The last FN...

Today's paper is the final winter term issue of the Faculty News — and it concludes publication of the Faculty News. But a more comprehensive weekly — the MSU News Bulletin — will appear next month. Watch for it on April 1.

Ron Jordan: Putting his background to new uses. — Photo by Robert Brown.

New faculty (No. 6)

Trying to find out what is learned

On one side of the room, the book shelf holds such titles as "English Transformational Grammar" and "Psycholinguistics." On the other side, on the desk, lies "The Clinical Approach to the Patient." And in between: Ron Jordan, assistant professor of medical education research and development.

With a doctorate in communications research and linguistics, Jordan said he knew nothing about medicine before assuming his position here last fall. Now he is "intrigued by the opportunity to apply my background in a way I'd never thought of before."

A YEAR ago he thought he would be teaching linguistics theory or communications research design courses.

Instead he is involved "in a gamut from cognizant to active kinds of activities." For instance, he has been evaluating two courses—"Clinical Pharmacology" and "Physical Diagnosis"—looking for "the kinds of phenomenal data" that may increase the chances that students will emerge from the course with what the

(Continued on page 4)

Prepaid health insurance plan under study here

Faculty, staff and students have been asked to consider the prospect of a prepaid group health care plan for themselves and their families.

In announcing the proposal, President Clifton R. Wharton Jr. said the plan's primary purpose is "to improve the quality of health care and to reduce costs."

"If such a plan can be successfully implemented at MSU, it would also be helpful to the education of physicians and other health professionals, and could prove to be a model system."

He said that a survey will be taken in the next months to determine faculty, staff and student sentiments. Using the survey results, projected costs and other factors, the Board of Trustees will be asked to decide whether a pilot program should begin.

"In the meantime," Wharton said, "the issue will be considered by the All - University Health Center Advisory Board, which includes representation from students as well as faculty, staff and other employees."

A PREPAID health service plan means that a person contracts with a group of physicians and other health professionals who agree to provide health services for a set monthly fee.

In a comprehensive plan as envisioned by MSU, the health services include not only hospitalization, but also office calls, house calls, dental work, rehabilitation therapy, medical social services and others, with the group providing a full range of specialists.

Prepaid group plans have been operating successfully for several years in some states. They are now being viewed by the federal government as a likely way to improve health care inequities, reduce costs, and make better use of doctors and other health professionals.

Both the Nixon Administration and Democratic leaders in Congress have proposed health care legislation to provide financial incentives for the establishment of health maintenance organizations (HMOs).

WHARTON said that the kind of HMO offered for consideration here is "one which would be tailored to our particular health care needs, and would also aid our educational programs and our research projects aimed at improving health care."

As tentatively planned, he added, the program would be administered by a new University unit whose prime mission would be health care services rather than education and research.

But he pointed out that the program would benefit from specialized services in the Colleges of Human Medicine and Osteopathic Medicine, and would be an important resource for the education of all medical students.
Constitution News

The Council of Graduate Students last week approved three new items to be incorporated into its new constitution.

Those items stipulate that COGS officers and representatives cannot receive no compensation unless authorized by referendum; taxes shall not be raised unless authorized by referendum; and referenda cannot be held during summer or during the first month of classes until and must have one month's prior announcement in the State News.

Approved in principle for incorporation into the new constitution was a statement concerning political endorsement: That COGS should not endorse a political candidate or party except by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting; that money should not be contributed to any political campaign; and that COGS should not endorse political issues which do not directly concern the welfare of MSU graduate students.

The new constitution was approved by those representatives present at the meeting. A mail ballot of other members is being conducted. Upon completion of that ballot, if the constitution is approved by three-quarters of the membership as required, a referendum of all graduate students will be conducted during early and late registration for spring classes.

NEXT WEEK, COGS is expected to act upon a point of view presented by its executive council regarding the future status of graduate assistants.

The council stated that "every effort should be made to maintain present graduate assistants at no decrease in stipend," and that stipends should not be withdrawn or decreased for qualified graduate assistants only to provide support for new assistants.

And, the council said, "in all cases where a graduate assistant's stipend is decreased or entirely cut off..." a written explanation (should) be given to the graduate assistant.

Urban history

Carl E. Schorsch, professor of history at Princeton University, will discuss "Urban Redvelopment and Its Critics: Vienna, 1860-1919" Thursday (March 11) at 4 p.m. in 104B Wells Hall.

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Farmers’ Week keeps up with change

Music department staff won't lead group singing from a truck as they once did at MSU's annual Farmers' Week, but this year's event — March 22-26 — will meet the needs of farmers as well as it has in the past, says Byron Good, head of University Farms and Farmers' Week chairman.

From a start in 1876, Farmers' Week has grown to be the largest educational-agricultural event in the nation, says Byron Good, head of University Farms and Farmers' Week chairman.

FARMERS' WEEK officially began in 1914, but the groundwork was laid by Farmers' Institutes, starting in 1876. Representatives of the Michigan Agricultural College that year discussed agricultural problems with farmers at Allegan, Adrian, Decatur, Coldwater, Armida and Rochester.

The State Legislature formally recognized the value of the Institutes in 1895 when they were set up as an official system of education. By the turn of the century, more than 100,000 people attended these Institutes annually.

As new agricultural organizations developed and MAC participation in the Farmer's Institute program grew, college people saw a need to congregate these activities, so they could be more effective.

In 1914, the Farmers' Institute Round - up and the Michigan Livestock Breeders and Feeders held coordinated meetings on campus the same week. These joint meetings were called “Farmers' Week.”

ACTIVITIES AT early Farmers' Weeks included cavalry jumping, greased pig catching and a national horse pulling contest. In 1936, Michigan State's champion football team was pitted against a team of horses that had won all the pulling contests it had been in. The university team won, but “they had more feet on the ground and thus more traction, according to one observer.

Farmers attending that year couldn't make their way through University governance via official action in the Council and Academic Senate, but Little said that his group has “tended to keep the Council advised of our work rather than use it as an instrument of recommendation.”

He emphasized that Wilkinson has shown consistent willingness to take committee recommendations directly to the Board of Trustees.

ONE OF THE committee's major actions — a proposed change in used book prices for the bookstore — was headed toward implementation last year but was shelved when area bookstore owners threatened suit against the Board of Trustees. Still pending is a ruling from the attorney general's office.

In another recent action, the committee reaffirmed the present means of financial support (from the general fund) for the Placement Bureau. The decision resulted from a joint effort of both the bookstore and bureau offices after some students had contended that since the bureau performed a service for industry, the latter should pay fees in order to recruit through the bureau.

In recommending that present support policies be maintained, the committee concluded that the Placement Bureau is primarily a student service, even though recruiting firms gain secondary benefits.

AMONG CURRENT items for the business affairs committee are the study of credit centers (those using multiple and similar prices) to determine if such facilities should be more closely coordinated, and a review of physical plant services in order to promote better faculty - student understanding of pricing and other policies.

Little has been chairman of the committee since it was created about three years ago. Other faculty members and their colleges are: John Brako, agriculture and natural resources; Frederick Williams, arts and letters; Charles Gaq, business; Roderick Rightmire, communication arts; Richard Featherstone, education; Grace Miller, human ecology; Philipp Gerhardt, sociology; Richard Galonsky, natural science; Albert A. Blum, social science; Edward Nathans, University College; Kenneth Kenhey, veterinary medicine; and Herman Struck, residential colleges. The student representatives are Michael Haveland (graduate) and Beryl Simonson (undergraduate).

GM proposals to be considered

The business affairs committee will meet this Thursday for further discussion of proposals being offered by the Project on Corporate Responsibility. The meeting time and place have not yet been set.

The proposals refer to voting the University's shares in General Motors Corporation, and they are the outgrowth of last year's GM campaign led by Ralph Nader.

At a special business affairs committee meeting last week, motions relating to the University's GM stock were tabled until Thursday's regular committee meeting.

Committee chairman Robert Little said that representatives of both the Project on Corporate Responsibility and GM would be invited to attend the Thursday session.

Faculty Club

Today's speaker at the Faculty Club noon luncheon will be Jack Patriarche, East Lansing's city manager. His topic: "Tax, Lanning — Past, Present and Future."

Speakers scheduled for the remainder of March are: March 16 — Gustav C. Osborn, a biophysics graduate student; "A Journey to the Galapagos Islands," March 23 — Robert D. Klemm, assistant professor of poultry science, "The Goosey Arent!"; March 30 — Frank Kelley, attorney general of Michigan, topic to be announced.

CU bylaw change rejected

Some 4,000 persons attended the annual Credit Union meeting in the Auditorium last week, including 2,117 voting members who defeated a proposed bylaw amendment and elected credit union officers.

Elected to three - year terms as members of the board of directors were: Vern Severance, manager of general stores and current board president; Marvin Solomon, professor of natural science; and John Zimmer, assistant dean of natural science.

Elected to three - year terms as credit committee members were: Jane Carpenter, a loan interviewer with the credit union; and Marilyn O'Leary, also a loan interviewer.

Removing a bylaw amendment received 812 "yes" votes and 808 "no" votes, but needed a three - fourths majority to pass. The amendment would have reduced the number of members of the credit committee from five to three, changed their selection process from election by the membership to election by the board of directors, and changed the term of office from three years to one year.

A KEY TO the committee's operation, Little said, is its close cooperation with officials of the business and finance office. In addition to its 13 faculty and two student members, the committee includes vice president Roger E. Wilkinson and comptroller Paul V. Rampey, who are ex officio, nonvoting members. Also working with the group are assistant vice presidents Stephen Terry and Emily Struck.

The committee's makeup insures that "we debate things carefully in meetings," Little said, "rather than going ahead and making empty recommendations" that later will be found unworkable.

Proposals from the committee can be sent to the committee for consideration. The proposals are: 1) a proposal to change book pricing in the MSU Bookstore; 2) a "critical review" of the University’s bylaw policy; 3) a study of the growth of copy centers across the campus.

These items and many more occupy the University Business Affairs Committee, a group whose concerns touch many of MSU's day - to - day operations.

The committee's charge is to review and make recommendations on "policies within the service functions and business office that bear directly on the day-to-day, "partly academic and research aspects of the University.

Until a faculty bylaw change was adopted last year, the committee's concerns were limited to items "exclusive of allocation of financial resources," a limitation that proved to be unrealistic, according to committee chairman Robert W. Little, professor of metallurgy, mechanics and materials science.

Little cited two basic roles of the business affairs committee: As a standing committee of the Academic Council, it reviews and evaluates policies of the varied business functions at MSU; and, as an advisory group, it works closely with the office of the vice president for business and finance.

The committee's major action this year was to "use its own discretion in determining which it is wearing," Little said.

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Council OKs bylaw, report changes

The Academic Council last week:
* Approved the report from the University Curriculum Committee (see related story below).
*Approved, with no discussion, incorporation of the Graduate Council into the faculty bylaws.
* Approved an amendment to the Academic Freedom Report, Article Seven, which deals with amendment procedures.
* Approved the Graduate Student Rights and Responsibilities document.

A MOTION from Bishop Pipes Jr., professor of humanities, to amend the proposed Article Seven amendment by deleting sections 2.1.4.9 and 2.2 of the MSU procedures.

Curriculum changes adopted

Among the curriculum changes approved by the Academic Council last week were revision of the geography curriculum, creation of a plan B (something that is expected for the master's degree in urban planning), and establishment of a teaching minor in the Department of Religion.

A major curriculum change in geography will give more emphasis to urban and environmental problems. Beginning in the fall, the department will offer 29 new courses, and 44 of the existing 59 geography courses will reflect changes in content or credit weight.

Lawrence M. Sommers, professor and chairman of geography, said the curriculum revision has been under discussion for three years.

"Many of the new courses will cover material touched on in some of our present courses," he said. "We expect this expansion of our courses will give our program more depth and flexibility."

"Most people think of geography as involved only with the physical environment," he said, "but it involves the cultural, political, and economic environment as well."

One new course, "Geography of the City," will focus on urban economic, social and political structures. Another, "The City and its Region," will study the relationships of cities to their surrounding areas.

"Geography of Environmental Quality," which analyzes an attempt to regulate his habitat, while another new course will be concerned with the geographic of global water resources.

Ron Jordan.

(Concluded from page 1)

professor wants them to have, to discover the "disparity between what the instructor thinks is going on and what the students are getting."

So there are two basic questions: What is being learned? And, how similar or dissimilar is this from what is being taught?

The clinical pharmacology students were interviewed, responded to a questionnaire, and took an extensive examination. In the physical diagnosis class, Jordan is helping to set up what he calls "a slow weekend," which will be graduated because he could not be granted tenure at the moment. ("I was passed over three times.")

He still feels he was qualified for the position because of "the good training in University politics by mentor, Giacomo Leopardi, a successful professor of Etruscan literature." And he has asked for a recount of the voting.

Bender counts seven times of natural science among his MSU accomplishments.

Currently a Slate News columnist, he recalls flunking Journalism 201 ("News Writing") three times.

He now plans to "hang out my shingles," which will read: "Louie Bender, multidisciplinary social scientist. Walk in."

Winter degree candidates include an 'ex-candidate'

Degrees will be awarded to 1,487 students in two commencement ceremonies this spring (March 14) in the Auditorium. The 529 advanced degree candidates will be cited at 10 a.m. and the 928 bachelor's degrees will be presented at the 3 p.m. main exercises.

Jeanette Lee, dean of human resources, said, will speak at the morning ceremony and Wade H. McCree, circuit judge for the U.S. Court of Appeals in Detroit, will speak at the afternoon.

Among the bachelor's candidates is David C. (Louie) Bender, former candidate for MSU president.

Bender, who said he decided to make a run for the presidency because "it was a slow weekend," will be graduated because he could not be granted tenure at the moment. ("I was passed over three times.")

He still feels he was qualified for the position because of "the good training in University politics by mentor, Giacomo Leopardi, a successful professor of Etruscan literature." And he has asked for a recount of the voting.

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Commission will report this spring

A four-member committee is coordinating the job of drafting the report of the Presidential Commission on Admissions and Student Body Composition — a report that is ready during spring term, according to commission chairman Ira Polley.

Members of the coordinating committee are James H. Pickering, associate professor of English; Clifford J. Pollard, associate professor of botany and plant pathology; Chinta M. Smith, associate professor in James Madison College; and Terry Rupley, undergraduate student.

In meetings this term, the commission has dealt with recommendations in three major areas: Enrollment mix, research, and quality and instructional programs. Still to be covered are recommendations dealing with life-long learning and continuing education, summer school, minority and disadvantaged education, and planning priorities, budgeting and management.

Polley emphasized that votes taken so far by the commission are not final, although they do "reflect and measure the thinking of commission members at this time."

He said that tentative conclusions by the commission will "provide direction for the drafting committee, but no one believes that each recommendation must necessarily continue to be worked as it is now."

Job training opens April 5

The Urban League On - The - Job Training Project (OJT) and the MSU Personnel Center are sponsoring a clerical training program for unemployed persons.

The program is designed for individuals who have been unsuccessful in securing clerical jobs because of insufficient clerical knowledge and skills. It provides them a chance to reach their full clerical potential through on - the - job training.

It begins April 5 and runs through June.

In the previous OJT programs, trainees improved their clerical skills and filled clerical positions at MSU. Of 36 trainees, 33 completed the program and secured full - time employment in clerical positions.

Science lecture

The winner of MSU’s Junior Sigma Xi award for Meritorious Research will speak Wednesday, March 10, at 7:30 p.m. in 105 South Kedzie. Harold D. Hafs, professor of dairy and physiology, will discuss "Castration of Sperm."

Ron Jordan.

(Concluded from page 1)