

ARCHIVES

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cause he is back and forth between the archive basement and the dorm basements, where more records are kept.

Another floor of Fenton houses "hundreds and hundreds of architectural drawings and all of the dissertations." He has file cabinets of broadsides used for publicity and "50,000 negatives."

Richard is an admirer of University history. The yellowed piece of paper on his desk is an example.

"As far as the law is concerned, this has no earthly value," he said. "Throw it away. But history would say, 'No, this is a unique item.'"

In 1879, the Laorean Society, a campus men's organization, formed a Committee on Illumination. Its sole purpose was to determine the manner of lighting the candles before each meeting. But the members were not uninspired by their negligible task.

Instead, with ironic resolution, they attacked their duties and "dispelled the deep shades which have hitherto darkened this room."

Student irreverence is one of Richard's favorite topics. He has framed and placed on the wall two versions of the "Ten Commandments," dated 1882. The first was the faculty's edict of proper behavior. The second version was a clandestine student version, which "essentially told the faculty to sit on it."

Richard is fascinated by stereotypes. He said students today do not believe students of the past had a sense of humor, and that history tends to romanticize its heroes. He suggested George Washington would have welcomed Pepto Bismol at Valley Forge.

"If you pricked him, he would have bled," he said.

History also romanticizes war. A student flag hangs high on the wall of the archives. It is dated 1914 and has only 48 stars. Women on campus

sewed it for the University Division for World War I. Although the ambulance corps left, the flag stayed behind.

The archives are not just about the past. Richard has great stories about more recent heroes. Vic Sabin, an architecture student, is a favorite. In his fervent desire to save a popular student hangout, Sabin wrote a petition. The year was 1963 and he was the harbinger of social revolution.

Sabin took his petition to the fraternities and sororities. Soon after, Chi Omega wrote a letter to the dean of men in protest.

"They wouldn't let him in the door," Richard laughed. "This awful bearded man. It was the beard that really turned them off. At that time he was too much for them."

The campus does have a radical past, Richard revealed. During the revolutionary years of the late 1960s, there was glass broken, rallies, and PLC was bombed. Police were stationed on campus.

Richard has stories about contemporary heroes, something that makes him a resource for the national networks. When Ahmad Rashad, who was known as Bobby Moore when he played football at Oregon, began work at NBC, the sports department borrowed film of him, Richard said. He has also sent stills to CBS Sports.

Richard has University athletic events on film, including the oldest football game on film from 1931. He also has early film of campus. KEZI used his footage for their segment of "Eugene, 1939-1989" last year. Photographs show Fenton Hall used to be a baseball diamond.

Richard has 3,000 audio tapes of University speeches dating from 1946. John Kennedy, Robert Kennedy, Dick Gregory, and Stokely Carmichael are among the speakers.


"James Michener spent a few days on campus, giving lectures and talking with the Eng-

lish classes," Richard said, adding that he plans to make a catalog of these tapes and distribute it to the faculty. At the moment, they "don't get much use."

His upcoming projects include converting to video the nation's first student film, a silent called "Ed's Co-ed." He said he plans to add some music and sell copies to the public. In the spring he will take over the glass cases at the front of Knight Library for an exhibit. Last year his theme was "Looking at the Campus from Past to Future." He displayed class photos from 1890 along with reunion photos to show "people growing old and dying off."

Richard has an exhibit in the library now, titled "This was Football," showing pictures and antique Duck athletic equipment. Richard said he tries to change his display at least once a month.

Janus can wait.



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