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University of Massachusetts at Boston

Volume 9. No. 70

February 24, 1976

President's Report

In the annual report of operations of the University of Massachusetts, President Robert Wood in the conclusion of "The Independent University in Time of Testing" says: "Massachusetts and its University are, in my view, now inseparably intertwined, and the strength and health and well-being of each depends on the other."

But he strongly points out one of the corrosive conditions that has been taking place regarding the budget and fiscal autonomy. Wood says: "Extraordinary efforts by the Board of Trustees, the Office of the President, the Chancellors, and the General Court have all served to help mitigate the destructive effects of the budget restrictions and delays. But by year's end there was no doubt that a substantial effort had been made to subvert the autonomy and independence granted the University in 1962. That grant of autonomy resulted from the findings of a Legislative Commission that needless day-to-day external involvement in the routine personnel and financial operations of the University severely inhibited the prospect of major improvements in the quality of the institution. The establishment of the University's independence in 1962 began in earnest its march toward the status of a great institution of higher learning. Yet that independence--tempered, of course, by the limits of legislative appropriation and by the responsibility for full accountability to the public--is no less vital in a period of financial restraint. Unless legislative restrictions and executive incursions upon the University's independence are resolved early in 1976, the University's health will be in serious jeopardy.

"Of equal importance for 1976 is a clear reaffirmation of the primacy of governance by lay boards. The evolution of institutions in the public sector in the decade since the 'Willis-Harrington' study clearly make it timely to reconsider the organizational structure for managing and coordinating the Commonwealth's institutions of higher education. Yet, as they did in 1973 the University and its sister institutions must resist efforts to bring the management of the academic enterprise under the direct control of the executive branch. It must assert its statutory mandate that the University '... shall be governed solely by the Board of Trustees..... Said board shall not in the management of the affairs of the University be subject to, or superseded in any such authority by, any other state board, bureau, department or commission.....'"

Good Blood

Through the interest and concern of the staff of the student radio station WUMB, and the response by the university community, many people in hospitals in the state will be aided by 138 donors who came forward last week when the Red Cross came to tap veins.

The station committee was headed by Dave Burk. Signing up to make donations were 200 people. The 47 first time donors was especially encouraging to the Red Cross Staff.

The staff of WUMB wish to express their gratitude to the UMass students, faculty and staff who showed they are interested in contributing to the river of life. Special thanks also go for the cooperation by the Physical Plant and Auxillary Services.

Library Poetry Series

Daniel Sloate, of the Université de Montreal, author of Words in Minature, will read from his poetry on Wednesday, February 25th at 3:00 p.m., in Room 1030, Tenth floor Library. This excellent series has been attracting many students, staff, and faculty. You are cordially invited to attend this and future sessions.

Chemistry Seminar

The Department of Chemistry of UMass-Boston is sponsoring a seminar on "Spin Selectivity in Photophysics and Photochemistry of Aromatics" by Prof. Hans van Willigen of our Chemistry Department on Wednesday, February 25 at 5:15 p.m. in the Science Building, Room 1-006.

College of Professional Studies

Robert Q. Crane, Treasurer and Receiver General of the Commonwealth, will give a lecture on Monday, March 1 in College II, Second floor, Room 008 at 12:30 on the Financial Condition of the Commonwealth. The lecture is open to the university community and is given as part of the course on Management of Financial Resources in the College of Professional Studies.

Prins Conducts

Prof. Robert Prins will conduct the Wellesley Symphony Orchestra in its second concert of the season on Friday, February 27, 1976 at 8:00 p.m. The concert will take place at the Wellesley Junior High School on Donazette St. in Wellesley, and includes the following program: Mussorgsky, Night on Bald Mountain; Ravel, Tombeau de Couperin; Tchaikowsky, Symphony No. 3 in D Major ("The Polish").

Admission is free and the concert is open to the public.

Latin-American Lecture Series

The second in a series of three lectures on "Spanish Speaking People in Urban America: A Case Study--Puerto Rico" will be held on Thursday, March 11, sponsored by the Latin-American Studies Program of UMass-Boston, the Puerto Rican Student Association, and HOPE, the largest Hispanic organization in Greater Boston.

The first lecture this month proved to be enormously successful with a large representation of faculty, students, staff, and community leaders. The speaker was Dr. Arturo Morales-Carrion, president of the University of Puerto Rico.

For the second lecture two members of the Center for Puerto
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Latin-American Lecture Series
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Rican Studies at the City University of New York will review the role of a university based center working with the community on cultural, historical, social, and economic situations. The speakers are Dr. Frank Bonilla, Director of the Center and Prof. Ricardo Campos, Research Director.

Dr. Dorothy Marshall, Chairman, Spanish I, said the lecture series, supported in part by the Sperry & Hutchinson Foundation, is designed to meet the needs of students and others involved with the growing numbers of Spanish speaking peoples, especially Puerto Ricans, in urban societies.

New Student Publication

Volume I, Number I of Loam, a new student literary publication, came off the press last week and the editors, writers, artists, photographers and production people should be encouraged to keep up the promising work that this issue demonstrates.

The poetry, sketches, essays, fiction, graphics, and design are of high quality, reflecting talents that are self-evident among the student-contributors at UMass-Boston.

Faculty are encouraged to advise students to prepare materials for upcoming issues.

Human Settlements Conference

The University of Massachusetts at Boston and the United States State Department are sponsors of a New England Conference on Human Settlements which will be held at the Harbor Campus on Saturday and Sunday, March 6 and 7.

Dr. Robert Wood, President of the University of Massachusetts, accepted the invitation of the State Department to hold the conference at UMass-Boston.

The conference is designed to give New England experts input for the international United Nations Habitat Conference in Vancouver, British Columbia, in June.

Prof. George Goodwin Jr., Chairman of the Politics Department, College II, is director of the Boston conference, and said that 100 invited participants from the six New England states will address themselves to these questions:

What is the most rational employment of land from the standpoint of the equality of life of all our residents?

How can housing, transportation and other services-- the uses we make of land--be organized to improve the quality of life for all peoples?

What changes can be made in existing human settlements--urban, suburban and rural--to improve the quality of life at all levels?

How can our governments--local, regional, and national--be made more responsive to human needs?

Prof. Goodwin said the participants will respond to recommendations by State Department conferees that will be made at the Habitat Conference in Canada.

He said a cross-section of experienced people from all parts of New England, from the public and private sectors, who
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Human Settlements Conference
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have expressed concerns about the environment, will participate in the sessions to stimulate new approaches toward the building of better communities by elimination of slums and squatter settlements; avoidance of environmental degradation through air and water pollution; making better use of energy and other resources; preserving agricultural land for agricultural production, and giving citizens greater opportunities to be part of the planning and decision-making mechanisms that affect their lives.

Prof. Goodwin said that the conferees will not solve such complex and pervading problems, but "will provide opportunities for fresh, imaginative, and rational comprehensive views to be shared" among the participants and for the international meeting.

Among the moderators for the sessions during the two days will be Dr. Franklin Patterson, Frank L. Boyden Professor for the University of Massachusetts; John Eller, Associate Vice President of the university; Dan Fenn Jr., Director Kennedy Library; Prof. Badi Foster, College of Public and Community Service, and Prof. Daisy Tagliacozzo, Sociology Department, College I.

Reporters for the Conference sessions will be: Barrie Greenbie, Ross Whaley and Richard Wilkie, all of UMass-Amherst; David Matz, College of Public and Community Service, and Robert Wegner, College of Professional Studies.

The conference at UMass-Boston is one of six national regional meetings co-sponsored by the State Department to assure points of view from urban, suburban, and rural constituencies.

Effects of Marijuana

Prof. Lawrence S. Gaines, Psychology II, is the co-author of a forthcoming essay in Perceptual and Motor Skills on "Effects of Marijuana, Expectation and Suggestibility on Cognitive Functioning" with John L. Butler and John R. Lenox. He is also doing research on how individuals come to understand the meaning of their subjective emotional experience. His research includes studies in the high risk for alcoholism subjects as well as alcoholics.

II Principe

Dr. John Conlon, University Coordinator for the Teacher Certification Program, recently addressed a seminar on world literature at BMC Durfee High School, Fall River, on Machiavelli's II Principe and some of its implications for Renaissance Europe. Conlon taught at this school before entering university teaching.

The Media

Prof. Arnold Beichman (Politics II) who is conducting a seminar here on "Politics and the Media", is presenting a paper at McGill University, Montreal, on Friday on "The Media and the Government: Who Will Guard the Guardians?" On the following day he will present a paper at the International Studies Association meeting in Toronto on "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way From Turtle Bay," an analysis of Kissinger diplomacy vis-a-vis the United Nations.