

THE HORIZON

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Dump cleaned, questions remain

By **TOMMY SPALDING**
Editor

On Dec. 19, IUS was ordered by the Floyd County Health Department to clean up an illegal dumpsite on the far northern edge of campus.

A hole about 35 yards long, 10 to 15 yards wide and 12 feet deep contained articles such as desks, chairs, food warmers from the now defunct "Grenadier Grill," a water heater and a couch.

Many of the items had been removed from the Life Sciences Building during its renovation over the past year. According to an article in the Indiana section of The Courier-Journal on Dec. 21, Mark Mixner, vice chancellor for Administrative Affairs said that the dump had been used as temporary storage for about "six-plus months."

Controversy over some of the items found in the dump began last spring. In the Feb. 5 issue of The Horizon, questions were raised about the removal of student desks and other items that appeared to be reusable.

In that article, Kyle Forinash, professor of physics, was quoted: "They backed up a semi-tractor trailer and were just throwing things on it. If it didn't seem to fit, they were breaking things up."

Mixner responded to the Forinash's remarks by saying, "Because we did not have enough storage space on campus, we rented four trailers and stored the items in them. These trailers are now located off site."

Forinash claimed that the items were receiving a different fate.

"I was told they took things to the city dump," he said in the story.

One employee from the Physical Plant Department, who wished to remain anonymous, said that most of the items found in the dump "accumulated over time as different projects came up."

He said that the university auctions off items such as desks and computers to faculty and employees. IUS would then be stuck with the items that did not receive bids.

It is not known who dug the trash pit to begin with or where the money for that project came from, but it is believed that per-

haps an outside company was hired to dig the pit, and place the items inside.

"I can assure you that there were no full-time employees really involved in the dumping part. At least not from what (Physical Plant) found out," the anonymous employee said. "From what I understand, they hired someone from the outside to do the actual moving of the material into the hole."

Once the dump was discovered, IUS was given 30 days to properly remove the items within and around the dumpsite. IUS complied with the Floyd County Health Department by cleaning the site in just two days.

In the Dec. 27 Indiana section of The Courier-Journal, which reported the fast cleanup effort, Mixner said that he wanted to return the site to a "pristine" state.

The IUS dump may have been cleaned up but the air surrounding the issue is still not clear. IUS contracted Dan Cristiani Excavating to remove items from the site.

Gary Engleman, of Dan Cristiani Excavating Inc. of Clarksville, oversaw the removal of the ill-discarded junk. Engleman stated that any man made material, such as metal, was hauled to the Clark-Floyd landfill while the concrete that was scattered around the area was taken to an off site area to be used as fill. Engleman also assured that no hazardous materials were found in the pit. Engleman said that school officials told him not to take short cuts and contends, "They wanted everything done by the book."

Information obtained through another source led to yet another unanswered question. The estimated \$10,000 to \$15,000 for the clean up of the dump came from an account known as Facilities Improvement.

IUS officials have promised to release information regarding the cost of the cleanup as early as this week.

As of yet, no one has stepped forward to say that they were the one who made the decision to place the items in the dump. However, the Physical Plant employee said that he does not believe that the order came from Mixner's office.

"I have to say that I truly



Courtesy photo

A trench nearly 35 yards long, 10 to 15 yards wide and 12 feet deep located between Knobview and the IUS observatory, contained items such as desks, chairs, a water heater, and a couch from the Life Sciences Building. Vice Chancellor for Administrative Affairs Mark Mixner called the dump "temporary storage."



Photo by Ron Allman

Knobview Hall serves as a backdrop for the now clean dumpsite north of campus.

believe that Mark did not comprehend what was going on, at least not from what we have found out."

Calls placed to the Physical Plant on Jan. 10 and 11 in hopes of reaching Ed Fredericks, Director of the Physical Plant, for comment were transferred to Mixner's office. E-mail sent to the campus community on the morning of Jan. 11 announced that Fredericks had retired effective Thursday, January 10. Sam Asbury is filling Frederick's position until a replacement can be found.

One employee from the Physical Plant said that the illegal dump has tarnished the reputation of the entire department, but insists that not everyone is to blame.

"The big comment is from Sam Sloss implying that a lot of us knew about this. That wasn't true," the employee said. "Everyone knew that something was going on up there. Somebody (from the Physical Plant department) may have been up there and aren't speaking up."

Though the dumpsite has now



Courtesy photo

Computers and other technology supplies are tossed into a dumpster during renovations in Crestview over the summer.

been cleaned, and IUS officials are trying to put the issue to rest, the story continues to be a black eye for the university.

"It's a sore eye on all of us," the Physical Plant employee said.

Due to time constraints, IUS was not able to reply to lingering questions regarding this story. IUS officials have promised to answer those questions as early as this week. Those answers will run in next week's issue of The Horizon.

Michelle Jennings, Horizon staff reporter, contributed to this

story.

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A day of remembrance



Photo by Tommy Spalding

Jackie Love, director of the Office of Equity and Diversity, and Hank Rothrock, freshman, brave the cold on Jan. 15 to take part in a candlelight vigil in remembrance of Martin Luther King Jr.

Vice Chancellor Mixner bids farewell to IUS

By **NIKI RODRIGUEZ**
staff writer

Mark Mixner, vice chancellor for Administrative Affairs, will leave IUS on January 22, to serve as vice president for Administrative and Fiscal Affairs at West Chester University of Pennsylvania.

"In early December, I accepted this new position at West Chester University," Mixner said. "This is an exceptional opportunity to continue my professional growth and development. I will definitely miss IUS and feel that I have a vested interest in the campus' welfare. I plan to come back for visits to see the continued progress that I know IUS will make."

During his six and a half years on campus, Mixner has held the position of vice chancellor for Administrative Affairs, working

as the chief financial and business officer.

The vice chancellor's main duty is to help establish policies and procedures affecting institutional plans and projects.

"Vice Chancellor Mixner has been a very pleasant and effective person to work with the past several years," said Paula Sylvester, Mixner's secretary.

"He has maintained an open-door policy and has done his best to meet requests for information and solutions to budget,



Photo by Yasmeen Chaudhry

space, and other challenges."

Mixner's major efforts have focused on the enhancement of physical facilities, including the Ogle Center, Life Science Building expansion, and the new Library building. He has also worked on improvements in the budgeting

process. "I feel fortunate to have worked at IUS. It is a great university with great people, students, faculty, and staff," Mixner said.

"Chancellor F.C. Richardson has provided exceptional leadership and is responsible for many of the gains made by IUS

in recent years. He has also been a great mentor and friend."

As vice chancellor for Administrative Affairs, one of Mixner's duties is to report to the Chancellor.

"Mark has done an outstanding job for IUS since I have been here. I believe his leadership and management have enabled us to achieve the most from the resources available to us," Chancellor F.C. Richardson said.

"I have been very pleased by his performance in every respect. While I am sad that IUS is losing him, I wish him well in his new position with West Chester University."

As of this time, the new position of vice chancellor for Administrative Affairs has not been filled. Active recruitment is said to start after the new chancellor is named.