

Menke's administration was the period when students came of age. He was one of the first to begin student participation in institutional matters. As early as 1967, Ambrose students were appointed to various academic and administrative committees of the College. When he left office, the president of the Student Government Association had become a non-voting member of the St. Ambrose board of directors. It was Menke who recommended that the board of directors allow a club bar to be opened on the campus when the drinking age in Iowa was reduced to 19 years. He would always insist that students should be given rights, along with the realization of the accompanying responsibilities.

It was Menke who converted the College to a coeducational system. During his administration, the size of the library was doubled. He reinstated the Bachelor of Science degree. He was among the first to inaugurate an educational program for under-privileged students. He expanded degree offerings to include a whole host of new majors. He directed a \$6,000,000 development drive that resulted in the erection of Hayes Hall, South Hall, and the new Fine Arts and Communications Center. During his administration the budget was increased approximately 75 percent. He instituted the business management education series and extended the physical education facilities. These were no mean achievements for a presidency of only nine years.

While all the strife and misery of the merger was going on there were some good things happening on campus as well. The auditorium in the new Fine Arts Building was opened on May 15th with a special concert by Helen Vanni. This was in 1971. That same year, Margaret Tiedemann, then secretary and assistant to the president of W. C. Block Corporation, Davenport, became the first woman member of the board of directors of St. Ambrose College.

In September of 1972 the pub opened. It was one of the first of its kind. The Iowa laws regulating consumption of liquor had reduced the legal age from 21 to 19 and then in July of 1972 to 18 years of age. Insignior Menke managed to get the board of directors to consent to opening a private club on the campus to serve beer and alcoholic beverages.

The arguments from the disciplinary point of view were compelling. The students who were likely to go out to bars and smash windows on the way home would now be able to drink in a controlled situation where, presumably, they would be kept from

having too much, and they would not have as far to go home. It was also thought that it would be a place where faculty and students could meet in a less formal atmosphere than the classroom. The whole thing would somehow operate under the joint sponsorship of the Student Government Association and the food service, and everything would be overseen by the administration.

The quarters were somewhat dingy. It was located in the far room of the Student Center. This room, the former snack bar, the Beehive, had always been poorly-lit, and the ventilation was bad. It remained so. It also remained the snack bar until 4 p.m., when it was magically turned into the pub. Membership cards were required. They were only priced 50 cents or so and anyone associated with the College might purchase one. For the most part it worked out well. There have been squabbles from time to time, there have been unfortunate occurrences from time to time, but by and large, it was one of the earliest and most successful experiments of this sort at any college in the country.

The first year of the pub, which came to be known officially as "The Last Class," brought another milestone. Originally, the prices had been set by the Student Government Association in consultation with the food service. They began by charging 65 cents for Manhattans and martinis. The faculty informed the Student Government Association that the price was too high. The Student Government lowered the price to 55 cents. It was the only time within the memory of living man that the Student Government Association had ever done, willingly, what the faculty asked it to do.

It was 91 years to the day from the foundation of the College, September 5, 1973, when William J. Bakrow assumed his duties as the 11th president of St. Ambrose. It was the first time that the office had not been occupied by a priest of the Diocese of Davenport. There was none who was ready or willing.

The board started the selection process with a presidential search committee composed of faculty, administration and students. They had begun receiving applications - there were 154 of them - as early as February. Seven applicants were interviewed, and Bakrow was the final selection. He brought with him an impressive list of credentials.

At the time of his installation, Bakrow was 49 years old. He had been born in Kansas, but, as he himself puts it, conceived a desire - at the ripe age of one month - to move to Rochester, New York,