Pi Sigma Alpha Activities

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Dialogue and Doughnuts

Michael Novak, noted author and newspaper columnist, initiated the year's activities by discussing liberation theology in Latin America. He also provided insights into the role that capitalist pluralism could play in that region of the world.

Duke University professor and specialist on the U.S. presidency, James David Barber, spoke on "The Personality of the President."

The Baroness Lady Cox, a member of the British House of Lords, talked about the influence of Marxism in the English educational system.

Strobe Talbot, foreign correspondent for TIME, addressed the topic of the arms race and the Soviet Union's re-entry into arms negotiations.

Elizabeth Picard, a member of France's National Foundation of Political Science, spoke on "Communal Identities and Political Mobilization in Lebanon."

U.S. Representative Howard Nielson (R-Utah) discussed current political issues.

Thomas E. Cronin, former White House Fellow and aide as well as author of The State of the Presidency, talked about formal and informal power structures.

Jim Kearl of the BYU Economics Department and a recent White House Fellow with the Pentagon, spoke on the current problems surrounding arms technology, methods of troop
training, and the size and cost of conventional forces.

John Ayoade, visiting professor at the University of Pennsylvania and faculty member of Ibadan University in Nigeria, discussed Nigerian foreign policy.

Bishara Bahbah, visiting professor with the BYU Political Science Department and former editor of Al-Fajr Newspaper in Jerusalem, talked about the problems faced by the Palestinian people living in the Israeli-occupied territories.

Gilbert Y. Steiner of the Brookings Institution and the current occupant of the Camilla Eyring Kimball Chair of Home and Family Life addressed the evolution of the Social Security Act and the many-faceted problems of welfare policy.

Ron Hinckley, a member of the National Security Council, spoke on "Presidential Decision Making: Why Facts Don't Matter."

Welches and Cheese

Pi Sigma Alpha members viewed the Bush-Ferraro Vice Presidential debate at Dr. Richard Vetterli's home. Afterward, Dr. David Magleby led a discussion on the debate.

Professor Ray Hillam hosted the annual PSA "Oktoberfest" at his cabin in the Wasatch Alps.

Professor Stan Taylor, Director of the David M. Kennedy International Center, spoke on the topic of "Terrorism."
Dr. David Bohn invited PSA students to his home and discussed possible strategies for lessening tension and costs in the nuclear arms race.

PSA members met at Dr. Ladd Hollist's home and heard him talk about military and economic options in the conduct of U.S. foreign policy.

Having recently returned to BYU from duties as a special assistant to the U.S. Trade Representative, Dr. Earl Fry talked about the pros and cons of increased direct foreign investment in the United States.

The last Welches and Cheese was held at Dr. LaMond Tullis' home. Dr. Tullis discussed the politics of world hunger and food aid.

The keynote speaker at the annual Pi Sigma Alpha closing social and awards banquet was Professor Charles Jones of the University of Virginia. Professor Jones is the current national President of Pi Sigma Alpha.

Colloquia

Papers presented this year by the Political Science faculty to Pi Sigma Alpha included the following:

"The Jewish Past and Mormon History: Some Challenges to the Foundations."
--Dr. Louis Midgley

"The Current View on Rural Development: Fad or Breakthrough in Latin America?"
--Dr. LaMond Tullis

"The Political Function of First Nephi."
--Dr. Noel Reynolds

--Dr. Gary Bryner