

Regents name Library after Parks

by TIMOTHY CHANAUD
Staff Writer

The University Library officially became the William Robert Parks and Ellen Sorge Parks Library by a unanimous vote of the state Board of Regents Thursday.

Grinning with surprise, Iowa State President W. Robert Parks looked on as the regents voted during their monthly meeting held at the ISU Memorial Union.

The recommendation for the name change came in a letter from Virgil Lagomarcino, chairman of the Advisory Committee on the Naming of Buildings and Streets, to regent president, S. J. Brownlee.

"It is entirely appropriate that the University Library be known as the... Parks Library in recognition of the contribution of the two scholars to whom the University is so greatly indebted," Lagomarcino stated in the brief letter.

PARKS HAS BEEN "a determining force in [the Library's] growth and development in the last two decades" and Ellen Parks, his wife, "has taken special interest in

various aspects of the Library and is one of its most consistent users," the letter stated.

After the regents' vote, Parks said he was "exceedingly honored," and added that he was "particularly pleased" his wife also had been honored.

But Government of the Student Body President Elaine Bales-Henry criticized the unexpected vote, saying the regents "just ignored our opinions."

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Library specialist helps get the 'bugs' out of books

by RUTH HAMILL
Staff Writer

Some items in the Library look more like loaves of bread left on a kitchen counter for two months than books.

In fact, Ivan Hanthorn, the Library's conservation specialist, said he has seen everything from ordinary green mold to bright red and mauve fungus on some of the Library's books.

"When people notice fuzzy books, they bring them to me," said Hanthorn, who also tries to deal with the problem of bugs in new Library books.

Hanthorn has saved a few of the largest, ugliest bugs he's discovered in books from different parts of the world in his fourth floor office in the Library's new addition. He's now "building a collection of unwanted Library patrons."

BUGS **USUALLY** are removed from incoming materials by keeping those materials in a fumigation chamber for up to three weeks, Hanthorn said.

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Committee made naming decision

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"Never in my wildest dreams did I expect today's action," she said.

AT WEDNESDAY'S meeting, the GSB Senate considered forming a committee to elicit student input on naming the Library, but the regents' action Thursday ended the possibility, she said.

"It's not that I necessarily disagree with the new name," she said. "It's quite admirable."

Lagomarcino said the committee made the decision to send the letter Thursday morning, but "had been discussing it informally for some time."

The committee has seven faculty and administration members. The one student member on the committee has left ISU, Lagomarcino said.

This is the first time the committee has gone directly to the regents with a proposal instead of through "customary administrative channels," Lagomarcino said.

Naming the Library after the Parks is "so patently obvious," Lagomarcino said. "I think everyone would be in approval of it."

Store rare books to conserve life

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Along with solving problems of mildew and bugs, Hanthorn keeps a constant eye on the conditions in the Library.

About 11,000 rare books are stored in a controlled environment to increase their usage life, Hanthorn said. Temperature, lighting and humidity levels in the special collections area of the Library are monitored. Acid-free boxes may increase the shelf-life of some books to more than 200 years, he said.

To increase shelf-life and conserve rare books, Hanthorn may spend days removing cellophane tape from pages or applying lubrication to leather bindings and covers. But the hours of tedious repair don't bother him.

"There are days when it's almost therapy," he said.

Most of Hanthorn's days in conservation are not sedate. "Conservation is not a planned activity," he said.

Hanthorn has had to remove almost every type of substance from books, including tar from a building mishap and bird droppings from turkeys deposited in the Library's book drop as a prank.

ON HECTIC DAYS, as well as on his rare calm days, conservation is "50 percent common sense, 40 percent science and 10 percent divine inspiration," Hanthorn said.

Hanthorn believes his background in history, chemistry and art is a good combination for his work. He became the Library's conservation specialist 1 years ago when the job was created in conjunction with the facilities in the new addition.

Before becoming conservation specialist, Hanthorn worked in special collections in the oldest section of the Library, he said.

While most people don't have a rare or special collection of books, Hanthorn said some things can be done to help preserve books. He suggested keeping books on dusted shelves out of direct sunlight on the first floor instead of a damp basement or hot attic.

"Treat a book like a book, not a brick or a bale of hay," he said.