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W.U. RECORD

New Center Established In Engineering

A Center for Fracture Mechanics was recently established in WU's Department of Mechanical Engineering. This administrative unit will coordinate the University's many fracture mechanics research projects, in addition to performing other functions.

Fracture mechanics is the analysis of the effect of flaws on the structural strength of certain materials. Among other important applications, regulations for construction of nuclear power plants and airplanes are determined by this analysis of how imperfections in certain materials cause failures. For this reason, the field of fracture mechanics has grown rapidly in the last 20 years.

Presently, the center is coordinating seven research projects, sponsored by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the National Science Foundation, the Electric Power Research Institute and a fellowship grant from the MTS Systems Corp.

Because of the center's focus on fracture mechanics, WU is now a viable site for meetings where interested scientists can discuss the most recent research in their field. At the end of May, 30 leaders in the field of fracture mechanics from all over the world will come to WU for a conference on "Concepts in Elastic-Plastic Fracture Mechanics." In May of next year, WU will be host to 300 people from the United States and abroad for the National Symposium on Fracture Me-

chanics, which is sponsored by the American Society for Testing and Materials and is the largest annual meeting of researchers in fracture mechanics.

The center also benefits graduate students, because it has a specific and well-defined purpose, which allows them to focus their studies. A graduate student is also assured continuity during his program of study, because the center includes a number of researchers who are working on related projects.

In the future, the center will offer summer courses during which people will be able to learn the latest methods of fracture mechanics analysis.

Professors Paul Paris and Mario Gomez are the directors of the center and share

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WU Post Office Staff Carries Heavy Load with Good Humor

When snow and arctic temperatures this past winter offered seemingly endless opportunities to recite the old saying—"tis weather fit for neither man nor beast"—not everyone was lodged cozily indoors.

Some hearty souls had to carry on amidst the wintry blasts, among them, WU's mailmen. It was only on two occasions, when roads were impassable because of heavy snow, that the mail didn't end up in some 110 offices on campus.

Much of the dedication of the campus Post Office's nine-member, full- and part-time crew can be attributed to the attitude of the station's manager, Carl Woepke. To state Woepke's work motto is to quote another, but more recently popular adage—"the buck stops here."

"One of the things I like most about this job is that I'm completely responsible, and liable, for the operation, and when I want something done, it gets done," said Woepke, who retired in 1968 after 29 years with the U.S. Postal Service. Woepke likes to work so much, in fact, he was retired only two days before taking up his post at WU.

There are many things to be responsible for at the WU Post Office, so Woepke should be content. The station, which is funded by the U.S. Postal Service and the University, offers

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Peter H. Zimmerman

Situation normal at WU's Post Office—it's 8:30 a.m. and 11,000 pieces of mail have just arrived. Carl Woepke, the station's manager, is at right, carrying envelopes. Within an hour, five men will begin delivering the mail to 110 campus offices.

Economist Hyman Minsky Takes Maverick Stand in New Book

Hyman Minsky, professor of economics, is working on a book on economic theory and policy that seems certain to make him even more of a maverick among economists than he has been so far.

An earlier book, *John Maynard Keynes: A Re-Interpretation of His Views*, was published by Columbia University Press in 1975.

"I question the value of most contemporary economics," Minsky said. "I've tried to construct an alternative to standard economic theory that enables us to understand some of the peculiar behavior of our economy."

In his current work, he takes the position that "our type of economy, with our type of institutions, has an inherent flaw in that from time to time the financial system becomes unstable."

In the past, this instability led to depression. The Great Depression of 1929-33 is a striking example. In our time, the nascent instability is aborted, but the end result is chronic inflation, he said.

What are some of the recurring themes in Professor Minsky's work? He has been concerned with the economy of the United States rather than abstract economies. "I like to stick close to institutions," he said. "I find history and the history of ideas essential. Although I was trained as a mathematician and statistician in my undergraduate and early graduate days, I now feel that much of mathematical and statistical economics is nonsense."

In his interpretation, our economy is different from a socialist economy because of the banking and financial institutions that exist on Wall Street and Main Street.

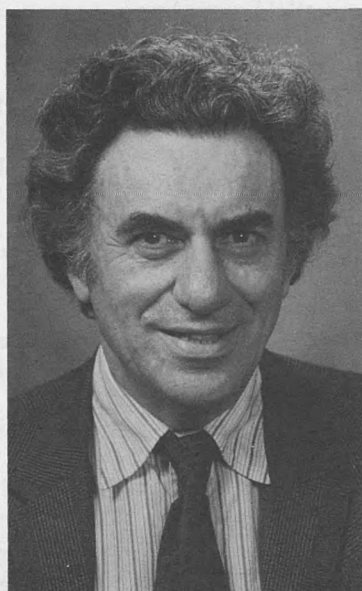
He also pointed out, "In our economy, the emphasis on growth makes the system ever more unstable and increases the likelihood of a financial crisis. The end result of a policy that attempts to increase economic growth is a reduction of growth."

He pointed out that the growth of the Gross National

Product doesn't necessarily lead to a growth in human happiness. "For instance," he said, "Pakistan's Gross National Product rose when the country went to war against India in 1967. Our Gross National Product grew very rapidly during World War II."

Minsky is a consultant to the Mark Twain Banks in St. Louis County and the Unicorn Group in New York, which is a money manager. He formerly was a consultant for the Federal Reserve Board and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

He will go on sabbatical to



Hyman Minsky

Italy next fall. His host in Rome will be "Confindustria," which strikes him as amusing for "Confindustria" is usually referred to as the equivalent of the National Association of Manufacturers.

Minsky is attending a conference of the Western Social Science organization in Denver, Colo., today. At the conference, one session will be devoted to "The Minsky 'Financial Instability' Hypothesis and Macroeconomics." He will read a paper summarizing his work and listen to two commentaries on his work. Minsky is amused at the event. "It will be odd to be the subject of such meetings. I hope I'm mature enough to withstand the scrutiny," he said.

(King McElroy)

Post Office

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most of the usual postal services, including insuring and registering mail. "Even if something needs to be registered for \$100,000, we can do it," Woepke said. Among the few services the office does not provide is the mailing of overseas parcels that require customs information.

The station handles another of its duties in a big way. It sells approximately \$250,000 worth of stamps each year, which ranks it above such other well-used post offices as Webster Groves and Kirkwood. One to two men are needed throughout each day to take care of the steady stream of customers at the station's window.

Receiving, sorting and delivering the mail twice a day are the most time-consuming tasks the station's personnel perform. The largest load of mail arrives every morning before 8:30 like a sudden, summer deluge. Approximately 5000 letters, 5000 pieces of flat mail (magazines, etc.) and 1000 parcels pour into the small southern corner of the office through an open window.

By 9:30, five men are out delivering the mail to campus offices. By noon, they are back, ready to start the process over again, but this time the sorting includes outgoing mail, which must be separated according to class—first, second and fourth.

Because of the volume of mail that passes through the station daily, mistakes happen, Woepke warns, adding that correct addresses are extremely important.

One of the station's jobs that falls solely on Woepke's shoulders is keeping the books. The major part of this chore stems from the "postage paid" service the station offers to various departments who pay for postage on letters to be returned to them. One department's monthly bill, for example, sometimes runs as high as \$1000 for hundreds of pieces of mail that contain contributions to the University. Because each letter's postal rate, usually 11 or 25 cents, must be recorded individually, it's definitely not a job for the impatient.

But the station's responsibilities don't put a damper on the air of friendly good humor in the office. The core of this amicable ambience is the long-term friendship of Woepke and Gene Lyons, assistant manager of the station, who joined the WU staff eight years ago after retiring from the U.S. Postal Service. Knowing each other since high school, Lyons said, "gives us each the right to say what we think, and that way we don't get into arguments."

Also as part of the daily office fare, jokes abound. And because almost all subjects are considered fair game, Woepke hires employees who are not overly thin-skinned. "If I couldn't enjoy working, I wouldn't be here," he said.

A bulletin board, visible to customers from the stamp window and available to anyone having a joke to post, adds another note to the office's somewhat Chaucerian tone. Currently hung in a prominent place is a saying, contributed by a customer, that is perhaps a wry comment on all of us. It begins, "We the Unwilling, led by the Unknowing, are doing the impossible, for the Ungrateful."

(Janet Kelley)

MEMBERS OF THE WU DANCE THEATRE, as part of National Dance Week, will perform on Sat., April 29, at 3 p.m. at Westport Plaza in front of Casa Gallardo Restaurant. The dancers, under the direction of Professor Annelise Mertz, also appeared at Plaza Frontenac.

THE RECENTLY ESTABLISHED WU HOCKEY CLUB asks that everyone save their aluminum cans. The club will collect these cans for recycling, and the funds raised will be used to buy hockey equipment. For information, call Richard Frunzi at 863-0271.

Announcements

THE WU WOMAN'S CLUB will hold its spring luncheon on Fri., May 5, at 12 noon at the Schneithorst's Hofamberg Inn, Lindbergh Blvd. and Clayton Road. Rose Boyarsky, clinical psychologist and president, Missouri Psychological Association, will speak on "Marital Myths and Misconceptions." The price of the luncheon is \$5.50. For reservations and information, call Mrs. William Fair at 576-5991.

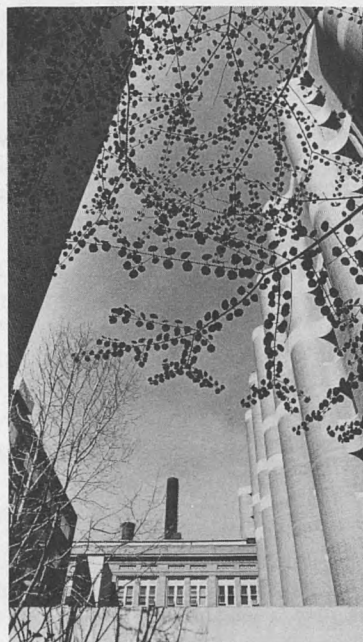
"THE WALK-IN LAY DOWN THEATRE" will be held Fri., April 28, in the Quadrangle (in Francis Fieldhouse in the case of rain). The schedule is as follows: 4 p.m., picnic and barbecue with meal card or \$2.80; 5 p.m., concert featuring "Asleep at the Wheel"; 7 p.m., "Cabaret," "Mash," and many shorts, free of charge, with free popcorn and drinks. Sponsored by Team 31 Productions.

THREE WU STUDENTS have been accepted this year for the Operation Crossroads Africa Summer Program. They are Ronald Himes, a senior, Kevin Jones, a junior, and Rose Jones, a sophomore. The program, a non-profit, non-governmental volunteer development organization, has sent more than 5000 American students to 34 African countries to spend their summers living in village communities. The volunteers work on such rural development projects as building schools and health clinics as well as on archaeology, music and art projects. The students are currently raising funds for their trips. For further information about making a contribution (or buying a raffle ticket for a chance on a trip to Africa or the Caribbean), call Robert Watson or Robert Johnson at Extensions 5229, 5214 or 5690.

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THE PROPOSAL to revise the requirements for the bachelor of arts degree at WU was passed by the Council of Students of Arts and Sciences at its April 25th meeting. The Faculty of Arts and Sciences passed the proposal on April 7. The new requirements will become effective for the 1979 entering class.

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH will honor winners of its annual poetry contest at a departmental meeting in the Hurst Lounge on Wednesday, May 3, at 11 a.m. Judges for the poetry contest were Professors Howard Nemerov and John N. Morris. Fifty students (both undergraduate and graduate students) submitted entries. The recipients and their awards are: Jonathan Valin, graduate student, The Norma Lowry Memorial Fund Prize, \$80; Cathy Downs, freshman, The Roger Conant Hatch Memorial Fund Prize, \$100; Lisa Zeidner, graduate student, The Academy of American Poets Prize, \$100. Copies of their winning poems will be printed in a booklet and will be available in the English Department office after the meeting. An award of \$25 will be presented to Sheri Steininger, winner of the F. Ward Denys Prize, given annually to a sophomore who shows the greatest degree of excellence in work in English.



Peter H. Zimmerman
New Ginkgo leaves form a lacy pattern against the backdrop of the Medical School.



Peter H. Zimmerman
WU's team in the 1978 College Bowl Competition recently won the regional round and will be one of 16 groups competing in the last rounds May 9-14 in Miami. Team members are (standing, left to right) Marc Gottlieb, Vicki Levine, co-coach, Scott Burris, (kneeling) Eric Larson and Michael Marks, captain. Not pictured are Barry Bergey, co-coach, and Aaron Greenberg, alternate.

Center

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administrative duties equally. Prior to joining WU in 1976, Paris was visiting professor of engineering at Brown University. Gomez joined the WU faculty in January upon leaving his appointment as chief scientist for the Argentine Navy. Several years ago, these two scientists collaborated on research that led to the establishment of aircraft failure design specifications now used by the Air Force.

BARRY BERGEY, coordinator of student activities in the Office of Student Affairs, has been appointed to the board of directors of the National Council for the Traditional Arts. Dedicated to the preservation of a variety of folk arts, the organization also sponsors the annual National Folk Festival held at Wolf Trap, Va. Bergey is a founder of the Missouri Friends of the Folk Arts, of which there is a campus chapter, and periodically teaches courses in the folk arts at WU.

HENRY M. SCHAERF, WU associate professor emeritus of mathematics, has received new recognition for his contributions to the mathematical foundations of actuarial theory. A five-part monograph on these foundations, which is being published by the German Actuarial Society (*Reichel, Mathematische Grundlagen der Lebensversicherung*), is based on his ideas, as the author of the monograph acknowledges. Considerably earlier, Schaerf's work had been given prominent coverage in a two-volume monograph of actuarial theory in the Springer collection *Grundlehren der mathematischen Wissenschaften* (W. Saxer, *Versicherungsmathematik*), where several concepts and theorems had been named after him.

KEITH FLEMING and Morris Rosenberg have been elected cochairman of the student Academic Committee, which sponsors lectures and other events on campus. Fleming is a junior in the engineering school and Rosenberg is a freshman in the College of Arts and Science.

Calendar

April 28-May 4

FRIDAY, APRIL 28

12:30 p.m. Division of Biology and Biomedical Sciences Lecture, "Rod-Rod Coupling in the Turtle Retina," David Copenhagen, U. of Cal., San Francisco. 5th floor lunch room, Cancer Research Bldg., 660 S. Euclid.

3 p.m. Department of Chinese and Japanese Lecture, "Japanese Fiction and the Art of Kawabata Yasunari," Katsuhiko Takeda, prof. of Japanese literature, Waseda U., Tokyo, Japan, and visiting prof. of Asian literature, Vanderbilt U., Nashville, Tenn. Stix House.

SUNDAY, APRIL 30

12 noon. South-40 Arts and Crafts Fair, beginning with a parade from Brookings, down Forsyth to Wohl Center. Participants will be judged for most unusual costumes. Performances by Thyrsus and Saturday Nite Leftovers and folk, gospel, jazz and country rock musicians will be given on two stages throughout the day. St. Louis craftspeople will also display and demonstrate their work. South-40. Square dancing will be held from 5-7 p.m. in Bowles Plaza.

5 p.m. Seventh Annual Black Awards Dinner and Ceremony, where black students will be recognized for scholarship and achievement. Horace Mitchell, director of Black Studies, speaker. Ramada Inn, 303 S. Grand. Admission \$3.50 for WU students; \$7.50 for others. Call Ext. 5690 or 5970 for reservations.

MONDAY, MAY 1

4 p.m. Division of Biology and Biomedical Sciences Lecture, "Gene Injection into Living Oocytes," J. B. Gurdon, MRC Lab of Molecular Biology, University Medical School, Cambridge, England. Moore Aud., 660 S. Euclid.

4 p.m. Cancer Center Forum, "Approaches to the Study of Antibody Diversity," Joseph Davie, chairman, WU Department of Microbiology and Immunology. Erlanger Aud., 4570 McKinley.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 3

4 p.m. Department of Physics Colloquium, "Archaeoastronomy," M. W. Friedlander, WU prof. of physics. 201 Crow.

THURSDAY, MAY 4

11 a.m. Division of Biology and Biomedical Sciences Lecture, "Factors Affecting Yield of Cereal Grains Via Physiological Processes," Richard Hageman, U. of Ill., Urbana. 322 Rebstock.

4 p.m. First Thomas Hall Lecture in Biology, "The Race I.Q. Controversy," Paul Ehrlich, author of the *Population Bomb* and Bing Professor of Population Studies, Stanford U., Stanford, Cal. Graham Chapel.

4 p.m. Twenty-first Joseph W. Kennedy Memorial Lecture, "The Puzzle of the Missing Neutrinos," Gerhart Friedlander, researcher, Department of Chemistry, Brookhaven National Lab, Upton, NY. 458 Louderman Hall.

Performing Arts

FRIDAY, APRIL 28

8 p.m. Edison Theatre Dance Series Performance, The Pilobolus Dance Theatre, a troupe performing an unusual blend of dance and acrobatics. Edison Theatre. Admission \$4.80; \$3.75 for students and WU faculty and staff; \$2 for WU students. (Also Sat., April 29, 8 p.m., Edison.) *All performances are sold out.*



Pilobolus

10 p.m. Thyrsus and Women's Programming Board Production, *An Evening with Colette*, an original play by WU alumnus Michael Goldman, featuring Debbie Orland and student cast. Mallinckrodt Drama Studio. (Also Sat. and Sun., April 29 and 30, 10 p.m., Mallinckrodt Drama Studio.)

Music

FRIDAY, APRIL 28

8 p.m. WU Choir Concert,



Chancellor Danforth was among those observing a ceramics demonstration at last year's South-40 Arts and Crafts Show. This year's show will be held Sun., April 30, from 1 to 5 p.m. on the S-40.

directed by Orland Johnson. The program will consist of 20th-century choral works. Graham Chapel.

SATURDAY, APRIL 29

8 p.m. Women's Programming Board Concert, featuring Rosey's Bar and Grill, four women folksingers. women's Bldg. Lounge. General admission \$3; \$2 for WU students with ID.

SUNDAY, APRIL 30

3 p.m. WU Galant Ensemble Concert, directed by Peter Chow. The program will include the "New World" Symphony, by Dvorak and "Carmina Burana," by Carl Orff. Performing the latter piece will be the WU Civic Chorus, directed by Orland Johnson, Graham Chapel.

8 p.m. St. Louis Metropolitan High School Band Concert, directed by Dan Presgrave. Edison Theatre.

MONDAY, MAY 1

8 p.m. Department of Music Senior Honors Conducting Recital, with John Simonson. Graham Chapel.

Exhibitions

"WU School of Fine Arts Masters Theses Show," at four locations. WU Gallery of Art, Steinberg Hall: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Fri.; 1-5 p.m. Sat., Sun. Through April 30. Riverfront Design Center, 112 N. 2nd St.: noon-4 p.m. Mon., Wed. and Fri. Through May 20. John Burroughs School, 755 S. Price, (outdoors). Through May 5. Union Station, 1820 Market, grand ballroom: open at all times; reception Sat., April 29, 2-5 p.m. Through May 12.

"Map Publishing in 19th-Century America," including maps of the entire country, with particular emphasis on Missouri maps. The exhibit will illustrate how cartography reflects growth throughout the century. Rare Book Department, Olin Library, level 5. 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Fri. May 1-July 31.

"Maps from the Earth and Planetary Sciences Library," an exhibit of a variety of topographic and geologic maps made by the U.S. Geological Survey and the U.S. Defense Mapping Agency. Olin Library, third floor. 8 a.m.-12 midnight, daily. Through July 31.

Films

FRIDAY, APRIL 28

8 p.m. WU Film Art Series, "Dinner at Eight," with Jean Harlow and John Barrymore. Rebstock Auditorium. Admission \$1.75; \$1 for WU students. (Also Sun., April 30, 2 p.m., Rebstock.)

TUESDAY, MAY 2

12 noon. Tuesday Women's Film Series, "Children of Bet Alpha" and "Black Wealth." 304 Mallinckrodt. (Also 6:30 p.m., Wohl Formal Lounge.)

7:30 and 9:30 p.m. WU Filmboard Series, "The Graduate." Brown Hall Theatre. Admission \$1.50.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 3

7:30 and 9:30 p.m. WU Filmboard Series, "Jonah Who Will be 25 in the Year 2000." Brown Hall Theatre. Admission \$1.50. (Also Thurs., May 4, same times, Brown.)