

Slovak museum finding search for funding difficult

Harry Long
Capital Times Staff

A historic building located five minutes from the Penn State Harrisburg campus may be demolished if enough money isn't raised to make needed repairs.

John Leskovyansky of Youngstown, Ohio, coordinator of the fundraising committee to save the former Jednota Orphanage on Rosedale Avenue, said the group has one year to come up with \$140,000 to renovate the three-story brick building that played a significant role in the history of the Slovak people in America.

According to John Southerlin, historian at the Jednota Museum, the building needs a new roof and other serious repairs. Leskovyansky said that it would take \$150,000 to repair the roof, and \$2 million to make the building usable again. Raising the \$140,000 would show that the public cares about the project and would prevent the building from being demolished, Leskovyansky said.

The orphanage was founded in 1914. After World War I it was especially active as many Slovakian soldiers were killed in

the war, and mothers could not afford to care for their children, Southerlin said.

In the '60s the orphanage closed.

Currently, a small museum of Slovak culture occupies a room in the Jednota Press Building, near the former orphanage. Jednota was founded as a Catholic self-help organization for new Slovak immigrants in the late 19th century. Slovaks are a Slavic people who live in the eastern part of Czechoslovakia.

Southerlin said the orphanage served for a time as a school and then as the storehouse for the Jednota Museum, its current function. Leskovyansky said if Jednota officials don't raise the needed money, there will not be any place to store the archives and the exhibits that now occupy the building.

He added that if the fundraising efforts raise all the money it needs, he would like to see "a museum for all the Slovak people, not just those who belong to the organization."

"Most ethnic groups have their own museum," said Edward Tuleya, curator of the museum. "Since the Slovaks are the second largest group of Slavic people in this country, they deserve one too."

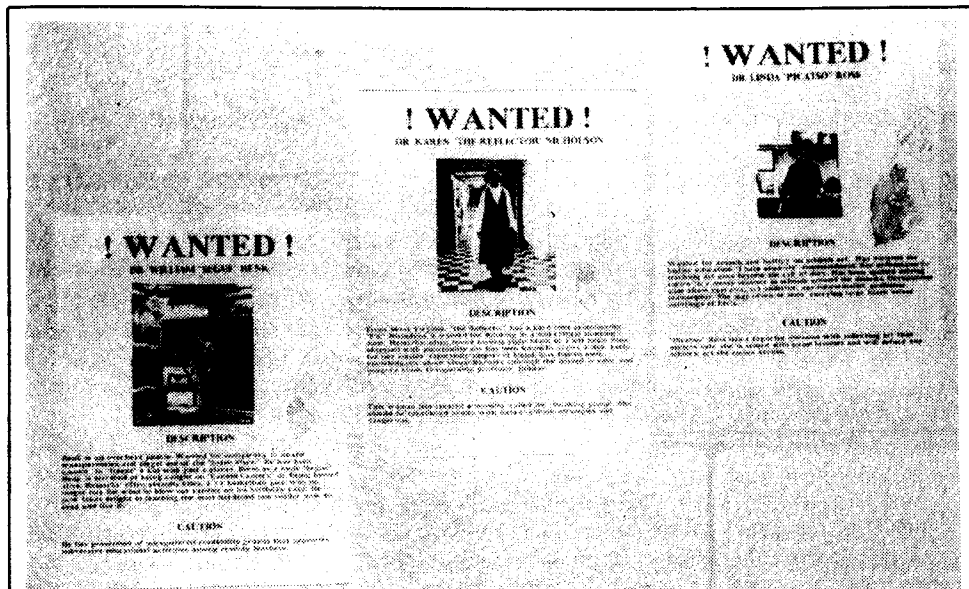


Photo by Elin Marcel

Three of the 200 "Wanted" posters created and hung by "The Thinking Group" decorate a wall in the Olmsted Building on April Fools Day.

Faculty and staff play the fool in April 1 prank

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On April Fool's Day, the halls of the Olmsted Building were plastered with 200 posters of "wanted criminals."

An unidentified group of 12 students known only as "The Thinking Group" is claiming responsibility for the original prank of creating wanted posters for ten faculty and three secretaries from Penn State Harrisburg.

The xerox posters featured a photo of the "criminal," as well as a description of their "crime," and a caution warning to anyone who might come in contact with them. The violations ranged from challenging students intellectually to hoarding transparencies.

"This is positive, not a bad thing," said an anonymous member of the group. "We have such an intimate relationship with the professors, and this shows how close we are to the staff. It was our last hurrah, our big goodbye."

Another member of the group agreed, saying it was the closeness between students and faculty that allowed them to play the joke without anyone's feelings getting hurt.

"We used a sense of humor to get closer to the professors," she said. "With the Thinking Group, we've had closer relationships with professors than in the past. It's a way of saying, 'it's been great,' and that we really appreciate them."

She added that the only people who were upset by the prank were those who removed them from the second floor hallways and the elevator.

"There were some concerns that professors would be offended by the information on the posters," a member of the group said. "But Joan Sattler [one of the 'criminals'] told a student 'I really feel loved.'"

According to one group member, last year the group did individual pranks on professors for April Fool's Day, but this year they decided to "nail them all at once."

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how many people are using the facility and which areas are being used most," Crider said. "We can then budget accordingly for what visitors want most."

Don Holtzman, director of student affairs, credited students who voiced their concerns as the catalyst for implementing the new guidelines.

"We were aware there was a problem at the CUB, and the nature of student complaints indicated that it all boiled down to controlling access," he said.

Holtzman developed the policy with assistance from Crider, Ed Minnick, director of continuing education, and Janet Widoff, coordinator of student life. Currently, James South, associate provost for administration, is reviewing the measure before final approval is given for it to take effect.

"The policy will be implemented by the end of the semester," Holtzman predicted. He said that vandalism, an excess of guests, and inability to enforce former guidelines should all be effectively dealt with in the new guidelines.

Crider said an alarm system has been in

place at the building for three years, but "we haven't been able to use it until now." Crider said what he like best about the policy is that it makes the job of student facility supervisors "a lot easier."

"The students who work here do a tremendous job," Crider said. "They handle everything that goes on here; without them nothing would happen," he said. Under the current system, the student supervisors have borne the brunt of complaints and headaches from lack of accountability, he said.

Although he hasn't seen the final version of the new policy, Crider said he's anxious to see it implemented as soon as possible.

"Controlling and regulating access is the key to keeping track of guests and vandalism," he concluded.

Under the current system, Crider said he can't account for where 20 to 30 percent of the visitors actually are in the building because people use six or seven different entrances to the building, and accountability is difficult.

"We're not here to deny, we're here to provide," Crider said. "But we're in trouble with the current system."



Stress Busters

Does the semester crunch have you frazzled?
Try one of the following FREE mini-escapes:

- 4/21--"CHILL OUT"--Wrisberg and Church
8-9 p.m. Free ice cream
- 4/29--"MUNCH & MINGLE"--Gallery Lounge
5:30-8:30 p.m. Open House
- 5/1--"YOU ARE ON THE BALL"--CUB
7-11 p.m. Study, eat and play
- 5/5--"FRANKIE & JOHNNY"--Dining Hall
9-11 p.m.

Rites of Spring



Sunday, April 26
People's Park--(Nelson Dr., Meade Hts.)

- Noon--WPSH dj; 6-man volleyball (preregistered)
- 2 p.m.--Top 40 music by "2 Smooth"
- 3 p.m.--Free food
- 4:30 p.m.--Reggae music by "The Flo"