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Innovative College Has Problems

(Continued from Page 3)

none of them have had any experience as educators. They are on the Board because of their initial contributions to the college.

But as one professor cynically describes the board, "They're just small crooks...." He means none of the trustees can tap large enough financial resources to thwart the money problems which have plagued the school since its beginning. Roberts' theory about making a profit doesn't seem to be working.

Things were so bad last spring, that the college organized a "Sock-it-to-Lea" fund drive during which students pledged to go home and raise money for the school. The primary concern of the board at its almost weekly meetings is the financial state of the college.

The faculty came to Lea College because of the kind of education which was supposed to be offered there. The college was planned to recruit at least 1/3 of its student body from the lower third of high school classes. In one sense the college was to be a sort of second chance school. The program at Lea was to feature individual attention for students, putting emphasis on tutorials and the like.

In essence, the faculty came to Lea College with a stronger than average commitment to teaching. They came, as one professor put it, to try and start what they perceived to be needed changes in higher education. Another underscored the kind of commitment felt by most faculty, "nobody moved up by coming here."

Lea College was founded by people with different visions. The residents of Albert Lea primarily wanted a college which would run on a sound financial basis. They had entered the venture convinced it could be done. The faculty were committed to education. From the beginning there were clashes.

According to faculty sources, DeMeester, the first president, lost the support of the faculty because the faculty did not feel he was presenting their views to the Board of Trustees. Simultaneously, he lost the confidence of the board. Last summer he was asked to resign, and the search for the new president began.

The board settled on Hale Aarnes, who had been chairman of department of education. He was characterized by several faculty members as follows: "As education department chairman Hale would always say, 'I've only got two things to say. The first is unimportant and the second is irrelevant.' Invariably he was right."

A member of the Board of Trustees said Aarnes was picked because of his "image". The board felt Aarnes had the "appropriate educational background" and "maturity" for the office.

Besides the new president, the fall semester started off with a new dean of the college and a new dean of students. As one faculty member returning at the time from work towards a Ph. D. characterized the situation, "I came back to an entirely different ship of state."

Shortly thereafter, that same faculty member, who had received a merit teaching award and had been recommended by his departing department chairman to take over the chairmanship, was given notice his contract was to be terminated.

Seven others received the same notice. Since the announcement of the terminations last fall, two of the faculty members have been re-instated. They maintain it is because the board "had to re-instate somebody."

Most faculty members feel the terminations came because Aarnes felt threatened by the eight in question. Members of the board talk of "financial problems and over staffing" as reasons for the terminations. But they also seem to think it understandable a new president would want to surround himself with a staff loyal to him. Perhaps that is because this is how they see things happening in the business world. One member of the board, a partner in an insurance firm, said it's only natural for a new president to ask "which of these people are going to rally around me."

One of the dismissed faculty members said he felt "loyalty" might be an issue in the terminations. He added, "When I complain the library doesn't have enough books, I'm not being disloyal." The same

professor felt the college might close as a result of the current situation.

A board member maintains, "We're in better shape than we were four years ago."

It may indeed be the case the college is on a sounder financial footing, but the school has not attained the profitable status predicted by Millard R. Roberts. Moreover, the dream many faculty members had when they came has been shattered. One seemed to sum up the feelings of many of the faculty, "I'm hurt, deeply hurt....personally, its a tragedy. But we can always go to better positions; it could be the student is the victim."

"Who Killed America?"

The Black Symbols subcommittee of the Black Studies Committee is sponsoring two plays at UNCC by the Ex-Umbra Players, a part of The New Black Revolutionary Theater.

The players describe themselves as "a small band of poets, artists, and reflective people who want to reflect more than the written word." These same people several years ago "could be found on the picket lines of Greensboro, Charlotte,... and many other hot spots during the Civil Rights era."

The Ex-Umbra Players, like other Black Revolutionary Theater groups, wish "to free the minds of Black peopleas the ultimate goal."

This collective Black culture group is currently touring North Carolina and the East Coast and plans to appear at the end of this month in New York City. The players, directed by John M. Brewer Jr., are based at North Carolina Central University at Durham.

The two—plays offered, WHO KILLED AMERICA? and THE JAIL, can be seen Friday night at 7:30 p.m. in the Parquet Room. There is no admission charge.

2 GUARDS SIGNED

Two more junior colleges guards have signed grant-in-aids with the University.

Charles Bryson of Florida Junior College of Jacksonville, Florida played his high school basketball at Columbus North High in Columbus, Ohio.

At Florida Junior College he had 23.2 and 19.9 averages for a 21.5 average for the two years. His high game of 41 set a team record.

Bryson was selected to play in the Florida All-Star Game for junior colleges in 1969 and 1970.

He led his team in assists and was captain of his team both years. He was on the all-state junior college first team both years and was on the first team all-region junior college squad in 1968-69.

Coach Foster said, "Charles is an excellent guard—a fine floor leader as well as a solid scorer. He has a great basketball head and will give us good leadership."

The other guard is Jerry Boggs, a six foot one guard from St. Petersburg Junior College.

Boggs' statistics include 20.8 points per game over his junior college career; 6 rebounds; 50 per cent field goal accuracy; and 72 percent free throw accuracy.

He was named to all-division and all-state teams both years.

Coach Foster called Boggs a good solid guard who has played on winning teams and has a real winning attitude.

"Along with his basketball ability he will provide us good leadership out front," Foster said. The boy was a local St. Petersburg star in high school.

Boggs said that he had narrowed his choices from the 22 colleges that were after him down to East Carolina, the Citadel, Georgia Southern and the University of Detroit in addition to UNCC. He said that he was also approached by Jacksonville but that he wasn't interested since Joe Williams went to Furman.

"I chose UNCC because I liked the fact that the school is just starting its basketball program and is going gung ho," Boggs said.