

Edmund Peckham, Track 7

Tape 4, side B

EP: What we need if we are ever going to be a real university, in the national standpoint, is to eliminate that commuter image, and uh, and hence, uh, I pressed and pressed, and, in effect, succeeded more perhaps even than we dreamed, and we created our own Frankenstein, uh, in the fifteen units that we now have in University Park, plus the University Village Apartments, but the thrust is right, that the three thousand or so students, ten percent of our student body approximately, give or take a little, uh, will be a tremendous nucleus, and that all the whole campus, the faculty, administration, everybody, will be forever changed, because of this movement from being a commuter campus to a largely residential campus. Ten percent of the students may not sound like an awful lot, for many schools, but at the same time when you take ten percent of our total student body, that makes a very, very large and almost unmanageable number. It's proved almost to be unmanageable this last year, so we are taking lots of efforts to try to do it, partly by expanding the food service up there through a satellite union and the rest. So that is certainly one theme, the growth of our campus, which I consider a major growth, from a commuter to a somewhat residential image, but another thing that I sort of wished, and maybe in effect I have talked about it, is the need and the role for Student Affairs on a campus like ours. Uh, I think that the, that there is a tremendous vitality to Student Affairs, a need for it, and importance for it. Uh, the co-curriculum is not the same or as significant as the curriculum, but it is important. Uh, the life of a student is more than just inside the classroom, all the clichés that one can give, and yet at the same time I think that is very much the case, and if there is anything in which I can take any sense of, uh, personal possession and pride it's the fact that, and I think that, and I don't mean to be boastful about this either, John, that I have had the strength and I think also the academic credentials to help fight for successfully the evolution of a Student Affairs program on this campus that's second to none. I feel that very definitely. At this particular moment I think that our university is in a terrible time of crisis, administratively and fiscally. Uh, at the same time I feel very proud of the fact that the Student Affairs area is not in major disarray. There are problems that we have, but they are problems that can be solved. Uh, we've maintained the integrity of Student Affairs in a direct reporting relationship to the president, although some members of the faculty, and indeed a couple of the people who've been in that role, have thought that Student Affairs ought to report to the academic vice president, or the provost, rather than to the president. That's never been the case here. I've always reported directly to the president. I've never tried to say that the academic area is not the most important part of the campus, it is! Students come to the campus to learn and to get a degree. But at the same time, I think that their needs outside the classroom, are distinct from the needs of the, uh, inside the classroom and they can be identified and worked for in that sense. So, that is one theme that I could certainly have tried to, uh, develop with you. Uh, we have tried to build things and, in many ways, we've succeeded. We've talked about a student health center, we talked about a housing program, we talked

about a, uh, well, many things, some of them are good, and some of them are important, but some of them are still incomplete, and that's the frustration. Frustration is that one needs to leave at a given time, and many of the things that I had hoped for still are not quite there. We have the satellite union, we have the all the housing facilities, but we don't have the recreation facility, or the stadium, or even the arena that eventually will complement the athletic program, and the housing area, and the student life on the campus, just as indeed we don't yet have the academic oriented facilities that eventually will come to us through the University Park Development. But in time it will come, uh, there will be a children's center on this campus, there will be a university students' union that will be double the size, and perhaps greater, than that in the life of the campus. There will be perhaps even eventually, which would be a crowning capstone to what we've wanted, and that now it's recommended by the campus planning board in the facilities office up on the fifth floor, that there be a student services building. Uh, and indeed the present project is, should it become and, in effect, that this whole administrative building would be, uh, changed and that there will be new administration building that would house the more administrative type functions for the campus, but they would be able to unify inside this building. Not only, uh, this office, and the others that are presently here, but be able to bring back the minority programs and to unify them. The disabled and veterans programs, the financial aid offices, and all the other things that are student related, and put them in a central location together, inside the campus, with admissions and records, career planning placement, counseling and all the others. It's a dream that we've had and, uh, it's one that is now as I say somewhat accepted. Whether the monies will ever be available for the creation of, uh, a separate smaller administrative building, that will, in effect, let this become possible, only time can tell, but these are things in which it's a wonderful thing to look back, and be able to think one has been engaged in projects that are influential for the future of this campus. (long pause)

JB: Thank you.

[END OF INTERVIEW]