

Montana Kaimin

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Montana Kaimin, April 8, 1974

Associated Students of the University of Montana

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RICHARD BOWERS, CHEMIST, NAMED

New president is appointed

By Conrad Yunker
Special to the Montana Kaimin

Richard Bowers, an analytical chemist from De Kalb, Ill., has been named President of the University of Montana, effective July 1.

Bowers, presently Vice President and Provost of Northern Illinois University at De Kalb, was appointed by the Board of Regents of the Montana University System at its meeting in Helena this morning.

Bowers, 47, will replace Robert Pantzer, who has served since 1966. Pantzer submitted his resignation last September.

Bowers was chosen from more than 270 candidates by a search com-

mittee composed of 11 faculty, staff, students, administrators and alumni working since November. Commissioner of Higher Education Larry Pettit said this is the first time campus representatives have participated in the selection of a Montana college president.

Northern Illinois University is a multipurpose University with four colleges, a graduate school and more than 19,000 students. De Kalb is 60 miles west of Chicago.

A former teacher's college, Bowers said, De Kalb has moved toward a strong graduate study program in the past decade.

Bowers told the *Montana Kaimin* as

vice president and provost he was the school's chief academic officer, comparable to UM's academic vice president. Bowers said he had overall responsibility for academic service, including admissions, records and library services.

Bowers also represented Northern Illinois to the state board of regents and the state legislature.

Bowers attended secondary school at Escanaba, Mich., and received a bachelor of science degree in chemistry at the University of Michigan in 1948. He was awarded a Ph.D. in chemistry at the University of Minnesota in 1953.

In 1954 he assumed an instructorship at Northern University, Evanston, Ill., and was appointed associate chairman of the chemistry department in 1963. Also that year he was named director of chemical laboratories at Northwestern.

He served as professor of chemistry and dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Northern Illinois from 1965 to 1969, and was appointed Vice President and Provost in 1969.

Bowers has served as chairman of the Subcommittee for Graduate Level Analytical Examination of the American Chemical Society; a lecturer with the American Chemical Society Lecture Tour, and is presently a member of the Board of Regents of Loras College at Dubuque, Iowa. Bowers said he has not decided whether to resign that position.

Bowers lists 14 professional publications in his bibliography.

He is expected to assume the presidency about July 15. What is planned for the interim between Pantzer's July 1 departure and Bowers' arrival is not clear.

Though he declined extensive comment on specific issues facing UM, Bowers said he was "quite impressed" with the school as a result of his February visit.

"I learned a great deal about the University and its many good traditions," he said. "I was impressed overall with the people I met.

"I have quite a bit to learn about the institution, so I don't plan precipitous changes at the moment. However, I am concerned with having the appropriate organization."

Bowers made these comments on specific issues:

• **The purpose of a University:** "A public institution must serve the citizens of the state in providing educational opportunities for the people, and it has a strong obligation for the search and creation of new knowledge."

• **Intercollegiate athletics:** "While I'm not unmindful of (UM's) situation, I don't want to comment on the specific situation. However, with appropriate controls and regulation I believe strongly in athletics."

• **His personal objectives:** "My goals will be the goals that the institution will establish for itself. I plan to be heavily involved in helping to establish goals, but it has to be a joint effort of the faculty and administration."

• **The purpose of a president:** "A president has to provide the right kind of leadership for the institution and has to represent the institution before the public."

Bowers, who served in the Navy during WWII, was born May 3, 1927, in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, and married Florence Olson in 1950. The couple has three children: Lesly, 22, a law student in Indiana; Janet, 21, and Robert, 18, both at the family home. Bowers said his son is considering attending Montana State University at Bozeman.



Richard Bowers

Pantzer: afloat after 7 1/2 troubled years

By Carrie Hahn
Montana Kaimin Reporter
Part 1 of 2 parts

The University of Montana, sometimes called the "graveyard of university presidents," will bury another July 1, the date President Robert Pantzer's resignation becomes effective.

His epitaph reads like those of other college presidents across the country who had the responsibility of paddling their university-boats through the turbulent rapids of the late 60s and early 70s, with one major difference: unlike many others, his canoe never completely foundered.

Pantzer encountered two types of problems as president: problems that begged for a progressive solution and insoluble problems that must be dealt with year after year.

A glance through old newspapers since Pantzer was appointed UM president in December 1966 (he formerly served as financial vice president), shows recurring problems with the budget, student skepticism of administrative policies, and a tarnished University image statewide.

Pantzer did his best to alleviate the problems by:

• Budgeting tightly and making calm, factual presentations to the Board of Regents and legislature, emphasizing the need for extensive and varied academic programs.

• By remaining, as former Dean of Students Andy Cogswell said, "easily accessible, particularly to students." One present student says he criticizes much of what Pantzer does, but adds: "At least he's available to bitch to in person."

• Continuing to state his position on the purpose of a university. Pantzer expressed his beliefs eloquently in

October 1968 when he defended the use of a highly controversial essay, *Student as Nigger*, in an English class. After withstanding much criticism about the issue, he wrote a position paper which stated in part that "... role of the instructor at the college level must be to help open the doors of truth (for students)—not just sweetness and light—but all that exists for mankind to know.

"If the student does not have this opportunity, then we at the college level are not attaining our mission. We are not helping to produce the truly educated person."

His constant stand for academic freedom could well be considered Pantzer's greatest gift to the University.

From allowing professors to choose their own course material to refusing to censor the *Montana Kaimin*, Pantzer has remained adamant in his *laissez-faire* attitude.

Pantzer also contributed to the progress of education in the following areas:

• Liberalized dormitory life. Dorms have gone, in the past seven years, from being single-sex, curfewed, alcohol-free, babysitting centers with limited or no visitation, to being almost as free of restrictions as off-campus housing.

Because life on campus is freer and more pleasant, more students are willing to live voluntarily in the dorms, making the mandatory stints in the dorms almost obsolete. The only people required to live on campus now are first quarter freshmen.

• Liberalized grading system. Pass/no pass grades are available now in every class, save those required for the student's major.

Due to space limitations, Part 2 will appear in tomorrow's *Montana Kaimin*.

SPECIAL EDITION

UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA STUDENT NEWSPAPER

montana KAIMIN

Monday, April 8, 1974 • Missoula, Mont. • Vol. 76, No. 79

New breed of searchers effect substantial results

By Cassandra Ewing
Montana Kaimin Reporter
Part 1 of 2 parts

The University of Montana is getting the best possible replacement for outgoing President Robert Pantzer, if the amount of time and effort expended by the Presidential Search Committee is an indication.

Composed of 11 faculty, students, staff, administrators and alumni, the group is the first of its kind in Montana, according to Commissioner of Higher Education Lawrence Pettit, himself a committee member. The Board of Regents of the Montana University System agreed to allow the establishment of the committee and approved its format in October. The group's first meeting was in November, after its members had been appointed by several interest groups, including the regents.

Pettit established the techniques for search and interviews, and brought a "refreshing awareness" to the group's work, according to committee chairman Ted James, who is also chairman of the regents and chairman of Blue-Ribbon Commission on Higher Education. Pettit, Gov. Tom Judge's brother-in-law, was an ASUM President in the late 50s.

Committee members represented six major groups. No one group had veto power over other committee members. Members included:

• **Regents:** Mary Pace, English instructor at Bozeman Senior High School; Lewy Evans Jr., a Billings architect, and James.

• **Faculty:** Tom Huff, chairman and associate professor in the philosophy department; Maureen Ullrich, assistant professor of management in the business school.

• **Staff:** Betty Balkenship, administrative assistant at the law school.

• **Administration:** John Stewart, dean of the graduate school, and Pettit.

• **Alumni:** Joseph Thiebes, president of Pacific Hide and Fur, Great Falls. Thiebes attended no more than two meetings of the group. Pettit is also an alumnus of the University in political science, and James and Stewart are alumni as well.

• **Students:** Randy Gray, a freshman law student from Great Falls; Carey Matovich Yunker, a senior in journalism from Mosby and present *Montana Kaimin* editor. Yunker was associate editor of the paper when chosen.

The first step was to draft a list of necessary qualifications for the candidates. Search procedures were outlined and consultation with Kathleen Holden, officer for the Campus Equal Employment Opportunity Office, ensured that Health, Education and Welfare Department requirements were met. Advertisements were placed in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, a trade organ of the education profession, and the committee sent letters to approximately 50 regional associations soliciting names. More than 270 applications were received, less than four of which were submitted by women, Gray said.

After about 75 days spent screening applications, the committee narrowed the total number of candidates to six, one of whom was Academic Vice President Richard Landini. The five out-of-state candidates were invited to the University for extensive interviewing.

Due to space limitations, Part 2 will appear in tomorrow's *Montana Kaimin*.

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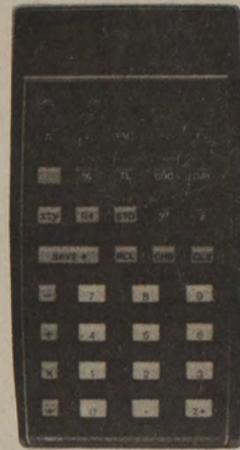
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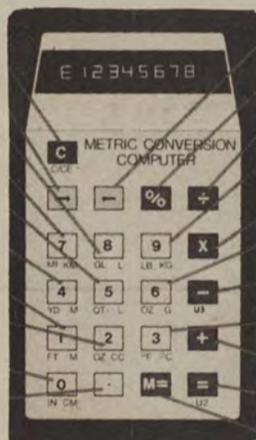
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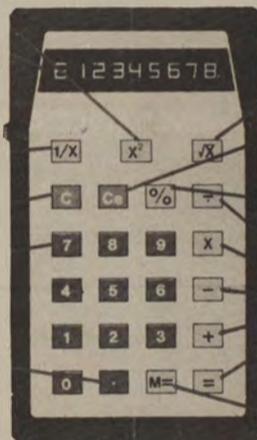
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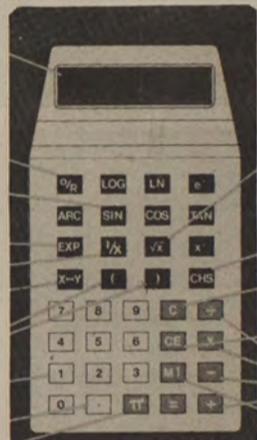
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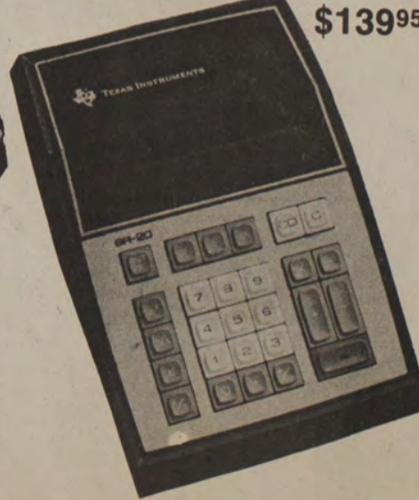
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