

## University Club Puts Out Welcome Mat for Women

By BILL STERNBERG

Breaking with 88 years of tradition, members of the University Club voted Thursday night to permit women to join the private downtown organization.

According to Club President Ralph A. Sieve, the vote was 160 (72 percent) in favor and 61 (28 percent) opposed. A two-thirds vote was needed to change the by-laws to allow women to become members.

The vote was taken by signed paper ballot after about 75 minutes of debate behind closed doors. Descriptions of the debate ranged from "heated and emotional" to "pretty cool."

The vote followed months of controversy about the club's long-standing men-only policy. The Onondaga County Bar Association



Schwartz

voted in November to stop holding functions at the club until restrictions against women were changed.

Last year, club members rejected a proposal to let women in by a vote of approximately 65 to 55.

"I think people got used to the idea, and it was presented in a better way this year," explained Irving W. Schwartz, a past club president and one of the prime backers of the policy change.

"It's something that should have been done a long time ago," Schwartz added.

Other club leaders also expressed pleasure at the outcome of Thursday night's vote.

"I'm extremely pleased," Sieve commented. "In this day and age for a true university club to have a restriction against women is ridiculous."

The club president said he would have resigned his post had the policy change been defeated. "I'm very happy about it," Emerson W. Underwood, chair-

man of the club's membership committee, said of the vote. "I think it's a step in the right direction for the future growth of this club."

Older club members, who generally opposed the change, reacted skeptically.

"I don't think it's going to make one bit of difference," said David B. Salmon, a member for 38 years. "At the end of three years, there won't be more than three women members...I don't think they have been lining up at the door."

The University Club, housed in a 64-year-old Georgian mansion at 431 E. Fayette St., was founded as a men's lecture group in 1892.

Left unclear by Thursday's vote was the future of rules concerning the use of the facility by women. For example, women currently cannot use the main dining room between noon and 2 p.m.

Sieve said this will be taken up by the House Committee and

he expects "it will probably become the members' dining room."

Other remaining issues involve how to make the University Club's locker room, steam bath, squash courts and dormitory rooms available to members of both sexes.

Part of the reason club members approved the change is economic. Although it has 748 members, the club ran a \$6,000 deficit during its last fiscal year, and officers hope the new policy will help attract more members.

Underwood said he expects four or five women may soon be proposed for membership, and the board of directors would vote in March whether to let them in.

Club officials said they do not expect any members to quit the University Club now that it has gone co-ed.



Underwood

## NM Disputes PSC Reasons

By JIM SKEES

OSWEGO — Defective welds in the biological shield wall at the Nine Mile Point 2 nuclear power plant are only one of the many reasons for a two-year delay in its completion, Niagara Mohawk said Thursday.

Responding to a statement made Wednesday by the Public Service Commission, utility spokesman Bob Burch said, "The bio-shield is an important element, but it is not the only or most critical element" standing in the way of the problem-plagued plant's completion.

PSC spokesman Francis Rivett said Wednesday that the commission's staff had determined that the shield wall problem was the "key element" in Niagara Mohawk's recent announcement that the pace of construction at Nine Mile Point 2 would be slowed and its final completion pushed back from 1984 to 1986. As part of the slowdown, Niagara Mohawk has laid off more than 1,750 workers at the construction site since early December.

The PSC's explanation for the Nine Mile Point 2 slowdown differed from that given last week by Niagara Mohawk.

The utility listed continuing "regulatory uncertainties" as a result of the Three Mile Island accident in Pennsylvania and design questions raised by the discovery of fractures in the bedrock underlying the new plant as the main factors in its decision.

Burch said Thursday that the biological shield wall, part of the large dome-shaped containment structure which will surround the plant's reactor, is in the "critical path" as far as completion of the plant is concerned.

Burch said the defective welds found last year when sections of the wall were being assembled must be repaired before the plant can go into operation. However, he said the 350 construction workers still employed at Nine Mile Point 2 can do many other things during the balance of 1980 while the shield wall is being repaired.

According to Burch, the biological shield wall problem was only one of some 15 reasons for the slowdown cited by Ni-

agara Mohawk officials during meetings with the PSC in recent months.

He said the PSC certainly has the right to its own opinion about the main reason for the slowdown. "But we still think the bio-shield is only one of the things we're looking at," he said. "During 1980, we don't consider it a primary factor."

During its meeting Wednesday, the PSC authorized a formal audit of the Nine Mile Point 2 project. Rivett said the audit is designed to make sure that Niagara Mohawk won't run into more cost and quality control problems and that its remaining construction schedule and expenditure goals reflect realistic estimates.

"We don't look unfavorably on (the PSC audit)," Burch said. "They have some valid points that will help us hold down costs." He said similar audits have been carried out at other power plant projects and have often proved beneficial.

When Niagara Mohawk referred to "regulatory uncertainties" in its announcement of 650 layoffs last week, it said it was talking about new design requirements and other changes which the Nuclear Regulatory Commission might specify in connection with the Three Mile Island accident.

However, one NRC official later said that most of the post-Three Mile Island "hardware changes" have already been specified in two documents published by his agency. They are the "TMI-2 Lessons Learned Task Force Status Report and Short-term Recommendations," published last July, and the "TMI-2 Lessons Learned Task Force Final Report," published last October.

"Those are basically the most substantial things that will come out," the NRC's Dave Verralli said.

Despite Verralli's assertion to the contrary, Burch said Niagara Mohawk and many other utilities believe the NRC is far from being finished with Three Mile Island.

"It may very well be true, but I find that hard to believe," Burch said. "I certainly wouldn't want to bet on it."



### On Fighting a Fire

Each fire department member has an appointed task when responding to a call and Thursday's noontime blaze at 119 Bishop Ave., off West Colvin St., provided photographer Glen Ellman with the opportunity to capture some of Syracuse's fire brigade doing their jobs. At top, Fire-fighter John "Danny" Milicich, chopping holes in the house to vent the fire, gasps for air after the oxygen in his tank was exhausted. Deputy Fire Chief Paul Reeves and Fire Chief Thomas Hanlon (right) are busy discussing the best methods to employ at the scene. At bottom, high-pressure hoses pour water into the attic of the still-smoldering two-family house. Fire officials believe the fire started at about noon when a child was playing with matches in a first-floor closet. The blaze did extensive damage to both floors of the house and left at least four people homeless.



## New MH Committee Faces 3 Problems

By DON LAWLESS

County Legislature Chairman Nicholas J. Pirro Thursday said he would waste no time in dropping three politically sensitive and potentially explosive issues into the lap of the newly formed Mental Health Committee.

Pirro Thursday named County Legislator Doris Chertow, D-19th District, to chair the standing committee. The new committee is only the second standing committee created by the legislature in more than two decades.

Serving with Mrs. Chertow will be Republican Majority Leader Betty Christen, R-1st District, who will be vice chairman; Harold Brown, D-9th District; Terry Pickard, R-10th District; Mrs. Caryl Frawley, D-2nd District; David J. Holihan, D-20th District; Clarence Dunham, D-23rd District; James Torrey III, R-22nd District and Kenneth Bush, R-13th District.

"This committee already has its job cut out for them," Pirro noted.

He said the state's policy of returning mental patients to the community was causing a more rapid influx into the area than local services could accommodate. The result, he said, were that some of the persons de-institutionalized were ending up in the Public Safety Building Jail or area nursing homes that were ill-prepared to deal with them.

"This is a very gray area. These people are not returnable to the state because they don't require full institutionalization and yet they can't function normally completely on their own," Pirro explained.

In a related issue, the new committee will have to deal with anticipated cut-backs in state aid for mental health programs at a time when the demand for program services is growing, Pirro explained.

"We have already seen the Board of Cooperative Educational Services drug education program will be cut (in the state's new budget) and other programs will be affected as well," Pirro said.

Thirdly, Pirro noted, the new committee will have to closely monitor the Brick House drug abuse program that was formed late in 1979 following the collapse of Reachout as a viable program in the opinion of state and county officials.

The Brick House program is eyed suspiciously by the Black community because of its previously limited contact with minority drug abusers. Brick House officials have said they will begin a satellite drug abuse program to deal with minority drug abusers.

Pirro said the committee would also be involved in the continuing controversy surrounding the location of group homes for retarded within the community.

"I am hopeful the committee will be able to help out in such a way that these things (group homes) won't be so controversial. It's been my experience that when people understand what is happening issues don't become so controversial," Pirro said.

In related action, Pirro said he would recommend implementing a transfer of the supervision of the county's Van Duyn Home and Hospital from the Social Services Committee to the Health Committee. Pirro said the transfer was recommended by the legislature's former counsel Minna Buck and Lisle Bozeman, the former budget analyst.

Pirro said that while Van Duyn is operated through the county Social Services Department, the operations are really a health function.

## New Managers Urged for Mall

By DOROTHY NEWER

A corporate arm of the state Urban Development Corp. proposed new management for Syracuse Mall Thursday.

The Mortgage Loan Enforcement and Administration Corp., a subsidiary of UDC, recommended that Longley-Jones Associates Inc., a Syracuse real estate and property management firm, administer the currently unprofitable downtown mall.

UDC took over the mall after the department store which occupied it went bankrupt.

The recommendation was made at a Mortgage Loan board meeting in New York City.

The three-level retail shopping mall, reported to be running in the red to the tune of \$150,000 annually, currently is being managed by Sutton Real Estate Co. of Syracuse.

A second recommendation of the Mortgage Loan board was the selection of Harold Siegelbaum Co. Inc., a New York City management firm, to make a marketing study and long-time plan for the future of the Syracuse Mall.

The final decisions and actions on the recommendations rest with the UDC board. The board is scheduled to meet Feb. 28 but a UDC spokesperson, Nancy

Amiel, said efforts are being made to move this meeting up to an earlier date.

The recommendation of Longley-Jones for Syracuse Mall management, she said, was based on the local firm's record of having managed more than 100 profitable projects.

The management firm would be paid 4.5 percent of the mall's gross monthly income which, she explained, would serve as an incentive for improving performance.

The Siegelbaum firm would be paid a flat rate of \$7,500 plus expenses incurred in the course of its study. The Downstate firm, she explained, is a specialist in finding solutions for financially troubled companies and projects.

Speaking of the two restaurants that operated on the mall's second and third levels until they were abruptly closed on Dec. 28, Miss Amiel said she was hopeful that within the next ten days UDC would reach agreement with a reliable restaurant operator on reopening.

The closing of the popular eating places stemmed from UDC's refusal to permit the leases for these operations to be transferred from their owner, Cherry Valley Restaurants Inc., to Sakura Foods because of alleged non-payment of back rent by Cherry Valley.

## Low-key Native Son Pipes Reagan's Campaign Tune

By MARK HASS

The inevitable question about 69-year-old Ronald Reagan's age came up again, and although Reagan campaign chief John P. Sears has in past months probably fielded that query more than any other, he lost a bit of his usual staid composure.

His hands shook as he answered it. Later, there was a question about his handling of the recent Iowa caucuses, which ended with Sears' man finishing a disappointing number two to former dark horse George Bush. Again his hands shook.

Maybe it was simply because Thursday had been a long day for the 40-year-old Baldwinville native who, for the second time in four years, is orchestrating the national Reagan for president campaign.

His stop in Syracuse to push local Reagan-pledged candidates for delegates to the Republican Convention was his third of the day. Manhattan had been visited and then Albany. His face was a bit haggard.

"I might like to say the state of New York, which in national politics often has received sort of short shrift from the Republican side over the last 20 years, I think is going to be very crucial in 1980," Sears said.

The pronouncement was well-rehearsed. But Sears' swing through Syracuse did point out the importance of Central New York to the Reagan campaign for delegates to the national nominating convention.

"Syracuse, of course, has to go heavily Republican in order for us to carry the state. So I would expect you'd be seeing quite a bit of us," Sears said, predicting a March visit to Syracuse by the candidate.

The Reagan strategy in New York, he said, includes supporting delegate slates in the state's March 25 primary in 22 of the state's 39 Congressional districts. Among them are those in the Syracuse area.

Reagan is the only Republican con-

tender for president who is going against the demands of state Republican Chairman Bernard Kibbourn, who warned the candidates to stay out of the state and leave the field to the organization's own "united and uncommitted" delegates.

That strategy is a complete turn-about from the one Sears employed four years ago, when he kept Reagan out of primaries in the vote-rich Northeastern states and came up short at the 1976 convention. Many critics faulted Sears for trying to win New York's votes in the smoke-filled rooms instead of at the polling places.

The reserved, almost shy Sears has been described as a skilled political mechanic, who in the back-slapping world of politics has remained a low-keyed operative. It is said he prefers to use his lawyer's training to move people gently to a position they previously resisted instead of employing flamboyance.

A former top aide to Richard Nixon's

1968 presidential campaign, Sears was eased out of the White House by Nixon's triumphant Oval Office — John Mitchell, H.R. Haldeman and John Ehrlichman — because he was perceived as being too moderate.

It was later revealed he was among 13 former White House staff members who had their phones tapped between May 1969 and February 1971 on orders of the administration.

Bouncing back in 1976 to head the Reagan presidential campaign, he brought the former movie actor to within a handful of votes of unseating an incumbent president — Gerald Ford — for the Republican nomination.

Born July 3, 1940, on a fairly prosperous dairy farm near Baldwinville, Sears gained his Republicanism from his father, who traced family roots back to the earliest North American settlers.

After graduating from the Christian

Brothers Academy here, Sears went on to Notre Dame to study chemistry in preparation for a psychology career. But in his last year at Notre Dame, he managed a friend's successful campaign for senior class president and has never really left the political world since.

An Irish wunderkind of sorts, he graduated from Georgetown Law School at age 21 and has been described as one of the Republican Party's finest young organizers and campaigners.

With the important New Hampshire primary nearly at hand, Sears is a man with politics on his mind. But what does a John P. Sears do after all the races are over?

"Well, I don't know," he said, breaking into laughter for the first time during the half-hour press conference. "I practice law. I can go back and do that. But I don't know. I was never one to think beyond the next race."



JOHN P. SEARS