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THE RED BRICKS

"From The BRICKERS of UMBC"

Vol 1

No 1

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TROUBLE AHEAD?

OPEN LETTER TO THE CHANCELLOR, DEAN OF FACULTY, AND DIVISION CHAIRMEN OF UMBC

SINCE THE FORMATION OF UMBC, THE STUDENT POPULATION HAS EXPERIENCED CONTINUOUS FRUSTRATION IN ITS EFFORTS TO HAVE THE UNIVERSITY MACHINERY RESPOND TO STUDENT NEEDS. INSTEAD, WITH FEW EXCEPTIONS, THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS AND FACULTY COMMITTEES, WHETHER THROUGH DELIBERATE INTENT OR BUREAUCRATIC PARALYSIS, SEEM TO EXIST ONLY TO DAMPEN AND SUPPRESS STUDENT REQUESTS.

IT IS CLEAR THAT THOSE, BOTH IN THE FACULTY AND THE ADMINISTRATION, RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF UMBC ARE CONCERNED MORE ABOUT BUILDING NEW BUILDINGS, PUBLISHING ARTICLES, ATTAINING TENURE, AND OTHER PURSUITS DEVOID OF RELEVANCE TO STUDENT WELFARE.

NOW, COUNTLESS REAMS OF COMMITTEE REPORTS, LETTERS, MEMOS, AND THREE YEARS LATER, A TIME FOR ACTION IS LONG OVERDUE. THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION HAS BEEN PUT OFF WITH RED TAPE AND TRIVIAL CONCESSIONS LONG ENOUGH.

WHILE A GUISE OF DEMOCRACY EXISTS AT UMBC, IN REALITY ALL IMPORTANT DECISIONS ARE MADE ARBITRARILY BY A FEW OFFICIALS AT HILLCREST. THE FACULTY HAS SHUNNED ITS OBLIGATIONS TO ITS STUDENTS AND TO ITSELF TO INSURE A DEMOCRATIC BALANCE OF RESPONSIBILITY WITHIN THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY. THE FACULTY PERMITTED OUTRAGEOUS INFRINGEMENTS ON THE RIGHTS OF FREE EXPRESSION AND FREE PRESS BY THE CHANCELLOR AND DEAN OF FACULTY. BY DEFAULT, THE ADMINISTRATION, UN CHALLENGED, ALMOST SINGLEHANDEDLY RULES UMBC.

DUE TO CONSISTANT VIOLATIONS OF THE RIGHTS OF THE STUDENTS AND FLAGRANT DISREGARD FOR THEIR WELFARE, WE DEMAND AN OPEN MEETING IN THE STUDENT UNION BUILDING WITH THE CHANCELLOR, DEAN OF FACULTY AND DIVISION CHAIRMEN, WITHIN A ONE WEEK PERIOD, TO PUBLICLY PRESENT THE FOLLOWING GRIEVANCES:

- 1) WITHDRAWAL OF STUDENT FUNDS BY THE CHANCELLOR FOR THE PURPOSE OF CENSORING STUDENT PUBLICATIONS, DIALOGUE, AND CENSORING OF THE GILCHRIEST EXHIBIT LAST SPRING BY THE DEAN OF FACULTY.
- 2) a) THE MACKIE COMPANY'S EXPLOITATION OF STUDENTS THROUGH HIGH PRICES AND INFERIOR FOODS. b) THE LOCKING OF CERTAIN BUILDINGS PRESENTS A SEVERE INCONVENIENCE TO MANY STUDENTS. (EX.: THE 3:00 CLOSING TIME OF THE CAFETERIA) c) THE LACK OF AVAILABILITY OF FOOD IN MORNING AND EVENING HOURS. (EX.: THE CAFETERIA HOT LINE IS OPEN ONLY FROM 11 TO 2)
- 3) LACK OF COOPERATION AND COURTESY BY THE ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF IN RESPONDING TO STUDENT NEEDS AND REQUESTS. STUDENTS ARE SHUFFLED FROM OFFICE TO OFFICE AND MADE TO WAIT IN ORDER TO RECTIFY SOME SITUATION, SEEK INFORMATION OR FILL OUT SOME FORM. IT SEEMS THAT UMBC'S ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS ARE PREOCCUPIED WITH CONFERENCES, PAPERWORK, LUNCH BREAKS, ETC. TO THE POINT WHERE STUDENTS OFTEN HAVE TO WAIT DAYS FOR AN APPOINTMENT. (EXAMPLES: a) THE STUDENT LIFE OFFICE IS CLOSED FOR ONE HOUR EVERY DAY AT LUNCHTIME JUST WHEN MOST STUDENTS ARE FREE AND MIGHT NEED ASSISTANCE. b) ANY INTERACTION WITH THE BUSINESS OFFICE INVARIABLY INVOLVES RED TAPE, DELAYS AND DISCOURTESY c) PHYSICAL PLANT OFFICE HAS BEEN GENERALLY NON-COOPERATIVE WITH STUDENTS. d) PLACEMENT WAS NON-EXISTENT EXCEPT FOR A FEW LEAFLETS IN THE LIBRARY. REGISTRATION AND ADMISSION INVOLVES LONG LINES, SHORT OFFICE HOURS, AND OTHER INCONVENIENCES.
- 4) NO STUDENT REPRESENTATION ON FACULTY COMMITTEE CHARGED WITH PROMOTION AND TENURE. THUS, TEACHING ABILITY AND STUDENT OPINIONS ARE NOT CONSIDERED WITH OTHER CRITERIA IN HIRING AND PROMOTING.

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THE UMBC EXECUTIVE BOARD: DARRYL HAGY, PRESIDENT SGA; JAMES SCHWARTZ, VICE-PRESIDENT SGA, HARVEY PATS, TREASURER SGA, EDUARD BERLIN, SEC. OF STUDENT ACTIVITIES, ANDRIS SKUJA, SEC. OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION, MICHAEL WOODWARD SEC. OF INTERCOLLEGIATE AFFAIRS, DANA LEVITZ, SEC. OF UMBC AFFAIRS.

DR. ALBIN O. KUHN

Generally Speaking....!!



Editor's note: (The following is a taped interview with Dr. Albin O. Kuhn, Chancellor of UMBC and the editor of the Red Brick, Jack Walsh.)

The purpose of the interview as originally intended, was two-fold: One, to have the administration define point-blank its stand on relevant campus and national problems; Secondly, to bridge the proverbial gap by trying to establish a basic dialogue and identity between the students and the "power structure" (trite phrase) itself. For these purposes the interview fails miserably. It does not communicate the atmosphere that accompanied the whole interview, nor does it have all of the gesticulations and speech faults that generally accompany any dialogue when the participants are not sure of the final point of view each should take for safety's sake.

What has resulted are words and ideas as stilted as those generally found in any Playboy interview. This can be misleading if taken as a derogatory statement. What can probably better describe this interview would be for anyone interested in obtaining the right atmosphere while reading it to turn on "Meet the Press", next time a prominent political leader appears, and imagine, instead of good 'ole Spivak, the editor of the East Village Other, asking any political personality to come on down and talk.

RB: I guess the first issue will be the Dialogue. I understand that there's going to be a court case...

Dr. K: I don't know anything about that.

RB: What I would like to know, is why and how you finally came to the conclusion to cancel the Dialogue. That is correct, isn't it?

Dr. K: No. My only reason was, and you may talk to Mr. Hagy on it, that it would not be eligible for being an official university publication, or for state funds.

RB: Was the reason that you came to this conclusion based on the fact that you thought the Dialogue transcended moral tactics?

Dr. K: No, what I decided was that it would not be published with state funds, or as an official University publication.

RB: Because of outside pressure?

Dr. K: No, my own judgement, and I expressed that over a year ago. No, it was last February that the question came up and I wrote a letter explaining the university policy. Did you get a copy of it?

RB: Yes, I did. Another issue is student power. How much power do you finally think the students should have in relation to the administration or the faculty? Do you think, and I hate to use this word, that they should be somewhat subservient, or at least under, the administration's thumb?

Dr. K: No, I don't think anyone in a university environment should ever be subservient to anyone else. There is a responsibility of the administration to determine how state funds should be used. This,

of course, is open to review by the Board (of Regents) and in the final analysis, it is the State which does appropriate the money.

RB: Then the real alternative, if the students wish to put out anything of their own, would be for the students to collect their own activities fee.

Dr. K: This would be something that the students should wrestle with as a logical alternative.

RB: Do you think this would solve problems like the Dialogue? In other words, would you have stepped in if state funds were not involved?

Dr. K: The only thing I stepped in about was the use of state funds and the use of the University of Maryland's name as an official publication.

RB: I see...?

Another issue, now that school is starting again: an article in the Sunpaper stating that many Republican Congressmen did not think that the campus turmoil was over by a long shot. What has been your immediate reaction to campus disruption, knowing that we haven't had any here...

Dr. K: Oh, campus disruptions are nothing new with the present day campus. There have been activities and disruption for as long as campuses have been developed. They have been more intensive the last couple of years, more extensive. I don't know

what the current year will bring. I think there has been more thought by everybody in the academic community about how you can best bring progress. I think there may be more thought whether this is best fought by demonstration or whether it is best fought in an academic community by greater appeal to thought and logic. I think the coming year will see more disruption... I don't see any sudden changes developing.

RB: Then you do think there will be more trouble?

Dr. K: Sure.

RB: This being the case, what would your immediate reaction be if, say, 50 people ran in and decided to occupy your office? In other words, how would you handle a major disruption on this campus?

Dr. K: (Large pause)

Peaceful demonstrations should always be part of any campus. I mean, no one takes offense at this, I don't think anyone takes offense at this. But, if it comes to an issue of forceful entrance or occupancy, and disruption in the sense of not being able to go on with our regular business, then, of course, we will take direct action to end this disruption.

RB: By police?

Dr. K: Well, that would be a matter... if necessary, we would take whatever force is needed to end it.

RB: In other words, any disgruntled group on campus with any idea of disruption can be expected to be met with equal force by the administration?

Dr. K: No, we are not going to start a lot of force issues, but we will abide by a normal law by which the

campus work will go on.

RB: Then it is safe to suppose that you do not go along with students who use force?

Dr. K: Now, wait a minute. When you use the word force, you mean ILLEGAL entry into a building or disruption of campus activity...

RB: Right.

Dr. K: No, I don't agree with that.

RB: You do not see this as the final step students must take when they feel all other methods of redress have failed?

Dr. K: No, I think we are going to live by the law. When the law disappears and the normal way of conducting business disappears, you no longer have a community, you have chaos.

RB: The reason I'm going into this is because of an interesting article I read in the July issue of Atlantic. It was called, "Moralists vs. Managers," and was dealing with the troubles at Harvard last year. Its theme was that President Pusey (of Harvard) had become more of a manager type than academician or administrator. Thus, when the students occupied the building, he was able to maintain his functioning university only by calling in the police, rather than asking the faculty or students to deal with the troubles.

Dr. K: Generally speaking, on any issue of this type, it is a practical question of moving ahead with the business of the university and that is what we will plan to do.

RB: Uh-huh.

Another prominent question is whether it is absolutely necessary for the Security Guards to carry guns in view of the fact that there is an arsenal a half-block away at the Baltimore County Police Department.

Dr. K: We have a good and mature security group on campus, a sound group, not the type of men who would be prone to excitement or over-reacting to anything; they are experienced people. One of your problems is that when a person is in uniform and guarding the facilities on the campus, by trying to see that we do not get undue loss by theft, as many campuses do, they are not doing this seven days a week, 24 hours a day, and to be in uniform with virtually no means of protection, in the final analysis, is really difficult.

I think they should, yes...

RB: They should carry guns?

Dr. K: Yes. They have got to be good, mature people who understand their responsibility and they are, fortunately.

RB: You don't think there is enough protection that could be given by the Baltimore County Police on Wilkins Avenue?

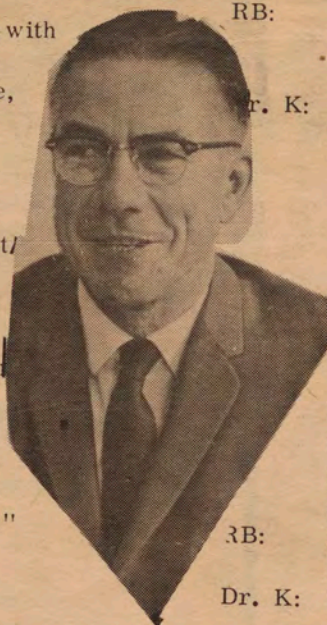
Dr. K: I think we wouldn't be getting our full value from our own security people if they did not have this.

RB: Another pressing problem, at least for Maryland campuses, is the question of a better balance of black students and other ethnic minorities. Has anything gone down this summer that will begin creating this balance?

Dr. K: I think the one simple thing that's important is a clear-cut statement in all university publications, to be sure that everybody understands that race, color, creed, is not a criteria in selecting students or in their moving ahead on campus. I think a clear statement of this, in all cases, is a very important thing that has not, simply by oversight, been done before. This is moving ahead, this is good. But beyond this, it is going to be a long, hard struggle to have a complete balance of ethnic groups. This will take a number of years to accomplish. I am happy that this is a campus where everyone is anxious to make sure that every student moves ahead, not according to his race or color, but by his ability to perform academically, and I think that this, in the long run, will be what leads to an equal representation of minority groups...

RB: But... has there been any specific program proposed? How long is HEW going to give Maryland to begin the proper balance?

Dr. K: HEW has simply asked Maryland to present a plan that will ensure that the campuses are open. This is essentially what HEW asked of most state institutions that they visited throughout the country... to make sure that it is known that all groups are welcome on campus and that we do whatever is possible to make sure all groups are represented on campus. I think one little thing that has started to help those students without a car is a shuttle service to school, in the morning and afternoon from school to the city transportation.



RB: How impractical is the idea I heard this summer of incorporating Towson, Morgan, UMBC and Coppin into one university? Is it going ahead with any initiative?

Dr. K: I certainly would not favor that combination. It would have nothing to do with racial balance, as what is most important is the balance on the individual campuses, not what is found in a total university complex. I don't think the idea is very sound. I would be very much against anything that divides up the University of Maryland, that would leave UMBC associated with some other university. One thing that should be remembered is that Maryland is not a large state. It has a tri-partite system now, university, state college, and community colleges. If it is going to enlarge its university system it should be enlarged as a part of the University of Maryland, not by creating some new university.

RB: I thought that HEW threatened to take funds away if something wasn't done regarding racial imbalance.

Dr. K: The idea of recombination certainly has nothing to do with racial imbalance.

RB: Another problem last semester in other colleges in Maryland was the undercover agents as well as arrests on campus regarding drugs. How do you feel regarding arrests on campus for a crime that was probably committed somewhere off campus such as sale of a drug to an agent?

Dr. K: Obviously, none of us wants arrests on campus, but this campus is a part of the State of Maryland, part of the country. The police have just as much jurisdiction on this campus as they have anywhere else in the state. So finally, if there is an arrest to be made on the campus, it is in the hands of the police not in the hands of the university.

RB: They don't come to you first to ask your permission?

Dr. K: They don't have to come to me to ask my permission. This is not an autonomous area beyond the law, this is part of the state and the country.

RB: Oh, I thought they had to at least have a warrant to come on the campus.

Dr. K: I'm not sure about the legal aspects of a warrant, but as far as I am concerned, it would be the same procedure as going into any other area of the country or the state.

RB: Do you think the idea of tenured faculty gives the administration more covert power than it would have without this principle?

Dr. K: Specifically, going to the idea of tenured faculty, I don't get any connection between that and administrative powers.

RB: Well, what I meant to say is that it would seem most faculty are under the administration's thumb until they have at least attained some recognition of tenure. For instance, new faculty members often complain that they must remain somewhat silent while they are putting their time in to attain their tenure. Thus they are unable, because of job security and financial obligations, to always say what they really wish to.

Dr. K: The principle of tenured faculty, as far as I know, is based primarily on the assumption that when a professor has served through the associate professor position he is placed in a tenure appointment so he can be free of any political interference, free from feeling he must be under the gun or something like that. Primarily, it was set up to see that educational institutions were divorced from sudden whims of individual people. So, in effect, the final effect of something like tenure is to lessen the administrative power. I think the big thing that allows the faculty to express anything it wants is a strong academic market, because they know there are adequate educational institutions throughout the country. That allows them to easily move to another to another institution if they don't like it where they are. This accessible market has more of an influence on tenure than the old system of years ago.



A
MESSAGE
FROM
THE
CHANCELLOR

RB: On a national level, how do you think the Nixon administration is dealing with problems that are pressing to the youth culture of today, like the draft?

Dr. K: I feel that it is really almost impossible to establish a truly equitable draft system. Having gone through it myself in World War II, I'm sure none of us feel a truly equitable system can be established.

As far as the Nixon Administration is concerned, it is still a little early to identify the thrust of this administration. I think one of the most pressing problems we have had in recent years is that programs are authorized and then not properly funded; thus they do not put out enough money to deal with the program. It looks to me like the support of higher education (research work, etc.) is not going to prosper greatly in the foreseeable future.

RB: Do you think that when the Vietnam war is over, there will be more order on the college campuses than there is now? Do you think the Vietnam war has been the major impetus causing unrest?

Dr. K: Certainly the war in Vietnam has caused a certain unrest among people of draft age, which students are, and I think it has been a major factor. The world is something that continually changes. I think that all history tends to indicate that the rate of change is more rapid with the passage of time. It tends to be not one of a straight line relationship but more of a geometrical one. The tempo picks up very rapidly. We live in a world where we are going to have nothing like the peace and quiet which was considered normal when I was of college age. I think it will be a little more active now.

RB: Is there any message you would like to give to the incoming freshmen and the students that are already here?

Dr. K: I think a message I would give to students at the beginning of any year, and always want to give again is:

The business of attending college is a pretty serious business. And the world that they will enter after college is one that in the broad analysis, pays a great deal of attention to the knowledge that an individual person has, and advancement in that world is associated with the knowledge you have and your ability to use it, and I suspect that when I was a

college student I didn't realize fully the tremendous opportunities that are associated with four years of college and really gain this basic knowledge that will be important the rest of your life, and I would really urge students to use the academic resources here as fully as they can and progress as well as they can. I know this sounds like the typical prep talk, but, gee, this is a wonderful period in life, when you have a chance to devote your time to your own self-improvement. I simply marvel when I get around and have chances to sit in on lectures by our faculty, at the breadth of knowledge of our faculty, and I'm sure, of all faculties, and the real opportunity to open new doors by taking courses. Kind of wish I could go back to college myself.



Man the Watcher

If man survives the century in any health, it will because he has avoided war, drastically reduced his birthrate, ceased to poison and exploit his environment, and come to believe that his true growth is measured, not by a Gross National Product, but by understanding, insight, and respect for all being. This survival, if it comes, will indicate that he has achieved a tolerably balanced ecological vision of his relationship with earth and its other life, and that he has channeled or transformed his aggressive energies sufficiently that he, and hopefully his children's children, have a reasonable chance of continued life. I am not optimistic that man's future will be this kind, but I am not interested in the more dour scenarios, however more likely they may be. Rather I want to think about the kind of life man might have when his technology has released him from much labor, especially the labor of the exploitation of his resources, organic and inorganic, when Leopold's land ethic has become self-evident, and when his slowly developing wisdom and humility have convinced him that if he does not cherish the multitude of living organisms and cease his destruction of them--a destruction now going on at a rate of a thousandfold of their evolutionary creation--and maintain a rich and complex biota, his own life will become even more sterile than it is at present, and his own self-willed destruction will surge and press nearer and more certain.

What is a man to do in a world in which most of his bodily needs are met with little labor, in which the old ideals of work, the generation and use of power, and the accumulation of capital (stored power) are no longer of great importance? The old vision of hardy engineers wresting metals from the earth, sucking oil from her bowels, plugging and silting her great rivers, building hideous factories and great engines of war, while entrepreneurs and corporations shrilly compete for bits of stored energy, heedless of the needs of other life, though still widely held and practiced, are even now so demeaning of life and consciousness that only the most crass and neurotic of men pay them any heed. Certainly no future is contained in such attitudes.

The bulk of men may take the coming freedom from labor as a chance to toy in pleasure. And no doubt it will require years for current generations to explore their senses in even the most primitive terms, to overcome a heritage of repression and deliberate meanness, to come to understand the delights of sexuality, of drugs, of sensual freedom. But grossness palls, and the satisfactions grow more subtle with experience; some, certainly, to perverse decadence reflective now of our culture's sickness, but more hopefully, to richer, wiser, kinder, more living delights.

In the coming Aquarian age of Maitreya, I could imagine spending my soul-time in steadfast, quiet observation. Man the watcher, homo contemplator, who effaces himself as much as possible, honoring the extreme humility of the observer who would not have his presence distort the slightest that which he observes, who takes full joy and wisdom from the serried dances and cycles, the fugal interchanges which are the world's. Man would be caretaker and witness, teach his children to slip gently into shadows, draw health from the meditation on the process which is the world. He would enter a new human life in which great value is held not to be in the wielding of power, but becoming perfect in camouflage, and in concern that evidence of his presence remain minimal. His activity will be centered in the patterns of human relationships, and to minor deformations in his image of the world without man--his house, a little garden, perhaps a pasture for his horses; trails, and small cities. His wish would be to be so wholly present and integrated that his presence would be invisible. Should visitors from a distant star system ever chance upon earth, man would wish and hope that he would not be singled out from deer or tree or dolphin brothers as obvious rulers and dominant species, but would be one among many, though perhaps the only one to step forth in greeting.

Technology is accumulative, and we need not keep up its exponential growth once populations and economies are stabilized. We don't know much, but we know nearly enough right now to enable all of us to live comfortably together. Most, we need time to digest and evaluate what we do know. Before we infect the sun's other satellights with our presence, or plunge more wildly into technologies without a surer, profounder knowledge of their long-range effects, we should spend some generations absorbing and correlating what we already know, for it is evident that we understand little. Not mastering our information and techniques, we are mastered by them.

The ages of rough manipulation, of manhandling the world, came by need, but stayed and grew as habit; now that the need is ending, man must rid himself of a ten-thousand-year-old habit. It will not be easy. But the unconcern for other lives, the destruction of species and environments in the name of progress or even survival is madness today, as is the current maniacal addiction to power as the final solution to everything. con't. p. 19

