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University of Massachusetts at Boston

Volume 10, No. 13

November 23, 1976

Faculty Vote on Union or No Union

When faculty and specified professional staff go to the ballot boxes on campus--Harbor Campus and the Downtown Center--on December 1 and 2, the specimen ballot for their consideration is reproduced here. All eligible members are urged to make their judgment on voting days.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS BEFORE THE LABOR RELATIONS COMMISSION

OFFICIAL BALLOT

1. This is a secret ballot. Do not sign your name.
2. Place an "X" in one box only and then fold your ballot to conceal your vote.
3. If you spoil your ballot, return it to the Commission's agent and get a new one.

I DESIRE TO BE REPRESENTED BY:

MARK AN "X" IN THE BOX OF YOUR CHOICE

MASSACHUSETTS
SOCIETY OF PROFESSORS/
FACULTY STAFF UNION/
MASSACHUSETTS
TEACHERS ASSOCIATION/
NATIONAL EDUCATION
ASSOCIATION/MSP/FSU/
MTA/NEA

AMHERST AND BOSTON
CHAPTERS OF THE
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
OF UNIVERSITY
PROFESSORS

NO LABOR
ORGANIZATION

Charter Revision for Boston
Suggested by Civic Committee

Joseph Slavet, Director of the Boston Urban Observatory of UMass-Boston, headed the technical task force that provided historical and comparative data for the Committee For Boston which is recommending sweeping reforms of the Charter of the City of Boston. The Committee For Boston is headed by Edward J. McCormack, Jr. Cochairperson is Muriel Snowden, former Trustee of the University of Massachusetts, and a member of the 11-person committee is Kit Clark of Dorchester, a current UMass trustee.

On Slavet's Technical Task Force was Prof. Richard Hogarty of the College of Public and Community Service.

The Committee's report calls for an at-large voting system for wider representation on the City Council and School Committee and also calls for a clarification of the roles of the Mayor, School Committee and the Superintendent of Schools.

In The Press:
Prof. Kastenbaum

The Living Page of the Boston Globe last week had a fine article by Robert Levey on death and making it a part of life. Prof. Kastenbaum, Psychology, was cited in Levey's article: "In fact, the ideal way to deal with the question is not to wait for the disaster," said Dr. Robert Kastenbaum, a UMass-Boston psychologist who specializes in aging and death.

Parents and children have a chance to talk about death as "it is brought into their living rooms through television," he said. "There's no strong emotional response required, but they can begin to learn that it's not the same as the weather report or the Celtics losing."

Unfortunately, Kastenbaum is finding that most parents have lived with such fantasies about death in their own lives that they aren't good at communicating with their own children about it.

"It may sound like a cliché," said Kastenbaum, "but the best advice is to listen very carefully to the child." Many people wrongly exclude children from funerals or cemetery visits. They should be asked what they want to do and should make their own decisions, said Kastenbaum.

"It's important to have the child avoid feeling abandoned by others at the time of a death. If he doesn't want to be there, the child will find a way out of the situation."

In The Press:
Prof. Newman

The Quincy Patriot-Ledger recently devoted nearly a full page profile on Prof. Anny Newman, Director of the Program in Translation. She told reporter Vera Veda about her goals for the new program at UMass-Boston. "We felt," she said, "that our students needed a practical use for their languages. If they know how to translate well, they should have a better chance vocationally. It should be much better for them to get a job with a company which does business with the country where the language is used."

In The Press:
Jack Beatty

Admissions Counselor Jack Beatty is the author of two pieces appearing in Commentary and the Yale Review. The book review in the November Commentary concerns Vico and Herder: Two Studies In The History of Ideas by Isaiah Berlin, whose work and influence are fundamental to "intellectual life of our time." Berlin, says Beatty, "fears the modern pressure toward uniformity and standardization, and wants a system that gives the fullest play to individuality, eccentricity, idiosyncrasy--that lets men become what they have it in them to become. This vision of human possibility is the essence of liberalism, and not the least measure of Isaiah Berlin's distinction is that he has helped keep that vision alive."

In the Yale Review essay "Escape From Königsberg", author Beatty gives an interpretation of Kant's philosophy that stresses the tension between his theory of knowledge and his moral theory. The former made God, Freedom and Immortality empty words; the latter restored them, albeit in a shadowy way. We have to live in a world described by the theory of knowledge, but Kant would have us act as if we lived in the world described by the moral theory--as if we were free, as if God existed, as if we were immortal. According to Beatty's thesis--this splits man in half.

In The Press:
Prof. Thomas Kanza

In the last issue of Africa Report, Prof. Thomas Kanza, Politics, and Senior Associate Member of St. Anthony's College, Oxford, commenting on the American elections, says, "As a matter of principle and respect for African dignity and independence, we ask the American leaders and people to let--when necessary--the Africans also be governed by the leaders of their choice without continual outside interference. For a true African nationalist leader is the one serving African interests and not American, European, Russian or Chinese interests."

In The Press:
Bobbi Ausubel

Bobbi Ausubel, Theatre Arts, who was one of four playwrights to receive a \$3,000 award by the Massachusetts Arts and Humanities Foundation for her play Focus On Me, presently is co-directing the play Family at the Caravan Theatre, Cambridge, which runs through December 17 on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday evenings. Kevin Kelly, the Boston Globe drama critic, wrote that Family is "an unusual, affecting, provocative and highly original piece of theater. If you haven't seen Family, you must; if you have, it seems worthy of being seen again."

In The Press:
Prof. Arnold Beichman

Prof. Arnold Beichman, Politics, in a continuation of his Paris reports on the recent UNESCO Conference, had an essay in the Sunday Globe stating that UNESCO is pulling back from entanglement in the East-West polarization. He points out some of UNESCO's current problems: Some of UNESCO's moral authority arises from the preambular clause of the UNESCO Constitution: "Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defenses of peace must be constructed."

To achieve this blessed state, UNESCO is authorized to promote cooperation among the nations through education, science and culture and to further universal respect for justice, rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms, according to its constitution.

Clearly, the only way an international agency like UNESCO can exist is if no country tests the meaning of such phrases as "rule of law," "human rights" and "fundamental freedom."

But of the 141 countries in UNESCO, no more than 30 can be described as democratic. Therefore the same legal words and phrases which are meaningful in one culture are without meaning in another.

Pauline Maier Lectures
at N.Y.U.

Prof. Pauline Maier, History, has concluded a four-part lecture series at New York University on "Popular Leaders of the American Revolution." The lectures were given under the Anson G. Phelps Lectureship on Early American History.

Prof. Maier's lectures were on Samuel Adams: A New Englander as a Revolutionary; Isaac Sears and the Business of Revolution; Dr. Thomas Young and the Radicalism of Science and Reason; and, Richard Henry Lee: A Virginian as Revolutionary.

Presiding at her lectures were the NYU president, executive vice president, vice president for academic planning, and the Dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences.

UMass-Boston Debaters

Additional debating dates will be scheduled for the Spring semester by members of the newly formed Debating Club of UMass-Boston. An organizational meeting will be held on November 29th to discuss topics for the debates. Faculty who are interested in developing campus debaters are asked to contact Prof. William Percy, History. At the last debate Prof. Joseph Schork, Classics, and Prof. Mary Lou Kimball, French, served as judges for the debate on the topic: "Socialism: A Bright Future or a Dim Demise?" Arguing the affirmative were students David Vassallo and James Taylor; for the negative were students Christopher Crowley and Cynthia Carr. Coaches were Prof. Percy and Margaret Furman, Student Affairs.

Thanksgiving Day Holiday

Thanksgiving will be observed as a state holiday on Thursday, November 25. Also, all employees except those paid on an hourly basis whose services can be spared on Friday, November 26, at the discretion of their department heads may be granted that day off without loss of pay. However, all major departmental offices must be kept open and essential services provided on November 26 in accordance with the law.

Southwest Corridor Conference

Professors Philip Hart and David Smith, College of Public and Community Service, were panelist in the SW Corridor Conference on "Building the Southwest Corridor: What Values Should Guide Development?" The conference brought together citizens, businessmen, government officials and academic humanists.

The SW Corridor project is an innovative, integrated transportation and land use plan for community and regional development with a \$550-million price tag.

Prof. Hart was co-director and coauthor of the Southwest Special Mobility Study and conceptualizer of the proposed \$12-million SW Cross Town Industrial Park. Prof. Smith was a principal author of the legislation which created the \$10-million Massachusetts Community Finance Development Corporation.

Kramer Elected

At its annual meeting the Social Science Research Council voted to reappoint Prof. Bernard M. Kramer as a member of the Council's Committee on Grants to Minority Scholars for Research on Racism and Other Social Factors in Mental Health for the year 1976-1977. Dr. Kramer is Professor of Psychology in the College of Liberal Arts.

Keep Your Cool

The Secretary of Administration John R. Buckley has advised all State agencies that "you are once again reminded that during the winter, temperatures are to be maintained between 65 and 68 degrees F and each agency is to continue to exercise restraint in the use of decorative lighting. Cooperation will have a significant effect and will make contributions to our overall energy program."

It should be added here that the UMass-Boston energy conservation program, through the mental and physical energies of the Physical Plant and Planning staffs, is one of the very best in the State and has been achieved with no inconveniences to this community. Tax-dollar savings have been tremendous.