

# Circuses require bread

by Arthur Hoppe

Wilbur Snathe University, August 1, 1984—This new university, latest jewel in the diadem of American higher education, was dedicated in appropriate ceremonies here today.

The 116-acre campus has been described as "the ultimate in functional planning for the modern university." Its features include:

1 - A 250,000-seat stadium suitable for football, baseball, track, field hockey and horse

racine.

2 - An 85,000-seat arena for indoor sports ranging from jai-lai to roller derby.

3 - Housing for the university's student body of 673 athletes and faculty of 347 coaches, trainers, publicists and ticket sellers.

4 - A 107-acre parking lot. Snathe U. represents the culmination of a trend first apparent in the early 1970s.

It was in August of 1971, actually, that Wilbur Snathe himself, then a humble asbestos siding salesman, noticed in the paper that the University of Michigan had made \$200,000 renting its stadium to a couple of professional football teams.

In that same month, the story said, such August universities as California, Notre Dame, Princeton and Yale would also hire their stadiums out to the pros.

It was then that Snathe had a stroke of genius. He immediately contacted Dean Hiram Siwash of Siwash University, which, like all American colleges, was in serious financial trouble.

Snathe laid the newspaper clipping on Dean Siwash's desk. "Lucky Michigan," said

the Dean, shaking his head. "But our stadium only holds 48,763. I'm afraid it isn't big enough for professional football."

"Aha!" said Snathe, holding aloft a forefinger. "But it's big enough for dog racing!"

There was, of course, a modest protest from hidebound old alumni about using Siwash Stadium as a dog track. But, as Snathe pointed out, dog racing was just as legal as professional football, far less violent and, if conducted six nights weekly, productive of far more revenue.

Both Snathe and the University prospered. In a year there was enough in the till to expand the stadium's capacity to 150,000.

"Now, we'll rent it to the pros," said the Dean, rubbing his hands, "Just like the other great universities."

"Don't be a sucker," said Snathe. "We'll field our own pro team."

Again there was some outcry when it was learned that Siwash was paying its players from \$20,000 to \$100,000 a year. But, as Snathe noted, virtually all colleges had long paid their players free room, board, tuition and \$15 a month for

laundry.

"The reason college football is not as lucrative as professional football," he said, "is that you get what you pay for. Surely, we shouldn't be condemned for paying our athletes a living wage."

The wise investment quickly paid off when Siwash won the Super Bowl, netting half a million from the television rights alone.

Snathe and the Dean eventually had a falling out over the University's Library. The Dean knuckled under to traditionalists and vetoed Snathe's plan to tear it down in favor of a massage parlor. It was then that Snathe decided to build his own "dream university."

"It is the function of a modern university," he proudly said at today's opening ceremonies, "to give the public what it wants. And that we plan to do."

The Snathe U. Gladiators then took on the visiting Lions before a capacity crowd. The final score was Lions skewered, 14; Gladiators eaten, 12.

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Everyone, it seems, has something to say about the Thanksgiving Day clash between Nebraska and Oklahoma—even motels. Holiday Inns in Lincoln and Norman exchanged poetic views on the game last week.

*Our Father who heads the athletic department,  
Devaney be his name  
Thy fieldhouse come; they will be done; on the Astro-Turf  
as it is in the Unicameral  
Give us this year our dozen wins and forgive us our  
dropped passes as we forgive those who complete them against us.  
Lead us not into overconfidence,  
but deliver us from defeat  
For thine is the Big Eight and the national championship  
and the Number One forever and ever. AMEN*

*Fairbanks is our shepherd; we shall not want,  
He maketh us to run down to green endzones,  
He leadeth us to the national championship.  
He restoreth our spirit for OU sake.  
Yea; though we run thru a valley of corn,  
We will fear no tackle for He is with us,  
His coaching staff comforts us,  
He prepares a victory before us in the presence of our enemies.  
Surely victory will follow us all our seasons  
And we will dwell on the top of the Big Eight forever. AMEN*

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