

Second thoughts on the EMU petition

A petition is currently being circulated that asks for a building suspension on the EMU addition that is now in the advance planning stage. Before you consider signing the petition we ask you to review the following facts:

The Erb Memorial Union was opened in 1950 to serve an enrollment of approximately 5,200 students. An initial addition was provided in 1961 to meet a growth in enrollment to nearly 8,500 students. Present enrollment is 15,300 students.

The student union facilities were adequate for about 8,500 students, but now have demands placed on them which are nearly double the design capacity. Since the gap is so large in this one building there is no escape from the significance of these figures; the effect of overcrowdedness cannot be diffused or dissipated over the campus, congestion is enormous. During peak hours there are long lines waiting to be served, and it is almost impossible to find seating for groups of two or three persons; lounge seating throughout the day and evening is difficult to find; tables and chairs previously used for informal study have been converted to dining space; and group meeting rooms are scheduled to capacity throughout the school year. The serious overcrowding prevents the present union from functioning as a center for the community and indeed the forced turnover strains the very usefulness of the existing facility.

The fundamental factor which influenced plans for the future addition to Erb Memorial Union is the compelling need for maintaining personal contact and interaction among all members of the University community. One of the potentially significant contributions of the union in the social-intellectual life of the campus is that it should serve as a common meeting ground for students and faculty outside of classroom and office. It should stand as an important element in combating forces of depersonalization that seem to characterize some large institutions. Since the Student Union is the only common meeting ground for the entire community, an inadequate facility

can seriously undermine the spirit of the community at all levels.

Eight alternative sites for the Student Union Addition were investigated by the

Student-Faculty Planning Committee. The sites were adjacent to Erb and central in concept or remote and a satellite. A central location was the recommendation of this student-faculty committee after

considering the implications of the alternative sites. The Student Union Planning Committee, composed of four students, the S.U. manager, and one architect, evaluated central sites to the north, south and east of the present building using the following criteria:

1. Existing and estimated future pedestrian movement to and through the site.
2. Vehicular and service traffic to the site.
3. Development of the aesthetic relationships to the existing buildings.
4. Development of ecological factors in the site such as the preservation of open space, existing trees.

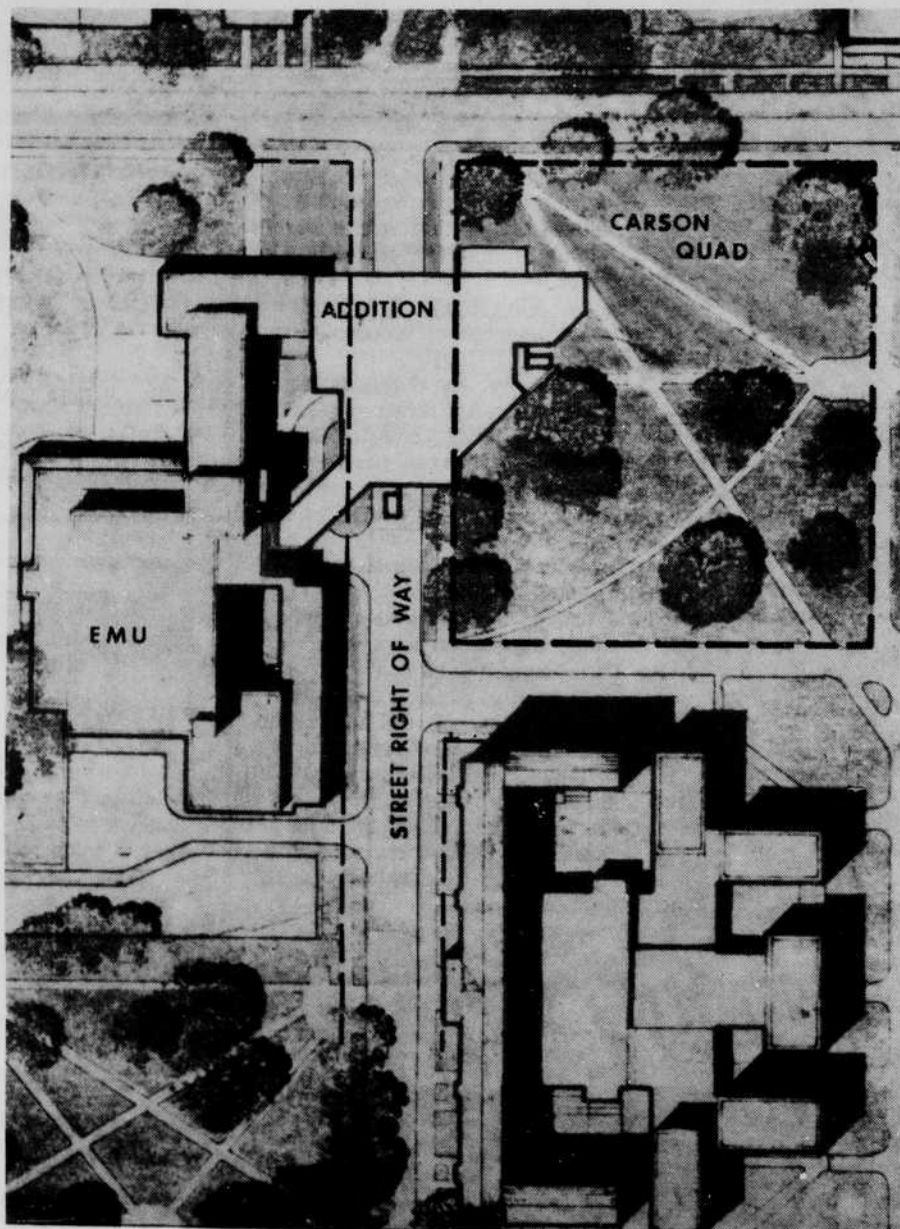
On 15 October, 1970, the Student-faculty Campus Planning Committee, upon the recommendation of the Student Union Planning Committee, approved a location east of the present Erb Memorial Union partly on the Onyx Street right of way and partly in the Carson quadrangle. This location best satisfies the criteria of site selection for a Student Union Addition. Although 13 per cent of Carson Quad will be utilized by the S.U. addition, it should be pointed out that the Quad is not designated permanent open space, and is, and has been in the past, considered as a possible site for any building that requires a central location.

The proposed plans leave approximately 87 per cent of Carson Quad open with its existing environment undisturbed. Special attention has been given to preserving the existing major trees in the Quad. A series of outdoor terraces and steps provide a functional link between interior and exterior activities. This relationship between the proposed building and Carson Quad will insure its continued existence as an open space.

Carson Quad is a beautiful space and it is the belief of the Student Union Planning Committee that the proposed E.M.U. Addition does not destroy it but rather enhances its value to the student body.

Elizabeth Streukens
Dennis Periquin
James Teasdale
Bill Muir

Members Student Union Planning Committee



Letters

Tim and Franz

A few short comments on Tim Travis' reply to Franz:

First of all, though Franz speaks critically of drugs and this supposedly indicates some ignorance on his behalf, I can personally vouch for his awareness of both their effects and differences. Franz has "been around". What he criticizes is the drug culture as a whole, which, like any mass of people, has both good and bad elements. Yes, barbituates were responsible for those deaths mentioned—but Reds seem to be rising in popularity far faster than their value would warrant. Acid is no God-send either—a very close friend of mine is now doing a hitch in a mental hospital. Good ol' acid.

I smoke marijuana and enjoy doing so. But neither of us support the rising drug culture any more than we do the "Stupid Shits of America." After attempting to maintain a booth at the Renaissance Faire and being, flatly, ripped-off by a local commune (family?) that was obviously a part of the aforementioned culture, we find it easy to see less than virtue in such a way of life. However, we no more agree with "J. Ed the Fed" than with anyone else who persists in attempting to lump separate issues under one neat head.

Franz and I both recognize the fact that many tragic flaws exist in the "system" presently used in this country. But with a

little effort we can see even more good. Your problem, Tim would appear to be that you are so preoccupied with immediate results and the very uncertain future that you want to tear the whole thing down. Any change that takes place over night (so to speak) will invariably be of such a nature that it will incense some other group to the extent that the whole destruction-violence trip will happen again. Result—chaos. Take a good look at the game of "musical government" played so often in South America.

It would surprise you, Tim, at the extent to which you and Franz both agree on the deficiencies that surround us. But Franz would appear to possess something you lack—the ability to see more than one side of a problem and to take his time about further complicating it.

By the way, your reference to the use of Mescaline and its role as a mainstay of the drug culture (whatever that is) is indicative of a lack of information on your part. It costs a minimum of six dollars to synthesize one dose of Mescaline. So how does one buy synthetic Mescaline for two or three dollars? Easy, he is really buying a fun little adventure consisting of crank, some form of downer, and one of the many cheaper chemicals which also provide the colorful little hallucinations (delirium?) we all love.

T. Symington
major uncertain

From the booth on 13th

Colleges were surprised

"Why are the universities so quiet this fall?" I wave my forefinger in the air like a wand and give you my theory: colleges surprised themselves last spring— whoever heard of 500 Modern Knowledge Complexes acting together? Since Amerika is attempting to establish the absolute IBM dictatorship of the Bourgeoisie, it's very difficult for daughters and sons in the new degree-seeking class to hold onto a view of themselves which gives them a sure place in the world struggle. I mean, are they going to run the Empire, or are they going to help the oppressed take power? That's the real thorn that is pricking fingers in this campus confusion about a little green power slipping through white hands to speakers on racism. After all, at the going rate, white professors and white politicians make fistsful more money by talking us all blue in the face. No wonder the campuses are quiet this fall—because of the outrage finally expressed at colleges across the nation, university students have been attacked by all the self-seeking, issueless politicians. It's a little paralyzing to find your whole future at the center of the Law n Order stage, isn't it? Stop, think, look around. Welcome to Babylon.

What we need to do is get over our stage fright and get a clear idea of where we are. Students can play with the ecology scene, or the freaky hippy scene, or the New-found non-violence scene, or the Liberal Democratic Senator scene, but

that's all pick-up-sticks compared to the Detroit Police Officer attack on the Committee to Combat Fascism, or Angela Davis on a hunger strike in that damn woman's concentration cell block in New York, or the 25 insane indictments against faculty and students at Kent State, or the heroes of the Amerikan suburbs who are still trying to win in Indochina by following Westmoreland's policy of "Bombing Them back into blood puddles." We students need to say, Look Mister Murder, students are not as important as you think. You may control, for now, the Law n Order Payroll Window, but the new American revolution is coming home. Students are not leading the Revolt this fall—the unemployed and the prisoners are leading us. All those "problem people" they thought they could lock away, like Spiro's daughter in the bathroom, are getting it on. It is with real awe that I watch this nation's prisoners, supposedly put away, seize their guards, issue demands, and act together. Until recently, the Tombs in New York City was a model University—the scholarship of brutality and pain, the Mickey Mouse forced on people behind bars, and a maximum of alienated individual fear. Look, the prisoners may have lost the first round, but all over the nation, they are leading the Revolution. Hooray for our brother and sister Institutions. The Tombs will rise again—that's the new life!

Joe Schoenfeld

Monday, November 9, 1970