

Four Finance Board members resign charging SU exec interference

Four of the nine members of the Students' Union Finance Board have resigned. They charged that "any viability that the board may have had in the past" has been removed by a financially irresponsible Students' Union Executive and by Students' Council's unworkable criteria for the operation of the Board.

The Finance Board is a committee of the Students' Council which recommends individual organizations' budgets to Council and recommends, throughout the year, the expenditure of the SU grant fund. The grant fund exists so that organizations may come to council at any time during the year and request money for specific functions. Finance Board meets with each organization requesting money and issues recommendations on these requests to Students' Council.

Laird Hunter, Jack Mintz and Student Councillors Rob

Spragins and Howard Christensen are the four members who have resigned. There are two other student councillors, two other students, and Students' Union Treasurer Frans Slatter on the Board. The four who resigned were the only members who attended last week's meeting.

In a joint statement, the four said the resignations were due to "an accumulation of grievances" climaxed when "the recent 'Octoberfest' fiasco resulted in a considerable loss as envisioned by the Finance Board."

Octoberfest was a beer festival sponsored by the Lister Hall Joint Social Council October 19. The sponsors of the event appeared before Finance Board only four days before the event was to take place to request a loan of \$3000. They assured the Board that the event would make money.

However the Board thought it likely the event would lose money because of poor

organization and refused to recommend the loan. The Students' Union Executive then took it upon themselves to overrule Finance Board and loan Octoberfest the money they wanted. The matter of the loan did not come before Students' Council because there was no council meeting between the time of the Social Council's request and when the event took place.

As it turned out, the event lost money as the Board had predicted. The Social Council appeared before the Board last week and requested that Students' Council pay one third of the losses (about \$500). The Board requested to see detailed financial statements from the Social Council before they would consider the matter.

However, the matter of Octoberfest seems to have been the culmination of what the Board members feel to be unwarranted intrusion into their precinct. They accuse the SU

Executive of overriding Board decisions on poor financial grounds.

The four who resigned emphasize that the Octoberfest affair was only the climax of the problems the Board has encountered and is not itself the cause of the problems.

Rob Spragins subsequently withdrew his name from the joint statement of resignation and submitted his own which is essentially the same as the joint statement but without any reference to Octoberfest.

The four members criticized Students' Council for establishing a separate board to set up operating criteria for the Finance Board. The criteria board was apparently set up without consulting the members of the Finance Board.

The four object to the limits this separate board established for them, especially the rule against the board having any political considerations in the recommendations for granting

money.

One of the four, Students' Council Engineering Representative Howard Christensen, felt that it was impossible for the board to completely divorce itself from political considerations and said that his criteria destroyed "any effectiveness the board might have."

Students' Union Treasurer and Chairman of the Finance Board, Frans Slatter, concurred.

He said if Council "does not want the Board to have political considerations there shouldn't be a Finance Board." Slatter did not attend the last Board meeting when the four decided to resign.

Slatter thinks the Students' Union may be better off without a Finance Board. He says the recommendations on the grant fund could be made by the Students' Union Co-ordinator for internal organizations and by the SU President for external matters.

by Bob Beal

Defoliation is a weapon

ST. LOUIS (CUP-CPS) -- "It is immoral for the American people to be concerned solely with the U.S. environment when we are paying for the deliberate destruction of Indochina," stated Dr. E.W. Pfeiffer, associate professor of zoology at the University of Montana, in a recent speech in St. Louis.

Pfeiffer, who has made four trips to South-east Asia to investigate the ecological effects of the war in Indochina, discussed the three major weapons of ecological destruction: herbicidal chemicals, land clearance, and bombing.

The crop destruction program has destroyed enough rice to feed 600,000 people for a year and defoliation has wiped out about 30 to 40 per cent of the total forest of Indochina, he said. Although the use of herbicidal chemicals has now been stopped, Pfeiffer noted that nobody is really sure what the end effects of such massive defoliation will be. In a report on his trip, published in *Science Magazine* (May 1, 1970), he concluded that "the ecological consequences of defoliation are severe."

As a result of the recent invasion of Cambodia, 30 per cent of that country's rubber trees were destroyed by defoliation. This was their main source of international exchange. Pfeiffer said that he had been informed by reliable sources through Senator Church (D-Idaho), that Air America, of the CIA, was responsible for the defoliation in Cambodia.

The use of herbicidal chemicals has, however, been largely abandoned in favor of land clearance with 25-ton caterpillar tractors. There are presently five companies of land clearing troops with about 30 plows each, Pfeiffer said. The Department of Defense estimates that, so far, 750,000 acres of land, mostly forest, have been cleared this way.

Forests that have been defoliated are taken over by bamboo and other weeds. Shrapnel and bullets add to this destruction by causing a fungal infection in the trees -- a phenomenon peculiar to tropical trees. This causes the death of the tree in about a year or so. Pfeiffer also noted that mangrove trees were at one time used for charcoal fuel in

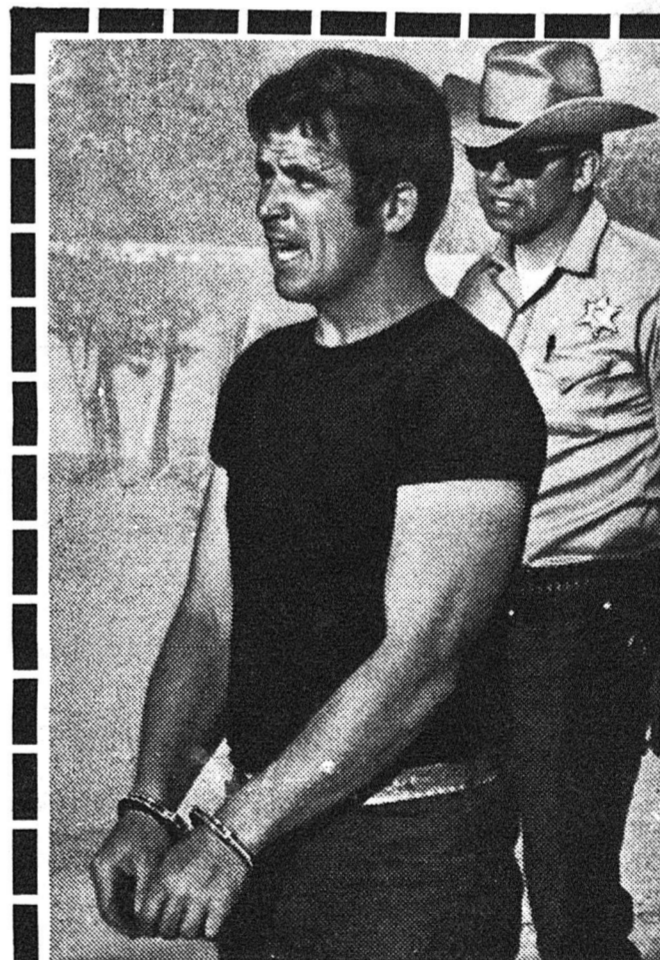
Indochina. They were a renewable resource through the planting of saplings. However, most of these trees have been destroyed by defoliation and "now the U.S. has them hooked on kerosene fuel, a non-renewable resource." The many acres of hardwood timber in Indochina have been virtually destroyed and the lumber industry has just about been knocked out, said Pfeiffer.

The main reason that people move to refugee camps of cities is that they cannot stand the bombings. Pfeiffer said he heard this time and time again. He suggested that this may not be accidental. That is, the U.S. is deliberately trying to drive people into cities, through bombing, where they can be more easily controlled. The population of Saigon has risen from 500,000 to 3 million in ten years. "With the people out of the countryside, the guerillas no longer have their basis of support and action -- that is, the U.S. may have stumbled onto the solution to guerilla warfare."

Pfeiffer concluded that "the people of Indochina are subsistence farmers, or were -- we are urbanizing them at a fantastic rate."

The General faculties Council nominating committee is seeking nominations for an undergraduate to serve on the ad hoc committee to study the size of the

university. If you are interested or know of someone who is, contact: Miss Pat Howlett, Secretary GFC Nominating Committee University Hall Phone 432 4965



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