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Alumni Banquet, 5/12/72

Summary created by: Summer Dougherty

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Bill Hardy (?) welcomes everyone to the 34th annual alumni banquet. Mr. Hardy speaks a little about how much the university has changed. He thinks he is a late substitute for "some polished master of ceremonies." He tells a joke and then introduces the head table: Betty Clark who is the organizer of the alumni banquets and the retiring secretary of the alumni association, Dr. William Wood, his wife, Dorothy Wood, Dr. Schaible, Grace Schaible who is the president of the board of directors of the Alumni Association, Dr. Don Dafoe who is vice president of the statewide services of the university, Lois Dafoe, student Wanda Mead(?), Terry McLain(?), his wife Daphne McLain(?), President Bill O'Neill, his wife, Vi O'Neill

There are too many distinguished guests for the speaker to mention by name, but he does mention Mrs. Lola Tilly, Roger Hughes(?) and that Senator Gravel is scheduled to be at the event.

The President of the Fairbanks Chapter of the University of Alaska Alumni Association, Terry McLain(?), speaks next. Mr. McLain(?) welcomes everyone to Fairbanks. He says he recognized many old faces as well as seeing many new faces, as well as many new buildings on campus. He would like to mention some of the absentee members that could not make it to the event: Senator Terry Miller(?), Representatives Mike Bradner(?) and Andy Warwick(?). He says the alumni are very proud of the people that represent the class of 1972 and welcomes them to the annual alumni banquet, encouraging them to keep in touch with the other alumni.

Next, Betty, the executive secretary of the alumni association introduces the members of the class of 1972 and welcomes them to the alumni association and urges them to keep in touch. (Names may be misspelled.):

Glenda Anderson, Mark Anderson, John Angiak, Roger Alaba, Michael Avery, Gene Babb, Percy Bar, Ralph Beistline, Chris Birch, Margaret Bigsby, Emery Bohannon, Mary Bohannon, Maxi Bueller, Richard Bush, Barbara Carlson, Ken Chaddock, Thomas Chadwick, Julian Chase, Allen Cheek, Georgette Cheek, Patrick Cole, Ann Cook, Hazel Darrel, Howard Delow, Brian Dropko, Dennis Dooley, Laurence Duffy, Gray Eddy, William K. Evans, Gary Farnsworth, Robert Feaks, Stanley Feero, Craig Fletcher, Susan Foxwell, Robert Gilfillian, June Goram, Henry Grant, Dave Hackney, Steven Helburn, Audrey Harden, Peter Hardle, Ilene Head, Frank Henry, Betsy Jane

Heinz, Beverley Johnson, Viveca Johnson, David Jones, Taylor Jones, Glen Kangas, Peter Kelley, James Kirka, Mary Kirka, Jackie Larkins, Mang Lee, Jim Lentin, Linda Lindig, Eric McKinnon, Marsha Major, Barbara McCaddy, Clarisse Millam, Tom Monk, Judy Marbaly, Arbin Nixon, Lola Oliver, Robert Oar, Donald Lee Parker, Carlton Peterson, Mary C. Pig, Barbara Pitney, Randy Pitney, Rosalin Powers, Brian Robertson, Mary Jean Roll, Michael Rugani, Pearl Selid, Larry Shwaggard, Leonard Sherwin, Judith Shore, Leslie Smith, Arnold Snyder, Ann Stribling, Michael Thomas, Ron Thornton, Steve Trikamo, Roger Stoyt, Tony Vasca, Colleen Vondressik, Sam Ward, Johnathan Widdis, Pat (Patricia) Wisel, Gerry Wool, and Karen Zelmer.

Next alumni that are present from the classes of 1932, 1942, 1952 and 1962 are introduced. (Names may be misspelled.) From the class of 1932: Norma Claussen Smith, Al Polette and Robert Lyle. From the class of 1942: John W Kessel. From the class of 1952: George Schmidt. From the class of 1962: Roger Hughes, Chris Lethin, Judy Weimer and Sally O'Neil Wein.

Next Dr. Don Dafoe speaks. He wonders why he deserves such an assignment; as a mere vice president of an obscure area such as public service he doesn't get many opportunities for such an assignment. He jokes that pages 49 – 72 of his speech notes are missing. He says there is a good excuse for his lack of preparation as he works for Dr. Wood. Dr. Wood gives everyone enough work to keep them off of the street at night and has been successful in that in Dr. Dafoe's case. He says he could be tempted to offer some insight as to what goes on in the Regents' meetings – some insight, personal glimpses, an expose – but as he is a few years away from voluntary retirement, he decided against that. Dr. Dafoe has decided to title his speech "Let's Look for the Pony."

Talked with Jim Lentin(?) tonight and met his parents and sister from New Jersey and he recalled the speech Jim made at a dinner last October as a testimonial to Dr. Wood. Dr. Dafoe considered that speech the best speech of the evening and certainly the best short story. In the speech, Jim said he had often wondered what the president of a university did and he found out. The president has the Board of Regents to deal with as well as vice presidents to deal with. The Board of Regents is supposed to think and the vice presidents are supposed to make speeches. Jim concluded that the role of the president was to keep the Regents from making speeches and the vice presidents from thinking.

The president of the university stands in a highly vulnerable position. He is visible; he is shot at. As a comparatively tall man, Dr. Wood makes a broad target that is easy to hit. Dr. Dafoe says that Dr. Wood doesn't try to hide behind a rock and not be the target. Dr. Dafoe commented to Dr. Wood that being president is like living in a goldfish bowl. Dr. Wood responded that he did not mind that so much but it seemed like someone was always trying to poison the water.

As for what vice presidents do, there are various manuals and publications at the university that provide descriptions of the duties. The assignments can instantly and dramatically modified by the president, however, so the descriptions can be somewhat meaningless.

Dr. Dafoe explains that his viewpoints may be colored by the fact that the president and his compatriots have seen fit to volunteer Dr. Dafoe to go down and be badgered by legislative committees several times this year.

About two weeks ago, there was a meeting with a special committee of the university assembly which had been created to discuss the state of the university from an internal standpoint. The committee was concerned about the relationships between and among the functions of the university (teaching, research, and public service), about the allocation of resources among those functions, about the general image of the university, about the problems of communication and about participation in governance. Dr. Dafoe thinks that the concerns of the committee are reflected in the concerns of the general public and by legislators. Dr. Dafoe says of course there are internal and external problems, but he cannot see fit to work himself into ulcers because of some discontent and conflict. He believes it is better to have faculty and staff who are concerned. If there weren't any discontent, Dr. Dafoe mentions they might need to organize some because progress develops where there are points of tension and conflict.

Dr. Dafoe says that some of the good things going on internally in the university now are going on, not because of the particularly wonderful ideas of any one person or any group of persons, but because of the faculty and student concerns that have been expressed. We are seeing the development of regional councils involving faculty and students and administration and we are seeing efforts to develop models and formulae for the allocation of resources.

There are factors which affect the University of Alaska's public image and external relations which are not entirely within the university's control such as economic factors, the uncertainty over pipeline permits, increasing social and educational burdens, austerity measures.

Legislators and the general public are concerned over productivity and accountability of university personnel.

A legislative council subcommittee worked this year in the state. The purpose of bringing the subcommittee into the state was largely to deal with the concerns of private education. Because of this council, much legislation was developed and introduced providing greater autonomy for the regions, providing regional councils, providing advisory councils in the local community, formula for allocation of resources. These types of things were already being worked on and, in Dr. Dafoe's opinion, unfortunately, most of the legislation was unnecessary and some was highly undesirable.

This type of legislation seeks to legislate detail in terms of university organization and administration. Dr. Dafoe thinks it is paradoxical that the people who push for greater participation and the dilution of administrative authority are the same people, that when you appear before them in a committee, put the finger on the Regents and the administration for accountability. Dr. Dafoe is annoyed by legislation that seeks to materially alter the role of the Regents and usurp their constitutional authority. He reads a quote Regent Brundin on this topic. Dr. Dafoe says that it is not possible to legislate participation. Participation must come from the spirit of the people. Dr. Dafoe says that he wishes more people were able to see the Regents at work.

(Continued from 00-00-104)