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OLUME 82, NO. 3

WINTER, 1977

wisconsin engineer



Noise Control: for better working conditions

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Be 9t Resolved

Polygon Engineering Council is currently reassessing its role on the engineering campus and reorganizing its internal structure to best fulfill that role. Under Polygon's reorganization plan, a number of committees have been established to examine current and suggested activities and present their recommendations to the These committees: Public council. Relations, Services, Social, Internal Administration, and External Administration, are in session and holding preliminary discussions on relevant topics.

As the college expands and student enrollment extends itself, Polygon, as the autonomous student organization of the Engineering college, should also expand its operation. Increased membership has been cited as a possible boon for Polygon, enabling new and varied services to be offered the students. Currently, two members of each professional society elect an administration and serve as directors of the council. One of the first and most significant changes, I believe, is to open Polygon to representation from all areas of the Engineering College. While almost all areas of engineering are covered within the societies represented, the societies are student sections of professional organizations and not necessarily sensitive to university issues.

Polygon would best represent the engineering college by amending its membership to include all currently enrolled engineering students and establishing its Board of Directors accordingly. Polygon should extend directorships to each department in the college and the engineering student at large. By accepting or electing directors from each department, Polygon would ensure an available channel for any engineering student petitioning the Council. In addition to the Departmental Directors, I would urge Polygon to accept as voting members on standing or ad hoc committees any interested member who can meet the attendance requirements, provided committee size isn't a problem. Council meeting times and locations should be posted in advance and accessible to the student membership.

If "Polygon Board is a central committee which represents engineering students in their relations with the Faculty and the College of Engineering," actions similar to these recommendations should be taken. This hinges significantly on the response from the prospective membership in the spring semester. Student participation has been invited in the committee meetings. Without a positive image being presented by interested persons at these meetings, these proposals will not be seriously addressed. Please invest an hour or two in the February Polygon meetings. The potential for Polygon to serve the engineering student is limited only by the ambition of the council members. Providing the opportunity for students to actively become involved in Polygon's affairs can only serve Polygon's purposes. So go for it, folks.

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Dik Eierman WSA Senator College of Engineering

wisconsin engineer

PUBLISHED BY THE ENGINEERING STUDENTS of the UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

Sue Brunkow Brian Higgins

Editors

Campus News

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Dik Eierman

Business Manager



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Campus News

Marshall Concerned About Enrollment

MADISON (UW NEWS)–W. Robert Marshall, dean of the College of Engineering at University of Wisconsin-Madison, recently told regents that a climbing enrollment in engineering classes may force his college to curtail the size of its student body next year.

Without budget increases, he said, the engineering college is concerned it can't serve its present 3,300 undergraduates without cutting educational quality. Marshall said later, after speaking to the UW System Board of Regents Education Committee, that class sizes were already too large and that the most serious problems were in staffing and laboratory facilities.

Barely a half-dozen years ago, the dean said, undergraduate enrollment stood at about 1,800 students. It is now 3,300—about 10 percent more than the college estimated several years ago that it could accommodate without sacrificing standards.



Dean W. Robert Marshall

The college is also seeing an unprecedented number of transfer students at the junior and senior levels. "This has taxed our teaching loads and our budget," he told regents.

Marshall also said, in a report on the college, that women's enrollment in engineering has jumped from 1.4 to 10 percent in just five years while minority enrollment went from zero to 3 percent.

UW Chem E Number One

Chemical Engineering magazine reports that the University of Wisconsin Chemical Engineering Department, along with that of Princeton, are the best in the nation; according to a recently released study.

The Gourman Report: A Rating of American and International Universities (published by National Education Standards, Los Angeles, CA) rated Wisconsin and Princeton Chem E departments highest with scores of 4.82 out of a possible 5.00

The score is a weighted average of eight factors:

- Faculty plus standards and quality of instruction-40%.
- 2) Curriculum-30%
- 3) Library-10%
- 4) Physical facilities-10%
- 5) Attitudes and policy of administration, including



- on research programs-5%
- 6) Student's scholastic work -3%
- 7) Records of graduates-1%
- Nondepartmental factors —1%

The number one ranking is a ight improvement for Wisconn, which was ranked second ehind Princeton by the study en years ago.

Vendt Retires From Planning Post

MADISON (UW NEWS)—Kurt Wendt, 72, retired January 12 chairman of the key Campus anning Committee at the Uniersity of Wisconsin-Madison, a pmmittee he has headed for 20 ears.

His retirement was announced y Chancellor Irving Shain, who id Wendt "has been Mr. Camps Planning for decades, literally ecades." It was Wendt's leadernip, the chancellor told a meetng of the Campus Planning Committee, that "made it possible for us to respond in an intelligent manner to the growth of the campus over the past two decades or so."

Shain named Assistant Chancellor Joel L. Skornicka as the new Campus Planning Committee chairman.

Wendt said he would also be phasing out his memberships on other committees tied to his role in campus planning. He will, however, continue his 51-year University career by remaining as a campus planning consultant. "That means I don't have to get here on time in the morning," quipped Wendt.

A plaque presented by Shain lauded Wendt's "dedicated leadership" and said "he exhibited qualities of objectivity, fortitude, patience, diplomacy, and perseverance in furthering the short and long term goals of our campus development."

Wendt had supposedly retired from the University in 1971 after 44 years on the engineering faculty and an 18-year tenure as dean of the engineering college. He continued his chairmanship of the important Campus Planning Committee, however, on the request of then-chancellor Edwin Young.

Since 1953, during nearly a quarter-century on the planning committee, Wendt has shepherded close to 100 UW-Madison buildings to completion, making up perhaps three-fourths of the present campus. He was a key committee member during the boom years of 1960s, when legend had it that the University was launching a million dollars in construction each week.

Along the way, Wendt gained a reputation as a get-it-done diplomat; during one turbulent time in the 1960s he was one of the few people both the University and City of Màdison administrations would trust as a go-between.

Getting buildings designed, funded and erected was only a part-time job for Wendt, however. Besides his engineering teaching and administering, he has been an active researcher and a busy community servant.

His research projects have ranged from long-term tests on the durability of concrete to building military airplanes out of wood. He headed the Materials Laboratory here from 1935-46



and the Engineering Experiment Station from 1953-71. He has been a consultant to the U. S. Forest Products Laboratory in Madison and the National Science Foundation.

Wendt's academic and research awards, along with a list of his memberships in scholarly societies, fill several pages. A member of the American Academy of Sciences, he was named Wisconsin's "Engineer of the Year" in 1963 by the Engineers Society of Milwaukee. He was cited by the Wisconsin Society for Professional Engineers in 1959 for his outstanding contributions to the profession and in 1960 received the Bliss Medal from the Society of American Military Engineers for his role in fostering military engineering education.

Other professional and educational honors have come from the Consulting Engineers Council, the Highway Research Board of the National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Achievement. At UW-Madison the new engineering library was named in his honor in 1976.

On campus he has been a leader in city-university relations, president of the University Club

and a member of the Fringe Benefits Commission of the UW System.

His community activities have included the presidency in 1969 of the Madison United Community Chest. He has also held memberships on the Kellett Commission on Education, the governor's Commission on Traffic Safety and the Madison Mayor's Advisory Committee. He has been president and a trustee of the University YMCA and chairman of the Official Board of First University Methodist Church.

A Milwaukee native, Wendt became an instructor in the engineering mechanics department at UW-Madison right after he received his civil engineering degree from UW in 1927. He was made a full professor in 1946 and named dean of the College of Engineering in 1953 even though he didn't have a Ph.D. In fact, he wasn't entitled to be called "doctor" until 1964 when he was granted an honorary Doctor of Science degree by the West Virginia Institute of Technology.

While dean of the College of Engineering, he saw enrollment double and the number of graduated students triple. Under Wendt's leadership, the college added new buildings to handle the students and degree programs in engineering mechanics, nuclear engineering and industrial engineering. A nuclear reactor was installed and biomedical engineering programs were begun. Education-research assistance projects were opened in India, Mexico and Singapore.

Married, Wendt and his wife, Adelaide, have three sons-all UW graduates.



"In my first month at DuPont, I was assigned a \$50,000 project."

-John B. Taylor BS, Mechanical Engineering



"I was recruited from the University of South Carolina in 1974 and hired as a design engineer at the Textile Fibers Department's May Plant in Camden, S.C. In my first month I was assigned a \$50,000 project. I was proud to be trusted with such a task right out of school.

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Noise Control Improves Working Conditions

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Rex Buchanan

As old age approaches, hearing deteriorates. It's a fact of life.

But even though hearing may fail as people get older, aging bodies may not be entirely to blame for hearing loss.

Exposure to noise—especially prolonged exposure to very loud noise—also plays a role in causing hearing to fade. And the din can be especially deafening in some factories.

In the last several years, under increasing government pressure, industry has become more sensitive to noise and its consequences.

"Controlling noise improves working conditions," says University of Wisconsin-Madison mechanical engineer John G. Bollinger. "Quieter working places are not only more pleasant, they are safer."

Bollinger and other engineers at the University of Wisconsin-Madison are taking an in-depth look at noise sources and how to control them. Projects range from hushing a motorcycle to exploring the effects of snowmobile traffic noise on wildlife.

Much of the research, however, is directed toward helping industry quiet its machinery. "When attacking noise problems, we first try to understand the origins of the sounds," explains Bollinger. "Then we establish different alternatives to control them."

That approach proved successful in quieting one common Wisconsin enterprise: grain drying. A grain elevator operator, whose drying facility is located in a small town, came to Bolliner's noise control class for help. When the dryer was being used, it created sufficient racket to draw complaints from nearby residents.

Bollinger's class ferreted out the noise culprits. They found, for instance, that hard kernels of corn struck steel plates, setting up a high frequency roar. And the natural gas burner and fan, which heated and moved air to dry the grain, added to the cacophony.

"We suggested things such as shielding the dryer, and treating pipes so they couldn't rattle," said Bollinger. "Finally, we made the dryer 20 decibels quieter by redesigning the aerodynamic flow paths."

Noise problems are not always as easily solved. Graduate stu-

dent Jim Yerges is attacking another industrial noisemakerwire stranding machines.

Wire products, such as elevator cables or guy wires that help support telephone poles, are manufactured by wrapping together strands of wire. The process goes on inside a hollow, rotating metal tube; within the tube, nonrotating cradles hold bobbins of wire. Strands of wire come out of the end of the tube, and the tube's rotation twists the strands into wire rope.

"When we began research on our wire stranding machine, we measured its noise at close to 100 decibels," notes Yerges. "It sounded like a jet plane taking off."

Yerges disassembled parts of the machine and made modifications. Polyurethane-covered rollers, to support the tube, were made. Cradle bearings and bobbin shafts were fitted with rubber-like elastomer bushings, eliminating metal-on-metal contact.

The quieted machine is now close to meeting the noise standard established by the U. S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). In another project, Bollinger and Marvin F. DeVries study noise created during manufacture of aluminum extrusions—long metal pieces that are cut into sections to make such items as metal storm doors and windows.

A circular sawblade cuts the extrusions, and makes quite a clamor while doing so.

"The extrusions vibrate while being cut," says DeVries. "And the machines shake when they cut the extrusions." In addition, the sawblade—revolving 1800 times a minute—whistles like a siren.

"But it is possible to make changes—such as designing quieter blades—that can be used in existing machines," says DeVries. "We are finding out what those changes will cost per decibel of noise reduction."

The aluminum extrusion research is being funded by the Alcoa Foundation and the Oliver Machinery Company.

Increased funding for noise research makes it obvious that industry is concerned about noise levels.

"During the last five years, noise control has received more attention," notes Bollinger. "Now companies that develop factory equipment are making efforts to come up with products that already meet OSHA standards."

But improvements do not come without strings attached.

"Efforts to decrease noise have cost money," said Bollinger. "That has led to inflation. On pieces of equipment where noise abatement is reasonable, the cost of retrofilling machinery is often 25 percent of the machine's original cost.

"And the faster we push noise abatement, the more it will cost."

In other words, quieter working places cost money. But noise control research is paying dividends, not the least of which is preserving workers' hearing for later in life, after they've left the factory."



Graduate students Ray Chan (left) and Jim Yerges adjust a microphone that picks up noise produced by the wire stranding machine.

By listening to the hums and whines of products rolling off the assembly line, mechanical engineers at the University of Wisconsin-Madison hope to tell whether the product is up to snuff.

Graduate student William H. Dornfeld uses a process called signature analysis to find defects in appliance motors and pumps. Just as a person is identified by his handwriting, so a properly operating refrigerator is identified by its hum.

"As the machines come down the assembly line, we focus the sound of the operating parts into a microphone," explains Dornfeld. "We then dissect the character of the sound into its frequency components."

From those components, Dornfeld can determine whether the various parts are working the way they should.

"Using this method, the manufacturer can test all the refrigerators—not just a certain statistical percentage of them," notes Dornfeld. "Also, the appliances won't have to be dismantled for inspection."

Dornfeld adds that if the method proves successful in inspection of appliances, it may be widely applied in inspection of other products.



MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6

DuPont Co. (1 of 5) Eastman Kodak (1 of 2) Marathon Electric Oscar Mayer Co. (1 of 4) Maytag Co. Presto Products Joseph T. Ryerson Square D Co. (1 of 2) UOP – Process Div. Warner Electric Brake Whirlpool Corp. (1 of 2)

Upcoming

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8

Dow Chemical (2 of 2) DuPont (3 of 5) General Electric (1 of 2) Indiana Dept. Nat. Resources Interstate Power Standard Oil of California (1 of 3)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7

American Electric Power Celanese Corp. (2 of 2) Chrysler Corp. Dow Chemical (1 of 2) DuPont (2 of 5) General Foods Institute of Paper Chemistry PPG Industries (1 of 3) Square D Co. (2 of 2) Whirlpool (2 of 2) if needed Wisconsin Power & Light Co. (1 of 2) National Security Agency (2 of 2)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9

Container Corp. of America (2 of 3) DuPont (4 of 5) General Electric (2 of 2) Goodyear Tire & Rubber Modine Mfg. National Steel Standard Oil of California (2 of 3)



Interviews

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10

C. A. I. – Div. Bourns Container Corp. of America (3 of 3) Cummins Engine DuPont (5 of 5) Olin Corp. Owens Illinois Prime Computer Standard Oil of California (3 of 3) E. R. D. A. (Now Dept. of

Energy (2 of 2)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Babcock & Wilcox Corning Glass (1 of 2) Detroit Edison Co. Hercules Incorp. Hewlett Packard (1 of 2) Ingalls Shipbuilding Uarco Inc. (1 of 2) Vilter Mfg.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

Applied Physics Labs (1 of 3) Corning Glass (2 of 2) Eaton Corp. Harris Broadcast Products Div. Hewlett Packard (2 of 2) UCC – All Divisions (1 of 2)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15

Applied Physics Lab (2 of 3) Bechtel Beloit Corp. Hewlett Packard (Co-op Program) Mirro Aluminum Shure Brothers UCC – All Divisions (2 of 2) Union Oil of California U. S. Navy – Capital Area Personnel

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16

Atlantic Richfield (2-3 schedules) Clark Dietz & Associates (1 of 2) Ethyl Corp. (1 of 2) Honeywell Inc. (1 of 2) Motorola Inc. Taxaco Inc. (1 of 2) Torrington Underwriters Labs

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17

Brunswick Corp. (2 of 2) Burroughs Corp. Clark Dietz & Associates (2 of 2) Ethyl Corp. (2 2) FMC – Packaging Machinery Div. Falk Corp. Honeywell Inc. (2 of 2) Texaco Inc. (2 of 2) Wabco

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20

American Can Co. (1 of 2) Amoco Chemicals Amoco Oil – R. T. & E. Amoco Research Baxter/Travel Labs (Deerfield, IL) Consumers Power Kimberly Clark Wisconsin Electric Power Co. (1 of 2) Wisconsin Public Service Corp. (1 of 2)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

American Can Co. (2 of 2) Anheuser Busch Arthur Andersen & Co. Bell System (1 of 3) Exxon Corp. (1 of 4) Kelly Springfield Tire Co. Nalco Chemicals (1 of 2) P & G — Engr. Div. P & G — Plant Mgmt. (1 of 2) P & G — Prod Dev. & R & D (1 of 2) Wisconsin Public Service (2 of 2)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22

American Appraisal (1 of 2) Exxon Corp. (2 of 4) Fisher Controls General Dynamics (All Divisions) (1 of 2) General Dynamics (Material Service) P & G - Plant Mgmt. (2 of 2) P & G - Prod Dev. & R & D (2 of 2) Rexnord

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23

Chicago Bridge & Iron Exxon Corp. (3 of 4) Ford Motor (1 of 2) General Dynamics (2 of 2) Globe Union Inc. McDonnell Aircraft (1 of 2) Sargent & Lundy Westvaco Research Labs

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24

Allen Bradley Co. City of Chicago – Dept. of Public Works Exxon Corp. (4 of 4) Ford Motor (2 of 2) Inland Steel Ladish Co. McDonnell Douglas (2 of 2) Nekoosa Papers Rockford Products Weyerhaeuser

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27

Johnson Controls McQuay Perfex Co. Rockwell International (1 of 2) (Aerospace & Electronics Divs.) A. O. Smith Corp. Texas Instruments (1 of 2)

- 1) Austin
- 2) Equipment
- 3) Information Systems
- 4) Semi-Conductor
- 5) Sherman
- Trane Co. (1 of 5)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

Alcoa (1 of 2) Conoco Consol. Coal Ipsen Motorola Gov't. Electronics Rockwell International (2 of 2) Texas Instruments (2 of 2) Trane Co. (2 of 2)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1 Alcoa (2 of 2) FMC – Northern Ordnance I. B. M. Corp. (2 of 2) M. I. T. – Lincoln Labs Sperry Univac (1 of 2) Trane Co. (3 of 5)

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THURSDAY, MARCH 2

Broyles & Brothers Chicago NW Transportation Green Bay Packaging Lawrence Livermore Labs McGraw Edison-Power Systems Div Northern States Power (1 of 2) Occidental Research Parker Pen Co. Sperry Univac Defense (2 of 2) Trane Co. (4 of 5) Wisconsin State Government U. S. Army Engrs. Corp. of Engrs.

FRIDAY, MARCH 3

Carrier Corp. Factory Mutual Engr. Harris Corp., Computer Systems Div. (2 of 2) International Paper Medtronic Inc. Northern States Power (2 of 2) Outboard Marine Radian Corp. Trane Co. (5 of 5) Walker Mfg. Co. Western Gear Co. Western Publishing

MONDAY, MARCH 6

The Boeing Co. (1 of 2) Cutler Hammer Data General (1 of 2) Gould Inc. I. T. T. – Telecommunications Intel Corp. (1 of 2) Johnson's Wax Mead Corp. Snap on Tools U. S. Navy (1 of 2)

TUESDAY, MARCH 7

Boeing Co. (2 of 2) Elco Industries B. F. Goodrich Co. Illinois Central Gulf R. R. Intel Corp. (2 of 2) Leeds & Northrup U. S. Steel Corp. Xerox Corp. U. S. Navy (2 of 2)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8

Aqua Chem Burlington Northern (2 of 2) Caterpillar Dow Corning (1 of 2) General Tire & Rubber Grede Foundries Harnischfeger (Iowa) E. F. Johnson Moore Business Forms (2 of 2) Quaker Oats Schreiber Cheese Stepan Chemicals

THURSDAY, MARCH 9

Bemis Co. Curwood Dow Corning (2 of 2) Fermi National Labs Inryco Miller Brewing P & G International Div. Ralston Purina (Iowa) Ralston Purina (Missouri) (2 of 2) Roper Corp. Wright Patterson A. F. B.

FRIDAY, MARCH 10

Argonne National Labs Mostek Parker Hannifin

TUESDAY, MARCH 14 Newport News Shipbuilding

This schedule is subject to change. Check Placement Office bulletin boards regularly for additions and deletions to interview schedules. During the interviewing season notices of interviews are posted daily one week and two days in advance of an employer's visit. Students must sign by 4:30 one full day before the schedules date.

The dates listed below are the dates scheduled in Engineering only. (1 of 2 days) means that a company is on campus two days, but probably in Engineering only the first day unless it is followed by (2 of 2 days) which means that there is a schedule in Engineering both days. If it is only (2 of 2 days) it is in Engineering the 2nd day of 2 days but somewhere else on campus the first day. This may also apply to 3, 4, or 5 days but in only a few cases.

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In a way, that question reflects our own limitations. For a person well educated in something other than technical fields, it is usually only in sales that we can match qualifications to openings.

For you, who may have lost out on some of the pure pleasure and sheer fun of college because of the kind of technical courses you've had to grind away at, the choice can be wider. Sales is just one possibility. You can also consider research, development, design, manufacturing, and various combinations of those. Decision-makers throughout our organization, in work often far removed from the subject matter of a technical curriculum, first attracted interest by their success in coping with technical problems. Then, having demonstrated an ability to lead, they exercised their option to move on to broader responsibilities. That sort of choice, for the outset of a career and later, is earned in courses where quantitative thinking rather than personal opinion is demanded.

This includes choice from among other technologically oriented organizations just as good as we are for an interesting life. If it's us you want to challenge, so signify to Business and Technical Personnel, Kodak, Rochester, N.Y. 14650.



An equal-opportunity employer (f/m) manufacturing photographic products, fibers, plastics, and chemicals with plants in Rochester, N.Y., Kingsport, Tenn., Windsor, Colo., Longview, Tex., Columbia, S.C., Batesville, Ark., and a sales force all over the U.S.A.

We're looking for engineers who can't wait to get to work.

We're looking for people who are looking for a real job. One that offers challenging work. Responsible work.

That's what you can expect at General Electric.

At GE, you'll be handed important assignments right from the start. You can do as much of the job as you're capable of doing. If you need help, it's there. If not, nobody butts in.

Here's the kind of thing we're talking about; some recent examples of jobs handled by new GE engineers: 1. *Charles P.* Aerospace systems manufacturing. Develop and document a direct numerical control system.

2. *Steve O*. Design engineering. Design test equipment for attitude control system of new communications satellite.

3. Norma L. Steam-turbine manufacturing. Investigate, analyze and obtain funds for solution of shop problems.

4. *Stephanie B*. Medical systems service engineering. Installation and test of new hospital radiographic and fluoroscopic x-ray system.

5. *Mel D*. Field engineering. Appraisal load testing of low and medium-voltage switchgear and power transformers for utility and industrial applications.

There's a good reason GE hands people like that – like you – real work assignments. It's the best way to develop the skills you will need throughout your career. You develop initiative and creativity. And responsibility. And GE also knows there's little to match the glow you feel when you make an important contribution.

You can make your contribution in just about any field of engineering at GE. We're that diversified in disciplines. If you like the kind of challenge and responsibility that GE offers, we'd like to hear from you. Send for our free careers booklet. Just write: General Electric, Educational Communications, WID, Fairfield, Connecticut 06431.

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