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McDermott believes Capitol will survive

by R. W. Bonaker

It has been one year since Dr. Robert E. McDermott has been at the helm as Provost of the campus.

Marking that occasion, the editors of The Capitolist and WZAP's acting Station Manager Mark Israel met with him last week in an informal discussion of current campus issues.

McDermott said that this institution and comparable two year colleges exist because of "the arrogance of four year universities." He stated the number one priority is to insure the survival of Capitol Campus. "I think we can survive. If I didn't, I wouldn't stay here." Before assuming his current post, McDermott was Dean of the Graduate School at the University of Arkansas. He asserted some basic goals of his administration, citing attempts to minimize "red-tape" and institute an aura of personalization.

FACULTY UNIONIZATION

The issue of "faculty union" was also discussed. Currently, the faculty is toying with possible unionization. While considering such a move, the faculty has expressed a desire to be independent of the Commonwealth Campus system, reflecting the "Autonomy" aspect.

Since the Autonomy measure was passed by the University Faculty Senate last March, campus faculty have been delegated the responsibility for undergraduate academic instruction. Previously, all new courses and comparable programs had to be pushed through the Capitol Campus Committee of the Senate. That committee was disbanded by the Autonomy measure.

Possible Faculty Unionization has shed new light on the real meaning of Autonomy. McDermott said it is possible that for Capitol's faculty "to go union," they may have to "interface with University Park and the other PSU-Branch campuses" whether they like it or not. In that aspect, then, our faculty are not independent of main campus.

NEW CAMPUS BUILDINGS

Discussion then centered on proposed construction of campus facilities. McDermott said he deleted the swimming pool from the multi-purpose building because he thought Secretary of Education John C. Pittenger would reject the entire project if it were included. As for the currently overcrowded library, he said no specific plans are in the works for a new building, not even a "Butler-building." He stressed a need for on-campus storage of little used materials and increased microfilming of periodicals.

CALENDAR CHANGES

Deliberations over a new academic calendar have come to a curious point. As of now, Capitol is slated to follow the University Park calendar for 1973-74 which calls for the fall term to begin shortly after Labor Day and end at Thanksgiving. The winter term commences after that holiday and runs for three weeks, breaking for the Christmas holiday. The winter term resumes the new year and runs for seven weeks to late February. The spring term would then end in May.

Several weeks ago, McDermott adopted a Student Government Association proposal which basically complied with the main campus calendar, excepting the divided winter term concept. The SGA proposal called for a one unit course to be offered during a three week "mini-term" from Thanksgiving to Christmas. A similar proposal was submitted

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CAPITOL HOSTS POLICY MEETING

The Honorable Sator C. Blakiston, Jr., State Department adviser on environmental matters, will address a meeting of the Harrisburg Foreign Policy Association at Capitol Campus on Thursday, February 22.

Mr. Blakiston's talk at 8:00 p.m. will be preceded by a dinner in the student dining room at 6:45 p.m.

Dr. Richard H. Heindel, dean of the faculty, will be program chairman. At the close of the meeting, which is free and open to the public, the speaker will answer questions from the audience.

Mr. Blakiston, who served as executive secretary of the secretary of state's advisory committee for the 1972 UN Conference on the Human Environment, held last June in Stockholm, has chosen as his topic "International Activities in the Environmental Field."

An officer of the U.S. Foreign Service since 1947, Mr. Blakiston has served in posts at Amsterdam, Stuttgart, Port-au-Prince, Jerusalem, Tunis, Beirut, Jidda, Cairo, Amman, and Calcutta.

Mr. Blakiston was born in Richmond, Virginia in 1918. After receiving a B.S. degree in commerce from the University of Virginia in 1940, he served overseas in the U.S. Navy during World War II as an aviator, reaching the rank of lieutenant commander. He then worked briefly for the Underwood Corporation before beginning his career in the Foreign Service.



'Vast Wasteland' to be satirized by 'circus'

The Cultural Programs Committee will present the "Portable Circus" on Monday, February 26 at 1:30 p.m. in the auditorium.

The Portable Circus consists of a group of five performers who through a series of lively comedy sketches examine the effect that television, the universal medium, has on all of us.

Mixing light comedy with biting satire, they center their heaviest fire on pertinent social and cultural issues.

The group performs without the aid of props, costumes or sets.

The program is free and open to the public.

Dean Brown Conducts Symposium

The second Faculty Research Symposium will be held on Tuesday, February 27 at Noon in Room 228, adjacent to the auditorium.

Associate of Dean of Faculty Robert J. Brown will discuss research opportunities and procedures in the Penn State system.

Those attending are requested to bring a brown bag lunch.

'Condemned' to be presented by Social Committee

The Social Committee will present the film "Condemned of Altoona" on Wednesday, February 28 at 8:00 p.m. in the auditorium.

Admission is 80 cents or 40 cents with an activities card.

The film stars Robert Wagner and Sophia Loren as the story concerns one man's attempt to justify his commission of war crimes.

Yearbook Survives SGA Test

by R. W. Bonaker

There will be a 1973 edition of The Capitolite.

That issue was basically decided in action by the Student Government Association on Monday Night.

It came via a motion calling for a least seven SGA members and a representative of each student organization to volunteer for a committee to promote yearbook sales. The motion passed, 13-5 with one abstention.

In effect, the motion stated that SGA would cover any losses incurred by yearbook printing costs. However, SGA retained an option to cancel the yearbook by refusing to allocate future monies, should it so desire. It was generally expected that would not happen as 10 senators did volunteer for the Yearbook Committee.

Co-chairman John Sheridan has announced that all persons who have purchased the 1973 annual will be invited to attend a free kegger on Friday, March 2 on Mars Ave., Meade Heights. The committee will be diligently working to promote yearbook sales by door-to-door campaigns

and a sale in Vonderville next week.

It took the SGA some time to work up to that optimistic point.

At the onset of discussion of the yearbook situation, Sheridan withdrew his motion advocating a complete cut-off of funds to the yearbook. He explained he had intended the motion, which was introduced the previous week, to induce others to come up with a feasible alternative. Also, he announced that the Presidents Council on February 15, had decided to stand behind the yearbook by a vote 16-0-2 vote.

Senator John Murphy then entertained a motion to form an ad-hoc committee which would control the finances of yearbook operations. That motion was defeated, 7-8 with four abstentions.

The "crisis" arose at the SGA meeting on February 12 when Treasurer Tom Dixon outlined different events which would require future allocations. At that time, it was predicted the yearbook may incur a \$1,600 debt.

Oswald dismayed by Shapp Budget proposal

President John W. Oswald said last week he was "extremely alarmed" by Governor Shapp's budget message calling for a zero appropriation increase for The Pennsylvania State University for the 1973-74 fiscal year.

"A zero appropriation increase is in effect a severe cut because of cost increases mandated by Federal and State laws and other increases, such as inflation costs, over which the University has no control," President Oswald declared.

"The budget message is even more serious in view of plans of the Federal administration to reduce substantially funds made available to universities."

The appropriation request submitted by the University was "extremely austere" he pointed out. It provided for mandated increases such as Social Security, retirement, unemployment insurance, the additional cost of doing business because of inflation and the opening of new facilities. The appropriation request put highest priority on essential salary increases for faculty and staff.

To reduce the demands made on the State, the University had proposed a \$45 per year tuition increase effective in the fall of 1973 to generate \$2,000,000 in additional revenue.

President Oswald said the University's appropriation request was accompanied by strong evidence of increased efficiency within the University.

"For example, measured in terms of constant dollars, our appropriation request for 1973-74 is only 12 percent more than the actual appropriation four years ago. Yet in that period, we have increased our enrollment by 6700 students, or 16 percent of our present student body."

"Unless the appropriation is increased, we face some almost impossible decisions," President Oswald declared. "We can provide no increase in compensation to employees at a time when most all individuals in the nation are participating in some form of income improvement related to cost."

"Or, we can raise tuition significantly, but there is no increased money for financial assistance to needy students, and this would force many out of school."

"Or, we can eliminate whole programs of great value to the Commonwealth or water down our entire educational offering."

"All of these are poor bargains-for the student, for the Commonwealth and for the Nation."

"It is ironic," President Oswald concluded, "that as all economic indices point to a continued healthy growth in the gross national product, education seems to be entering a great depression."