

Orchard Ridge has celebration

No skyrockets will flare to mark the 10th anniversary of Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge campus.

The occasion will be celebrated instead with a "variety of low key events."

An example was a festival open house tied in with an honors convocation, according to Dan Greenberg, spokesman for Orchard Ridge.

The campus, which grew from a 1,300 first year student population to 6,500 last fall, can't be compared in atmosphere with the four year university.

You don't find the rah-rah, collegiate spirit.

Students, who range in age from 16 to the mid-70s, are there with serious purpose, for the most part.

The younger students can live at home, hold down part-time jobs and cover their first two years of collegiate study more cheaply than at a big university or small private college.

Others seek post high school training to fit themselves for new jobs or to advance in jobs they hold without need for the traditional four-year curriculum.

Housewives who have allowed their teacher certificates to expire return for the additional work needed for reinstatement.

"We take the word 'community' in our name very seriously," Greenberg said.

"We offer a wide range of training—in secretarial courses, commercial art, computer processing, photography, real estate, business."

To illustrate, Orchard Ridge provides a center where mothers may leave their children as they pursue their studies, but it doesn't offer many extra-curricular activities.

Various clubs are active. A Theater Guild travels throughout the area staging plays at nurseries and hospitals. But that's about it.

There are certain "fun" classes for those seeking an outlet.

One such class, directed by Greenberg, traces the history of motion pictures.

"I get a kick out of showing those old movies," he smiled.

"Then there's an engineer—I don't know what kind of engineer he is—who takes one course in the humanities each semester just for the fun of it."

For the most part, however, Orchard Ridge concentrates on the philosophy upon which it was founded:

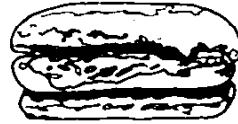
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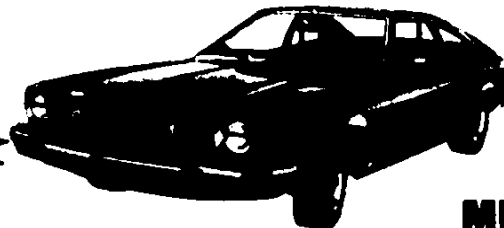
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