EDITORIAL

Although sociologists are reluctant to give up their position of value neutrality, occasionally a social issue hits with sufficient force that some form of sociological prescription is in order. Such is the case with the current financial plight of our university. We, therefore, take this opportunity to stand up and be counted among those who support a program of aware and involved social change for this great institution.

Specifically, we suggest a two-phase action program to deal with the current financial crunch of Western Michigan University. The first phase, a program with primarily short-run objectives, will be a return to the 3 Rs-- the three Rs of Rebuke, Removal, and Retrenchment.

(1) REBUKE. A new committee should be formed to issue daily condemnations at anyone who might in any way be blamed for our lack of money.

(2) REMOVAL. Faculty positions are to be cut from departments according to the formula: $E=MC^2$. (Since no formula can be applied precisely anyway, we might as well use a formula which has a nice universal ring to it.)

(3) RETRENCHMENT. Faculty members whose positions are cut could be hired to dig ditches for Buildings and Grounds.

These proposals do not go much beyond actions already in motion. However, the second phase, OPERATION PRODUCTIVITY, is clearly more of a long-term program. And here is the chance for Western to engage in a truly innovative solution to our problems.

The plan for OPERATION PRODUCTIVITY is based on certain key assumptions: that Western needs more money, that faculty members don't need heavier teaching loads, and that students need greater flexibility in pursuing their educational objectives. All of these considerations are fully incorporated in the plan, which would really be quite simple to implement. The basic idea is to divide class enrollments into two types: (a) enrollments with reserved seats, and (b) enrollments without reserved seats.

Enrollments with reserved seats would be processed at the fieldhouse, with enrollees subsequently processed in classrooms about the same as it is done now.
EDITORIAL (con't.)

Enrollments without reserved seats, however, would allow for some bold new ventures in educational programming. These enrollees should be free to shape their individualized program of instruction in any way they saw fit, without any required attendance, papers, or examinations. To make their education even more interesting, students would buy numbered tickets for these enrollments at the snack bar of the Union at, say, fifty cents each. Then drawings could be made periodically to certify which ticketholders (randomly selected) would be awarded academic credit.

This program obviously fits into some of the latest thinking from Lansing. Also, even if the legislature isn't impressed, it would provide a model of local initiative for solving our own problems.

With such a productivity program, how could Western fail to hit the jackpot?

- J.A.S. -

BILBY, DE JONG, AND VONK GET THEIR UNION CARDS

Student self-conceptions, occupational mobility, and parental surveillance were key topics of interest for three Ph.D.'s in Sociology awarded this summer at Western.

Bob Bilby explored the role of self conceptions in predicting academic decision-making of elementary school students. He developed a model in which self conceptions mediated between such background variables as parental behavior and the dependent variable of extent of educational plans. His model was generally supported by his data.

Pete DeJong's dissertation replicated in part research reported in Blau and Duncan's The American Occupational Structure. His analysis of males agreed closely with the Blau and Duncan findings. His major new finding was that the variables in status attainment for females were very similar to those of males, and that the Blau and Duncan model (developed in studying only males) predicted even more effectively for females than males.

John Vonk did his research on factors in parental surveillance of their children's school work. Although studies exist on such parental surveillance, little has been done on the question of the relation of social characteristics to level of surveillance. Vonk's dissertation looked at the relationship of race and social class, among other variables, to parental surveillance. The major findings of his study are that parental surveillance is not related to race or social class, but it is related rather to specific parental expectations and aspirations for their children.

Dr. Bilby is now teaching at Wisconsin State University, Oshkosh; Dr. De Jong is at Calvin College in Grand Rapids; and Dr. Vonk is at Northern Colorado University, Greeley.

For those interested in the full titles of these dissertations, they are: Bilby, "Current and Future Characterization of Self: A Theoretical Model for Analyzing the Sources of Function of Conceptions"; De Jong, "Factors in Female Occupational Status: A Comparison to Factors Instrumental in Male Occupational Status"; and Vonk, "Parental Surveillance of Students in Relation to Social Status and Race."
YES, THERE IS A HEREAFER FOR NEWSLETTER EDITORS

Cora Marrett has been invited to serve as an Associate Editor of The American Sociologist. This publication of the American Sociological Association carries news and articles on the sociology profession. The appointment would be for three years, a period coterminal with that of the editor, Leon Mayhew of the University of California, Davis.

Last year Dr. Marrett was editor of this sociology departmental newsletter.

WALKER HEADS SOUTH; HUNT MAN TO FOLLOW

Lewis Walker is now in Mexico on a fall term sabbatical leave studying police-community relations in Mexico City. This will be a part of a cross-cultural study of patterns of police-community relations in large urban centers.

Next semester, Chester Hunt will also be doing part of his winter term sabbatical leave study in Mexico. While in Mexico, he plans to be affiliated with the Sociedad de Estudios Avanzados del Occidente de Mexico in Guadalajara.

MICHIGAN SOCIOLOGISTS HAVE CONVERGED

The Michigan Sociological Association met at Western on November 10. Special sections were held on "Modern American Imperialism," "Marxist Methodology," and "Practical Pointers for the Job Seeker." The last-named session was a panel chaired by John Fox, and with Edsel Erickson serving as one of the panel members.

Among general papers was one presented by Chester Hunt on "Ethnic Federalism or Integration: Alternative Patterns of Minority Adjustment in the University." In this paper, Dr. Hunt suggested the likely consequences of different strategies of relating minority group members to a university setting.

"Call me Father: Women as Priests" was another interesting paper, indicating some of the dilemmas posed by the changing role of women in church leadership. This paper was presented by Mary Jo Deegan, former WMU student and now at the University of Chicago, and co-authored by Marilyn Bell of Western and the Kalamazoo United Way.

The next meeting will be held at Ann Arbor on April 6th in conjunction with the Michigan Academy of Arts and Sciences. Anyone planning to submit a paper should get in touch very soon with Cora Marrett, Vice President and Program Chairman.

CRIMINOLOGISTS SKIP COUNTRY

Lloyd Braithwaite and Paul Friday are among the criminologists participating in the annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology, held this month at Caracas, Venezuela.

Dr. Friday read a paper on "The Shock of Imprisonment: A Comparative Analysis of Short Term Incarceration as a Treatment Tool."

Dr. Braithwaite served as a member of the Executive Committee of the Society.
JOBS STILL OCCUR

Announcements of vacancies for teaching positions are being kept on file in Helen Nelson's office. Examples of Schools recently reporting openings: California State (Fresno), Wichita State, Fort Hays (Kansas), University of Massachusetts (Boston).

This is part of the program of job promotion being developed under the direction of Jerry Manis.

RED FACE DEPARTMENT

Our last newsletter featured a recent article by Don Bouma on "Police in the Schools." It was mentioned that Donald Williams was co-author of the article, but somehow we failed to mention that Don Bouma was the principal author.

UNCLASSIFIEDS

Charles Keely's "Immigration Recommendations of the Commission on Population Growth and the American Future," will appear in the Fall issue of International Migration Review.

Cora Marrett has been appointed to a subcommittee of the 1973 ASA Program Committee. The subcommittee will plan the luncheon roundtable sessions, now established as regular parts of the annual program. This group is now soliciting suggestions for the roundtables, and if anybody would like to participate, he or she should (1) see Cora or (2) write to Harry Bredemeier at Rutgers, the Chairman of the committee.

Don Bouma gave the keynote address to the Michigan Society for the Study of Adolescents in Detroit recently. He reported initial findings of his study in Germany of German youth attitudes toward police and authority as compared with the attitudes of American youth.

An article by Donald H. Bouma entitled "Police-School Liaison: An Evaluation of Programs," appears in the November issue of Intellect, formerly School and Society, official publication of the Society for the Advancement of Education. The article reports results of a two-year study evaluating the police counselor program in school systems in Saginaw and Muskegon areas. Co-author of the article and co-director of the U.S. Justice Department funded research is Dr. Donald G. Williams, Associate Professor of Sociology at Grand Valley State College and a WMU grad. An article covering the same evaluation project also appeared in the September issue of Police Chief.

Lloyd Braithwaite gave a keynote address on a strategy for delinquency prevention to the Wisconsin Social Welfare Association in La Crosse on November 10. He also gave a speech to the Michigan State Policewomen's Association's Annual Convention on "Sex Offenders I've Known and Loved."

Jerry Manis, Charles Keely, and Terry Murphy are working on the evaluation of a program of the Kalamazoo Alcohol and Addiction Council. This program is funded by the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.