

CSR

Stud org - Free University

FREE UNIVERSITY

of East Lansing

spring 66



WHAT IS A "FREE UNIVERSITY"? It is an attempt to return to the traditional concept of the community of scholars, the concept on which great universities have been built in the past. It is a group of people sharing their ideas on topics of importance and excitement to them. It is an alternative to the drab, automated education of course outlines, credits, multiple-choice exams and IBM cards. The free university is learning, free from the pressures of finals, research dollars and "image."

WHY A FREE UNIVERSITY in East Lansing? What can a series of seminars and lectures on unusual topics—albeit topics of great importance—do for students at Michigan State University? The answer is to be found in the nature of the university to which the Free University is an alternative.

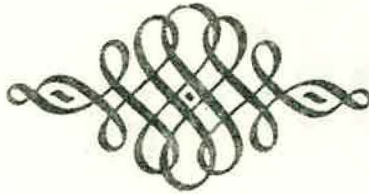
THE UNIVERSITY OF THE 1960's, the multiversity envisioned by Clark Kerr in his book "The Uses of the University", has no room for the debate and open-mindedness which have characterized the universities of the past and which, in altered form, still characterize the best universities today. The multiversity is a closed system; students are only one element in a grand design, which also includes perpetually smooth administration, research contracts, tax dollars, "safe" reading lists and bigger and bigger enrollments, without an effort to improve the real education of students. Despite the fact that thousands more students attend every year—Michigan State's enrollment now jumps by three to four thousand a year—students play a diminishing role in the shaping of their own education. When they try to give themselves an effective say in the running of their universities, they are met either with opposition and failure or with an invitation to participate in an administration study project. Little is left for the student other than to sit back and absorb what is given to him—or to speak out in protest against the dullness and restrictions of the curriculum.

"FREE UNIVERSITIES" HAVE DEVELOPED in many cities across the country as communities of scholars—students and teachers alike—have begun to search for a better and more flexible path to education. In East Lansing as in other places—in some ways, in East Lansing more than in other places—there is a need for this attempt at open-minded, sharing education.

EAST LANSING IS the home of John A. Hannah, the ambivalent civil rights leader; of Wesley Fishel, the professor who set out to save Vietnam; of the nation's foremost schools of police administration and hotel management; of the "living-learning complexes" which imprison 15,000 students; of the Michigan State News, which "covers" and stifles the campus "like a blanket"; of Paul Schiff, who fought in Federal Court for nearly a year just for the right to an education; of the five students arrested for handing out anti-war literature; of the authoritarian Board of Student Publications and the new publications it seeks to regulate. In East Lansing as in other places a Free University is needed to present an alternative to the education which allows these developments.

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THE FREE UNIVERSITY OF EAST LANSING is new and experimental. It offers few courses, but these it offers are based on a desire for understanding of problems crucial to modern society and the individuals it embraces—whether or not such understanding is marketable or valuable for three or four credits. The Free University of East Lansing will begin now to explore the real function of modern education, and will continue to explore and develop as long as the "regular" university makes it a necessity.



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MODERN CIVILIZATION: Man Vis-a-Vis Power — Vincent Lombardi, instructor in social science; Wednesday evenings.

THE EXPLOITATION OF COLOR: The African Experience Overseas — James R. Hooker, associate professor of History and African studies; Joseph Roberts, assistant professor of political science; Daniel Walden, assistant professor of American thought and language; a series of seminars on the black man in Africa and America; time to be announced.

AMERICAN IMPERIALISM: External and Internal Manifestations — Roger Howard, Brian Keleher, Paul Schiff, graduate students in political sciences and history; Thursday evenings.

SOCIAL MOVEMENTS: The Student and Society — John Ellis, graduate assistant in sociology; Monday evenings.

ANGUISH: Philosophical, Psychological, Sociological Aspects — Martha Aldenbrand, Melvin Bucholtz, poets and graduate assistants in American thought and language; time to be announced.

CHRISTIAN THOUGHT IN THE POST-CHRISTIAN WORLD: Milton Powell, assistant professor of American thought and language; Reverend Robert Gardner, All-Saints Episcopal Church; Tuesday evenings.

MODERN CINEMA: (in conjunction with MSU Film Society showings) — Douglas Lackey, director, MSU Film Society; Friday and Saturday evenings, following Film Society showings.

AWARENESS AND ART: Bob Weil; "meeting from time to time...in nice weather... when the sun is shining...by the Red Cedar... to be arranged in advance."

LIFE DRAWING and SKETCHING: both by Michael Davis; student, art major; times to be announced.

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THERE WILL BE NO TUITION—A TOKEN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE WILL BE CHARGED

Pre-Registration Party:

8 p.m., Wed., March 30, 130 Linden St., East Lansing