

# UNPAVING PARADISE

By James Germley

It seems to be happening all over. In different places and localities there are different colloquial expressions for the process. For example, in San Francisco, they refer to it as "Manhattanization" and point the finger at Bechtel, PG&W, and the Examiner. Farther to the East in the mountains of Colorado the same process is referred to as "Californication" and the rituals are the same, the objects differ. Basically "it" is growth or development or whatever western civilization is doing these days that seems to be pissing people off. Specifically it's not that what passes for civilization is growing, it's the style of the growth. . . quite akin to an ill mannered tumor.

Highacres seems to be having growing pains too. A library here, a classless building there, here a hole, there a gym. . . People are beginning to feel the pains of the "manhattanization" of Highacres. The natural tendency of those afflicted is to succumb to the pain and marmalade and sort of mope around making occasional funky comments about the sorry, and worsening, state of things.

Eliot Eisenberg, Highacres engineering professor, was and is still suffering from the Highacres version of "manhattanization". . . the new gym construction. Initially upset about the extent to which vegetation was being sacrificed to the project, Mr. Eisenberg's aesthetic and practical ideals

were further outraged by the proposed extension of the sidewalk from the library - "the wind tunnel."

After putting up with this situation for a term, Mr. Eisenberg decided to do something. As chairman of the Student Relations Committee, he proposed that a week of spring term be devoted to the theme "Our relation to the environment," the idea being to combine the usual ecological rhetoric with some actual remedial action. Though the "Eisenberg Proposition" is still in the planning stage, it has secured support from Student Relations Committee, the Student Union Board, and

the Biology Club.

The central idea of Mr. Eisenberg's proposition remains to examine and do something about the local impact of growth - principally at Highacres and the sprawl of the Conyngham Valley. Tentative activities for the week established at a preliminary planning meeting center around a picnic/replanting fest on Sunday, May 4. The site of planting is the area between the Classroom Building and the Library (i.e., the wind tunnel). Likely sources of seedlings are considered to be the Commonwealth of Pa. and the largess of local nurseries. In addition to the picnic/plant-

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