

STUDENT STUDENT STUDENT

VIEW VIEW VIEW

'i can
see a creek
flowing through
the
campus'

I've dodged cars for six semesters now at the University of Missouri-Columbia and zigzagged through a maze of streets and parking lots to get to classes, the library and football and basketball games. I've watched cars narrowly miss hitting students; I've strained to hear lectures over the noise of traffic; and I've gone out of my way just to walk through Peace (McAlester) Park or to sit between classes in quiet places.

I used to imagine how beautiful the Campus would be if grass and trees could replace the dirty, noisy and even dangerous streets and parking lots.

Last semester, I found that others shared my dreams. Bill Hargrove, a mathematics graduate student, and Tim Brennan, an English literature senior, decided to try to organize student support for a pedestrian campus. I joined the new group, Students for a Pedestrian Campus.

SFPC began by researching the history of the pedestrian campus issue on this Campus.

The idea isn't new. The first street closing occurred in the late 1950's when the Mall was built between Conley and Rollins.

A faculty campus planning committee developed a long-range pedestrian campus plan in 1967. Several problems, however, stood in the way of its adoption. The



Wade Bilbrey, a senior majoring in forestry, transferred to UMC from Wichita State University. He is "chair-one" of Students For A Pedestrian Campus.

University needed to acquire some private property that was within the boundaries of the proposed plan. And the city had to approve the street closings.

Early this school year, it seemed that the University was about to ask the city to approve the closing of Lowry Street as the first step toward the realization of the long-range plan. But the Missouri Book Store objected because it would lose access to its parking lot. Plans to give the Missouri Book Store access to its parking lot from the rear have not been acceptable to the store.

The University engaged a St. Louis firm to do a traffic study of the Campus. Emmet Klinkerman, Campus business officer, says the study results will be released in April.

Meanwhile, SFPC was not idle. Its first effort was to show student support for closing Lowry Street.

Beginning on October 30, 1972, a petition drive took place in the Memorial Union and Brady Commons. Signatures of 6,710 supporters were collected and information about the pedestrian campus proposal was distributed. Several student organizations including the Missouri Students Association, the Association of Women Students, the Environmental Education Organization, the Arts and Science

Student Government, and the Forestry Club endorsed the petition, and all the area newspapers publicized our efforts.

On December 11, 1972, Tim, Guy Schreck (an art education junior) and I met with Chancellor Herbert W. Schooling to discuss our proposal and that of the 6,707 others we represented. The Chancellor indicated support for the pedestrian campus plan in general and suggested that our continued pressure on and communication with his office would help initiate a street closing policy.

SFPC will try to increase the publicity about the issue and asks for support from students, faculty, staff, alumni and even the people of Missouri. Support can be shown by writing letters to the Chancellor or the editors of newspapers.

One way or the other, I can still imagine for the University of Missouri-Columbia what I've seen as reality on other campuses such as Arizona State, University of Montana, and Kansas State. I can see a walkway through a terraced garden west of the Agriculture Building (Hitt Street). I can see sidewalks protected from the wind by groves of trees to dorms and the Hearnes Multipurpose Building. I can see a creek flowing through Campus instead of through gutters. I can envision a quieter, more healthy environment. —Wade Bilbrey.