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Montana Kaimin: University Life, April 28, 1995

Associated Students of the University of Montana

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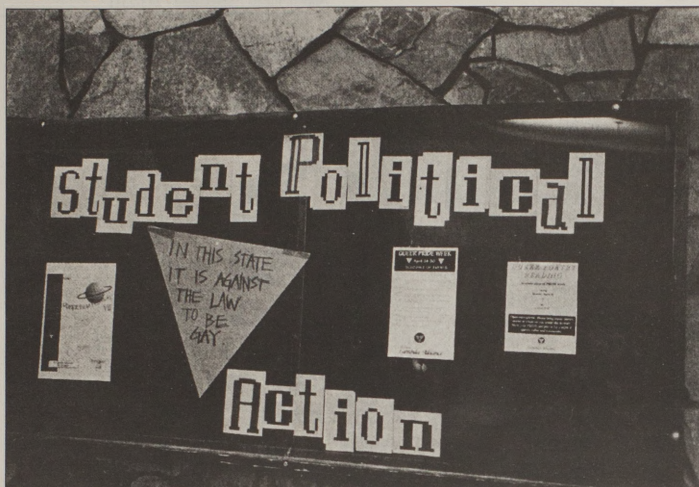
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Fighting the system ...



Linsey Knight/Kaimin

IT'S NATIONAL Gay Pride Week. Students at UM set up displays in the University Center.

University of Minnesota ...

Men's bathrooms reportedly used for sex

Pratik Joshi
The Minnesota Daily

ST. PAUL, Minn. (U-WIRE) — Some men use university rest rooms for more than a pit stop.

The second floor men's room at the University of Minnesota's Coffman Memorial Union is the latest hot spot to act out sexual fantasies, said Coffman administrators and police.

Many men meet for anonymous sex in bathroom stalls, often referred to as "t-rooms."

University Police Lt. Steve Johnson said the men's bathrooms in Walter Library and Nicholson Hall used to be known as "t-rooms." But Johnson said there haven't been any complaints about them.

Blegen Hall is another spot some men used for sex, Johnson said.

History major John Christiansen, who cleaned the Coffman second-floor men's room fall quarter, said sexual activity in bathrooms isn't uncommon.

He said he felt uneasy about cleaning the messes he often found

in the rest rooms. He said he once saw more than two people walk out of a rest room stall. Later, he found semen marks and pornographic materials.

"The use of rest rooms for sex doesn't bother me, but those who use it should have cleaned up after use for sanitary reasons," Christiansen said.

He said all the men's rooms in the building are sometimes used for sexual activities. The second-floor rest room seems to be the most active, Christiansen said.

Phil Archer, facilities manager for Minneapolis Student Unions, said he received complaints last month about men peeking inside the stalls, either through the cracks or from the top. Archer said some directly proposition others for sex.

Coffman custodians sometimes find used condoms, pornography and semen on the bathroom floor and walls, Archer said.

Kevin Stiller, a UM alumnus and HIV activist, said restroom sex is quite common.

Exposed genitals increase the opportunities for physical contact, he said.

"Most U.S. educational institutions, including the University of Minnesota, have had sexual activities going on in the

men's room since the 1930s," Sitter said.

Sitter, who has studied the city's rest room behavior since 1990, said heterosexual men also use rest rooms for sexual activities, whether with others or alone. His study includes one university rest room.

But risky behavior has decreased in recent years, Sitter said. "Most sexual acts are limited to mutual masturbation."

**"Most sexual acts
are limited to
mutual masturbation."**

—Kevin Stiller,
HIV activist and restroom
sex scholar

Student-regent applicants now sought

Betsy Ehlinger
for the Kaimin

Students who want to impact the state Board of Regents and the decisions they make may get the opportunity if they apply to be the student regent.

ASUM President Jennifer Panasuk said ASUM is accepting applications for the student-regent position for next year. Panasuk said the student regent serves a one-year term and acts as a voice

for the students at the Board of Regents' meetings.

The student regent speaks for the students on issues dealing with the budget, building construction and curriculum changes, Panasuk said.

Applications for the position are due on May 1. After that, UM will choose one or two top candidates, Panasuk said. Those applications, along with others from colleges and universities around the state, will then go to the Montana Associated

Students meeting, where the top five applicants will be picked. The five applicants then go before Gov. Marc Racicot for selection.

Student regents get their trip expenses paid while attending meetings, and they get a stipend for each meeting they attend, Panasuk said.

Students interested in applying for the position can turn in two letters of recommendation and their resume to ASUM offices or the UC information desk by May 1.

Cornell students ready to bare all for Playboy

Lisa Fried
The Daily Sun

ITHACA, N.Y. (U-WIRE) — The bigwigs at Playboy can rest easy, plenty of Cornell women want to take it all off for the magazine's October "Women of the Ivy League" pictorial.

In fact, more women from Cornell responded to Playboy's request for photo submissions than at any of the other seven Ivy schools, according to Elizabeth Norris, a spokeswoman for Playboy.

The magazine, which will send photographer David Mecey to Ithaca Thursday to interview women, has already visited six of the other universities for the October photo spread, the first to feature Ivy League students since 1986.

In newspaper advertisements and press releases, the magazine, which has a circulation hovering between 3.5 and 4 million readers, announced the pictorial in February and advised interested women to send photographs and personal information to the company's headquarters in Chicago.

Norris described the response from Cornell women as "terrific," but wouldn't say exactly how many women responded to the advertisements or how many had been called back for an interview with Mecey this week.

Mecey will meet with the women and interview them briefly to learn about their studies and interests, Norris said. If he likes what he sees and hears, they will be called back later to pose.

When Playboy last came here in 1986, three Cornell women of 150 interviewed made the magazine.

The photo spread is part of the magazine's annual college pictorial, which features a different athletic conference each year.

Cornell women who have been selected to interview later this week are excited but nonetheless spoke last night only on the condition of anonymity.

One student, a sophomore, said she initially responded to the ad as a joke and was surprised to hear back from Playboy last week.

"I never thought they were going to call," she said, adding that she would only agree to pose for the magazine in a swimsuit.

She said that the money promised by the magazine - which reportedly ranges from \$150 to \$500 depending on how much the model wants to bare - is not what led her to send in her photos, two slightly blurry Polaroids which show her fully clothed and in a bikini.

A second hopeful, also a sophomore, responded to an ad the magazine placed on the Internet because, she said, "I've always wanted to do it."

She said she was "not surprised" that she was called back and that "it would be great" if she is selected for the October pictorial.

"I don't feel that Playboy is pornography," she said, distinguishing it from other magazines that she feels are demeaning to women. "To me, it's more like art. I think that I have a pretty good body, so I figured, why not go for it?"

She said her friends and family have been very supportive of her, adding, "My mom wants me to do it."

Campus women's groups have been quiet about Mecey's impending visit, as of last night, no protests or demonstrations against or in favor of the pictorial had been widely publicized.

Sharmila Murthy, though, said that members of the Cornell Women's Center will be

UM Tech to host scholarship dinner

Erin Juntunen
for the Kaimin

UM's College of Technology will hold its annual culinary arts scholarship dinner on Monday, May 1, to award students and a professional chef.

At least one student will be awarded a scholarship from the American Culinary Federation's Western Montana chapter, and one person will receive the Professional Chef of the Year award.

Ross Lodahl, last year's recipient of the Chef of the Year award, said students in the culinary arts program will help prepare the six-course dinner, which includes a spinach soup, crab stuffed chicken, a poached sole file, white chocolate mousse cake and Kiwi-lime sorbet.

Proceeds from the dinner will be returned to the students in the form of scholarships awarded at the dinner.

Ed Cutler, a second-year student in the program, said the dinner is great practical experience for him and other students. Students are given

the menu and participate in the actual preparation for the banquet.

The dinner will be held at the Holiday Inn. Cocktail drinks and appetizers will be served at 6:30 p.m., and the dinner will begin at 7:30 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at the UM Tech center for \$25 a single or \$45 a couple. Door prizes, including gift certificates and food baskets donated by local food suppliers, will be awarded to ticket holders.

The culinary arts department will also be hosting a Hawaiian barbecue on Tuesday, May 2, as a benefit for Opi Fuli. Fuli, who was involved in a head-on car collision this spring, was a student in the program. Lodahl said Fuli is going through rehabilitation and is expected to return to school in the fall.

The barbecue will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the UM Tech Administration Building. Advance tickets cost \$5 for students and faculty, and \$7 for the general public. Admission at the door will cost an additional \$1.

continued from page B1

Playboy: Students protest

meeting tonight, but she added that she does not know if the Playboy spread will be the topic of this meeting.

The 1986 spread caused much controversy on Ivy League campuses, ranging from letters to the editors of several campus newspapers, to an Ithaca demonstration in which one protestor dressed up as a beauty queen named "Mis Ogyne."

Controversy has also shadowed this year's pictorial. When photographers visited Yale University earlier this month, several women's groups on campus raised

enough money to pay one prospective model, paying her more not to pose than Playboy was willing to give her to pose.

Also at Yale, students are soliciting poetry, writing and art work in an attempt to put together a different "Women of the Ivy League" publication, one that represents the non-physical attributes of women.

Editors at the campus newspapers for the other Ivy League schools reported uneventful Playboy visits with between 40 and 70 women showing up to interview at each school.

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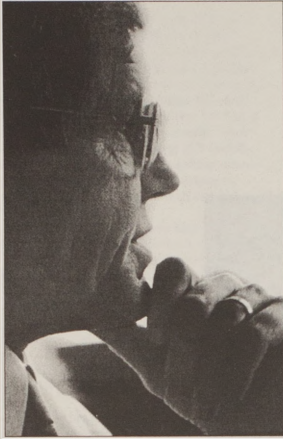
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A Full Plate: *Once student, now presiden*

Text by
**Erin P.
Billings**
Photos by
**Seanna
O'Sullivan**

(RIGHT) "I think what makes a good president is somebody who understands the nature of the place and has a great deal of respect for it," Dennison says. (BELOW) Before the early bird even thinks about getting up, Dennison is out running the lamp-lit side-streets of Missoula. He says that his daily 4:30 a.m. jog is his chance to steal some quiet time.



Dennison answers the tough questions

IS O.J. Simpson innocent or guilty? *Guiltily*
WHAT'S your favorite beer or alcoholic beverage? *Scotch (single malt)*
WHAT'S your favorite restaurant or hangout? *Missoula Country Club*
WHAT IS the most recent movie you've seen? *Rising Sun*
WHAT'S your favorite band or composer? *Walter*
WHO did you vote for in the 1992 presidential election? *Clinton*
WHO is better looking, Betty or Wilma? *Wilma*
NAME the last two books you've read? *Disclosure; Re-examination of the Idea of a University*
WHAT'S your favorite pizza deliverer? *I don't have one*
WHOM do you admire most? *FDR*

WHAT is the worst thing about your job? *The best? No worst; the chance to help and to make a difference*
EXCLUDING Missoula, what is your favorite U.S. city? *Kalispell*
DO you wear boxers or briefs? *Briefs*
IS Missoula's housing ordinance fair? *No*
IF given the chance to play a sport professionally, what would it be? *Which professional athlete would you like to be? Golf; Miller Barber*
FAVORITE pickup line ever used? *"I ain't got no dog in that fight."*
IF given the chance to change one physical trait, what would it be? *My poor eyesight*
TASTES great or less filling your call? *Less filling*
ORFOS or Chips-a-hoy? *Chips-a-hoy*



Shortly after 4:30 a.m. each day, hours before the sun awakens the Missoula Valley, George Marshall Dennison begins his day. Sharply dressed in a pair of Nikes and a midnight-blue nylon Converse running suit, his figure blends with the morning darkness. As he whisks down Higgins Street, his long legs pat the pavement and interrupt the silence. At 59, UM's 17th president says he finds solace in his 40-minute, four-and-a-half-mile, daily routine. "It's my quiet time," he says.

His 12-hour work day, which rarely ends when he leaves the office, doesn't leave much room for such a luxury. Those who know George Dennison, UM's President since 1990, aren't surprised by the juggling act he performs. Sitting at the helm of four of Montana's colleges and universities, he's the picture of polished academia. But in his college days, he spent his nights strumming rock 'n' roll tunes in Woody Street taverns to earn a few extra bucks. Married, the 20-something father of two worked a 40-hour week at the Missoula Mercantile and still averaged a 4.0 grade point.

Like then, Dennison still feeds off a full plate. Ironically, he eats only one meal a day.

Dennison's success is all his own doing. His father a grain elevator operator and his mother a homemaker, the Dennisons of Kalispell didn't have much money for George and his five brothers.

Dennison met his wife of 41 years as a senior at Flathead High School. Circles of friends piled in cars and cruised the city streets on weekends—that's when their paths crossed, recalls Jane Dennison. At first, she says,

George Dennison's status—senior, "A" student and tackle on the varsity football team—swept her off her feet. The freshman jumped at the chance to date him.

They married in 1955—she a 17-year-old high school student, and he freshly enlisted in the Navy. Four years of globe-hopping and two sons later, Dennison followed a military buddy to what is now Miles Community College in Miles City. There, he would begin his life in higher education—a life he would never leave.

His first taste of the university he now leads came in 1960. With an associate's degree in hand, Dennison graced the soils of UM with plans to major in history. He juggled his classes, a job, fatherhood and late-night guitar sessions with his band the "Starfires." The growing family shared a cramped apartment in married student housing.

In 1961, Dennison told the Kaimin in an interview that his busy schedule didn't allow him enough time to spend with his two sons. He also said that two young children hampered his ability to find a quiet place to study.

"I can't just put the boys in a corner and tell them to be quiet," the 26-year-old non-traditional student said.

Today, however, Dennison remembers performing the balancing act with ease. "It wasn't tough," he says, sitting behind his large oak desk in his Main Hall office. "It was great fun."

The administrator's bureaucratic shell dissolves at such touches of nostalgia. His eyes—already magnified through a pair of Coke-bottle lenses—grow wide as he reflects on those college band-playing years.

"We were rock-and-rollers, blues," he remembers, chuckling. "Lots of

noise." But Jane remembers fondly. "It was tough," she had four children then, the time when Dennison joined the young family college quarters.

Dennison finished U of M's history in 1962. In 1963, his perfect academic record was tarnished by only two B's in Spanish and one in statistics.

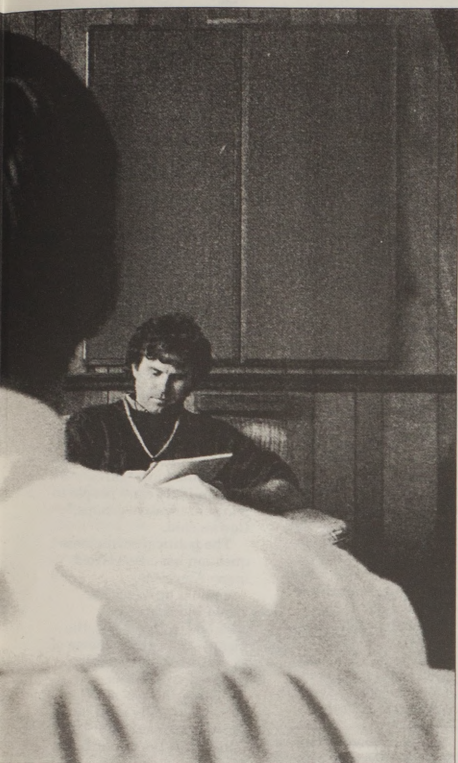
Dennison says he never serving as commander-in-chief of the university, taking his Ph.D. in Washington to teach at the University of Arkansas, Washington State. It wasn't until 1968 that he landed his first position as an academic administrator. In 1990 that he took the title of president.

Before 7 a.m. each day, Dennison graciously makes enough to beat the rush hour fighting for coveted parking spots for every 15 minutes of his office desk.

Nearly 35 years after the front of the university's history as a history student, Dennison's \$98,000-a-year presidential salary is a full load. From the calls, meetings and fund-raising he rarely lets a day go by without him.

"You always give the more than it pays you for," he says, sipping an ever-present cup of coffee. "It's the best feeling in the world. And if keeping busy wants, he's doing it. On the road about three times

ident, UM's George Dennison balances a busy schedule with little time to sleep or play



(LEFT) Anthropology and biology junior Dana Whitelaw, and liberal studies senior Andy Dannerbeck drop in to interview the president for an ethics class. Dennison says keeping regular office hours twice a week is a chance for him to keep in touch with students and faculty. "I do spend a lot of time talking with people who just want to talk," he says.

(BELOW) Though faculty breakfast and luncheon meetings are a part of his everyday schedule, breakfast and lunch are not. Instead Dennison, who only eats one meal a day, makes sure his guests keep their plates loaded while he keeps his coffee mug full.



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other campuses, raising money for UM or fighting lawmakers in Helena for university needs.

Dennison is chief administrator for UM-Missoula, UM-Tech in Butte, UM-College of Technology in Missoula and UM-Western in Dillon.

During Dennison's five-year tenure, alumni and private contributors have given \$35 million to fund UM projects such as the Davidson Honors College and the Gallagher Business Building. In addition, UM has merged onto the information superhighway with individual computers and Internet access for faculty members. The university's budget has jumped by about 55 percent, library funding for books and periodicals is up and staff salaries are on the rise.

"You can accept your condition and not do anything to change it, or you can do what's happened here," says Jim Todd, vice president of Administration and Finance. "I think George sets things in motion."

He's a perpetual optimist, Jane adds, and that keeps him going.

But the first lady of UM says Dennison takes on too much and can't say no.

"He needs to relax," she says from their elegant university-owned home on Gerald Avenue. "He doesn't quit working, he has a briefcase constantly."

Dennison averages five hours of sleep a night. And the few hours of play time he does enjoy, Dennison says, he heads for the local putting green or cross-country ski areas.

But he won't be breaking between holes for a snack or even lunch. About 40 years ago, Dennison decided to give up breakfast and lunch as part of a healthy regimen.

Everyone cheats, says Jane Dennison. "He loves rolls — a nice, big



TRAVELING is just one of the perks of being the UM president, but his wife, Jane, points out some of the less-than-glamorous sides. "I can never sleep on planes," she says before their 7 a.m. flight to Japan, "and we're hosting a party for the university the night we get home."

cinnamon roll will change his mind quite freely," she tattles.

One part of the regimen Dennison tries not to cheat on is the time he sets aside for students. He points to an oak bookshelf lining two full sides of his corner office, where one item stands out among the rows of artifacts from the Orient: a bottle of tainted carbonation bearing the president's picture for a label. It's a homebrew from student Steve Breezley, a peace offering after

last year's failed attempts to abolish the \$30 student athletic fee.

Despite Breezley's disagreement with Dennison over the fee, he maintains that Dennison truly cares about students. The senior in geology concedes that a president of a university can rarely please everyone.

"I think he knows that winning popularity contests isn't going to be easy," Breezley says. But, he adds, "I think he wants to make himself look good."

He suggests Dennison connect with student government or walk about the

campus to get in touch with students.

"I can't picture him throwing the frisbee with anybody, but you never know," Breezley says.

Dennison admits student and public perception is important. But he says with 10,000 students, it is impossible to meet everyone. He does, however, point to the two hours a week worth of office time set aside for students — a habit he started when he took the job.

"That's why my day goes from 7 a.m. to whenever," he says. "But it has to."

Colleges, universities wonder how cuts will hurt

Kalpana Srinivasan
The Yale Daily News

(U-WIRE) The days of the Cold War, when American leaders touted education as the key to maintaining U.S. prominence across the globe, are long gone.

And so is the public perception of America's colleges and universities as symbols of progress and achievement, education experts fear, as political leaders and cultural commentators attack the educational establishment as a center for frivolous ideologies and left-wing radicals.

With the Republicans in control of Congress and a majority of governorships across the nation for the first time in more than 40 years, these attacks have begun to seriously imperil higher education, they say.

"The whole public perception of higher education has soured," said Iris Molotsky, a spokeswoman for the American Association of University Professors, the largest organization of faculty members in the

nation. "Universities used to be viewed as the [embodiment of] the American dream."

As institutions wait for the final word on possible cutbacks in federal education funding, many academic experts and university administrators fear that academia has lost its importance in the country.

"I have never been more frustrated in my life," said Jerry Roschwalb of the National Association of

State Universities and State Grant Colleges. "I think it's a case of values gone bonkers."

Many scholars, students and professionals worry that letting education fall by the wayside will render American society intellectually bankrupt — even if it may solve pressing economic problems.

"There's a quest for short-term easy answers," said Princeton historian Nell Painter. "The willingness to trash the country and the willingness by states not to support infrastructures" is a case of short-sighted folly.

American values

With the rattle of "American values" knocking around in the media, many elite universities have come under attack as places that seek to undermine traditional thought.

"Inside America, there is a growing suspicion ... that

the academy has lost its way and is no longer fostering American values," comparative literature professor Michael Holquist said.

Holquist pointed to the National Endowments of the Humanities and the Arts as organizations that have suffered from this backlash.

The dialogue surrounding the controversy centers not only on how to fund the endowments but also on which groups "deserve" government support.

Ideological conflict and the media

In the past few years, skepticism over trends within universities has intensified. With national reports of campus debates on such issues as political correctness and multiculturalism, public opinion has painted Ivy League university life as a center for militant, radical left-wing thought.

"You can't underestimate the ideological shift," Molotsky said. "PC and speech codes have made legislators look at Ivies as bastion[s] of left-wing behavior."

The perceived politicization of universities like Yale has made the campus appear to outsiders as a battleground for ideological

differences among various groups.

"There has been an attempt to label universities as places overrun with liberal ideology" since 1990, said Rich Cowan, clearing-house coordinator for the University Conversion Project, a non-profit think tank which monitors conservative activity on campus.

Outside college campuses, politicians have employed the image of the "liberal" university to gain support against elite institutions.

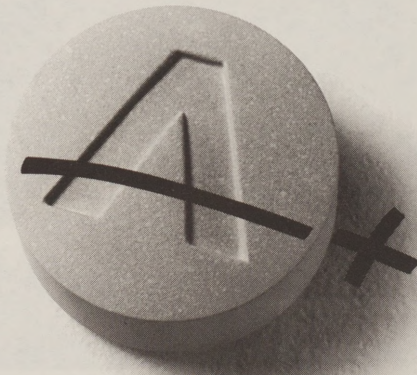
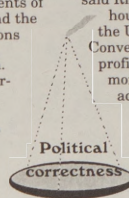
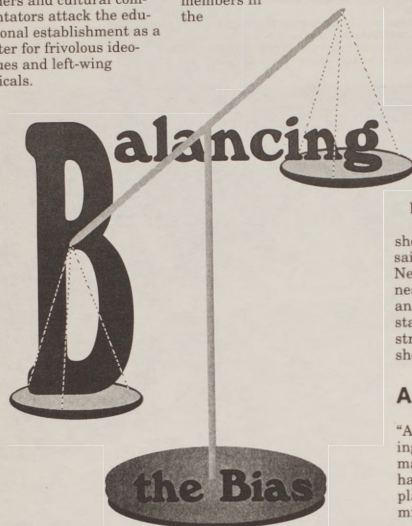
For instance, Newt Gingrich mocked Yale as the center of a so-called counterculture whose theories and principles are held by Bill and Hillary Rodham Clinton, both LAW '73.

By describing elite universities in such a manner, politicians have "galvanized middle class people to join conservative groups," Cowan said.

The political correctness question has also turned many Americans against universities. When the issue first emerged in the 1980s, the media soon exposed some of the pro-PC camp's most extreme arguments.

"These charges of PC were essentially used in a fairly systematic effort to undermine the public base of higher education and [to] try to recast what was

See "Colleges" page B7



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continued from page B6

Colleges: Some feel media builds liberal portrait of high education

going on in universities," said Paul Lowell, author of a piece for the book "Higher Education Under Fire" and is a professor at Trinity College in Hartford.

Lowell said such attacks helped divert funds from higher education.

The initial effort was to shift authority to the administration and away from faculty members, Lowell said. For example, during the Benno Schmidt Jr. administration at Yale from 1986-1992, officials often made decisions without strong faculty support.

This approach backfired when the large university faculty voted overwhelmingly against Schmidt's plan to reduce the faculty by 5 percent, leading to the resignation of the entire Yale administration in 1992.

Lowell said that once administrative attempts to rein in professors failed, conservatives mounted larger campaigns to

change attitudes toward universities.

Many scholars said the media played into the conservatives' hands, helping to turn public opinion against higher education.

"For the last decade, there have been horror stories about ideological forces," said David Breneman, author of "Liberal Arts Colleges: Surviving, Thriving or Ending." "People [outside the university] are taking pot shots, and a lot of it is overblown."

Breneman predicts that if public sentiment remains the same, Americans will continue to frown upon even the most scholarly campus discourse.

"Universities have to be awfully careful," Breneman said. "It's the same kind of issue we're dealing with over affirmative action and cultural values."

Fighting in Washington

The proposed cuts in education symbolize this new "assault on academics."

"The new emphasis on a balanced budget will simply exacerbate the trend" of cutting funding in research

and education, said Paul Smith of the American Association of Universities. "It remains to be seen how universities will fare."

To this point, higher education officials have not been able to persuade federal leaders in Washington to spare education from the budget axe.

"When the government starts cutting programs that feed women and children, it's almost impossible to defend student loan programs," Roschwalb said.

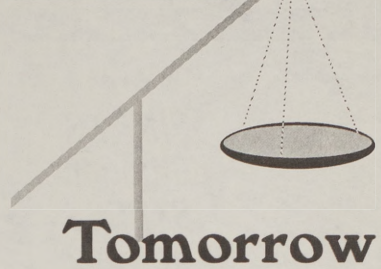
Voter apathy among college students today has also helped politicians to eliminate student aid programs with little fear of repercussions.

"They are cutting where they can get away with it," English professor Lawrence Manley said. Student aid "only affects a portion of the electorate body versus something like Social Security."

Although the targeted cuts against education seem like they are bred out of necessity, they also reflect the willingness of the government to sacrifice education for immediate economic improvement. And some Americans say documents like the Contract for America are symbolic of the antipathy many have for higher education.

"Universities are seen as a place for political ideologies to brainwash children and not a place to become responsible citi-

Weighing



Tomorrow

zens," said Vanita Gupta '96, who leads a group protesting the Contract.

toward education may not reverse itself in the near future either.

"It's an extremely strange moment in educational history," Dean of Yale College Richard Brodhead said.

Brodhead contends that most Americans still value education today and want to send their children to the nation's top universities. But at the same time, he said the public is willing to accept the rumors they hear about higher education.

"I have never met anyone who [denounced] education but then didn't want their kids to go to the best school," he said.

The big challenge for the next decade is to defend the meaning and role of education, academic experts said.

Through lobbying and support, educators, administrators and students can strive to reinstate education as a priority in American life, they added.

"I am an optimist," Painter said. "I see the possibility in younger and older people who think about issues for more than just a minute, in people who think in a serious sustained manner about the issues before us and make information available to people."

But those standing behind education will have to fight hard against national sentiment and federal cuts aimed at bringing about the demise of American higher education.

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