Part Three: 1967-1977
Presidents Keiser (1978), Barnes (1967), and Chaffee (1936) during Fiftieth Anniversary, 1982.

Boise State University Archives
9. Transition: Barnes Succeeds Chaffee

Following procedures that were customary at the time, the trustees did not identify the twelve presidential candidates for the press. The Statesman and Roundup were not informed until Arizona Western's President John Barnes accepted the position. After he resigned ten years later, the mandatory publicized selection process was shared with the media. However, affirmative action edicts were still around the corner when Barnes was interviewed during Gottenberg's interim presidency.

With the college since 1947, sixty-year-old Willis Gottenberg, a North Dakotan with a University of Montana masters degree in education, told the press in March that the trustees had met with three of the twelve applicants. Unnecessarily reminded Chaffee's retirement would be effective the first day of July, Gottenberg blamed the delay in choosing a successor upon BJC's uncertain future. Candidates wanted assurance that it would become a state institution.

Republican Senator Sam Kaufman of Boise had declared in January, "This college is not going away, and it cannot be swept under the rug." It was performing a great service, Kaufman told his colleagues, relieving pressure on Moscow and Pocatello. Three months passed, however, before the legislators approved the annexation bill (sponsored by Ferd Koch) one day after the Statesman announced, on March 28, the appointment of John Barnes.

Robert Overstreet told the press Barnes had been selected because of his success in developing an accredited sixteen-building college on eighty acres of desert land near Yuma. Local sports fans had recently become acquainted with his Arizona Western College while the basketball team was in town, cheering when Yuma's Matadors were narrowly defeated by the Broncos in a "real stemwinder" during the National Junior College Athletic conference playoffs early in March, 1967. The next evening the Matadors topped Spokane Community College. A few days later the first place Broncos flew to Hutchinson, Kansas, where they were over-shot by rangy youths from Powell, Wyoming.\(^1\)

GOTTENBERG'S SEMESTER

Initially interviewed in the Student Union before the Broncos defeated his Matadors, Barnes met with the trustees after the game at the Owyhee Hotel, where Overstreet, Tate, Comstock, Day and McClary offered him a contract. Had Lynn Driscoll been there, as he was in June when Overstreet hosted a reunion for former
trustees, he might have mentioned the game while concluding with a characteristic wink that Barnes was receiving a consolation prize. Agreeing to be on deck by June, Barnes said he would name Gottenberg vice president for special services, the position he held for a few months after a sabbatical leave, before retiring in 1969. However, the spring of 1967 was Gottenberg’s semester, a busy, even trying one for the lame-duck administrator.

Chaffee’s shoes were uncomfortably filled as the legislature debated the annexation of the college into the state system. Considerably more carefree, students crowded into the original 1942 Student Union that spring, where they perpetuated extracurricular activities that had become traditional. Thereafter, the cornerstone of the million dollar Student Union, started the previous October, was laid by Student Body President Ernest Weber, Gottenberg and the trustees during an April ceremony. Opened in August with a bowling alley, lounges, snack bar and ballroom, it was then one of Boise’s largest buildings.

Gottenberg flew to Lewiston with trustee Tate, business manager Kern and attorney Willis Moffatt to discuss in late April the transition of the college with the State Board of Education. Four days before their departure, Circle K’s husky paddlers won the annual raft race down Boise River after Hui-O-Hawaii’s rubber craft suddenly sprung a gushing leak and the tawny sailors had to swim to shore. Tau Alpha Phi’s hobo march for scholarship funds was followed by “Bernie Fisher Day,” recognizing the Vietnam heroics of this Air Force graduate of the class of 1949, who had recently received the Congressional Medal of Honor.

The hilarious Flintstone “formal” dance in “Bedrock City” (gymnasium) was sponsored by the GI Esquires, who raised the flags each morning, and solicited...
money for a mall surrounding a fountain and pool in front of the library, dedicated to the memory of alumni who had given their lives for their country. Shakespeare's "King Lear" was attracting an appreciative audience that spring, when Gottenberg crowned petite Diane Norris "Miss Boise College." ²

Some boys preferred jackets and ties, and girls generally wore nylons beneath knee-length skirts or dresses, while their professors resembled professional or business people downtown. Visitors from San Francisco, where young people were "leaving the straight life behind," found the appearance of Boise College students similar to those enrolled during the 1950s. The "generation gap" was hardly noticeable. "Hippies," tolerated by most students, were despised by their parents who associated long hair with drug use and crash pads. Several Idaho high schools suspended boys unwilling to shorten their hair. Meanwhile, fathers were still wearing crew cuts, as was John Barnes when he arrived. There was no Haight-Ashbury district in Boise. Thus, youths imitating their San Francisco peers were conspicuous. Harrassed by police, two or three "new generation" partisans were arrested for displaying peace symbols colored like Union Pacific's billboard signs.

While addressing a local Lions Club, following a pledge to the flag, Gottenberg was asked to state his obvious position regarding Vietnam protestors and other demonstrators. Responding without hesitation the acting president clipped, "We have been able to keep the trash element off our campus." Like many conservative educators, Boise officials had taken a "nip it in the bud" stance when riotous parrying became associated with the free speech movement at Berkeley in 1964. After a married student on The Roundup staff asked several professors to consider advising a proposed Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) chapter, Gottenberg told the Lions he "looked it up" and found that the SDS was affiliated with the Communist Party. That was enough for most of his listeners; they understood why the organizer was not registered spring semester.

Historian Frederick Kellogg, who interviewed the crew-cut student wearing dark-rimmed glasses, concluded there was no immediate need to approve the formation of an SDS group, since faculty and students were apparently not interested. On the other hand, if five or more individuals collaborated, Kellogg recommended recognition of the organization "in order to supervise its activities." An underground SDS might become far more troublesome.

The SDS and the student who tried to establish a chapter were not without a few sympathizers, who were unaware that there had been a little-known protest group downtown. Years earlier the shadowy Boise branch of the Communist Party, U.S.A. published a three-page newsletter, The People's Front, which was short-lived. However, the group's slogan "Let's Fight for Peace" echoed all over the country as Lyndon Johnson heightened the war in Vietnam.

Sam Day, publishing English major Alan Schwartz's defense of the SDS in his Idaho Observer, said this 1960 graduate of Caldwell High School had decided not to return spring semester because he was convinced "authorities wouldn't let him sign up if he wanted to." Gottenberg, according to the Observer, claiming that he had done all that he could do to straighten out the young man, had recently welcomed a branch of the conservative political action society, Young Americans for Freedom. ³

When he addressed another service club, several members comfortably seated at their luncheon tables considered Gottenberg far-sighted. Other listeners thought he was out in left field when he said graduate courses would one day be offered at Boise College, because of the community's need for them. He was right. He was also correct when he said that with the completion of the Student Union and Chaffee Hall, no additional buildings would be erected for several years because voters,
uncertain of the college's future, were not apt to approve a bond issue. If the school was integrated into the state system, there would be no construction for awhile, Gottenberg predicted, since so many agencies were trying to tap Idaho's Permanent Building Fund. Thus, the Business Building completed in 1970 was financed with student fee revenue bonds. Money for a Health Center and a four-story addition to the library was not allotted until about a year later.

Most of the people acquainted with Gottenberg for a large part of the twenty years he spent at the college, expected him to continue the policies and practices of the past. One coed, frustrated with the rules for women, wrote a letter to the editor of the Statesman, saying the dress regulations were outdated. "Have we progressed from BJC to BC, or to a glorified high school with ash trays?" she asked. Rules would be modified, still few changes had been made when Moscow's president Ernest Hartung, the commencement speaker in May, addressed anti-intellectualism and the need to expand one's horizons.

Chaffee, returning a week or so later, sent Gottenberg a congratulatory letter in June, paying tribute to him for his service as a teacher, advisor to the student body officers and foreign students, director of public relations, vice president since 1956, and acting president the past six months. Their friendship continued through Gottenberg's illness and retirement, until his death in March, 1971. Among those who joined Chaffee in eulogizing him were retired trustee Robert Overstreet, former Governor Smylie who had signed the four-year bill, and President John Barnes.4
Exhausted before his European tour, Chaffee was rejuvenated when he and Lois sailed out of Liverpool in May, 1967, with their Swedish car stowed down below. Disembarking in Montreal, they drove to Boise, where Chaffee began what he considered to be his duties as Chancellor of Boise College. There were no local precedents to follow since the position was created for him, and his obligations were not clearly defined. Provided a downtown office some ten or twelve blocks from campus, Chaffee forecast enrollment growth while writing a history of the college, tasks for which he was eminently prepared. The unknown factor was the nature of the relationship between the chancellor and the president.

"A new broom sweeps clean" when wielded by two hands rather than four, and misunderstandings of consequence did not surface. However, several "old guard" faculty felt Barnes neglected Chaffee, who without pointing to his successor confessed in his book, An Idea Grows, "unfortunately, the duties... of Chancellor have not been followed to the degree contemplated." Expecting to be primarily an advisor to both the Board and Barnes, Chaffee prepared enrollment and salary studies instead, and his advice was not sought in either academic or plant development matters. The transfer from district to state funding required deliberation with two trustee boards, not the chancellor, and the Barnes presidency was another ball game with fresh rules, wherein ripened referees no longer decided the outcome.5

President of Yuma's emerging college for five years, Barnes had gained the sort of experience needed at Boise, the trustees were convinced and Barnes seemed confident. Soon after his wife, Shirley, and their two young daughters were comfortably settled on Norcrest Drive, Barnes told the Statesman he intended to be present at appropriate State Board of Education meetings, while working with the Boise College trustees, as was expected. In Yuma he had one set of bosses, at Boise, two from June, 1967, until January, 1969, when the State Board became solely responsible for the college. His relationship with the local trustees necessarily continued for many months because district bond issues were not yet retired. Thereafter, one or two regents complained privately that Barnes was "too close to the JC board," for two or three years after the college became a state institution.

Since they all lived in or near the city, while most of the State Board people resided outside of the region, Barnes saw local trustees frequently; James McClary, for example, who had supervised Morrison-Knudsen construction in Yuma, and irrigation works over the border in Mexico some years earlier. McClary had called a Yuma friend when Barnes applied, and he was told the trustees should hire him if Barnes was interested in Boise.

Five years had passed since Barnes, enjoying his full professorship at age thirty-six in Tempe, had applied for the presidency at warm and arid Yuma. Arizona Western was the state's first new institution of higher learning in approximately thirty years. Now five years later, with the college accredited and the campus quite complete, Barnes was ready for another challenge. Following the advice of a friend, he had his credentials sent to Boise. The trustees, considering McClary's recommendation while reviewing Barnes' experience and publications, decided to offer him the presidency. During the interview, Barnes, who had never been to Boise before, told the trustees the two-year community-oriented curriculum should be retained, while expanding upper-division baccalaureate studies. The next step, as Gottenberg was saying at the time, might be graduate courses for public school teachers and professional people.6
Barnes did not fully understand in March, 1967, that Chaffee expected to be an active chancellor after his retirement from the presidency in July, one reason his anticipated duties were never assigned. Barnes considered the chancellorship honorary; for Chaffee it was an opportunity to share his expertise and assist with future planning. After both men were settled in their offices on campus and downtown, Barnes called on Chaffee "socially," since the Board had agreed that he should not be directly involved in administrative affairs. This was obviously the relationship by fall, and Chaffee devoted much of his time to the administrative history of the institution from its founding by Barnwell in 1932, through his own years. The study was published in 1970 by BJC's friend of many years, Walter York.

Accommodating Chaffee's research and writing, while not seeking his advice in administrative matters, John Barnes felt that there was little need to call upon his predecessor, except for amicability. A resolute individual, he had overcome serious teenage sight and hearing problems, inflicted by burns and a concussion when a nearby airplane exploded. Born in Texarkana, Texas in 1924, Barnes was seventeen when he suffered gasoline burns on his face and hands. Unable to read, he was assisted at high school, graduating at age nineteen.

After recovering his sight adequately several years later, Barnes enrolled at the University of Denver, earning a sociology degree in 1949, and a masters in speech and education a year later. Named dean of Adult Education at a northern Wyoming community college, Barnes completed his doctorate at Laramie in 1955. Thereafter, he spent two years in Illinois and ten in Arizona before he met the summer school staff in Boise. With almost two thousand students enrolled, the 1967 session was thirty-five percent larger than the previous year.

The campus was as peaceful as the communities throughout the valley, when rioting erupted in nearly seventy cities across the nation. It was the "Love Summer" for the thousands of "flower children" in San Francisco, who had congregated there before Native Americans occupied the abandoned federal prison on Alcatraz out in the Bay. The southern California protests of Cesar Chavez's union, the National Farm Workers Association, reached Boise through boycotts on lettuce and grapes. Meanwhile, Martin Luther King, Jr. was staging demonstrations to mobilize support for a national open-housing bill. His tragic death in Memphis was less than a year away.

Lyndon Johnson's Great Society had raised minority expectations while his war in Vietnam emptied the federal treasury. In Boise, senior class president Jim Cockrell felt about half of his peers were "peace-time veterans" frustrated with the way the war was going. Some students thought Arizona's Barry Goldwater would have brought an end to both the war and the draft had he defeated Johnson in 1964, as he did in a mock election held that October. Now, three years later, hawkish students
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scheduled Goldwater's appearance in September, and General Maxwell Taylor in October during Barnes' first semester.

Several days after he arrived in June, Barnes told the trustees, who had firmed up a three million dollar budget for the next fiscal year, that he found Boise College to be "a fine school, and my job is to make it a better one." Gordon Phillips, Dwane Kern's aide since 1964, was now the assistant business manager and purchasing agent, while Herbert Runner, whose wife Sally taught at BJC before their marriage, was named administrative assistant to Dean Chatburn.

Interviewed by the press toward the end of his first month, Barnes said graduate classes should be developed "very soon," to meet the needs of teachers and business people who wanted masters degrees, and the vocational-technical program should be expanded. Topping his priority list was the growth of library holdings, while strengthening the upper-division curriculum. Expecting over six thousand students by 1968, and nearly double that in ten years, Barnes cited the critical shortage of library books and classroom space that could only be alleviated by accelerated and continuous development programs.7

Barnes had decided in Yuma that "you don't bring a briefcase full of ideas to the office of your predecessor," thus he spent much of the summer surveying and analyzing the region and state, while tapping the "best minds" for advice on financing curricula growth, library expansion and campus structures. The members of the Chamber of Commerce who introduced Barnes throughout the valley learned that there was a meeting of the minds; the college should ultimately serve the entire state.

In his initial meeting with the Administrative Council, formed by Chaffee some years earlier (Gottenberg, Chatburn, Kern and Alfred McCauslin, Dean of Student Personnel Services since 1966), Barnes called for the preparation of a long-range planning document which would be submitted to the local trustees before it was presented to the State Board. This master plan outlined in July called for enrollment projections, Chaffee's task. A space utilization study was assigned to Chatburn. During the months that followed, it was decided that priority construction should be a classroom and office building, enlargement of vocational-technical facilities, the replacement of the outmoded stadium and a humanities building. All were completed during the next four years except the latter, a structure designed specifically for languages, literature, philosophy and fine arts.

Responsibility for buildings and grounds was transferred from Gottenberg to Kern and a retired colonel, Herbert Mengel, was named director, the post later held by A.E. McGinnis. Important for Gottenberg would be the supervision of vocational-technical education until a full-time chairman could be employed, as Charles Rostrom was the following spring. Chatburn, busy with summer school, and several colleagues were asked to devise an innovative program that eventually led to three seminar sessions held between October, 1968, and March, 1969, with a number of outside educators participating.

Convinced that the administrative structure must be altered before it became a state school, Barnes instituted a survey of twenty-four western colleges, the purpose being to identify those features which might be appropriate in Boise. This inquiry influenced the decision to recommend to the Board the formation of six divisions (later called schools), Business and Economics, Humanities, Life Sciences, Education, Social Sciences and Vocational-Technical. This was Barnes' intent when he greeted faculty at the beginning of the fall, 1967, semester when about five thousand students filled classrooms from early morning until late in the evening.8

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In a study of the characteristics of state college presidents, the authors found that men such as Barnes were exemplary. His profile was representative of the current generation of presidents, a professional educator holding a doctor's degree with considerable administrative experience. Watching enrollments more than double after 1955, these individuals were familiar with the funding possibilities of the federal government, which in recent years had become a major investor in higher education. The Boise trustees were criticizing federal aid, and the power control that came with it before Barnes arrived, proclaiming they would not be "snowed by the magnanimous gesture of more for nothing," while admitting that each government program should be examined on its merits. Fortunately, they left the door open. Barnes expected to participate as federal aid became increasingly important to scholars and the people in charge of their colleges.

Writing during the fall of 1967, Herbert Simon, a Carnegie Institute of Technology professor concluded that educators who wished to be comfortable and well-liked should not seek a college presidency. An administrator with responsibilities and challenges similar to government officials and business executives, presidents had five primary duties, three of which were raising money, balancing their institution's budget, and setting goals in partnership with trustees, faculty and community. At the same time a stimulating learning environment must be sustained, while realizing that some faculty and many students considered the term "administration," although not a four-letter word, a dirty one. In order to produce an appropriate environment he had to master recruiting techniques, attracting high quality, dedicated professors holding terminal degrees. The learning process must be exciting and rewarding for both pedagogue and learner, and the former should be aggressive regarding their salaries as well as the growth of the library.

Acquainted with most of the summer school instructors, Barnes was satisfied with the caliber of the returning faculty he met that fall. For a variety of reasons the college had been able to attract capable people. The recruitment of professors with doctorates, emphasized before his arrival, was illustrated when Barnes met with the faculty in September. During his address he called the institution's thirty-fifth anniversary a "year of opportunity." A "pluralism of ideas" would be sought from faculty, administrators and students, the intention being the creation of a fresh and exciting collegiate atmosphere. Interaction was requested in planning and achieving goals, with ideas freely criticized without "washing dirty linen" on Capitol Boulevard.

Referring to the master plan discussed during the summer, Barnes invited faculty to take a hard look at financial matters, curriculum growth and building needs, while comprehending the institution's character. Colleges live and grow or die in the Darwinian manner, this Arizona desert refugee believed. "The fittest . . . survive and develop; those that fail in either function or style generally fade away in the minds of the general public." Barnes readily acknowledged no individual in academia could single-handedly manage every aspect of a mature college. The president, more than a coordinator since he ultimately made decisions, must draw upon the wisdom, experience and opinions of many people, while delegating authority and utilizing the skills of experienced people. If administrators possessed wisdom, they generally gained it by listening to faculty and students.

Drawing upon the observations of a friend who had presided over a college for twenty years, Barnes concluded that a president should possess "the innocence of a lamb, wisdom of an owl, cheerfulness of a cricket, complacency of a camel, the
adaptable of a chameleon, diligence of a beaver, an eagle's vision, the patience of an
ox, strength of a lion, and nerves of a cow.” Continuing, self-assured, crew-cut
Barnes, reading through thick glasses, lightheartedly concluded that presidents also
needed the stomach of a boa constrictor, the skin of a rhinoceros, brass of a monkey
and charm of a deer. Receiving this advice from a colleague with two decades of
experience, Barnes said he felt like breaking his Yuma contract and return to teaching
before agreeing to come to Boise. However, with the challenging Arizona experience
behind him, he now looked forward to guiding the growth of this rapidly developing
school. He would be communicator, while defending academic freedom and seeking
the assistance of numerous individuals, particularly faculty who had been with the
institution many years. Rather than look to the past, they should “turn a page,” as
they devised ways to strengthen the college during the years ahead.9

YEAR OF CHANGE

Named Executive Vice President, Richard Bullington frequently met with the deans
of the three schools (not six as Barnes intended), Joseph Spulnik in Arts and
Sciences, Robert Rose of the School of Business and Public Administration,
Education's Gerald Wallace, and the vocational director. With Barnes they agreed,
“the college on the grow” (a phrase used in his Roundup message) welcomed students
with open minds who liked to think not in slogans but in concepts. It was hoped this
model characterized career as well as academic learners and the athletes among them.

Richard Bullington (L. front) with Joseph Spulnik, William Shankweiler, Donald Obee, Robert Rose, Gerald
Wallace, and John Caylor. Boise State University Archives

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Surrounded by eighteen pigskin varsity lettermen, largely Idahoans, fullback Jim Evenson and tackle Jim Mahan made the fall games memorable. The season brought to a close competition with Ricks in Idaho, Dixie and Snow in Utah, Yakima in Washington, Taft in California and other National Junior College Athletic Association participants. The successful basketball Broncos also played their final games with these schools, as the coaches began gearing up for membership in the Big Sky Conference.

No longer head football coach, Lyle Smith became athletic director when Tony Knap, formerly with the college in Logan, Utah, and a Canadian professional team arrived. Satterfield, assisted by Doran Conner, continued with the basketball team. That fall Governor Don Samuelson and Mayor Jay Amyx proclaimed “Lyle Smith Day,” recognizing his 158 wins and twenty-five losses in twenty-one seasons. Although the Ricks College Vikings had garnered their first football victory over Boise in twenty-one attempts, and San Diego City College trounced them, the Broncos were ready for Big Sky competition a couple of years later.

New faculty among the less than two hundred were introduced to the traditional annual retreat at the YMCA camp near McCall a few days before classes began. About two weeks after the outing Senator Barry Goldwater made his appearance, telling the crowd numbering well over a thousand that he ignored the extremists on the right because what they advocated could not be achieved, but the people on the left who were expounding misleading beliefs were cause for concern. Asked to comment on the upcoming presidential campaign, Goldwater said there was quite a bit of talk in California about a Nixon-Reagan ticket.

Maxwell Taylor, next in the Lyceum series, clarified the confusion on Vietnam, The Roundup naively supposed in October. Convinced that the conflict was simply defense against aggression, Taylor believed that the United States should stick it out, and most of his listeners felt much the same way until the Tet Offensive, exposure of
the My Lai massacre, and the capture of the USS Pueblo by North Koreans changed many minds.10

Debating the proposition, "The powers of the President to make foreign policy commitments should be curtailed," Mike Ransom and Eugene Brown, coached by Harvey Pitman, defeated the affirmative Utah State University team. Senator Frank Church agreed with Utah, not Boise's debators, as did Congress eventually. Meanwhile, overt frustration and protest exploded on many campuses as students fled to Canada. Some of those who remained joined the Students for a Democratic Society, which Gottenberg squelched before the march on the Pentagon in October, 1967. Without such a group, Barnes found the student body to be somewhat complacent, perhaps too much so regarding issues that were fostering flagrant demonstrations elsewhere.

The salubrious atmosphere in Boise was not wholly an expression of student apathy, although there were few people on campus or downtown taking issue with the majority. Harry Morrison, whose corporation headed the consortium building airbases, roads, and port facilities in Vietnam, spoke for the community when he repeatedly agreed with Maxwell Taylor; the United States must win the conflict. Faculty were encouraged to read various interpretive works such as Bernard Fall's The Two Vietnams and Chester Bain's Vietnam: The Roots of Conflict. At the same time, there was hardly a handful of outspoken war critics among them or their students.

Escaping disruptive disturbances, the primary administrative concern was the master plan, which included by October a ten million dollar building program, just the tip of the construction iceberg as matters turned out. Academic growth was seemingly overshadowed by vertical concrete and brick expansion, the physical evidence Boiseans noticed; curricular development was less observable. Meanwhile, partisan sectionalism raised its head as Barnes met with the State Board and legislators.

The chairman of the House education committee, whose home was in Kendrick near Moscow, told his interviewer he was convinced Boise's school should have remained a junior college. It was difficult for this legislator and those who had served when the state had one university, to see why another was needed in Pocatello, let alone Boise. Aware of this attitude, Barnes candidly stressed growth in his presentation at the State House, and before the State Board of Education.

Reminding the Board in September, 1967, that the 110-acre campus would soon be crowded, Barnes suggested that the eastern end of Julia Davis Park across the river from campus, given to the city years earlier without restriction, might be considered. But, he quickly added, "There is generally a very emotional tie to any city park," thus to try to appropriate part of it would not be judicious. The only rational direction for growth was to the south between Broadway and Lincoln Street, a residential neighborhood where the college began acquiring houselots as they became available. Property was also purchased to the west, between Campus School and Capitol Boulevard.

The profound changes taking place, designed to put the college on par with the two state universities, were reviewed in a news release "Boise College — Year of Change," and a Statesman editorial, "Boise College Has to Build." Novel on campus, but not in academia, was the student fee method of financing activity structures such as student unions, field houses and stadiums.

After the Union was doubled in size, the Library expanded, the vocational-technical complex extended and the Business Building completed, the Student Senate
ordered plaques installed which read, “This Facility Constructed with Boise State College Student Funds,” without consulting surprised administrators, who wished the last three words had been “Student Revenue Bonds.” For a while the Union, generally called the SUB, was named the College Union Building or CUB until sensitive students successfully lobbied the restoration of the original name.

The “Greening of America” eventually reached Boise, and learners along with their teachers adopted informal attire as knapsacks and calculators replaced brief cases and sliderules. Some faculty were uncomfortable when Homecoming officials pursuing a western theme urged them to wear jeans, but attitudes changed and denim, now so commonplace among collegians, became popular for both men and women.

A leveling process disturbing to some scholars altered campus mores. Faculty, no longer easily identified by their appearance, were generally unhappy when priority parking was abolished along with other amenities. Innovations such as these were not accepted without debate. Still, most faculty were ultimately acquiescent; younger members remembered their own undergraduate days when faculty privileges bothered them. Most professors anticipated reform, and those who were opposed grumbled over their coffee with colleagues of a like mind. Meanwhile, some of them decided to organize.11

A chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) was founded ten years before aggressive faculty affiliated with the American Federation of Teachers. Barnes belonged to the former as did Bullington, who attended the initial meeting. The primary objective sought by AAUP president John Seward, followed by Virgil Young, was State Board recognition of a maximum twelve-hour teaching load, the standard at Moscow and Pocatello. There was a grievance committee and one that examined academic policies. Administrators did not endorse the activists to the satisfaction of everyone involved. However, no one openly opposed the AAUP.

One day when a self-appointed delegation presented Barnes with the personal problems of an associate which had already been brought to his attention, the
boot-clad president suggested they read the AAUP literature on academic freedom. This case was not academic, the complainants were reminded, and administrators must not become involved in the private lives of faculty and students. "We are not the ethical bartender that serves this and that," Barnes retorted.

Freedom of speech became an issue when Pete Seeger, writer and singer of protest songs was invited to campus after Trini Lopez's rock version of his "If I Had a Hammer" sold over a million copies. Hearing about Seeger's visit, some townspeople who considered him a Marxist or socialist objected. Resenting this interference, the president said privately after receiving threatening phone calls at home that for the first time he felt that Boise was too parochial, more conservative than he could possibly be. Other administrators and most students welcomed Seeger to campus. Nevertheless, he performed in the bandshell across the river in Julia Davis Park.

Another illiberal incident began with a telephone call from the Ada County sheriff, who asked Barnes to come to his office. Arriving there he was told, "we have a real problem," as the sheriff held up a "filthy degrading book" bearing the college library call numbers. Flipping through it and agreeing that the book should be removed, Barnes tucked it under his arm and headed for the door when the sheriff insisted on keeping the book "for evidence." Noting that it had not been checked out, Barnes won the debate because the book had apparently been illegally removed. The librarian soon found that the professor who ordered it, misled by the title, had never reviewed the contents. Finding it inappropriate, the offensive book was destroyed without apology to the sheriff, who was known to keep a razor strop on display in his office as a warning to juvenile petty offenders.

Textbook censorship, sometimes debated in the public schools, was not a campus problem as the physical plant developed and the student body increased bringing more families into direct contact with the growing college. Resident evening enrollment in Boise and Mountain Home nearly doubled that school year. There were over six hundred students in twenty-eight classes, and extension courses were offered in other communities throughout the region.

The administration's first year was one of preparation for the visit of the Northwest Association's accreditation team scheduled for September, 1968. Committees gathered data while officials, anticipating criticism of inadequate facilities, compiled a sixty-page building needs document, because, "You can't ask a student to sit on the end of a log." Since achieving candidacy the college had increased library purchases from $55,000 in 1966-1967, to about twice that amount, and the staff was converting the card catalog from the Dewey to the Library of Congress classification system. Meanwhile, administrators were busy ringing the phones of doctoral candidates. Most of the thirty-three faculty positions were filled by the summer of 1968, with people holding that degree.

Recent arrivals found that the Music Department, chaired by Bratt, had sponsored with townspeople the visit of the Utah Symphony to Boise, while conducting a concert tour of neighboring towns. The Meistersingers performed at high schools, and two light operas were semester highlights. A stage was installed in the original Student Union, now called the Music-Drama Annex and this upstairs facility was appropriately dubbed Subal Theater. Some of the one-act plays such as "The Lesson," were given favorable reviews, however, "The Bald Soprano" was received "with mixed emotions," Les Bois admitted. More prominent was the section devoted to the December inauguration of Jonathan Bert Barnes, the third president, "in ceremonies dating back to medieval times."
The formal customary inauguration was a "first" for many of the guests gathered in the Student Union ballroom, the Statesman assumed. Chaffee, who had been thrust into the presidency without ceremony thirty-five years earlier, presented Barnes with the "Boise College Charter," following the address of Robert Clark, president of San Jose State College. Clark, whom Barnes had met at a Harvard seminar, had been selected because of their friendship and the similarities between Boise College and the one Clark served in northern California; a downtown institution with curricula ranging from humanities to applied arts. Representing the faculty, Patricia K. Ourada handed the colorful presidential robe to Chatburn, who draped it around Barnes' shoulders, and Student Body President Ernest Weber gave him the college medallion. Boise State, the Statesman observed after the inaugural, "was the fastest growing educational institution in Idaho." Some people expected it to become a university, as would Clark's school in San Jose.