

# Organize the country, Gregory tells students

By HELEN PARKS

Forecasting a bleak future for the U.S. comedian activist Dick Gregory said Wednesday it is up to America's youth to improve this "sick, insane, degenerate nation."

"The only way we can save this country is if you help organize around the country and turn things around," Gregory told his Oakland University audience. "First, you have to organize and take the sickness and confront this country."

"If you don't take a different route, prepare for death because you're going to die," Gregory said.

"If we make it to 1976, this democracy will have survived 200 years. But America is closed in by two sides. On one side we are morally bankrupt. Morality has reached the depth of lowness in America today."

"DICK NIXON wants to crack down on welfare cheaters. But the Senate and the Congress won't do anything to get rid of the handgans in this nation because the big handgan lobbyists say if you do we'll take you out of office," Gregory said.

"There are nine million alcoholics in America affecting the lives of 85 million people. Those rich white folks decide alcohol was legal but say pot is illegal in the same breath," he said.

"On one side we are morally bankrupt. On the other, nature is closing in. We have been violating nature ever since we landed at Plymouth rock. If you understood nature, you would know if you rub nature with a negative action, it will come back with a negative reaction," Gregory said.

And by 1980, Gregory added, we'll be feeling the reaction because floods and the food shortage will worsen.

"IF THE PRICE of onions keep going up in the next three or four months, it will be a status symbol to have it on your breath," he said. "You know America's food shortage is sad. The U.S. Government knew about the food shortage and should have started rationing 18 months ago."

Where's the oil shortage?  
The blame rest with Russia and America Gregory said, criticizing the federal government for not keeping statistics on oil companies.

"We're the only country which does not keep independent statistics on the oil companies. We rely on the oil companies for the figures. That's like the FBI asking the Mafia to help figure out the crime rate," Gregory said.

GREGORY BLAMED many of the country's problems on a "band of rich white folks in New York" whose only contribution to America has been "popcorn, bubble gum, beer and fear."

And it's the fear of America's "older white folks" which got Nixon elected to office, he claimed.

Gregory didn't let the subject of the president pass without comment.

Of Nixon's visit to Michigan last week, Gregory said: "I didn't realize Nixon was in the state until I was in the airport. I keep thinking all those cops standing around protecting him are going to arrest him."

PREDICTING Nixon's future, Gregory said he believes the President will resign within the next month. But, he added, the longer Nixon stays

in office, the more "rich white folks" who control the country will be taken to court.

"I hope Nixon stays in office for 50 years so we can catch all of them," he said.

"I don't think the President lied when he came into office. He said he would take the crime out of the

streets. We should have asked him where he was going to put it," Gregory said.

"If there had been one black man involved in Watergate, he would have got all the blame," he said. "There's no blacks in the administration. You can't blame Watergate on us."

"A lot of people believe Watergate is the worst thing that could happen in America. You can't even compare Watergate with what is about to come. It'll make Watergate look like a picnic."

"You got a big job," Gregory told the students. "Stay home, organize and turn things around."



Dick Gregory delivered some black humor (By LONA ASKINS, Staff Photographer)

## New starts drop sharply

SOUTHFIELD-The estimated value of new building starts in Southfield took more than a \$10 million nose dive the first quarter of 1974 compared to the same period in 1973.

In the first three months of this year, 72 permits were issued at a total estimated value of \$4.2 million, according to the Southfield Department of Building and Safety Engineering.

First quarter, 1973 figures show a total of 123 permits issued at \$14.4 million.

Building Director Clayton Diebel attributes the drop to the general lag in the economy, the energy crisis and the fact that buildable land in Southfield is fast disappearing.

Commercial permits issued dropped from 33 in the first quarter of 1973 to 21 in the same 1974 period and estimated value fell from \$10.8 million to \$2.6 million.

New single-family residential construction hit a slump in the first three months of this year with only two permits issued at an estimated \$34,000 value.

In the same 1973 period, 31 permits were issued at \$55,180.

Apartment construction is down substantially with two permits issued in the first quarter of the year at \$37,600. The 1973, first quarter total was 15 permits at \$2.4 million.



HOWARD COSELL

## Cosell tells it to execs

"It's absurd that Michigan did not go to the Rose Bowl Game.

"Baseball defied the public interest more than any other private enterprise in this country."

That's a sample of Howard Cosell "telling it like it is."

Speaking to more than 400 advertising executives at Southfield's Raleigh House on Thursday (April 11) Cosell raised the pitch of his voice, lunged out his pointed finger and shouted, "You who so successfully deceive the public on a daily basis."

COSELL'S REMARK concerning advertising agencies and their product, although taken by some as deliv-

ered in a partially jesting manner, was acknowledged by officers of the Michigan Council of the American Association of Advertising Agencies as an image they are striving to change.

In recognition of his direct, honest remarks throughout his career as a sports broadcaster, Cosell was given the first annual "Tell it like it is" award.

The award was initiated by the Michigan Council of A.A.'s as part of an information program designed to im-

## Planners add youth member

There will be a new young face on the Southfield Planning Commission.

David Mark Baum, 18, 27550 Harvard Road, has been appointed ex-officio youth member of the commission by Mayor Donald Fracassi.

Baum, a student at Wayne State University, will serve as a non-voting member until he resigns or turns 21. He replaces Kenneth Brown, who resigned on his 21st birthday.

Baum, a graduate of Southfield-Lathrup High School, plans to enter law school and practice corporate law. He said he believes the experience he will gain on the planning commission will prove valuable.

"I am a young concerned voter with many constructive ideas," he said. "I hope my presence at meetings will be an asset to the commission and the city."

Baum is a six year-resident of Southfield.

## Therapeutic recreation offered handicapped

The Southfield Department of Parks and Recreation is sponsoring a therapeutic recreation program for all ambulatory handicapped children ages 6-16.

There are two programs. The first includes water acquaintance, games and crafts. The second includes prepa-

ration for the Special Olympics-track and field, bowling, swimming, gymnastics and ice skating.

The program will be every Saturday beginning May 18 through June 8 at Southfield High School, 24675 Lahser at Ten Mile. The times are 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. for six to 11 year olds and noon to 3 p.m. for 12-16 year olds.

Parents may register their students at the Parks and Recreation Building for the four-week sessions.

If registered, the child will participate in as many Parks and Recreation programs as possible. Parents may be notified of additional programs the staff feels your child might enjoy. The selection of these activities will be according to the specific interests and abilities of the youngster.

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