

Nurses organizing political lobby

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'Nurses have always set back and said "yes, yes, yes." We can't be that way any more.'

YET NURSES are becoming more assertive, Schaffer said. "My students are now willing to yell at a doctor."

And they have natural political skills, she went on. "They can organize, set goals and work with people."

"They can teach — distill the complex, put it in words the patient can understand."

"They can look at an issue from several perspectives — from the mind of the doctor and the patient."

"Nursing's womanly qualities have spared it from making some of the political mistakes medicine has made," she said, citing the AMA's opposition to Medicare and the ANA's favoring it.

WHAT'S AT stake for nursing in the federal government?
Besides the chance to influence poli-

student loans like anyone else." Brodhead noted the Reagan Administration wants to cut assistance for graduate student nurses — a level of training that is a prerequisite for RNs who want to become supervisors.

JOHNSON WARNED the nurses, when dealing with congressmen, to "make them aware you are concerned with efficiency."

"Congressmen believe health care people aren't concerned with costs. They were right until a year or two ago. You're in trouble politically over the cost issue," the political scientist said.

Brodhead underscored the point: "The cost of medical care has doubled and doubled and doubled and doubled."

and doubled. That has to be slowed down. We have the most expensive health care system in the world, but the quality is going down, and it's not efficient.

"Lots of things could be done through nurse practitioners," Brodhead said, referring to the new field of paramedical services. One student asked whether nurse practitioners shouldn't be billed as a separate service rather than seeing their work lumped ignominiously under the heading of room and board.

"We in Congress get a distorted view," he replied. "We (congressmen) have socialized medicine. We never get a bill."

"I don't think most members of Congress know enough to make a decision about nurse practitioners."

Tuition, housing costs raised at OU

Oakland University has increased its room and board rates and general service fees for the 1982-83 fiscal year. It also has lifted tuition for the summer session starting June 23.

The actions were approved by the OU Board of Trustees May 6. University officials cited increased costs and declining state support for the increase.

Tuition will be increased for the summer session only, OU officials said. An adjustment will be made — up or down — for the fall and winter when the university has a better idea what its 1982-83 state appropriations will be.

Next to the state appropriation, the university derives the bulk of its support from student tuition and fees.

For the summer, Michigan freshmen and sophomores will pay \$41 a credit hour, an increase of \$5; juniors and seniors will pay \$41.50 up to \$1.50, and graduates will pay \$71, an increase of \$11 a credit hour.

The university's general service fee went from \$64.50 to \$67.50 for undergraduates taking 10 credits or more; it increased from \$52 to \$55 for graduates taking eight or more credits.

Undergraduates and graduates taking less than eight or 10 credits, respectively, would pay an increase of \$1.50 rather than \$3.

Room and board for the fall and winter semesters of 1982-83 increased 9.8 percent from \$2,135 to \$2,345.

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