OCC teachers, administrators enact meeting between famous educators

Education's last 200 years are telescoped into one evening's conversation when five who influenced the field meet to trade retorts, exchange notes and sip wine with their host Jean Pi-

aget.

The scenario was made possible through the newly-tapped writing and acting talents of five instructors and administrators at Oakland Community

administrators at Oakland Community
College's Orchard Ridge campus. The
group presented their "Meeting of the
Educators' this week on campus.
Art Wiggins, an instructor in the science and physics department portrays
Plaget, the only member of the famous
ducational quintet still alleve.
The imaginery evening in Piaget's
Swiss home includes Marie Montessori
(OCC trustee Suzanne Reynolds),
W.E.B. DuBols' Chistory instructor
Curtis Anderson), John Dewey (Don Nichols, dean of ilberal arts), and Jean
Jacque Rosseau (Grey Paye, political
Steiner instructor), John Plaget Wissteiner instructors, and Plaget Wis-

Jacque Rosseau (Jerry Faye, political science instructor.)
When he took the role of Piaget, Wiggins read interviews and biographies of the educator. Since Piaget writes in French, a language in which Wiggins inn't proficient, readings of Piaget's own works were limited to translations.

"I tried to immerse myself in what he said and did. Many of the things I say in the script are direct quotes," said Wiggins.

concerning the validity and importance of testing.

Montessori insists to Piaget that testing isn't of the first importance. The instruction should be properly approached by the teacher. Her method of first sing the student practice using the part of the practice using the new material before any testing allows children to escape feeling like faitures for not immediately grasping the new lesson, argued Ms. Reynolds in the person of Montesori. Ms. Reynolds, who teaches preschool children doesn't agree totaly with Montessori's method.

"THE MATERIALS are excellent," she said of the Montessori method. "But there is more structure there than my own philosophy of education." She maintains that the giffed child does better but the less talented in the statement of the statement of the Montessori perfected her method for underpriveleged children who had been written off by the Italian education system of the 1890's as being almost imbedies.

She founded the Montessori training

tem of the 1890's as being almost imbecibles.

She founded the Montessori training center in Laren, he Netherlands which her son still oversees.

The emphasis on structure rather than testing is puzzling to Piaget in the play. He helped to formulate the early IQ tests in Payis during the 1820s as a way of measuring knowledge.

Such testing continues to canse a furror in educational circles.

Turor in educational circles.

Such testing continues to the control of the WHEN THE ONSTAGE discussion turns to subjects on which Plaget hasn't a written opinion, Wiggins used the Freenhand's stated views to discern what he might possibly have thought. Wiggins hopes to have the script translated into French and sent to Plaget.

Plaget is portrayed as a careful yet hergetic man. Now 83, he devotes his summers to writing in the isolated confort of an old farmhouse. His writings are those of a man visi flenthle, Wiggins explained.

"He's not interested in saying bing! were obsolete as soon as they were flexible; Wiggins said.

"It's not interested in saying bing! were obsolete as soon as they may be a soon as they of the scene between Plaget and Montessori.

HIS OWN education reflected that desire.

"At a time when very few whites had a Ph.D from Harvard," Anderson said.

DuBois carried his degree in 1893. He was a professor of economics and history at the University of Atlanta from 1900 to 1932.

Of Sacco and Venzetti, DuBois sar-assically wrote, "They had the inalien-assic professor of economics and history at the University of Atlanta from "DuBois was under warner at 39."

DuBois was under warner at 39."

DuBois was "The was mall critical of those groovy things written about it."



John Nichols, OCC dean of liberal arts, concentrates on representing educator John Dewey. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

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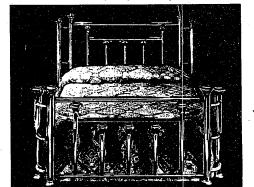
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