

Glorious Day For Main

A Gym-Dandy Affair

By Kathy Kern

A procession of special guests and guest speakers, the National Anthem, and an invocation by The Rev. Dean T. Stevenson, and the Convocation of Capitol Campus' fifteenth anniversary was underway.

The Convocation, which was held on Wednesday, Nov. 11, was arranged as an invitation-only affair held in the gym of the Multi-Purpose Building, and was attended by over 500 faculty members, students, and staff of the campus, as well as friends of Capitol.

"Fifteen years ago, Capitol Campus had only 18 students enrolled," said Provost and Dean Dr. Theodore Gross in the opening speech of the night.

The provost's comment was made in contrast to the more than 2,500 full-time students now attending Capitol. Capitol's full-time faculty has grown from eight in 1966 to 130 today. The school also boasts 8,000 graduates, with 60 % of them working and living in south-central Pennsylvania.

Dr. John W. Oswald, President of Penn State, addressed the audience after Dr. Gross, saying, "In 15 years, we have seen a major university presence here (in south-central Pennsylvania)." Oswald continued his speech by commenting on the uniqueness of Capitol as part of the Penn State system.

Penn State's President also revealed plans to construct a science/lab building at Capitol, adding that it will be "another great community resource." Oswald closed his speech by remarking, "Capitol Campus is a vital community resource which can only grow in the future."

Quentin E. Wood, President of the Board of Trustees of Penn State, also spoke, remarking, "We trustees are focused on the future," and he continued by referring to the future of the campus.

The Chairman of Capitol's Board of Advisors, Ralph E. Peters, introduced by Gross as a "loyal friend of Penn State," spoke on behalf of the Board of Advisors and thanked all those who made Capitol Campus possible.

Dr. Eric A. Walker, President Emeritus of the University, added humorous notes to his remarks, one being that the Board of Trustees of the Farmer's High School "failed" when donating their land to PSU, putting the college in Centre County, "to make it easily inaccessible from all directions."

He continued his speech by stressing the importance of education, saying that education "is to teach one to earn a living as well as to live a life."

Oswald introduced the keynote speaker of the evening, the Honorable William W. Scranton, as being "a great Pennsylvanian," and admitted that he assigned himself the task of the introduction. He also honored Scranton as taking "the first administrative step in gaining the land from the Air Base which once occupied this site."

Scranton, who was received with a standing ovation, held the position of U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations under President Ford (1976-77) and was governor of Pennsylvania from 1963-67.

The former governor also held the prestigious positions of special assistant to the secretary of state in the Eisen-

hower administration and representative of the State Department on the president's minicabinet.

He also served under President Johnson as vice-chairman of the President's Commission on Insurance in Riot-Torn Areas.

Scranton, who was perhaps the person most responsible for the institution of this campus, acknowledged others who were instrumental in Capitol's start.

The former U.S. Ambassador and Chairman of the U.S. delegation to INTELSAT under President Nixon humorously noted throughout his address that he had nothing to do with Capitol's beginnings.

He also added incidents from his governorship days to his speech, recalling the day when representatives from Hershey's Chocolate Co. visited him to ask if it "would be all right for them to donate \$50 million to establish a medical school in Hershey." "I must admit I kind of smiled at them," the former consultant (1974-76), cabinet member (1976-77), and transition team member under President Ford joked.

Scranton, who under President Carter was a member of the President's Commission on a National Agenda for the Eighties (1977-81), member of the President's Advisory Board on Ambassadorial Appointments (1977-80), and member of the President's Intelligence Oversight Board (1977-81), spoke on the higher education system of the state.

"We have not the best education system in the world... we will," commented the former governor. He added that in this commonwealth, "anyone who really wants a good education can get one, as costly as it may be at some places." He ended his speech by commenting on the good of the state's pluralistic education system.

After Gross' closing remarks honoring Scranton, Dr. George D. Wolf, Capitol's first appointed faculty member, presented Scranton with a copy of his biography on the former ambassador, entitled *William Warren Scranton: Pennsylvania Statesman*. Scranton accepted Wolf's presentation, made on behalf of PSU, humorously by saying, "Anything good George has said about me in this book is true, and if there are any criticisms the author obviously did not research his work." The keynote speaker was also presented an award by Peters in honor of Capitol's fifteenth birthday.

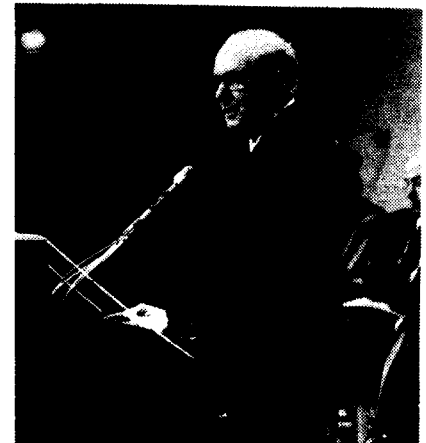
The affair, which lasted approximately 1½ hours, closed with remarks by Dr. Gross and a prayer by The Rev. Stevenson. Refreshments were served afterwards.



PRESIDENT JOHN W. OSWALD

THE HONORABLE
WILLIAM W. SCRANTON

ERIC A. WALKER



RALPH E. PETERS



Provost and Dean Dr. Theodore Gross leads the procession at the opening of the program (right), and Quentin Wood, President of the Board of Trustees, makes his remarks (left).

Convocation photos courtesy of Ken Clauser.

