

Editorial

Issues excuses for confrontation

Dr. Grover E. Murray, Tech president, spoke to the students Monday in the Tech Union Ballroom, accepting student questions "in good faith" that the students sought answers and not confrontations.

Arthur Yarish, president of the Student Action Organization, was the first one to stand when Murray finished. Yarish turned his back on Murray, faced the overflow crowd in the Ballroom, and yelled into the microphone his now-familiar oratory with the pretense of asking questions of Murray, behind him.

Yarish said Murray had left the important matters "unanswered or skirted as issues." On the issue of housing, he said Murray had offered the students "a crumb" and they wanted "the whole loaf."

He blasted the fact that Murray had not discussed the "human right" of one more than 21 years old to live where he chooses. He then blasted the speaker policy of the Tech Board of Directors that he considers such a serious threat to free speech.

The speaker policy to which Yarish referred was passed by the board Feb. 10, 1968. It says campus facilities will be denied to any persons "who by reason of their prior expressions or past actions would likely use the invitation to advocate lawlessness and disregard for the laws of this country; any change in the laws of this country, other than by peaceful means; and the violent overthrow of our government."

After yelling into the microphone for much longer than we cared to listen to his loud and emotional appeal, Yarish turned the floor back over to Murray, since time was short, for answers to his oration.

Anyone who attended Murray's last address to the student body, his convocation in September, 1967, would have been impressed with the improvement in Monday's address. He dealt Monday with specific issues and gave the students, in our opinion, all the information he had.

But Yarish could not pass up an opportunity to preach to the masses which would rather cry about what they did not get rather than try to understand why they did not get it.

We believe the development of president-student body communication has been jeopardized.

Murray mentioned progress toward computerized registration, improving student-faculty ratio, \$30 million in classroom space construction, expansion "where possible and appropriate" of credit by examination and review of dorm petition and solicitation regulations.

Students had submitted these subjects as problem areas, but many ignored them Monday because they had acceptable answers.

Instead, they jumped on the housing policy, the speaker policy and the contract expiration of basketball Coach Gene Gibson.

The speaker policy can be argued either way. But we do not see how a policy set by the board which has never been invoked had any place in a discussion with the president of current problem areas. It is just something nice to cry about.

The "free choice of 21-year-olds" philosophy is not even debatable. The board passed a ruling summer before last allowing women over 21 to live where they choose. Men before the housing crisis have been free to choose regardless of age.

The question is not one of philosophy. It is one of practicality. The dorms must be paid for. Somebody over-estimated demand for dorm space; now the students must pay. Nobody likes it but it is a fact of life. The solution is fewer dorms that must be filled, yet when Murray announced plans to take two dorms out of circulation, that was just "a crumb" and Yarish wants the "loaf."

It is regrettable but understandable that the Gibson controversy was dragged through the dirt again. Students naturally want to know why his contract was not renewed. Murray naturally does not want to discuss reasons that would affect Gibson's future.

Murray said the recommendation came through channels, from the athletic director to the Athletic Council to the president. We believe that is the way it happened and the only improper actions in the procedure were some of Gibson's inflammatory statements to the press.

For those who wanted understanding, most of the answers were there. For those who wanted confrontation, the situation was ripe. It was obvious to us many students were there to put down the president rather than to understand the situation.

Large investment at Tech

Projects expand campus

By JIM DAVIS
Staff Writer

Current construction at Tech, a \$21.8 million investment in 10 projects, represents the largest total effort ever seen on the campus, according to Norman Igo, Tech director of new construction.

This construction, in various stages of completion, includes major new buildings for the School of Business Administration, biology, chemistry, architecture and art, and the Law School. Also included are Phase I of the new West Texas Museum and several smaller projects — new athletic dressing rooms, a textile research center, a new office for the traffic and parking counselor and the Amon G. Carter Plaza Fountain.

THE FIRST BUILDING students will use, scheduled to open March 1, is the BA Building which is five months overdue because of weather delays and other problems. The facility is now undergoing final interior and exterior touch-up work and correction of minor construction faults.

Estimated cost of this 12-story office building classroom lecture hall complex is \$3.4 million. Tech will gain 25 general classrooms and seminar rooms for all disciplines and the School of Business Administration will gain 34 classrooms and seminar rooms.

THE COMPLEX, built by J. J. Fritch Co. of Dallas, will also contain 160 offices, 62 spaces for teaching assistants, 21 laboratories, a 500-seat lecture hall and a 450-capacity study area. It will be able to accommodate 3,990 students per hour.

Another building due for completion this year is the six-story Biology Building. This structure, which had its topping-out ceremonies Feb. 20 and is due to open in late June, is currently undergoing interior and exterior finish work.

Aside from the main building facilities, six rooftop greenhouses and a separate 500-seat lecture hall served by a paved pedestrian walk will complete

the structure. The \$4 million main structure, constructed by H. A. Lott, Inc. of Houston, will provide 36 offices, three lecture rooms, 77 labs and 13 bicycles for graduate students.

CONSTRUCTION ON the most expensive of these new buildings, the Chemistry Building addition, is now in full swing with foundations and basement walls near completion. The \$4.5 million structure, being built by H. C. Lewis General Contractor, is scheduled for completion August 31, 1970 for use that fall semester.

The facility, now famous for being surrounded by the "graffiti fence", will contain 37 labs, two teaching labs, three classrooms including a large lecture hall and 25 offices. It will also contain several smaller labs for research, and other office and lab space to support a \$1 million grant from the Welch Foundation.

THIS BUILDING IS small in comparison to other new academic structures, however its price per square foot is considerably higher than the others. Igo attributes this high comparative cost to the extensive technical and research facilities that will be included.

Also due in August 1970 is the Architecture and Art Facility under construction by H. A. Lott Inc., which at this stage is a big hole in the ground and a seemingly bigger hill. Construction on this \$4.4 million complex began Dec. 8, 1968 with excavation for the foundation and basement which is now approximately 85 per cent complete.

This structure is the largest of the projects in size and will boast a large, enclosed, sunken plaza for art work and displays. Also included are 38 labs, six classrooms and 71 offices for faculty and administration.

THE LAST OF the big academic projects, the \$2.5 million Law School Building, is also progressing on schedule under H. A. Lott, Inc. with structural work up to the third floor near-

ing completion and some exterior work being done. The structure is due to open in November.

The building, situated at 19th and Indiana, will include such law related facilities as a moot courtroom board; an attorney's room; a law library with 180 study correls, open stacks and reading rooms; a faculty library; and reserve, rare and duplicate book areas.

It will also contain eight classrooms, eight conference rooms, and 50 offices for faculty, administration, research and graduate students. Some of these facilities will probably be used for some upper level undergraduate classes until the School of Law reaches its full projected size.

WORK ON THE \$2 million Phase I of the West Texas Museum is also progressing on schedule with structural work well under way by Area Builders of Midland. Completion of the building, situated at 4th St. and Indiana, is expected April 1, 1970.

This building is, for the most part, privately financed and for museum use. (Tech contributed \$500,000 and the state of Texas contributed \$250,000 toward the total cost, according to John Taylor, Tech business manager). However, Jerry Kirkwood, coordinator of campus

planning, says the building will probably provide some facilities for school use.

Among the smaller projects is the \$700,000 Textile Research Center which is now scheduled to open March 19. It is substantially complete, but some alteration work remains on the Industrial and Textile Engineering Building to which the new research facility is connected.

THE NEW ATHLETIC dressing rooms valued at \$49,000 and situated next to the Raider practice field, are also nearing completion. The dressing rooms, being built by M. W. Turner Co. of Lubbock, should open before spring training.

The new office of the traffic and parking counselor, a \$38,600 project by H. R. Bundock, General Contractors behind the Physical Plant, is now in the final stages of structural work and scheduled for completion March 29.

The Amon G. Carter Plaza Phase I, work by W. G. McMillan, General Contractors, is under way with all excavation and 20 per cent of concrete work done. However, this \$43,000 Saddle Tramp inspired showpiece may have its April completion date set back because necessary fountain equipment has not arrived.

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