## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In my message to you in the fall, 1972, *Bulletin*, I reported on some of the problems regarding the future management of the Arboretum, specifically the negotiation of a lease by the University. The original agreement between the city and the University was just exactly that--an agreement of use and not a lease. It is quite understandable that the University would want a long-term legal indication of security before they could proceed with either buildings or program.

At the Legislative Budget Committee hearing in Bellingham, October 27, 1972, there appeared to be agreement between the mayor's office and the University as to the nature of such a lease; however, following an exchange of letters between Dr. Odegaard's office and that of the mayor, it again seemed that there were some unresolved areas.

On December 13, Councilman Bruce Chapman held a hearing in the council chambers wherein parties interested in the future of the Arboretum were invited to testify before members of the council and the Seattle Park Board, Mr. Phil Johnson represented the Arboretum Foundation, and Elizabeth Moses represented the Unit Council. Other members of the Foundation spoke for themselves as concerned individuals. The Foundation was well represented and its position described exceedingly well. We wish to thank all those who participated. The December meeting did not provide a resolution, and for that matter was not expected to, but simply gave the Council and Park Board a chance to hear varying points of view. Since that meeting, Councilman Chapman and Mayor Uhlman have called a committee of representatives from the University, the city, and other concerned groups including the Foundation, under the chairmanship of Mr. Calhoun Dickinson, presently Chairman of the Park Board. The committee is a small group, meeting face to face to discuss the matter further in order to ultimately make

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## President's Message (Continued from Inside Front Cover)

a recommendation to the Mayor and the City Council. They have met three times and will meet twice weekly until the recommendation is formulated. I am confident that by the time the next *Bulletin* reaches you, an arrangement will have been worked out and we will be able to go on to other matters such as participating in the development of an Arboretum program.

On another subject, we have heard from Mr. Tim Bullard, Public Affairs Manager from KOMO Radio and Television, informing us that during the calendar year 1972, KOMO Television aired a total of 186 announcements, and KOMO Radio a total of 62, on behalf of the Arboretum. This does not include the excellent panel discussion coverage of the symposium. Our sincere thanks to Kay Carson, who formerly handled our publicity, and to Mr. John Behnke and KOMO for providing this opportunity for us.

John ar

# ROLE OF WASHINGTON PARK ARBORETUM IN PUBLIC AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

(Continued from page 14)

This would involve the negotiation of a new lease agreement with the City clearly establishing the University's role in the Arboretum. In order to insure the integrity of the arboretum portion and protect the basic plant collection, the University's experience has plainly demonstrated the necessity of providing adequate control measures. Public access would of course continue, but certain recreational pastimes would be discouraged. In the University's viewpoint, appropriate public uses are those which are not detractive to the operation of the Arboretum as an energetic public service, educational, and research enterprise.

### CONCLUSION

Rhetoric and details aside, the basic decision which has to be made is whether or not all or some portion of Washington Park will remain an Arboretum. If an organization other than

the University were to assume the operation of the Arboretum, it would inevitably become a much different type of institution and hence provide quite different services than those described in this paper. The University has other land areas available for its arboretum teaching and research functions, but its deep vested involvement in the Washington Park site and the important role that this site should play in public and community service has motivated the University to preserve this invaluable facility. In this endeavor the University and the Arboretum have gained much public support, particularly from those citizens who have been actively involved in Arboretum affairs over the years and recognize the benefits it has provided.

This is the Arboretum's story. The foregoing are the public service programs and opportunities which must be weighed in determining the future of the Washington Park Arboretum. This is too important a decision for it to be made by reasons other than complete awareness of the situation. If the decision is made to forfeit the Arboretum, it had best be made in full knowledge of the community loss which will result.

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