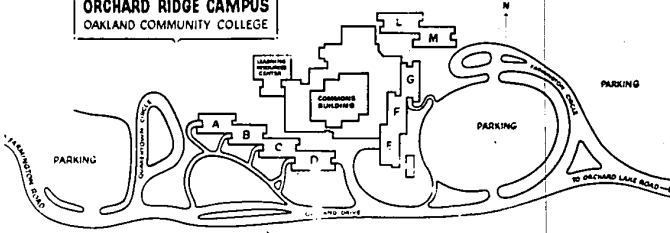


Orchard Ridge: A Campus Without Classrooms

INTERSTATE HIGHWAY I-696

ORCHARD RIDGE CAMPUS
OAKLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Oakland Community College designed and built a campus which is virtually without classrooms.

OCC has come closest to the ideal situation of a one-to-one relationship between teacher and student at its Orchard Ridge campus in Farmington Township.

The campus is on a 154-acre site between Farmington and Orchard Lake roads just south of the I-696 Freeway.

Orchard Ridge opened its doors in September and has a total enrollment of 1,585 students.

Upon its completion next year, it will have 11 buildings costing about \$20 million.

At Orchard Ridge campus, OCC puts the emphasis upon the individual student and concentrates on each student's individual study.

THE TRADITIONAL CONCEPT of buildings filled with classrooms, students filing from class to class and only seeing their instructor during class has figuratively been thrown out of the window.

For each course, students assemble once a week for a lecture by a master teacher. The rest of the student's time is spent, as he feels necessary, in the "tutorial laboratories."

Each lab is open 14 hours a day, with a faculty member always available, and provides individual study carrels, audio tapes, visual displays, books, periodicals, experimental set-ups, programmed material, manuals, apparatus, television and any other instructional device.

Each lab is geared to a specific subject or a particular area of knowledge.

The labs are also used for seminars, conferences, quizzes—and socializing.

This unique approach places every possible learning tool at each student's disposal and allows him to progress at his own pace.

ALL BUILDINGS were designed with the close student-teacher concept in mind.

There is a central core of three buildings which house the shared facilities: lecture centers, student commons, and library.

Clustered around these core facilities are

seven tutorial lab buildings.

Four large lecture rooms seat from 100 to 200 students.

In addition, there is an outdoor amphitheater for about 1,000.

Physical education facilities and parking for 3,500 cars complete the complex.

JOHN E. TIRRELL, president of OCC, said, "Orchard Ridge campus has been designed specifically to house an unusual education program."

The program includes the full range of instruction: academic terminal and transfer courses, vocational and technical training, and adult education.

Interior spaces are kept flexible for changes and additions to the program.

The angular roof planes and sculptural forms of the building complex respond strongly to the rugged site.

THE BUILDINGS FALL naturally along the existing ridge and conform with the twisting and turning of the gently sloping hills.

The name, Orchard Ridge, was chosen because it is located in an old orchard, part of which is still there.

The student parking lots are located on the east and west extremities of the campus so that the complex of buildings could remain close together.

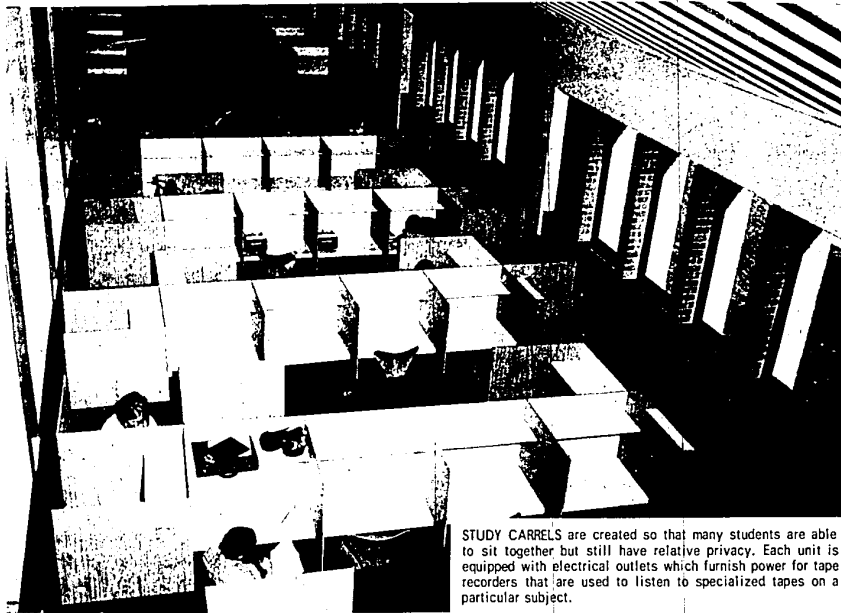
The close proximity of the buildings is designed so that it will take a student only 10 minutes to walk from the furthest two corners of each structure.

The campus has come up against some controversy from an OCC student editor. The story appears below.

Sunday Edition

Sunday, November 5, 1967

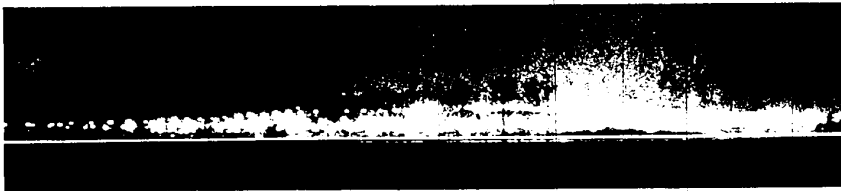
OBSERVER NEWSPAPERS



STUDY CARRELS are created so that many students are able to sit together but still have relative privacy. Each unit is equipped with electrical outlets which furnish power for tape recorders that are used to listen to specialized tapes on a particular subject.



STAGGERING BUILDINGS conform to the natural slope of the countryside. This is the west entrance to the campus. The angles of the roofs contrast with the angle of the hill and give the structures an appearance of leaning into the ground.



LANGUAGE CLASSES that have few students meet in their respective language laboratories. This is a Spanish class.

Student Editor's Attack On Gas Lamp Frills

STORY: Henry J. Teutsch

PHOTOS: Ralph Evert

[Editor's note: Joel Smith, editor of Oakland Community College's Highland Lakes Campus newspaper "The Second Front," wrote this editorial in the school's paper's edition of Oct. 12. It is reprinted with his permission.]

WE HAVE HEARD throughout the past two years that "because of a lack of funds," the Trustees cannot give us such a building. Why aren't these funds available to help improve our education?

Money is available, but it seems that the Board cares more about the beauty of the campuses than the kind of facilities we must have to get the quality education we need so desperately in today's society.

The beautiful new Orchard Ridge campus will cost the taxpayer about \$18 million. Of this sum, about one-quarter million dollars went toward the purchase and installation of ornamental gas lamps for roads and parking lots.

In talking with a representative of the general contractor of the first phase of the new campus, J.A. Utley Co.,

we learned that these gas lamps cost about \$250 each, installed. With between 900 and 1,000 such lamps on the Orchard Ridge campus, this equals more than enough to purchase many essential educational facilities for students.

THESE LAMPS are beautiful, but what is more important, a quality education or the beauty of that campus? Might not the purchase of these lamps have been delayed until such time as we had all the buildings needed at the campuses?

We urge the Trustees to re-evaluate the proposed spending of any more money. They should realize that the college needs many more things to advance the education of its students. Frills that make a campus more beautiful should wait.

Shouldn't we put first things first?

Shouldn't we make it possible for the student body to get a quality education before we spend funds to beautify another campus?

A feud between Oakland Community College's Board of Trustees and the editor of OCC's Highland Lakes campus newspaper over the building policies of the Board has begun.

Joel Smith, the student editor, believes that OCC is turning its Orchard Ridge campus in Farmington Township into a showplace at the expense of the other campuses and other needs. (See editorial.)

Smith contends that "quality education" at the Highland Lakes campus is being sacrificed in order that OCC can "show-off" its Orchard Ridge campus.

RIGHT NOW, Smith said that Highland Lakes is short of

books, tape decks and printed materials.

The student editor maintains that Orchard Ridge campus is getting everything it needs while Highland Lakes, the older campus, is still in need of basic educational tools.

He said that things like landscaping could have been put off until more important things had been taken care of.

"If we don't get facilities that should be offered to us, we can't possibly get the education we need to better society and to transfer to another university," he said, adding: "I think we are getting short changed."

DR. RICHARD E. WILSON, provost at the Orchard Ridge

campus, said that the floodlights were installed as a temporary measure because all of the gas lights have not been finished.

Wilson said, "I would go along with the president for Smith to check his facts before he goes shooting off his mouth."

"I really don't know what he is recommending," he said. "Some of these things called luxuriant frills are really functional," Wilson said.

The provost said that students are able to study longer without getting bored and feeling they have to get up and move around.

Wilson said that as far as

he knows, there is no shortage of materials at Orchard Ridge.

MITCHELL TENDLER, administrative assistant to the president, said, "Certainly there are going to be shortages but this doesn't serve as an indictment of OCC's instructional program."

Tendler said, "We are doing no worse than comparable institutions."

The militant student editor is not going to give up his fight.

He said he will bring matters to a head at the Nov. 9 Board of Trustees meeting at 2480 Ophelia Rd., in Bloomfield Hills.

OCC Heads Defend Their Investment

AS AN EXAMPLE of the