

Focus:Oakland

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BOOKSTORE SERVICE MAY BE CUT

By Skip Thomson

"To cope with the increase in crimes involving the University Bookstore, drastic measures may have to be taken by September. I hope not, though," said Bookstore manager David Bixby.

This statement came as a result of the latest and largest theft in the Bookstore's history. Over Valentine's, a cash box used for the refunding of books, on St. Valentine's Day."

Discontinuation of the book refunding service is one of the drastic measures Bixby spoke of when questioned by Focus, in the aftermath of this

theft. Bixby, however, expressed hope that such measures will not have to be used.

"The book refunding service is an integral part of a university bookstore system and is a student oriented facility," said Bixby.

"If, however, this service is jeopardized by wanton acts of theft, and the continual abuse by petty criminals, it will have to be discontinued," commented Bixby.

The standard procedure for acquiring a cash refund for textbooks is to produce a drop slip with the instructor's signature for the class dropped.

This is verified by the bookstore by calling the instructor. If that instructor can verify the signature, the cash refund is made.

Verification of the instructor's signature had to be added to the procedure due to the prolific abuse of the refund service. Many a would be criminal was thwarted in his efforts to procure a cash refund for stolen books, said Bixby.

Consequently, tighter security will have forestall the increase in shoplifting this past year. Bixby acknowledged the fact that all medicinal drugs, aspirins, etc., have been moved from display shelves to Charlie Brown's.

"The sale of cos-



metics and toiletries will be discontinued as well if the soaring shoplifting rate persists," he added.

"For a bookstore of our size, we have one of the best and most varied selections of books in the Midwest," said Bixby. The precarious conditions which the bookstore must face to maintain such a wide selection of books.

The OU Bookstore loses on the average \$20,000 a year to shoplifting and theft of goods. The majority of the goods being textbooks.

Bixby hinted that in the future the textbook section would be closed to the public, after the early semester rush for books has ended. Following this action, a student would have to ask an employee for the desired book, letting the employee get it for him/her.

The installation of mirrors and closed circuit television has been suggested as a means of combating the crime problem. However, Bixby although in favor of such installations,

cannot bear the financial burden.

"I couldn't watch a television all day, nor could I pay someone else to do it. We just don't have the money," commented Bixby.

the kind of thief that is caught in a crime in the bookstore, reported Bixby. Quite often they have sufficient money on their person, but claim poverty as the instigation for their crime.

The actual financial loss rendered by the thefts amounts to 1% of the total profit the store takes in in a year.

"The loss is costly, but not as costly as it will be to the student body if further measures have to be taken to stop the crime situation," said Bixby. "If we have to penalize the entire university population for the illicit acts of a few, and curtail many of our services normally accepted as routine to a university bookstore, we will do it."

Tapes Target For Parking Lot Thief

By Skip Thomson

The arrest of a narcotics addict as he attempted to break into a car parked in Lot A last Tuesday (Feb. 15) has ended an apparent rash of car burglaries at OU parking lots.

Public Safety officers Robert Goeckel and Alfred Walker apprehended the suspect while he was in the process of committing the crime. Both officers were in plain clothes.

The ostensible target of the suspect was the car's stereo tape deck system.

Since Friday, Feb. 11 to the 15th, seven car break-ins have occurred. Each one resulted in the theft of the cars' stereo tape system.

The series of crimes were allegedly committed by the same suspect, said Earl Gray, Director of Public Safety. Gray determined this in a conversation with the apprehended suspect disclosing his involvement in the other break-ins. The name of the suspect is being withheld pending completion of the investigation.

The apparent motive, Gray reported, was to procure stereo equipment that could be sold illegally for money to support the suspect's heroin habit.

In the suspect's own car was found four tape decks, one FM radio, one stereo vibrator, and a large number of tapes.

Both Goeckel and Walker were commended by Gray in their role in solving the case. Officers Goeckel and Walker volunteered, without pay, to work an added shift to be able to work in plain clothes on this case, said Gray.



Comment Brings Blasting Replies

It was perhaps a poor choice of words when this author questioned the competence of some student government officials. What I wished to question was not anyone's integrity of honesty. I was questioning the judgment of student government officials in allowing some pictures to be printed when not all could be.

I was a bit surprised by the response. One letter agreed with this writer's ideas, but then went on to make some less than sensible proposals. (This was hardly necessary.) A former high student official told me "...you f..cked up." (Let's not go into just who's fu..ck-up around here. That's the subject of another editorial.) Others told me how hard they had worked on the election.

I am sure that a few people (a very few people) did work extremely hard. Ron Carlson, a former high student official, pointed out that three or four people did most of the work. The fault, Carlson said, was not in competence but in use of "... poor judgment under very extenuating circumstances." In this I concur.

The question arises why did this occur? Why were a few students so overworked? This was due to a lack of volunteers to work on the elections. But why was there a lack of volunteers? Apathy. But why so much apathy? It is this author's contention that at least some of this

Dear Hocus Focus Focus:

I agree with Dr. Jerry Bixby ("Stop Election Idiocy", February 16 issue). It is un-American to print pictures of only part of the student council. Next year, let's run pictures of everybody, not just candidates, but potential writers, too — in other words, let's have a yearbook. Neatseen idea, huh?

In our yearbook should be the favorite jokes of the cliques around school so our representatives will really know what students are thinking about. We want pictures of our teachers and brief sentences about them — kinda like Oakland Undiapered. Then teachers will treat us nice because they'll want groovy things written about them in the Class Will and Prophecy.

Put in a picture of Principle O'Dowd, cuz we never get to see him nowhere. 'Course, pictures of our safety patrol men (mother is so proud of them) oughta be in there too. Tell us about all the cool clubs everybody's in. They are the best indication of good citizenship — which will help us in voting for student council members. And don't forget to student council members. And don't forget to include fond memories of our beloved Pioneers, and, of course, our cheerleaders — the prettiest in the whole school district.

Cont. on pg. 8

Congress Invalidation: A QUESTIONABLE ACTION

The Student Allocations Board (SAB), with a little help from its friends, became the Election Validations Committee and investigated illicit inconsistencies, re: the Congress election. As is well known by now, they deemed the Congressional election invalid and the presidential election valid; which appears to be a questionable maneuver. Anyway, the rationale was that the only part of the elections being contested were the congressmembers' and therefore, this was the only part that could be cancelled. I'll leave it to you to determine whether such reasoning is highly imaginative (in the literal sense) or unimaginative. Also, whether any part of the elections merited invalidation.

I will give the Validation Committee the benefit of the doubt and grant them that they possess not ordinary, hindsight and reactionary tendencies. It seems that they have made some very serious errors in throwing out the Congress election. The facts follow:

1. The fact that some four-fifths of the candidates who had pictures appearing in the Special Election Issue were elected was taken to mean that this paper insured their election. However, this conclusion cannot be directly active in some form of campus politics (OPAR, Congress, dorm council, etc.). All of these factors together (and in my estimation, personal publicity campaigns specifically), helped win a Congressional seat for candidates.

2. In defense of our efforts on the aforementioned Special Election Issue, every possible effort was made to get candidates pictures taken a second time (after the

photographer's camera blew the first session). If anything made the second session impossible, it was the candidates' lack of desire to forego a Sunday afternoon and whatever the hell they do on a Sunday afternoon.

3. Mr. Franzblau's bitch of a mishandling of his petition is pure and utter nonsense. Dave had his petitions in on time and requested them back in order to re-draft his platform. As a courtesy to him, since the petitions were officially Congress property, we let Dave take his petition and platform home to re-work them. Mr. Franzblau claims he wasn't told to bring them back; but it would seem common sense dictates that if the trouble is made to effect a deadline for petitions and platforms and that the Congress no where makes provisions for the return of said materials, then we were in need of them for some reason (mainly to run the damn election!).

Aside from all the "facts" and "fantasies" of the "Election Validations Committee Hear-

ing" (which was as audacious as it sounds), they overlooked quite a few critical truths about Oakland University and its populace's voting habits.

1. Elections always have a meagre turn-out ("Who cares?")

2. If more than one election is held, the second is likely to have even less of a turn-out than the first one had. E.G., the Presidential Run-Off had a very poor showing. ("Vote again? But I just voted! I don't have time for this #!\$@ foolishness!")

3. Elections aren't as easy to run as the EVC seems to believe—especially from the manpower standpoint drawn except by the naive mind. The Committee failed to note that the overwhelming majority (I'd say about the same four-fifths) of candidates who campaigned also won. The people who won were also generally (though to a lesser extent than 4/5) (In the last election one person ran all the preliminary publicity and two people actually conducted the elections. And I think you'll agree that with lack of sup-

Cont. on pg. 8

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JOB PROSPECTS IMPROVED FOR '72

By Bob Knoska

Although it's still a little early, the first prospects for summer job hunters are beginning to show. The Offices of Financial Aids and the Placement will both be helping students find jobs again this year, and both have a few suggestions if you would like their help.

From Gladys Rappoport, Acting Director of Financial Aids: "About March 1, we begin to look for job opportunities from employers, both on and off campus. We work from the standpoint of the financial aid application for 1972-73, and if the person has indicated want of our help in finding a summer job. We then try to fit people to jobs, as opposed to winter, when we just connect available jobs with

people who need them."

Ron Kevern, of the Placement Office, suggests that as of March 1, one should "arrange for an interview with someone from my staff so that we can be aware of what he/she would want for a career-oriented job. A resume can be started, credentials and references then can be matched with an opportunity." Sometimes there are out of state jobs available, and civil service opportunities to look into. Ron also adds that "many students miss out on jobs because they don't leave forwarding addresses when they leave school in May or June."

From what many economists and politicians say, this year will be better for jobs because it is an election year, but that is only conjecture. Even if



DONATIONS NEEDED

ZPG is have a Flea Market Wednesday, March 8, from 9 to 4 in the Fireside Lounge in the O.C. Donations of old books, records, toys, furniture, incense burners, trinkets or beads, . . . ANYTHING is desperately needed. Donations can be left at 205B Hamlin. Anyone interested in helping in the project can contact either Cindi Dilmore (72962) or Bob Knoska (72707).

WANTED: 2 male college students to deliver pizza on campus. Must have own transportation. Contact Mr. Minchella, 373-1178, or leave message.

\$380 Taken From Bookstore

By Skip Thomson

St. Valentine's Day, symbolic as the day of love and gangland massacres, was a financial massacre for the University Bookstore. A thief stole over \$380 from their cash refund box during regular hours of the afternoon.

Located under the counter of one of the front cash registers, the cash refund box was used to keep all cash used in transactions involving re-funded books.

Apparently, the box was open and the money was visible. For some one, the temptation was just too great, said Earl Gray, director of Public Safety.

The theft was not discovered until 2:55 p.m., only one

hour after a check on its contents was made by a store employee, said David Bixby, manager of the Bookstore.

Bixby, who was at a meeting when the theft occurred, stated that customer traffic reportedly was normal. Nothing was unusual, though it was a holiday.

All employees and customers in the Bookstore at the time of the theft were fingerprinted by Public Safety. At present, there are two suspects, reports Gray. However, pending the outcome of the investigation, their names and any other details about the theft are being withheld.

(See related story, page 1)

Z P G Recruiting

Zero Population Growth (ZPG) is a nationwide organization for the purpose of helping to stop the population explosion in the U.S. The group is currently interested in educating the public of the facts of the population problem (supporting general law and abortion reforms), and making available a referral service for abortion, vasectomy, adoption, and sterilization information. They

have information for those wishing to circulate abortion reform petitions or for those who wish to sign and have not had the opportunity.

Anyone interested in joining ZPG should contact Cindi Dilmore (72962) or Bob Knoska (72707), or merely drop by one of the meetings, held Fridays, 1 to 3, in 55 O.C. (near Student Org. Office).

An abrupt shift in the campus management of Catering Management Inc. last week resulted in the replacement of Bob Robinson with Ron Nielsen as director.

Introduced last Wednesday night in the Hamlin Coffee House "hot seat", Nielsen responded to numerous queries and complaints from students. He first stated emphatically that the Vandenberg

cafeteria students were CMI's main concern. Nielsen feels that certain matters of CMI policy (that are present at other CMI customer schools, such as good lines of communication with students and workers) need fulfillment here at Oakland.

Also on the "hot seat" with Nielsen was Dale Henry, director of production in Vandenberg.

Cont. on pg. 8

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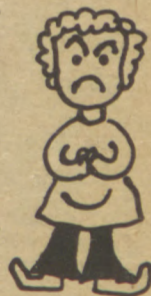
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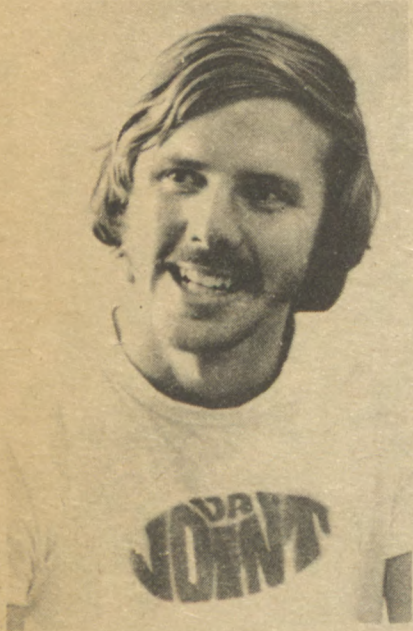


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IN RETROSPECT . . .



By Ron Malkowicz

When Ron Carlson became president of the University Congress last fall, he inherited from the resigning Bob Barkdull a shaky, inexperienced, indecisive Congress. The faculty work-stoppage had ended just a short time before. The Congress, trying to get together to come up with some programs and make some headway, then experienced the resignation of its president. The situation was indeed unstable when Ron took office.

Ron had two main goals that occupied most of his time as president. Foremost was an improvement of student activities.

He pushed for a new system of budgeting, whereby the various clubs and organizations on campus would be allocated only enough money to break even; any more money would have to come through a special projects fund. The clubs would have to come up with special programs or events that would be of interest to large numbers of students in order to gain additional funds. It was hoped that such funding would force the clubs to try to expand their bases of students and to provide activities that would involve larger percentages of the student body. Even though the Allocations Committee gave out funds more generously than he had hoped, Ron felt the new system to be partially successful.

His other method for bettering student activities was an improved concert-lecture series. The "J.C. Superstar" performance in December, he felt, was a step in the right direction, despite its financial loss. Ron considered it better to have something that you can criticize than to have nothing at all. He also felt that it gave students much-needed experience for handling future such events.

Ron's other goal was shot down last week when open parking was dumped. He attributed this to a reluctance of the administration to face a possible grievance from the AAUP. He considered this to be indicative of the power relationships within the University, showing the need for students to be able to fight back and win their rights.

The Congress, Ron felt, should be a "muckraking body" playing the part of the "devil's advocate." He emphasized the need for the Congress to raise hell whenever students are being stepped on, since the Congress is the only organization recognized by the faculty and the administration as a legitimate voice of the student body. In another sense, he also stressed the need for the Congress to constantly seek out facts and come up with proposals to improve the quality of student life.

This past semester saw a vast turnover of Congress members. Many resigned and were replaced by appointees. Ron attributed a large number of the resignations to a general feeling of frustration

THE CONGRESS SUFFERS FROM

THE CONGRESS WILL EVENTUALLY COME TOGETHER

among members; he said many felt themselves powerless as individuals to affect change, and were frustrated with the prospect of having to go through so many channels. Others, he said, just felt that their other interests were suffering too much. As to the reason for appointing new members, Ron said that the Congress suffers from a "credibility gap," that students generally don't see many results happening from each election, and that new elections would be useless.

Ron considered his role as president to be one of leadership. He saw himself as trying to establish direction and to influence and persuade people to demonstrate true involvement in student affairs. He attributed his inability to motivate enough people as the main reason for the failure of his goals to be carried through completely.

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