

Convocation

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women in the labor market. They are also the women in the home: the "housewife" and the mother. Working women outside the recognized labor force are just as affected by technology as women in the labor force, Acker said.

With new computer technology, clerical jobs — which is the most feminized field — are more and more likely to be accomplished at home, through a computer terminal plugged into the main company. Society must be careful not to place woman in the position of working at home both as a member of the labor force and keeper of the house.

But not all of the news was shadowed by negativity. There is a "real explosion of capital investment into highly feminized occupations," which is one of the requirements for advancing technology, Van Houten said.

"I think what unfolds in the next two decades is going to depend on social choices," Van Houten said.

FRAGILE WILDERNESS

Humanists play at least as big a role as

politicians in protecting America's wilderness, said a University law professor. "The existing situation is fragile enough that politicians alone will not be decisive," Law Prof. Charles Wilkinson told his "Wilderness and Technology" seminar audience. "This is a field where ideas matter."

So far, Wilkinson said, America's wilderness policy has been enlightened. Congress' Wilderness Act of 1964, which established 9.1 million acres of protected wilderness land, was essentially a humanist-based document, he said.

"It was the first time a nation had protected land in its pristine state by statute," he said. "What you really have is legislation to protect beauty."

Presently, some 80 million acres are designated as wilderness area, comprising 3.5 percent of the country's landmass, Wilkinson said. An additional 85 million acres are being considered for similar designation, he added.

But Wilkinson cautioned that the protection of the 1964 act is only as strong as the people who defend it.

"Preservationists worked so hard for this

act because they wanted permanent protection. In fact, those laws are terribly fragile, it seems to me," Wilkinson said.

"Law can always change. In this instance, law merges with beauty and ideas, and if people are not willing to fight for that beauty and those ideas, then the laws are going to change."

Wilkinson instructed those in attendance to answer for themselves why the nation's wilderness areas should be protected in the first place.

"Aren't we engaging in a kind of cultural arrogance if we don't set that land aside?"

RESPONSIBILITY

When one of the thousands of American products has lethal or harmful consequences to consumers, the social responsibility falls into the laps of corporate management, said a University economics professor.

If corporations don't act, then the government must, said economics Prof. Robert Smith in a seminar, "The Limits of Corporate Social Responsibility," after Monday's convocation.

Corporations produce goods because potential profits may lead to research, development and other avenues of making more money, Smith said.

Society cannot expect corporations to be fully responsible for their actions when the motivating factor for their existence is money, he said.

"It is the role of government to rationally regulate," Smith said.

"Our principle constraint system is the market. Where it fails, we still expect more. We should be prepared to change the rules of the game. There is a rational role for government," he said.

"Corporate management exists in an environment that is both an incentive system and a constraint system to technological change," Smith said.

But there is also a need to have a society with constant technological changes, he added.

Improved health care and transportation are some benefits of technological advances, but consequences include downward changes in the quality of life, the environment and military power, he said.

Grant

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When signing up for humanities courses in the future, students will not know if they are registering for the smaller sections. The program is aimed at attracting a wide variety of students, said Robert Berdahl, College of Arts and Sciences dean.

"We're going to be comparing the retention rate of the randomly selected students against the University," Berdahl said.

The new sections will "minimize" the use of midterms and finals, too often a necessity in present humanities courses, Taylor said. In their place, University faculty will employ the "classical" method of teaching.

"The emphasis will be on the arts of interpretation which the humanities share, namely analysis, imaginative rethinking of past thought, writing and discussion," Olum said.

But Taylor said the increased amount of writing demanded in the new classes will not discourage students from taking them.

"We hope to make it exciting enough that there won't be a higher drop rate," he added.

Each term, the center will print a journal containing the best student papers, Taylor said.

Olum vowed that the new program will not end when the grant monies are exhausted, however.

"It is our intention to continue this on the part of the University," he said.

The new center will also provide research funds for faculty members in universities, colleges and high schools in the area, Olum said.



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