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Mayors, Government Officials To Discuss Survival of Cities at Student Symposium

Herb Weitman
Urban decay—once lively Gaslight Square at Boyle and Olive is now deserted and shuttered.

Mayor Kenneth Gibson, of Newark, N.J., and Mayor Moon Landrieu, of New Orleans, La., will highlight the WU Student Symposium, “Can the Cities Survive,” which will be held Wed., Feb. 9, through Fri., Feb. 11. All the sessions are free and open to the public.

The purpose of this symposium, said Thomas Bean, symposium co-chairman and WU senior, is to educate and stimulate interest among the University community and the people of St. Louis in the problems of the cities. Although New York’s financial crisis recently called attention to these problems, many people may not be aware of the cause and possible solutions to them, he explained.

After learning from the symposium’s major speakers about problems shared by American cities, Bean said that participants will then have the opportunity of hearing through panel discussions what problems specifically face St. Louis.

Mayor Gibson will deliver the keynote address of the symposium on “The Black Political Base in Urban America” at 11 a.m. Wed., Feb. 9, in Graham Chapel. He will be introduced and welcomed by St. Louis Mayor John Poelker.

Other events scheduled for Wednesday include a discussion on neighborhoods and an evening address by Harry Sharrott, acting regional director for housing and urban development.

The discussion, “Urban Neighborhoods: Their role in the Political Process,” will be held at 3 p.m. in the Women’s Building Lounge. Panelists will be John Roach, director of the community development agency, Alderman Thomas Connelly, Samuel Ritchie, community development specialist, University of Missouri at St. Louis, and Dennis Coleman, director of the Fox Park Community Housing Corporation.

Sharrott will speak on “The Future of Urban Housing Programs” at 8 p.m. in the Mudd Courtroom in the Law School. A reception for Mayor Gibson and Sharrott will be held at 9:30 p.m. in the Mudd Lounge.

Thursday’s program will feature an address by Mayor Landrieu, a panel discussion about “The Future of the Central City of St. Louis” and an evening address by Sen. Charles...

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Montana’s Blackfeet Indians Feather Own Nest With Pens, Pencils

The next time you pick up a Swagger Stick, Thunderball, or Featherwriter on campus, it might be a good idea to say Tsee-Ook-Ta-Shee-Tuki. In Blackfeet Indianese that means thank you, and it’s what we owe some 90 members of the Montana tribe for the approximately 50,000, imaginatively named pens that find their way to this campus every year.

The slim, streamlined ball-points and nylon-tipped marking pens which we use on the Hilltop in such huge quantities (700 dozen Swagger Sticks, 3500 dozen Thunderballs and 1800 dozen Featherwriters annually) reach WU by a circuitous trail. WU began doing business with them two years ago through the Educational and Institutional Cooperative Service, Inc. WU's Central Stores in Shrewsbury stocks them.

The supplier is the Blackfeet Indian Writing Company deep within “Big Sky Country,” which began manufacturing these smooth-flowing writing instruments about six years ago. WU was one of the first of some 150 institutions of higher education to become a Blackfeet customer, and we remain among its best—eighth in the college and university category.

It’s a long way from the 1,500,000-acre Blackfeet Indian reservation, adjoining Glacier National Park on the Canadian border where the pens are made, to Brookings Hall—and an even longer story, that is already becoming a tribal legend.

Earl Old Person, Chairman of the Blackfeet Tribal Council, is the chief who pointed the Blackfeet in the right direction. Looking around the town of Browning, Montana, (pop. 3500), which is the administrative center of the Blackfeet reservation, he saw the handsome government-run Museum of the Plains Indians and not much else. The ugliness of the small town, with its substandard housing and depressive bleakness, juxtaposed against the brooding beauty of the rugged mountain peaks rising from the prairie plains, created a sharp and bitter contrast. Troubled by the high unemployment rate (60 to 70 per cent), he explained: “Jobs die at the end of every summer.” When the tourists left so did most of the revenue—leaving a host of major social problems for the troubled Blackfeet.

Perhaps a reporter for the EDUCO News expressed the situation best when he wrote: “The company began with an idea—a hope that profitable, year-round employment in a tribal-owned enterprise could break the chain of despair that plagued the proud Indian community.” Old Person, with a major assist from the U.S. Small Business Administration, decided to invest tribal funds in the establishment of what is now the Blackfeet Indian Writing Company.

Fifty-one percent of the capital for the enterprise came from the Indians; the rest from Wall Street venture capital. A former executive of one of the country’s big pencil companies was recruited to start the business, and a 120,000-square-foot plant was built and equipped with modern machinery and production lines.

Its first product, and still one of the firm’s best-sellers, is the “Blackfeet Indian Pencil” made of California western cedar. Prosperity didn’t swamp the Indians, but they persevered. Gradually, with the addition of new products (the various types of pens), the Blackfeet Indians began writing new sales records. Now 80 per cent owned by the Blackfeet tribe, the company has a payroll of $600,000 annually and operates on a two-shift basis. All but one of the factory employees is either an Indian or married to a member of the Blackfeet tribe. With sales of some $3,000,000 last year, the Blackfeet firm numbers among its customers 200 of Fortune magazine’s top 500.

Tom Harig, (B.S. B.A. ’59), Director of Procurement and Contract Administration at WU, decided to stock the pens on campus in May, 1975. “I checked with some of the leading schools in the country such as Harvard and Stanford, and found that they were satisfied Blackfeet customers,” he said.

Harig notified all deans, chairpersons and department heads of WU’s plans to become a Blackfeet customer soon after the contract was signed. In May, 1976, in a letter to an official at Ralston Purina, Harig said: “I am happy to say that after a year’s experience with this product, we are completely satisfied with its dependability and have found this company to be very competitive.”

Locally, Monsanto, McDonnell Douglas and General Motors are all Blackfeet customers. Nationally, AT & T, Westinghouse, and even the U.S. Senate buy Blackfeet products.

Perhaps the best testimonial to the Blackfeet Indian Writing Company came a few months ago from Senator Lee Metcalf (Dem) of Montana on the floor of the U.S. Senate when he called the Blackfeet enterprise “a delightful success story.” Thanks to the Blackfeet enterprise, one of its products is now the official pen of the U.S. Senate.

Master’s Program

(workshops and tutorials in fiction and poetry, culminating in a volume of poems, stories or a novel. The second part of the program will stress a basic curriculum in literary theory, comprising such courses as aesthetics, a comparative literature course in translation, and a course in the history of criticism. Madsen emphasized, however, that the third part of the program, which offers an interdisciplinary option, will permit the student to tailor requirements to his own needs. “Requirements will differ from student to student. Some will follow the more traditional academic program, within the English Department. But students will be encouraged to work outside of the department, focusing on a preferred area of concentration, whether an academic discipline, a specific topic, or a historical period.”

Commenting further on the interdisciplinary nature of the program, Madsen stated that “the University’s new degree program is rather distinctive in this respect. A writer ought to have a wide background of knowledge, not necessarily related to English or American Literature. We hope to attract students interested in social science, philosophy or history, for example.”

Prior to the establishment of the new M.A. in Writing, students in the department’s regular master’s program were able to concentrate on creative writing, and do a book of poems or a novel in place of a thesis. They were subject to the same academic requirements, however, as
Symposium  
(Continued from page 1)  
Mathias Jr., (R-Md.). Mayor Landrieu will speak at 11 a.m. in Graham Chapel on several topics including the effectiveness of urban renovation and how a mayor can be independent of federal and state controls. The panel discussion will be held at 2 p.m. in the Women’s Building Lounge. Participants will be Charles Leven, chairman of the WU Economics Department; Harry Morley, executive vice president, St. Louis Regional Commerce and Growth Association, St. Louis; Alderman Bruce Sommer and Robert Reeves, executive director of New Town/St. Louis, Inc.  
An informal discussion with Mayor Landrieu will be held at 3:30 p.m. in the Women’s Building Lounge. Senator Mathias will speak on “The Influence of the Federal Government on Local Politics” at 8 p.m. in Graham Chapel. A reception for the senator will be held at 9:30 p.m. in the Women’s Building Lounge.  
Friday’s program will include a morning address by Francine Rabinovitz, professor of political science, University of Southern California, and a panel discussion on the topic: “Cooperation Between the Cities and the Suburbs.” Rabinovitz will speak on “Center City Re-development” at 11 a.m. in the Kraeger Room in the Business School. The panel discussion will be held at 1 p.m. in the Women’s Building Lounge. Panelists will be Betty Van Uum, St. Louis County Councilwoman; Louis Sachs, Sachs Properties, Chesterfield, Mo., and James Little, WU assistant professor of economics. An informal discussion with Rabinovitz is scheduled for 3:30 p.m. in the Women’s Building Lounge.  
AN EXHIBITION of sunset photographs by Morton D. May, a life trustee of WU, will go on view Thurs., Feb. 3, at Maryville College, 13550 Conway Rd. It will run through Feb. 28. Viewing hours are: 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., weekdays; 9 a.m. to noon, weekends or by appointment. The Maryville show in the Louis D. Beaumont Art Gallery, includes selected works which were originally part of a May retrospective, “Points of View,” at Steinberg Gallery in 1973.  
The WU Record is published weekly during the academic year by the Information Office. Editor, Janet Kelley; calendar editor, Charlotte Boman. Address communications to Box 1142.
Calendar
February 4-11
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4
1 p.m. WU Woman's Club Tea, with Manfred Zettle, of the Slimmery, a diet bakery, demonstrating diet desserts. Women's Bldg. Lounge. Call 721-1015 or 647-7294 for baby-sitting arrangements.
4 p.m. Department of Romance Languages Lecture, "Ronsard and the Grecian Lyre," Isidore Silver, Rosa May Distinguished University Professor Emeritus in the Humanities, Women's Bldg. Lounge.
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5
8 p.m. Hillel Folk Dance Workshop, led by Moshiko Hal-Levy, Israeli folk dance choreographer. Jewish Community Center, 11001 Schuetz Rd. Admission $2.50; $1.50 for students. (Also Sun., Feb. 6, 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m., Hillel House, 6300 Forsyth. Admission for all three workshops $5; $3 for students.)
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7
2:30 p.m. Biomedical Engineering Program Seminar, "Thinking About the Thinking of Clinicians," Dr. G. A. Gorry, director, Program for Health Management, Baylor College of Medicine, Waco, Tex. 313 Urbauer.
8 p.m. Pre-Medical Society Meeting, Several WU Medical School students will speak on their academic experiences. Open to all pre-meds. Women's Bldg. Lounge. Pre-Medical Society elections will be held from 7-8 p.m.
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8
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