuition decision until the state's appropriation picture is clear," Harris says. He expects this will be sometime in May or June.

For operational costs, OU's dormitories depend on self-generated income rather than state appropriations, Nicosia says. Even though food and utilities have gone up, he estimates any increase in room and board will be "way below what is considered average inflation."

Tuition, currently \$24.25

per credit hour for Michigan resident undergrads, has increased \$3.75 per credit hour since September 1975 and \$5.25 since September 1973.

Room and board, currently \$749 a semester for a double occupancy room, has increased \$75 since September 1974 and \$104 since September 1973.

At what point will OU price itself out of the market? "Every time you raise tuition, you price yourself somewhat out of the market," says O'Dowd. "Every time the cost goes up, students have to pay for it. Some percentage of them have to make a choice. Most take fewer classes."

Enrollment figures confirm this.

Although Oakland's actual student head count remains steady, there was a drop, from 8,537 in 1975-76 to 8,430 in 1976-77, in full-time equivalent students, says a spokesman. These figures are computed by adding the total number of undergraduate credits delivered in a fiscal year and dividing by 31 (based on the assumption most students average 31 credits a year).

For most students, another tuition increase in September won't keep them from (continued on page 5)

Presidential review moving along well

By Dave Ross

The review of OU President Donald O'Dowd is moving along well, according to Trustee Richard Headlee.

The three-member Presidential Review Committee, composed of Trustees Marvin Katke, chairperson, Ken Morris, and Headlee, has been meeting privately with individuals from the community, faculty, administration and student body.

Comments the committee has received have been very in-

formative and, in general, have praised O'Dowd's performance during the six and one half years he has been president, Headlee said. The variety of people who have made their comments known to the committee will be sufficient to allow the Board of Trustees to reach a definite conclusion about O'Dowd's performance, he added.

The results of these interviews will be consolidated by the committee and presented to the Board sometime in the future.

Headlee said he has no idea what the Board's reaction would be if the review proceedings revealed some major shortcoming on the part of President O'Dowd.

There is no precedent for the Board to follow in dealing with the results of the review. This is the first time the presidential review procedure has been used at Oakland since the procedure was adopted by the Board in 1974 as part of employment relations policies.

Editor's Opinion

Concerning the continuing debate over students' writing ability, is it any wonder that incoming freshmen are deficient in an area of communication that society holds up and inspects in a sterile, educational vacuum?

Proficient writing is only one form of communication

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and like all communication, is a means to an end, not an end in itself. Therefore, all university instructors, not just those in the English department to whom the teaching of writing has been traditionally and erroneously relegated, should devote themselves to its development.

Good writing should be thought of as merely another means of communication and an integral part of the total learning process, not as a neatly packaged discipline to be dropped off in English department mailboxes around the country.

No one really raises much of a fuss over the fact that basic Italian, introductory history, and beginning chemistry are taught at the university level. Why is there no heated discussion over the fact that students are coming to the university unprepared for advanced work in those areas?

It's time to call a halt to the war of accusations concerning who is to blame for the alleged decrease in writing ability exhibited by freshmen at the university level.

There is a job to be done.

All university faculty should concern themselves with doing it.

--Roger Opiari

Oakland Sail seeks new editor-in-chief

The Oakland Sail Board of Directors is seeking a student to serve as the Oakland Sail's editor-in-chief for the 1977-78 academic year.

The editor-in-chief will receive a scholarship for the Fall '77 and Winter '78 semesters. It includes tuition and fees for up to 16 credits each semester.

Applications are available at Campus Information, Programs and Organizations in 48 O.C.

Applications are due March 18 at 5 p.m. They may be returned to 48 O.C.

BackTalk

Dear Editor,

As two concerned seniors we'd like to respond to the Feb. 28 article "Oakland faculty fights lack of literacy." The article superficially outlines an existent problem, but fails to offer any solution; the closest the article comes to a solution is to suggest increased written work for the students because they had once acquired basic writing skills, but have now lost them through lack of reinforcement. Is Ms. Hamilton really implying that students once possessed these basic skills? Furthermore, does she have the audacity to suggest that they were acquired in the Learning Skills Department? We contend that the Learning Skills Department should not exist and therefore advocate its abolition.

The only thing the Learning Skills Department has going for it is a large enrollment of illiterates at this university. Going against it, however, are two things: valid student criticism based on ineffectiveness and the impossibility of developing basic writing skills in a remedial, two semester program. However, these are minor points; even if the department were totally capable of fulfilling its task (which it is not), it should not exist at the university level. A prerequisite for college admission should be substantial proof of basic literary skills. Students should be able to compose a cogent essay of at least one thousand words in standard English as well as possess the ability to pass a rigorous reading comprehension exam. More concisely, do not admit illiterates. We feel that the mere existence of illiterates and a Learning Skills Department at this university is degrading. (It's no wonder we're mistaken for O.C.C.). People should not receive college credit for remedial work; this devalues any degree granted by this university. Once students are admitted we suggest a require-

ment for graduation similar to English 140 that integrates the study of literature and constant reinforcement of the basic writing skills.

Of course we're setting ourselves up to be asked, "What do we do with all of the illiterates?" At the risk of sounding calloused and selfish, we offer no solution for this problem. For us to offer a reasonable solution we would have to take to task the entire educational system below the college level, which is where the problem, and therefore the solution, must lie. We realize what folly it would be to try to restructure the entire educational system in this letter and are too sagacious to partake in such inspired follies.

--Mike Nelson
--Terri Chiaverotti
class of '77

Dear Editor,

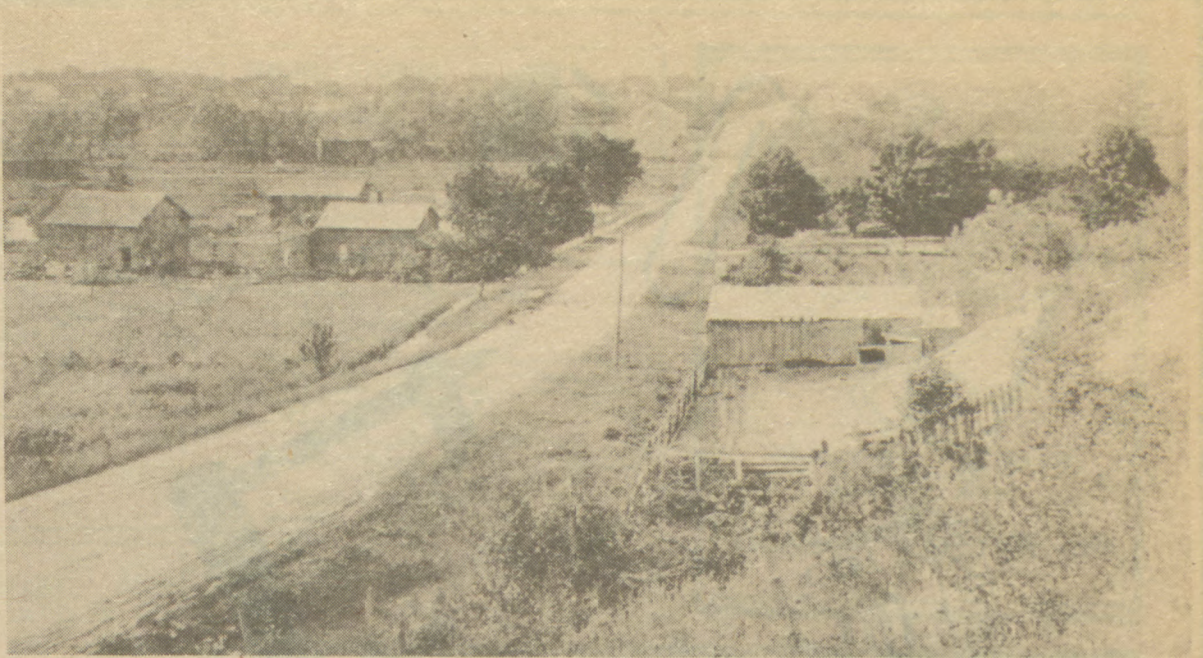
As a member of the first graduating class of OU in 1963, I would not like to see the university make another name change. The original name, Michigan State University Oakland (MSUO) was changed to Oakland University just months before our commencement exercises. OU has an identity that would be lost if changed.

Having known Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Wilson, I don't think they would be pleased with the name Meadow Brook University. The manor house is unique and should have its own identity.

As a teacher in the area, I am very pleased when I can recommend students to OU. It has an admirable academic program that has continued through the years since some 550 of us began classes in September of 1959 on the campus which was then only North and South Foundation Halls.

--Al Monetta
class of '63
Student Number 0069

All signed letters to the editor of appropriate content and length will be considered for publication by the Oakland Sail. However, the Sail reserves the right to deny publication of any letter submitted.



ROCHESTER'S FIRST ROAD-- built in 1824, was once traveled only by horses. Today, however, Rochester is a developing city with modern roadways, subdivisions and shopping malls. (Staff photos by Aaron Rubin).

A growing town retains quaint image

By Jack McCoy

First in a two-part series on Rochester

When the United States government initiated a program to distribute land for farming following the War of 1812, the area north of Detroit was passed over, regarded as a vast area of swampland.

The Ottawa Indians knew otherwise, and in 1817 they directed a man named James Graham inward from Mount Clemens to "a land abounding with hills and oaks." Graham and his family found what they were looking for, clearing a spot for a temporary shelter behind the municipal building that stands in downtown Rochester today.

Graham's wife named the city after her hometown of Rochester, N.Y., establishing the beginning of the oldest community in present day Oakland County.

This was a modest beginning indeed for what today is one of the most heavily populated and richest counties in the entire country.

For many years, Rochester was a self-sustaining rural community. The town's first industry was a saw mill, built in 1819, which provided lumber for the buildings erected on land parcels purchased from the Federal Government for \$1.25 an acre.

In 1824, the community had its own post office and its first road, designed to connect Detroit with Pontiac with a branch from Royal Oak to Rochester.

The first retail establishment was a general store built in 1824. Soon after followed a drugstore, a hotel and the town's first resident doctor.

The period following the development of the Detroit and Bay railroad line in 1872 was a thriving time for the merchants of Rochester.

Together with the advent of the Inter-Urban electric streetcar around the turn of the century, which ran from Rochester to Detroit, the village was brought into increased contact with the city of Detroit.

This was about the time that Rochester's first, and for many years only, newspaper began publication.

The Rochester Clarion was founded in 1898 by Charles Summer Seed, grandfather of Charles Seed, who still publishes the Clarion today. "For a subscription, they took in a box of eggs or a pound of butter," says Seed of his grandfather's operation.

"It was a beautiful small town, says Lee Johnson, who has lived in Rochester all her life. She is a member of the Yates family who

started the Yates grist mill in 1863 and which still operates today as a cider mill, just outside of Rochester.

Rochester is no longer a small town, however. Although only 1.6 square miles in size, with a 1976 population of about 7,500, Rochester has been engulfed by an ever-growing Avon township.

Why has the Avon area attracted such a large number of people in recent years? City clerk Ross, who has lived in Rochester for 40 years, says it is the natural beauty of the area. "People come here because of the rolling hills, the trees and parks, instead of a lot of concrete."

Will Rochester and Avon township lose their appeal if the present growth trend continues?

Some, like Lee Johnson, think it already has lost much of its charm. "When I was growing up here, I knew everyone in town," she says. "Now I don't know anyone. It's like I'm an alien here."

Rochester is doing everything it can to preserve its rich historical past. Many of the original downtown buildings are still housing businesses, although most of them have been structurally improved.

And it's still the place to shop for antiques, handmade leather goods, glassware and jewelry, a saddle for your horse or feed for your chickens all the while leaving your car (or horse) in one spot.

Next Week:
What OU means to Rochester

